

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 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. J. Maguire, County Manager  
Mr Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services  
Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community & Enterprise  
Ms Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure  
Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Housing & Corporate Services  
Mr William Lowe, Senior Engineer  
Mr Brian Kenny, Senior Engineer  
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr Terry McGovern, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms Carmelita Caslin, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Michael Gunning, IS Project Leader  
Ms Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

**09/588  
7/12/09**

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

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

**09/589  
07/12/09**

**Votes of Sympathy**

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

1. Mrs Tubman, Greaghglass, Aughnasheelin, Ballinamore on the death of Eamon Tubman.

2. Andy O'Rourke, Tully, Ballinamore on the death of Caillian O'Rourke.
3. The Barbour Family, Sligo Road, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh on the death of Bill & Anne Barbour.
4. Denis & Rosemary Maguire, Scribbagh, Cashel, Garrison, Co Fermanagh on the death of Vera McMorrow.
5. Tom Keaney & Family, Cornacully, Belcoo, Co Fermanagh on the death of Winnie Keaney.
6. The McKeon Family and Sean Flynn, Leitrim Village on the death of Marcella McKeon.
7. Gallogly Family, St Brigid's Street, Ballinamore on the death of May Gallogly.
8. Darren Rogan, Gort, Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Elaine McGlynn.
9. Sean Gaffney, Shancurry, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Eileen Gaffney.
10. Joseph Flynn & Family, Sheena, Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Kate Flynn.
11. Mrs Kay McWeeney & Family, Gowel, Kiltoghert on the death of Cathal McWeeney.
12. Paddy Cunningham, Calry, Co Sligo on the death of Michael Cunningham.
13. Bernadette Boylan, Market Street, Dromahair, Co Leitrim on the death of Pdraig Boylan and Majella Boylan.
14. Mr Raymond Kenny, Church Street, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Fr Pdraig Kenny R.I.P.

**09/590**

**7/12/09 Disposal of building known as Courthouse in Drumkeerin**

Report dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from Administrative Officer, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that the building is to be used as a drop-in-centre for the Youth Club and Youth leaders to provide a high quality locally based service for young people aged 7 to 18 years which aims at providing support to young persons' development through non-formal education programmes. She welcomed and fully supported the project and congratulated all involved in bringing it to fruition.

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor John McTernan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That the disposal of the building known as Courthouse in Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim by means of a 7 year lease to North Connaught Youth and Community Services Ltd be approved in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001".

09/591

7/12/09 **Disposal of building known as Courthouse in Drumshanbo**

Report dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from Administrative Officer, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the disposal of building known as Courthouse in Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim by means of a 7 year lease to North Connaught Youth and Community Services Ltd be approved in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001”.

09/592

7/12/09 **Local Authority Development**

Report dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning Environment and Emergency Services in relation to proposal for the construction, in partnership with Sliabh an Iarainn Group Water Scheme, of a 177 cubic metre Water Storage Reservoir and associated site works including new site access road and chlorination building/booster pump house at Knockacullion Td., Aghacashel, Co. Leitrim, as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the construction, in partnership with Sliabh an Iarainn Group Water Scheme, of a 177 cubic metre Water Storage Reservoir and associated site works including new site access road and chlorination building/booster pump house at Knockacullion Td., Aghacashel, Co. Leitrim be approved”

Councillor Ellis queried why the temporary station at this location had not been connected to the ESB and put into action. He outlined that there had been no water in the area last weekend. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that he was not aware of the issue raised and undertook to check the position.

09/593

7/12/09 **Overdraft Accommodation**

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

“That the overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the six months ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, subject to the sanction of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, be approved”.

**09/594**  
**7/12/09**

**Date for Budget Meeting**

It was agreed that the Budget Meeting to consider the 2010 Budget be held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010, immediately following the January Council meeting. It was further agreed that there would be no Preliminary Budget Meeting in December.

Councillor Michael Colreavy queried if all the necessary information will be available by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to make decisions in relation to the Budget. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that the necessary information would be available.

**09/595**

**7/12/09 Leitrim County Vocational Education Committee members**

Report dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 from Aideen McGovern, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services, as circulated to each member, appears as **Appendix 4** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book

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

“That the following be appointed to the Leitrim Vocational Education Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 7(e) of the Vocational Education (Amendment) Act 2001:

Mr Damian Brennan, Drumlegga, Cloone, Co Leitrim  
Mr Sean Loughlin, Drumristan, Ballinaglera, Co Leitrim  
Ita Flynn, Fairglass North, Mohill, Co Leitrim  
Ms Margaret O'Rourke, Cloonmone House, Drumkeerin, Co Leitrim”

**09/596**  
**7/12/09**

**Flooding in County Leitrim**

Report from Jackie Maguire, County Manager as circulated to each member, appears as **Appendix 5** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Maguire outlined that the report as circulated is a brief summary of the flooding incident. She took the members through the report and confirmed that a full analysis of the damage caused by the flooding will be ongoing over the coming weeks as the flood waters recede. She advised that she would be reverting to the members in this regard.

Ms. Maguire also referred to the issue of car-parking in Carrick on Shannon town. She outlined that, as announced at the November Council meeting, parking charges were to be suspended in the Car Parks in Carrick on Shannon from 8<sup>th</sup> December in the run up to Christmas. She outlined that some of these car parks remain flooded and she advised that, in light of this, and the extreme difficulties that businesses in the locality experienced as a direct result of the recent flooding, parking charges throughout the town will be lifted for the period up to Christmas as an exceptional measure. She outlined however that, in order to ensure that this initiative is of the best possible benefit to customers and businesses alike, parking bye-laws will be strictly enforced in relation to any illegal parking and people are requested not to use the town centre area for long term or all-day parking.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan stated that this is a very welcome gesture towards the local businesses which will be warmly received. This was reiterated by all the members.

Councillor Guckian sought clarification that free parking would be available on Main Street. She stated that there is a huge onus on staff and people parking in the town to ensure that these parking spaces are not taken up with all-day parking, and are available to customers. She stated that the situation would need to be closely monitored in this regard. Councillor Guckian also outlined that a number of businesses in the town were very disappointed at media coverage during the flooding which advised people to stay away from Carrick on Shannon.

The County Manager confirmed that free parking would be available on Main Street and Bridge Street. She confirmed that the situation would be closely monitored and that the Council would work closely with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to ensure that the initiative has the best possible impact for businesses and customers alike.

Councillor Reynolds also reiterated the importance of ensuring that long-term parking does not occur in the town centre and the situation must be monitored in this regard. He outlined that the business community lost very significant business over the flooding period and are now trying to make up for this. He advised that the Chamber of Commerce are calling for the one-way system through the town to be reversed permanently. He outlined that many businesses felt that the temporary reversal had worked well and demonstrated that this can be done quite successfully. He asked that this issue be looked at as a matter of urgency with a view to operating a reversed system for one or two months on a trial basis.

Councillor Stenson also welcomed the lifting of the parking charges in Carrick town. He outlined however that he couldn't agree with the permanent reversal of the one-way system through the town. He outlined that traffic had moved through the town during the recent temporary reversal but very few cars had actually stopped in the town centre.

Councillor Guckian outlined that the Chamber of Commerce is calling for the one-way system in the town centre to be reversed and she stated that the debate should be reopened in this regard and the matter should be revisited.

The County Manager confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce has been in contact in relation to the reversal of the one-way system. She outlined however that it should be borne in mind that normal traffic movements were not happening while the temporary reversal was in place with no traffic coming in from either the Park Lane or the Leitrim Road junctions. She confirmed however that the Council would sit down with the Chamber of Commerce in relation to this issue.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan acknowledged the extraordinary work carried out by the staff of Leitrim County Council in recent weeks in addressing the unprecedented flooding situation in the county. He stated that it was gratifying to see the letters complimenting the efforts of Council staff in the local paper and stated that he wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and express appreciation to all of the staff involved in what was a mammoth exercise. He outlined that President Mary McAleese had visited the Council Offices on Saturday last to meet with and thank the staff involved and also some victims of the recent flooding.

Councillor Mulligan outlined that there are seven motions on the agenda dealing with the flooding situation - Motion Number's 20, 22, 24, 26, 29, 30, and 31 – and he proposed that these items would be taken at this point. This was agreed by the members.

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

"To call on Leitrim County Council to immediately apply for major financial assistance from the recently announced Government fund for flooding victims, so as to compensate people in County Leitrim whose homes and livelihoods have been affected by the floods."

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

"To seek the support of my fellow councillors in asking that we write to the Minister for the Environment, Mr John Gormley requesting that additional monies be allocated to County Leitrim in the forthcoming Local Government Budget towards remedial works which urgently need to be carried out on regional and local roads as a result of the recent severe flooding within the county many of which have only just been resurfaced"

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

"That this Council make immediate representations to the Government in relation to the following:

- 1) That emergency assistance and funding be given to all persons whose property was affected by the recent flooding, both private residences and commercial premises, and
- 2) In light of the fact that many affected properties will be uninsurable for future flooding, that funding be provided to carry out all necessary works so that in future such an event will not cause the same hardship, damage, loss and inconvenience to our communities."

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

"I ask this Council to send a request to the Government to make funds available to the people of Leitrim who are affected by the flood damage and to record our disappointment that it took the Government so long to recognise that County Leitrim was as badly affected by floods as other areas".

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to ask the Taoiseach and Government to set up a statutory body for the upkeep and maintenance of the River Shannon, as there has been very little work carried out. Thousands of tons of Bord na Mona silt are lying on the bed of the Shannon from Rooskey to Limerick which needs attention immediately. We need proper control of gates - surplus water should be off-loaded in August-September to alleviate a disaster of this kind ever happening again, especially with excess rainfalls in summers/winters and all this climate change."

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

"We the elected members of Leitrim County Council call on the Government to immediately put in place one body to manage the river Shannon. The present situation is

not working and people continue to suffer hardships as a result. Politic walkabouts and photo calls will no longer suffice - action is needed now. We have a serious problem in Leitrim and this problem can only be solved in conjunction with other counties along the Shannon Basin. We need one body to get to work on this problem now."

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

"At the December meeting of Leitrim County Council I will seek the support of the members in calling on the Government to immediately set up a "Shannon River Authority" whose responsibility should be to manage the water levels on the Shannon, have responsibility to carry out drainage and dredging where it is needed, to have a plan of action when serious flooding is threatened. We have seen over the past month how communities here in Leitrim and right along the Shannon corridor have been devastated by the recent flooding. I believe a single body with an action plan would be more effective in preventing such disasters in the future."

The Members in turn paid tribute to the excellent work of the Council staff throughout the recent flooding crisis in seeking to minimise the impact of the flooding on property and motorists, providing assistance to the public and keeping the media and the public generally informed of the position and diversions in place etc.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds stated that a detailed costed submission must be made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to the flood damage in County Leitrim. He stated that the submission should be made available to the members. He also suggested that the provision of necessary Flood Defence Systems should also be examined and a submission made in this regard also. He criticized the whole reaction, particularly from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, in relation to building on flood plains and the blaming of local authorities for allowing zoning on flood plains etc. He stated that the suggestion of a blanket ban on developments on flood plains is reactive and inappropriate. He outlined that there are engineering solutions which can be and have been applied successfully in relation to development on flood plains and this is the appropriate approach. He stated that the Minister has blamed the current flooding on bad planning. He stated that, while planning has had some impact, there are major other issues at play in relation to this particular flooding incident. Councillor Reynolds stated that the proposals in the new Planning Bill will have serious consequences for the development of urban areas and that a blanket ban on development within flood plains will have catastrophic effects.

Councillor Gordon Hughes stated that the cost of the repairs will run into millions and the Minister must make sufficient funding available. He called on the support of the Members in calling on the Minister to make sufficient funding available to Leitrim County Council to address the damage caused.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane urged that immediate representations be made for the provision of emergency assistance to all those affected by the floods – he stated that relief delayed is relief denied. He stated that many affected properties are now uninsurable and this issue must be looked at urgently nationally. He stated that it is likely that we will face such an event again in the future and there is a need for cohesion and cooperation between the various authorities responsible for the River Shannon.

Councillor Gilmartin stressed that it is important that County Leitrim is in first in relation to the funding available. He stated that it took a long time at national level to recognize the

seriousness of the situation in Leitrim. He stated that a very strong case for funding must be made.

Councillor John Ward called for the levels on the River Shannon to be lowered and stated that there must be proper control of the gates. He stated that the ESB are needlessly storing water in Lough Allen. He also stated that there is a serious ongoing issue with silting of the River Shannon which must be addressed.

Councillor Stenson stated that there is an urgent need to have one authority to manage the River Shannon. He stated that there had been discussion in this regard following the flooding in 1999/2000 and that it is now critical that some agency takes charge of the Shannon in conjunction with the local authorities along the Shannon.

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that the Government must immediately set up a "Shannon River Authority" with responsibility for managing water levels on the Shannon, carrying out drainage and dredging and having a long term plan of action when serious flooding is threatened.

Councillor Caillian Ellis thanked the Area Engineer and Senior Engineer for the assistance provided to families cut off through flooding of Lough Reane at Fenagh. He stated that the lake has no outlet where the water can go. He suggested that the Council should open a drain from Lough Reane to St John's and proposed that a letter issue to the ESB and Waterways Ireland in this regard. This was supported by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke.

Councillor Sinead Guckian acknowledged the assistance provided by Leitrim County Council to people in County Roscommon affected by the flooding.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke referred to a recent meeting of the Lough Oughter and Gowna Drainage Committee. He stated that drainage is critical and this issue must be addressed to minimise the risk of flooding.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motions calling for extra funding to repair damaged roads throughout the county. She outlined that the President of the IFA throughout the flooding crisis had referred to the need for more drainage works to be carried out and she stated that this is an issue that must be addressed. She cited drainage works carried out at Belhavel as part of a pilot project and how effective this was. She stated that more funding must be secured for drainage projects.

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that flooding is a huge issue for the county as a whole. He stated that drainage is the answer and the focus must be on keeping water off the roads and keeping drains maintained. He referred to the R281 Manorhamilton to Kiltyclogher road where subsidence has occurred and where traffic lights and weight restrictions are in place. He stated that this road needs to be reopened as soon as possible as the part-closure and restrictions are having a detrimental effect on local people, HGV's and the School Bus etc.

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that the roads which were used as diversionary routes throughout the flooding crisis have suffered significant damage and must be included in the funding proposals being submitted to the Department.

Councillor Gerry Dolan concurred with the calls for a detailed funding submission to be made. He expressed disappointment that a pedestrian walkway had not been provided in Leitrim Village.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan stated that flooding had again been an issue at Lough Rynn. He stated that the situation needs to be looked at. He stated that the storm drains on Main Street, Mohill need to be looked at. He also stated that the Keshcarrigan road out of Mohill now needs attention as it was carrying significant additional traffic as a result of diversions in place.

Councillor John McTernan stated that drainage is a huge issue. He stated that the River Bonnet had been drained and flooding had not been an issue. He stated that there are 2 major potential slippages at the Iron Bridge which must be dealt with immediately.

The County Manager Ms. Jackie Maguire thanked the members on behalf of the staff for the compliments conveyed. She in turn conveyed her appreciation to all staff for their efforts over recent weeks in dealing with this crisis. She stated that she had received 100% co-operation from everyone involved. She outlined that there had been a lot of people working behind the scenes in addition to the staff who were working out on the ground. She stated that the response had also involved interaction with a range of other agencies and co-operation with local businesses, and in this regard she had also received full co-operation. She thanked the members for their understanding and support throughout the crisis and stated that the response had involved a combined effort from everyone.

In relation to the costing of the necessary repairs she stated that there were two elements involved. She advised that the Council would be costing the immediate costs of dealing with the immediate issue and the clean-up and would separately be looking at costing the long-term damage caused. She advised that the assessment is ongoing and is currently being costed and details will be brought to the members. She confirmed that all roads affected are being assessed including all the diversionary routes etc for inclusion in a funding submission. She confirmed that the road between Kiltyclogher and Rossinver is being inspected – she advised however that the solution in this instance will not be a simple one.

Councillor Enda Stenson advised that a 'Leitrim Flood Appeal' was launched on Saturday, 5th December 2009. He advised that a range of events are being scheduled and he called on everyone to support the appeal. He advised that a Bank Account is available and a website is now up and running.

***Proposed by Councillor Gerard Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council immediately apply for major financial assistance from the recently announced Government fund for flooding victims, so as to compensate people in County Leitrim whose homes and livelihoods have been affected by the floods."

***Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor Gerard Reynolds AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Mr John Gormley requesting that additional monies be allocated to County Leitrim in the forthcoming Local Government Budget towards remedial works which urgently need to be carried out on regional and local roads as a result of the recent severe flooding within the county many of which have only just been resurfaced

***Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That this Council make immediate representations to the Government in relation to the following:

- 1) That emergency assistance and funding be given to all persons whose property was affected by the recent flooding, both private residences and commercial premises, and
- 2) In light of the fact that many affected properties will be uninsurable for future flooding, that funding be provided to carry out all necessary works so that in future such an event will not cause the same hardship, damage, loss and inconvenience to our communities."

***Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County to send a request to the Government to make funds available to the people of Leitrim who are affected by the flood damage and to record our disappointment that it took the Government so long to recognise that County Leitrim was as badly affected by floods as other areas".

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

"That Leitrim County Council ask the Taoiseach and Government to set up a statutory body for the upkeep and maintenance of the River Shannon, as there has been very little work carried out. Thousands of tons of Bord na Mona silt are lying on the bed of the Shannon from Rooskey to Limerick which needs attention immediately. We need proper control of gates - surplus water should be off-loaded in August-September to alleviate a disaster of this kind ever happening again, especially with excess rainfalls in summers/winters and all this climate change."

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to immediately put in place one body to manage the river Shannon. The present situation is not working and people continue to suffer hardships as a result. Politic walkabouts and photo calls will no longer suffice - action is needed now. We have a serious problem in Leitrim and this problem can only be solved in conjunction with other counties along the Shannon Basin. We need one body to get to work on this problem now."

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government to immediately set up a "Shannon River Authority" whose responsibility should be to manage the water levels on the Shannon, have responsibility to carry out drainage and dredging where it is needed, to have a plan of action when serious flooding is threatened. We have seen over the past month how communities here in Leitrim and right along the Shannon corridor have been devastated by the recent flooding. I believe a single body with an action plan would be more effective in preventing such disasters in the future."

## Quarterly Report on Capital Works

### □ Housing

Report from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

### □ Water Services

Report from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane sought clarification on the South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme. He noted that the Contractor on this scheme is in financial difficulty and the Bond has been called in. He queried if the proceeds of the Bond will be sufficient to complete the scheme. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the Insurance Company holding the Bond have re-tendered the remaining works and are about to appoint a contractor. He outlined that the risk is now entirely with the Bond holder and there will be no additional costs to Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke sought clarification on the completion date of the sewerage scheme in Cloone. He outlined that a completion date of December 2009 had previously been given and this has now been pushed out to March 2010. He queried if this is a definitive date. Mr McGuinness outlined that the Cloone Scheme is part of a bigger contract comprising 11 different schemes. He advised that the project is progressing well and the indications at this time are that works should be complete on the overall project by the end of March 2010.

Councillor Mary Bohan sought clarification on whether the Killavogy and Blackwater Group Water Schemes were nearing completion. Mr. McGuinness confirmed that works are progressing well.

Councillor Bohan paid tribute to the staff of Leitrim County Council and to all of the voluntary Group Water Scheme committees for all of the assistance provided, funding secured and work done in relation to Group Water Schemes in recent years.

Councillor Sean McDermott referred to the Towns & Villages Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report and outlined that Glenfarne and Rossinver have no public sewerage and it is essential that we move as fast as possible to try and progress this scheme.

### □ Roads

Report from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor Enda Stenson queried when a report could be expected in relation to the preferred route selection for the Carrick-on-Shannon By Pass. Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior

Engineer, Roads stated that a report is expected in early January 2010. He advised that the preferred route would have to be referred to An Bord pleanala for confirmation and there would be a public consultation process etc. Councillor Reynolds queried if the planning restrictions would be lifted from the other route options once the decision was made in relation to the preferred route option. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that the preferred route must be formally approved before any restrictions in relation to other route options can be lifted.

Councillor Caillian Ellis expressed concern in relation to the condition of the R202 outside Fenagh which has recently been upgraded. He stated that already there are craters on the road where works were carried out and queried if the materials used on road works are spot-checked for quality. Mr. Shay O'Connor confirmed that the materials used for road works from all suppliers are routinely tested. He advised that the surface on this stretch of roadway was not the final surface and has suffered due to the adverse weather conditions. He confirmed that the final surface on this route will be carried out in the coming weeks.

Councillor Ellis also raised the issue of changes in the listing of roads to be gritted in icy conditions and asked that these changes be publicised.

#### □ **Other Capital Projects**

Report from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009 as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor Caillian Ellis referred to works completed at various lakes. He stated that Garadice Lake should be developed for shoreline fishing as it could take a fishing competition. He suggested that a letter should issue to the Fisheries Board asking them to open up the shoreline in this regard. Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development advised that the funding for works to rivers and lakes was secured through Fáilte Ireland. He stated that this funding is gone but that there may be potential under the Rural Development Programme. He confirmed that the Council could work in conjunction with the local angling group in this regard. He confirmed that a letter could also issue to the Fisheries Board in this regard.

Councillor Michael Colreavy expressed his dissatisfaction that the viewing area that was to be incorporated as part of the works at Glencar Waterfall had not been developed and he queried the position in this regard. Mr. Gilhooly clarified the position in relation to this matter. He outlined that delays arose in relation to the development of the Old Bog Road. He outlined that the Council was given latitude to spend the money in alternative ways and the option of the viewing bay came into the discussion during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2009. He outlined that this had not formed part of the original proposal for Glencar. He outlined that it was not possible to complete the works in the current year and Fáilte Ireland could give no authority to carry the funding forward into 2010. He outlined that the case has been made to Fáilte Ireland for funding for these works in 2010 but such funding is unlikely to be forthcoming. Councillor Colreavy requested a report on the matter.

**Corporate Policy Group Report**

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

**SPC Scheme**

Ms. McGovern confirmed that the Corporate Policy Group had considered an update in relation to the SPC scheme. She advised that the formal assignment of Chairpersons to the individual Strategic Policy Committees had been agreed as follows:

Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC	Councillor Siobhán McGloin
Housing & Corporate Services SPC	Councillor Enda Stenson
Infrastructure SPC	Councillor Caillian Ellis
Planning, Environment & Emergency Services SPC	Councillor Gordon Hughes”

She advised that most of the Members had indicated their preferences in relation to which SPC they wished to be represented on and it should be possible to accommodate first preferences. She advised that Members who have not to date indicated a preference will be assigned to whichever SPC has a vacancy.

She outlined that the SPC Scheme as adopted requires that two of the SPC Chairpersons would also sit on a second SPC with an alignment agreed between the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC and the Housing & Corporate Services SPC and between the Infrastructure SPC and the Planning, Environment & Emergency Services SPC. She advised that it had been agreed that Councillor Enda Stenson, in addition to Chairing the Housing & Corporate Services SPC would also sit on the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development SPC and that Councillor Caillian Ellis, in addition to Chairing the Infrastructure SPC would also sit on the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC.

Ms. McGovern advised that nominations from the sectoral interests have been invited in relation to the SPC Scheme as adopted at the November Council meeting. She advised that the closing date for receipt of nominations is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

She advised that the matter will be listed on the agenda for the January 2010 Council meeting for approval of the full membership of the Strategic Policy Committees following which the first meetings of the new SPC's will be scheduled.

This update was noted by the Members.

Councillor Tony Ferguson outlined that he did not wish to be represented on any of the Strategic Policy Committees. Ms. McGovern advised that the SPC Scheme as adopted requires that each member sit on an SPC and that attendance at SPC meetings is included in Member's Annual Allowance. Councillor Ferguson asked how many meetings would be involved and Ms McGovern confirmed that that there would be a minimum of four meetings per year. Councillor Ferguson advised he was prepared to re-consider his decision on same.

**Financial Position & Budget Meeting**

Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had received an update in relation to the financial position and the date for the Statutory Budget meeting. Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

January 2010 is recommended as the date for the Budget meeting 2010 in conjunction with the January Council meeting. She advised that this matter was listed separately for consideration on the agenda for the Council meeting.

### **Items for Council Meeting**

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

This was noted by the members.

**09/599**  
**7/12/09**

### **Meeting Correspondence**

1. Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 from the Department of Social and Family Affairs in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the National Carers Strategy.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin outlined that he was not happy with the response received. He stated that money was spent on consultation and compiling this report and the decision has now been taken not to publish. He requested that a further letter issue to the Minister requesting her to think again about publishing the report in its current format.

2. Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the centralization of medical cards.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin outlined his disappointment with the reply in relation to the centralization of the medical card scheme. He stated that the staff currently dealing with scheme are dealing with applications efficiently, have local knowledge and people will suffer if the proposal proceeds.

This was supported by Councillor John Ward who had raised the Motion originally. He stated that this proposal is an example of bureaucracy gone mad. Councillor Sean McGowan suggested that a further letter should issue to the Minister asking her to reconsider her decision. Councillor Thomas Mulligan stated that the proposed changes are totally unsatisfactory and will prove particularly difficult for older people.

3. Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from the Office of the Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding Community Development Programmes.

Councillor Siobhán McGloin acknowledged the response received but stated that nothing has been resolved in relation to the future of the CDP's. She stated that what is outlined in the letter is nothing that was not already known. She stated that it would be a huge pity if CDP's were lost to local areas.

4. Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from the Office of the Minister at the Department of Finance in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to

streamlining of local government, including the Vocational Educational Committees, that due safeguards be given to the individual county authority.

5. Letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from the Office of the Minister at the Department of Finance in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to funding for the Family Resource Centres.

Councillor Martin Kenny stated that this response was no more than an acknowledgement. He stated that the members deserve more than this from the Minister. He stated that the Family Resource Centres, providing critical services to the most vulnerable in society, should be exempt from cut-backs.

6. Letter received by email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 from the Minister for the Environment in regard to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the future of the county unit of local government.
7. Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to Local Authority 2010 Budget meetings.
8. Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to guidelines on the planning system and flood risk management.

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that there are a lot of issues facing local authority members in relation to the Planning Bill. He suggested that the members should have a presentation on what is proposed in the Bill. He outlined that a very informative presentation on the Bill had been made at the recent LAMA meeting and he suggested that a similar presentation by this speaker would be of benefit to the members. This was supported by Councillor Mary Bohan.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the executive is currently assessing the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines vis-a-vis the County Development Plan and the Carrick Local Area Plan and will be coming back to the members in relation to any implications.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds requested that the Council write to Minister Gormley outlining that we have positive experience in relation to how we can build on flood plains. He stated that the RTE news had recently carried a very biased report in relation to flooding in Carrick on Shannon. He stated that the Council should outline its views re the bias and non-impartiality of this particular report. Councillor Stenson and Councillor Gilmartin agreed. Councillor Guckian stated that the footage included in the report was from County Roscommon.

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

### **National Irish Bank**

Councillor Gordon Hughes outlined that National Irish Bank have today announced the closure of 25 Branches over the next 18 months, including the Ballinamore Branch. He stated that, coupled with previous closures, this leaves only one Branch of NIB to service the county. He stated that Ballinamore has already suffered the loss of Bank of Ireland and this latest proposal will result in loss of economic activity and jobs to the town. He

requested that a letter issue to National Irish Bank requesting that they reverse the decision in relation to the Ballinamore Branch. This was supported by all the Members.

**09/600**  
**7/12/09**

**Truly Irish Country Foods**

Councillor Caillian Ellis conveyed apologies on behalf of Truly Irish Country Foods who were to send a deputation to the meeting. He advised that a representative was unable to attend due to a family illness.

**09/601**  
**7/12/09**

**Vote of Congratulations**

Councillor Gerard Reynolds extended a vote of congratulations to Fr. Sean Kelly on his recent ordination to the priesthood. He stated that this is an honour for the parish.

**09/602**  
**7/12/09**

**Conferences**

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

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following:

- Attendance of Cllr John McTernan at the Voluntary Housing & Sheltered Housing for the Elderly on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in Tralee, Co Kerry.
- Attendance of Cllr Paddy O'Rourke and Cllr Sean McDermott at the Chamber of Ireland Awards in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
- Attendance of Cllr Francis Gilmartin at the Social Inclusion Forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Croke Park, Dublin.
- Attendance of Cllr Sean McDermott at ICBAN meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009 in Omagh.
- Attendance of Cllr Sean McDermott at River Basin District Advisory Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in Cavan.
- Attendance of Cllr Gerry Dolan at the Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum in the Town Hall Bray, Wicklow on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009.
- Attendance of Cllr Mary Bohan, Councillor John McTernan and Cllr Paddy O'Rourke at the Clare Tourism Conference 2009 on the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare.

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor Enda McGloin at the Local Government Budget 2010 conference on the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at the Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co Wexford be approved”.

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Frank Dolan at the Equality, Diversity in Modern Day Ireland on the 18<sup>th</sup>, to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2009 be approved”.

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

“That the attendance of Councillor Tony Ferguson at the Representative Entitlements Seminar in Galway on the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Siobhan McGloin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the attendance of Councillor Siobhan McGloin at the Sustainable Energy Seminar on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Westville Hotel, Enniskillen be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Social Inclusion Forum 2009 meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Croke Park, Dublin be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

“That the attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Alternative to unemployment workshop in Kilbride Community Centre in Roscommon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 be approved”.

## **Part 1 Notices of Motions**

**09/603  
7/12/09**

### **NOW Doc Centre in Ballinamore**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the H.S.E. with the view of setting up a Now Doc Centre in Ballinamore and that it would be completely manned from Ballinamore. The situation at present is not capable of responding quickly enough to emergencies in the Ballinamore and surrounding areas."

Councillor Caillian Ellis stated that the current service operating from Carrick on Shannon is totally inadequate and it can take 2-3 hours for response to the Ballinamore area. He stated that he had spoken with the local GP who considers that his premises would be adequate and is available. He called on the support of the members in requesting the HSE to set up a NOW DOC Centre in Ballinamore. This was strongly supported by Councillor O'Rourke, Councillor Hughes and Councillor Kenny.

***Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council write to the H.S.E. with the view of setting up a Now Doc Centre in Ballinamore and that it would be completely manned from Ballinamore. The situation at present is not capable of responding quickly enough to emergencies in the Ballinamore and surrounding areas."

**09/604**

**7/12/09**

**Roadside Edges**

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to back fill the edges of roads which have been raised a considerable amount over the years and left the roadsides dangerous for walkers who have difficulty stepping in from the carriageway - loose stone filling would suffice."

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

"The roads in question are much more elevated than the surrounding lands and these roads are for vehicular movement and have no hard shoulders or grass margins but are currently clearly delineated by broken yellow lines to demarcate the edge of carriageway. It is not possible to build up some of the road edges with stone filling as this will cause further drainage problems in closing up water tables and thus causing a potential for future flooding. Where it is possible Road edges have been built up in the past and this practice will continue subject to funding availability at the time."

Councillor Siobhán McGloin supported the motion.

**09/605**

**7/12/09**

**R207/R280 junction at Drumgorman, Drumshanbo**

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to consider a safety study at the R207/R280 junction at Drumgorman Drumshanbo. Following the re-alignment of this road some time ago a number of both minor accidents and indeed some serious accidents have occurred at this junction recently. It seems that unfamiliar traffic coming from the north Leitrim side come to this junction and find themselves on this junction at speed without warning. I call on safety measures here before there is a fatality."

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

"The provision of additional more prominent signage on all approaches to this junction is recommended. Works of this nature are usually carried out under a Low Cost Safety

Scheme. A proposal will be made to include a scheme for this junction in the 2010 list of schemes for funding. In the mean time additional signage will be erected."

Councillor Enda McGloin thanked the Director of Services for the reply. He stated that this is a big issue for a lot of people and there have been a number of accidents and near-misses at this junction. He highlighted that most of the difficulty is on the Northern side of this junction. He suggested that rumble strips could be considered to warn drivers that they are approaching a junction, in addition to signage. He stated that he didn't think additional signage was required on the Carrick on Shannon side of this junction.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin supported the motion and stated that he had been approached by a number of constituents in relation to this junction. He stated that it is very important to address the issues at this junction. Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion and stated that something needs to be done to improve its safety immediately.

This motion was supported by all the members.

**09/606**

**7/12/09 Christmas Bonus**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan outlined that Motion No. 17 and Motion No. 32 both relate to the issue of the Christmas Bonus. He proposed that both motions be considered together. This was agreed by the members.

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

"I am proposing that Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to reinstate the Christmas bonus to old age pensioners and people on social welfare, as this cut to payments will mean a very lean Christmas for many families and remove spending from local businesses."

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

"I call on this Council to send a resolution to the Minister to pay out the Christmas bonus to people who are entitled to same and are so desperately in need of same for Christmas, as all in the Government are sure of their fat salaries and no cuts and don't care about these people."

Councillor Martin Kenny stated that the removal of the Christmas bonus is counter-productive as this money would be spent in local communities. He stated that the measure is going to hurt the most vulnerable and Government needs to start to think about societal impacts and not just the economic impacts of measures imposed.

Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that the Christmas Bonus payment must be reinstated.

Councillor's John Ward, John McTernan, Enda Stenson and Siobhán McGloin also supported the motions. Councillor Enda McGloin stated that the loss of the bonus is the equivalent of a net reduction in overall pension of €5 - €6 per week.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that the non-payment of the Christmas bonus is very regrettable and members have lobbied for its reinstatement. She outlined that she

understood that the money to pay it simply is not there. She outlined that Fianna Fáil had introduced the bonus in the first place and nobody takes any joy in withholding it. She supported the call and stated that she hoped that it would be paid out next Christmas.

***Proposed by Councillor Martin Kenny, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to reinstate the Christmas bonus to old age pensioners and people on social welfare, as this cut to payments will mean a very lean Christmas for many families and remove spending from local businesses."

***Proposed by Councillor Gerry Dolan, seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"That Leitrim County Council send a resolution to the Minister to pay out the Christmas bonus to people who are entitled to same and are so desperately in need of same for Christmas, as all in the Government are sure of their fat salaries and no cuts and don't care about these people."

***09/607***

***7/12/09 Lennox Bridge***

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

"That this Council seek substantial funding to replace Lennox's Bridge on the R280 as a matter of urgency. This bridge is one of the most travelled bridges in North Leitrim and yet two cars cannot meet on it. There have been numerous accidents on the bridge and it is only matter of time before there is a fatality."

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

"The replacement of Lennox's bridge would have to be a joint venture between Leitrim County Council and Donegal County Council. A full detailed design was previously completed by Consultant Engineers but at that time Donegal County Council were not in a position to advance the scheme. However, Leitrim County Council will again request Donegal County Council to re-consider making a joint application for a Specific Improvement Grant to fund this project, however this would very much depend on the over all level of funding available for Specific Improvement works."

Councillor Siobhán McGloin stated that the requirement to replace Lennox's Bridge has been an ongoing issue since the 1940's/1950's. She stated that the R280 is the most important link road in the County and the situation must be addressed. She requested that a joint application with Donegal County Council be made and stated that local elected members in Donegal are supportive of the project.

Councillor Michael Colreavy supported the motion and stated that Lennox's Bridge is not fit for purpose. Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Frank Dolan also supported the motion.

09/608

7/12/09

**County Development Projects**

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

"Leitrim County Council reiterates our support of the C.D.P's. We feel the proposed merger of C.D.P's with Integrated Companies is detrimental to the nature of community development in which C.D.P's are engaged and will be damaging for the people who provide and avail of C.D.P. services. We call for ring fenced funding for the C.D.P's and effective communication between the Council, the C.D.P. voluntary boards of management and other relevant stakeholders. In the event that this approach is not taken we will propose a motion of no confidence in Minister Eamon O'Cuiv and Minister for State John Curran of the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs."

Councillor Michael Colreavy outlined that the situation had changed somewhat since tabling the motion and Minister Curran had met with a delegation in relation to the issue. He proposed that his motion be amended as follows:

"Leitrim County Council reiterates our support of the CDPs. We feel the proposed merger of CDPs with Integrated Companies is detrimental to the nature of Community Development in which CDPs are engaged and will be damaging for the people who provide and avail of the CDP services. We call for ring fenced funding for the CDPs and effective communication between the Council, the CDP voluntary boards of management and other relevant stakeholders. The Council recognizes and supports the work of Community Connections Community Development Partnership, working as it does across county and state boundaries".

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that Minister Eamon O'Cuiv has done huge work for rural Ireland and particularly County Leitrim.

All of the members supported the motion.

***Proposed by Councillor Michael Colreavy and seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;***

"Leitrim County Council reiterates our support of the CDPs. We feel the proposed merger of CDPs with Integrated Companies is detrimental to the nature of Community Development in which CDPs are engaged and will be damaging for the people who provide and avail of the CDP services. We call for ring fenced funding for the CDPs and effective communication between the Council, the CDP voluntary boards of management and other relevant stakeholders. The Council recognizes and supports the work of Community Connections Community Development Partnership, working as it does across county and state boundaries

09/609

7/12/09

**Commuter Service from Leitrim to Sligo**

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

"At the December meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will look for the support of members

in calling on Iarnród Éireann to provide an earlier morning commuter service from Leitrim to Sligo town for students and workers from the County who are travelling to Sligo on a daily basis. This proposal is in support of the campaign being organised by the Chambers of Commerce in Leitrim and the surrounding counties. It is also one of the objectives of Leitrim County Development Boards strategy for 2006-2012."

Councillor Sinead Guckian called for the support of the members in requesting Iarnród Éireann to provide an early morning commuter service from Leitrim to Sligo town for students and workers from the County who are travelling to Sligo on a daily basis. She stated that Carrick, Longford and Roscommon Chambers of Commerce are campaigning for such a service. She requested that the correspondence in this regard be copied to the Minister for Finance.

Councillor's Enda Stenson, Sean McGowan, John Ward, Francis Gilmartin, Martin Kenny, Gerry Kilrane and Thomas Mulligan strongly supported the motion.

**09/610**  
**7/12/09**

### **Road Safety**

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

"At the December Council meeting, I will ask Leitrim County Council to have a look at what can be done regarding road safety at Clancy's Shop and Restaurant at Brockagh, Glenfarne on the N16 Roadway. Recently, there has been several minor accidents. I believe that some type of traffic-calming measures should be put in place at this location to avoid a serious accident."

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

"This shop and Restaurant is located on the N16 and are within a 60km/hr speed limit zone. The speed limit was lowered in this area from 100km/hr to 60km/hr under the last review and implementation of speed limits. The enforcement of the speed limit at this location is a matter for the Gardai and the issue will be raised with the local station. The situation at this location will be discussed with the NRA Road Safety Inspector and traffic calming and potential funding for such works will be on the agenda."

Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged that the shop and restaurant are within a speed limit area. He stated however that this is a very busy location and cars are travelling at significant speed on this stretch of road. He complimented the Council for putting the grip strip in place on the N16 near Glenfarne which had made a significant impact.

**09/611**  
**7/12/09**

### **Road Repairs**

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

"I propose that repairs be carried out as soon as possible on the following roads:- Drumkeerin/Littir, Blackroad/Corralustia and Greaghadaragh. Group water schemes, forestry work and wind farm activities have contributed to the deterioration of the above mentioned roads."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Funding has now been set aside for permanent reinstatement works of the roads in this area following the construction of a private Group water scheme. This permanent reinstatement works will be carried out in the Spring time subject to weather permitting. In the short term temporary reinstatement will be carried out in the coming weeks."

Councillor Mary Bohan stated she was satisfied with the reply if the works are completed accordingly.

**09/612**

**7/12/09**

**Broadband**

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council seek an update from Eircom regarding the enabling of the telecommunication exchange situated in Carrigallen for the purpose of providing broadband. I understand significant investment has already been carried out at the exchange and what is required now is a definite answer as to the time scale for the completion of these works. We have already seen two suggested target dates pass with no service in place. The absence of a modern reliable service is mitigating against job creation and in some cases threatening jobs. In seeking this information I would ask that a reply specific to Carrigallen be sought and obtained rather than the bland national policy type answers received on other occasions."

Councillor O'Rourke requested that a further query issue to Eircom in this regard seeking a specific response in relation to the enabling of the exchange at Carrigallen.

**09/613**

**7/12/09**

**Dissident Terrorist Groups**

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

"At this very sensitive stage in the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly, I propose that Leitrim County Council condemn the recent activities of dissident terrorist groups. In these uncertain economic times, Ireland's image as a peaceful and stable economy are essential if we are to retake our place at the forefront of progressive nations. The vast majority of people on both sides of the border and on all sides of the community are firmly behind the peace process and those who are attempting to derail it are nothing short of traitors to their own people. The public know that these activities are not political but are solely designed to maintain a border between north and south to facilitate ongoing smuggling and racketeering."

Councillor John McCartin stated that this is a very sensitive time for the country in terms of our image internationally in relation to economic credibility. He stated that the majority of people on both sides of the border and on all sides of the community are firmly behind the peace process. He called into question the motives of those involved in these activities. He acknowledged Sinn Féins response and clarity on these issues. He stated that peace is a delicate thing and it is all of our duties to work to maintain it.

Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion. He stated that people locally had been

very annoyed at the recent incident in Rossinver. Councillor Mary Bohan also supported the motion. She stated that everyone across the political divide has striven for peace and every effort must be made to maintain and enhance this.

Councillor Martin Kenny concurred with what had been said. He stated that we are at a sensitive stage of devolution and pressure must be brought on all parties to work to bring the maximum power onto the Island of Ireland.

## **Part II - Questions.**

**09/614**

**7/12/09 LP 1497 and R 204**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;***

"As two very narrow, raised roads with no margins, LP-1497 Drumcoura to Newtowngore and R-204 Drumcoura to Corrawallen are both in a dangerous state. The council have brought filling to the Newtowngore road but have not yet made a road margin. At Gortachos, the turn for the houses of Des Donegan, John Joe Holohan, Charlie Murray and the farm land of Frank Holohan is urgently in need of the provision of a margin or widening of the road. This is the main Ballinamore-Carrigallen road and as a road linking two major county towns, it is completely unfit for the volume of traffic it needs to support. As this is a matter of public safety, could the council please address these problems?"

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

"Leitrim County Council have applied to the NRA for restoration improvement grants along the R204 in 2010. It is envisaged that this funding will be specifically targeted at the section of the R204 on the Ballinamore side of Corrawallen. We will proceed with land acquisition and agreements along the R204, once grant funding has been approved. Minor levelling of the verge along the LP1497 will be carried out, but presently there is no grant works programmed for this local road."

**09/615**

**7/12/09**

### **Designated Disabled Driver parking space**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;***

"Could the council provide a designated disabled driver's parking space in the middle of Carrigallen town? The immediate area has a number of shops and pubs, a bank, a credit union, a library and a hotel but there is no facility for disabled drivers parking."

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

"Leitrim County Council will provide a designated disabled parking space along Carrigallen Main Street adjacent the public library and it is hoped to complete these works by end of year, weather permitting."

**09/616**

**7/12/09 Assessment of Roads after Flooding**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to survey the roads during the heavy rainfall and pinpoint

the worst areas of flooding and rectify these areas."

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

"Due to the unusual amount of rainfall which precipitated in November, an assessment of flooding on the Ballinamore District Regional Roads has been carried out. Severely affected areas will require complete culvert replacements. Moderate affected areas will require edge drainage rehabilitation works. Localised minor flooding will require additional gullies and verge cuttings. A large number of ponding on these roads are a result of incomplete development works which result in storm water egressing on to the road networks. As this is in breach of the Roads Act, these developers have been contacted and have been made aware of the situation. A reassessment of the timing of hedge cutting will be examined by this office to avoid any unnecessary blockages caused to road drainage infrastructure. We will also reassess the size and type of pipework used in future drainage works along our road network. It should also be noted that the restoration and maintenance grants being made available in 2010 may need to be relocated to the road network most affected by the unprecedented rainfall sustained in November."

**09/617**  
**7/12/09**

**Council Building at the Quays**

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

"At the December meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the County Manager, what plans are expected for the on-going use of the council building on the harbour in Carrick on Shannon. (previously the area engineers office). This building is in a prime location for a tourist service and it is my understanding that it is not being used, currently, to its maximum potential as a benefit for the town."

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

"The building is currently used for office accommodation and will remain so for the foreseeable future. In the event that the building is no longer required for office accommodation purposes, the Council will consider proposals from interested parties."

**09/618**  
**7/12/09**

**Traffic Calming**

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

"I ask the District Engineer what plans he has for traffic calming on the approach to Kinlough Village on the R280 from Manorhamilton?"

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

"A development of 40 no houses was granted Planning Permission in June 2005 which is currently under construction on the R280 approach to Kinlough from Manorhamilton. As part of the development conditions the developer is conditioned in his Planning permission to provide a right hand turning lane with appropriate line marking which would form traffic calming on the approach into Kinlough."

**09/619**  
**7/12/09**

**Mains Water Supply**

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

"Is there a problem with the mains water supply on the Larkfield road at Ramooney, Manorhamilton as supply has been disrupted on occasion?"

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

"There are no existing or longterm problems with water pressure or supply on the Larkfield road in Manorhamilton. Approximately two weeks ago a Developer on the Carrick Road made a connection onto the Public Watermain and the water was off for a short period of time in order to facilitate the connection. The same weekend Leitrim County Council experienced a burst watermain on the Larkfield Road. The water was turned off for a short time in order to repair the watermain. All Services have since returned to normal."

**09/620**

**7/12/09**

**Guidelines for design for one off housing**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services if there has been any progress to report by his department to revise the current guidelines for design for one off housing in Co. Leitrim. Following the County Development Plan recently passed I understood that these guidelines would be updated. I would like to see some input from local Architects for consideration in this publication."

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

"Objective 1.3i of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015 commits the Council to update and review the current Design Guide for the Siting and Design of Single Houses in the Leitrim Countryside. Work has commenced on this process and regard is being had to current practice in other counties. It is considered that the best means of getting the most acceptable and best design is to seek the participation of the approximately 30 architects/design agents who regularly submit planning applications to this Planning Authority and who would have a knowledge of what is most appropriate for the county. This will be done by their invitation to participate in a workshop in mid January. The draft proposals emerging from the workshop will be brought to the Planning Policy SPC for their consideration and thence to the Council for adoption."

**09/621**

**7/12/09**

**Housing Waiting List**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate services for an updated detailed report on the current housing waiting lists for the Drumshanbo area and can I find out what future measures will be undertaken in response to this report."

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

"Currently there are 38 households assessed as being eligible for inclusion on the Housing Waiting List with a first choice preference of Drumshanbo. The future housing need of those households will be met through a number of delivery mechanisms through standard social housing, the Rental Accommodation Scheme or the Long-Term Leasing Scheme. As there is a relatively high density of existing social housing in Drumshanbo a number of those on the list will be considered for an allocation of tenancy from resulting casual vacancies arising. A significant number of those on the Waiting List are in the financial category of need and those households that are currently in receipt of rent supplement from the Health Services Executive may have their long-term housing need addressed by

the Rental Accommodation Scheme."

09/622  
7/12/09

**LT 15344 Drummucker Road at Drumeela**

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

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will work be carried out on the LT -15344 Drummucker Road at Drumeela which is badly in need of resurfacing."

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

"The LT15344 was severely damaged due to forestry works carried out along this local road. The District office closed this road to any further forestry works until a bond, from the forestry company, was forthcoming. We have received a bond from the company and we will endeavour to reinstate the local road with this funding. The District Office has written to all tree felling licence holders within the district and advised each company that a bond or cash deposit is required prior to the commencement of any forestry works. If the bond or deposit is not forthcoming, appropriate weight restrictions will be placed on these roads in order to prevent damage to these roads."

09/623  
7/12/09

**Drumury Bridge**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to erect permanent signs warning that the road is liable to flooding at Drumury Bridge on the Carrigallen to Moyne Road, as this area has a consistent problem with flooding even in normal winter conditions."

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

"These permanent signs have been ordered and will be erected once the flooding has subsided. As this is on the border of Leitrim and Longford, the Longford District Engineer has been informed of our intentions."

09/624  
7/12/09

**Roadside Drains**

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

"Can the Council arrange a programme of work to clear roadside drains where blockages currently exacerbate flooding and road damage?"

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

"Leitrim County Council have carried out drainage works on many of the roads in the area over the past few weeks to try and keep surface water of the roads during the extremely bad weather. This programme of works will continue during the winter months."

09/625  
7/12/09

**Gurteenaguinnell, Glencar**

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

"Will the Council arrange urgent works to repair the road at Gurteenaguinnell, Glencar

which is in a very bad state?"

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The road in Question is LT 41421-0 in Gurteenaguinnell, Glencar. There is currently no funding available to upgrade this road. However, routine drainage and road maintenance works will be carried out on this road."

**09/626**

**7/12/09**

**R299 Drumsna to Kiltoghert Road**

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

"At the December meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to continue to include the R299 Drumsna to Kiltoghert Road on the winter maintenance program. It is my understanding from recent notice that Leitrim County Council are revising their routes for salting in the coming months and propose to remove the R299. This road should not be removed as, for the past number of years the Council have been redirecting all heavy vehicles onto this road to avoid the Carrick town. All heavy vehicles are advised, by signage, to exit the Drumshanbo road R280 and use this road to connect with the N4. I have at numerous Council meetings outlined my concerns with the regard to the width of this road being inappropriate for such a traffic diversion and the safety of same, and any recent maintenance on the R299 has sought to widen sections, therefore using the grass margins which means that vehicles are travelling closer to residences boundaries. A number of large vehicles have over turned on this road even when weather conditions have been fine. This road should be listed as a priority under the proposed new list for winter maintenance."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The winter maintenance program lists priority routes for precautionary gritting, that is to say these routes will be gritted in advance of icy conditions. As this work usually takes place after normal working hours, it of necessity always involves overtime. Given the very difficult financial position Leitrim County Council finds itself in, this type of precautionary gritting has to be confined to the National Primaries and heavily trafficked regional roads. Other priority routes such as the R299 will be gritted as necessary during normal working hours."

**09/627**

**7/12/09 LS15116 located at Drumshanbo North, Cloone**

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

"I ask the District Engineer when will the Council carry out necessary repair works to the roadway (LS15116) located at Drumshanbo North, Cloone leading to Mr. John McKiernan's house as there is a number of potholes along this route."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Local road LS15116 ( Drumshanbo North) and surrounding areas will receive attention in the next week."

**09/628**

**7/12/09**

**Directional Signage around the town of Ballinamore**

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

"I ask the District Engineer, if the Council will erect additional directional signage around the town of Ballinamore for the public car parks behind the AIB Bank and also behind the Courthouse in order to encourage visitors to the town to avail of these facilities. Can I also ask when will the Council erect appropriate signage for Carrigallen at the Tully junction on the new Line road as no signage has being erected since it was opened."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Currently, both the AIB and the Courthouse have signage indicating public car parks. The signage for the Carrigallen junction on the Ring Road will be erected as part of the Regional Road Signposting, which is programmed for January 2010."

**09/629**

**7/12/09 Bofin Avenue Housing Estate in Dromod**

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

"At the December meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to carry out an investigation into the ongoing problems being experienced by residents in the Bofin Avenue Housing Estate in Dromod village, where the sewerage system has been unable to cope with the storm water that is entering the system and the residents are unable to use their toilet facilities. This problem has been increased greatly by the recent spell of bad weather where manholes in the estate have been overflowing."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The problem of storm water entering the sewerage network in this area is as a direct result of poor workmanship by the developers of these estates. Unfortunately the recent exceptional flood levels meant that the entire sewer network at this location was below the River Shannon flood level, and the sewerage network had no chance of operating properly under these conditions."

**09/630**

**7/12/09 Drainage Works**

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure if it is possible to focus on local roads that have a lot of rainwater running on to them. This is a huge problem in recent times, resulting in a lot of damage to road surfaces."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Leitrim County Council have carried out drainage works on many of the roads in the area over the past few weeks to try and keep surface water of the roads during the extremely bad weather. This programme of works will continue during the winter months."

**09/631**

**7/12/09 Corraleskin, Kiltyclogher**

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to solve the problem of water running down the road and going into the driveway of two houses in the townland of Corraleskin, Kiltyclogher, Road

No L261214-1. It is the first two houses when turning off R281 road."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The road in question is LT 61214-1. Leitrim County Council have carried out routine drainage works in this area and will continue to monitor it during this exceptional poor weather"

**09/632**

**7/12/09**

**Ramp at Station Road, Mohill**

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

"Can the ramp recently installed at Station Road, Mohill be reviewed immediately? In the first few days alone after installation several cars have been damaged. The ramp itself appears to be excessive in height. The local feeling appears to be that this is not an area where speed is an issue but if traffic calming measures are to be put in place then this ramp is not suitable."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The ramp in question was installed to facilitate the pedestrian crossing and also to reduce speed on the section of road. In light of the concerns raised we will review the installation as requested."

**09/633**

**7/12/09**

**Mullaghboy, Keshcarrigan**

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

"Is there any possibility of repairs being carried out to the road near Cullens house at Mullaghboy, Keshcarrigan which is in a terrible state at present."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The road in question will be inspected with a view to dealing with the concerns raised."

**09/634**

**7/12/09**

**Water Tables at Paddy Fahy's**

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

"I propose that water tables at Paddy Fahy's in Cornamoriff be cleared and pipes replaced to alleviate flooding at his house."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Water tables at this location on Road No LP 4230 at Cornamarve will be attended to in the coming weeks"

**09/635**

**7/12/09**

**Remove poles from a drain on the Annagherra Road**

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

"I propose that this Council request Eircom to remove poles from a drain on the Annagherra road as this has lead to flooding."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The drainage on road No LT 82493-0 at Annagherra, Drumkeeran has been surveyed. The Council propose to have the water tables along this section of road cleaned and a short section diverted. This should alleviate any further problems here."

**09/636**  
**7/12/09**

**Drumgorman Junction**

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

"What can this Council do to make the Drumgorman junction safer on the road from Carrick-on-Shannon to Drumshanbo where there has been a number of serious accidents. Where the last car crash was is where the students stand for the bus - if they were there at that time, some of them may have been killed."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"The provision of additional more prominent signage on all approaches to this junction is recommended. Works of this nature are usually carried out under a Low Cost Safety Scheme. A proposal will be made to include a scheme for this junction in the 2010 list of schemes for funding. In the mean time additional signage will be provided."

**09/637**  
**7/12/09**

**Repair and Resurface the road around McKeivitt's House**

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

"I want to know when this Council is going to repair and resurface the road around McKeivitt's house at Lavour, Drumshanbo. I was told that the Lavour road would be done some months ago - also it is impassable at Barry's and O'Boys house etc. Why was it let into such bad repair when there was money to let this road be kept in a passable condition. I request that it will be repaired immediately."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"As part of the 2009 Area Programme €40,000 was spend strengthening 2km of the southern end of this road in question, Road No LP 3302. Further strengthening works are proposed in the 2010 on sections further north towards the Stoney river end, subject to grant funding been made available. In the short term routine maintenance work will be carried out when weather conditions allow."

**09/638**  
**7/12/09**

**Road works on the R201**

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

"When will Leitrim County Council undertake the necessary works along the R201 adjacent to factory under construction in the townland of Kivvy, Carrigallen to repair the depression in the road which is quite dangerous and could lead to an accident."

**Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure**

"Repairs to the depression refered to will be carried out in the near future."

09/639  
7/12/09

**R204 in the townlands of Corrawallen and Gortnhoose**

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

"When will works be undertaken to widen and make safe the road R204 in the townlands of Corrawallen and Gortnhoose - this road is scarcely 13ft in place and carries a large volume of traffic."

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

"Leitrim County Council have applied to the NRA for restoration improvement grants along the R204 in 2010. It is envisaged that this funding will be specifically targeted at the section of the R204 on the Ballinamore side of Corrawallen. We will proceed with land acquisition and agreements along the R204, once grant funding has been approved."

09/640  
7/12/09

**Ramps in St Patrick's Park, Carrick-on-Shannon**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;***

"I ask Leitrim County Council what is the position regarding ramps in St Patrick's Park, Carrick-on-Shannon."

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

"Following a meeting between council officials and concerned residents detailed plans for traffic calming in the area have been prepared. These will be discussed with residents in coming weeks and funding will be sought for the works."

09/641

7/12/09 **Kiltoghert Cemetery**

***To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;***

"I ask Leitrim County Council to get paths between plots in Kiltoghert cemetery cleaned as they are very slippy - some people have already fallen on these."

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

"Leitrim County Council have recently erected warning signage and applied grit to the surface of paths at Kiltoghert cemetery in response to concerns raised about slippery paths."

09/642  
7/12/09

**Public Lights at Kilnagross P.O.**

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

"When can we expect the public lights to be working at Killnagross P.O."

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

"The public lights are in position at Killnagross for some time and we are awaiting on the ESB to connect them."

09/643  
7/12/09

**Drainage works**

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

"When roads are being resurfaced, can drainage works be carried out along each road as surface water continues to damage repaired roads in some areas."

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

"Drainage works are normally undertaken as part of road improvement projects. The recent heavy rains have revealed areas where more works is required in this regard."

09/644  
7/12/09

**Greaghfarna and Tullynascreen, Dromahaire**

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

"I call on the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have repair works carried out on the roads in the Greaghfarna and Tullynascreen, Dromahaire area. The area covers from bridge known as the Iron Bridge, Killavoggy to Tullynascreen and the five roads - all roads in that area are very much in the need of repairs."

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

"An early inspection of the roads in this area will be carried out. Repairs required will be carried subject to weather permitting and available finance."

09/645  
7/12/09

**Control of Flooding**

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

"I call on the Director of Services, Infrastructure as to what steps are proposed to control the flooding in the future especially in Leitrim Village."

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

"The flooding experienced in the recent past resulted from exceptional rainfall and may have been a one in eight hundred year storm. The resultant flooding effected the complete Shannon Catchment and any response to such flooding and potential actions necessary to prevent future flooding will need to be addressed on a Catchment wide bases. Attempted localised preventative measures are unlikely to succeed and could be counter productive. A detailed review and assessment of the recent floods and there devastating effects will be carried out and will be fed into the national study that will take place into the flooding of the entire Shannon Catchment."

09/646  
7/12/09

**An Bord Pleanala**

At the end of the meeting Councillor Mary Bohan raised the issue of An Bord Pleanala. She stated that something must be done in relation to the Board. She referred to a structure which is to be erected close to the National School in Drumkeerin which was refused by Leitrim County Council and has now been granted by An Bord Pleanala. She stated that the Board has scant regard to local people and the situation needs to be

considered in the New Year in relation to what can be done. This was supported by Councillor McTernan. Councillor McCartin also supported the issue. He stated that An Bord Pleanála have shown little regard for the Council and that they are now reducing their quorum for a meeting to 2 so now 2 unelected people can make a decision in relation to a Planning appeal.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan in concluding the meeting wished everyone a happy Christmas and a happy new year and he thanked all of the staff of the Leitrim County Council for all their help during the year.

**This concluded the business of the meeting at 8.10 pm**

**SIGNED: Cllr Thomas Mulligan  
Cathaoirleach**

**SIGNED: Aideen McGovern  
Meetings Administrator**

**DATE: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010**