

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber,
Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Monday 1st February 2010 at 5.30 pm**

Members Present:

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

And Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Bohan, Mary

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 Ciaran Tracey, Senior Planner
Mr William Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms Aoife Mulcahy, Executive Planner
Ms Carmelita Caslin, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer
Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Michael Gunning, IS Project Leader
Ms Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

10/55

1/2/2010

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 11th January 2010, be adopted.”

Proposed by Councillor Gerard Reynolds, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 11th January 2010, be adopted.”

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

“That the Minutes of adjourned meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 18th January 2010, be adopted.”

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

“That the Minutes of adjourned Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 18th January 2010, be adopted.”

10/56

1/02/2010

Votes of Sympathy

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- Tommy Carney, Derrinloughan, Tullaghan on the death of Mai Carney.
- Michelle McGovern, Cattan, Annamore P.O., Mohill, Co Leitrim on the death of Kate Downing.
- Cyril Mulvey, Kiltoghert, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Mrs Kathleen Mulvey.
- John Glancy, Curries, Kilmore, Co Roscommon on the death of Sean Glancy.
- Tommy McGuckian, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Fred McGuckian.
- Kathleen Fahey & Family, Edenville, Kinlough on the death of John Fahey.
- The Family of the late John Connolly, Lisross, Ballaghmeehan, Co Leitrim on the death of John Connolly.
- Vincent McHugh, Drumnacross, Glencar, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Owen McHugh
- Una Cullen, 25 Loy Street, Cookstown, Co Tyrone on the death of Terry Cullen.
- Tom Kielty, Kiltoghert, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Ann Kielty.
- The Molloy Family, Bohey, Drumlish on the death of Michael Molloy.

10/57

1/2/2010

Section 183 of Local Government Act 2001

Notice of Intention dated 19th January 2010 from Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance to dispose of land in the townland of Kilboderry, Carrick on Shannon as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That disposal of land comprising 0.702 hectares at Kilboderry - Folio No LM 4313F - which was originally acquired by Leitrim County Council from the Irish Land Commission, to Mr. Thomas Stokes, Kilboderry, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention to dispose of land dated 19th January 2010 circulated to each Member be approved.”

10/58

1/2/10 Rate Collection Report 2009

Report dated 25th January 2010 from Katrina Murphy, Head of Finance as circulated to the members, in relation to the Rate Collection Report for 2009 appears as Appendix 2 to the minutes of this meeting.

The report as circulated was noted by the members.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds queried whether many businesses had ceased trading during 2009. He also queried whether many businesses had availed of the option to go on a payments plan in relation to their rates liability. Ms. Murphy outlined that in any given year a number of businesses will close down or change hands. She stated that there had not been a significant increase in the number of businesses closing in 2009 but that there have been difficulties for many businesses with cash flow. She outlined that rates can be written off only in certain circumstances such as where premises are vacant etc, within the specific parameters set out in the Regulations. She confirmed that customers have sought to extend the period for payment of their rates and this has been accommodated.

Councillor Michael Colreavy queried the variation in collection rates between districts. Ms. Murphy outlined that some of the collections in North Leitrim were not as high due to more difficulties in trading circumstances etc.

10/59

1/2/2010 Appointment of external members to the Audit Committee

Report dated 26th January 2010 from Jackie Maguire, County Manager as circulated to the members, recommending the appointment of Ms. Fiona Egan, Mr. Joseph McManus and Mr. Joe Earley as the three external members to the Leitrim County Council Audit Committee appears as **Appendix 3** to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator pointed out that there was an error in the report as circulated in relation to the Councillor Membership of the Audit Committee. She advised that the Councillor membership, as resolved at the Annual Meeting in June 2009, comprises Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Gerard Reynolds and not Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Reynolds as indicated in the report. She advised that the report to be attached to the Minutes of the Meeting would be amended in this regard.

This was noted and agreed by the Members.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That Ms Fiona Egan, Mr Joseph McManus, and Mr Joe Earley be appointed as the three external members to the Leitrim County Council Audit Committee”.

10/60

1/2/2010 Membership of Strategic Policy Committees

Ms. Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that one sectoral representative to the Housing & Corporate Services SPC – the Voluntary Housing nominee - remains to be approved. She advised that the final nomination in this regard is awaited and outlined that it is proposed to defer this item to the March council meeting.

This was agreed by the members.

10/61

1/2/2010 Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan

Report dated December 2009, amended January 2010, from the County Manager on Submissions received on the Draft Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 4** to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services outlined that the Members must consider and make their decision in relation to the recommendations in the Managers Report within 6 weeks of the date of issue of the report in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Act. He advised that the Members may decide to make, amend or revoke the Draft Plan after having considered the submissions and the Manager’s report and recommendations thereon. Where it is decided by the Members that any proposal to make a modification to the Draft Plan is of sufficient significance that it should be considered a Material Alteration, the Draft Plan is not adopted at this stage. In this instance the details of the proposed Material Alterations only are placed on public display for a further period of 4 weeks and submissions are requested thereon. He advised that a further Manager’s Report in relation to any submissions made will be prepared and submitted to the Members for their consideration, prior to the adoption of the Plan.

Mr. Dolan advised that a total of seventeen submissions had been received and the details and recommendations arising therefrom are outlined in the Manager’s Report. He outlined that the members had considered in detail the Managers Report at a Workshop Meeting on 26th January 2010.

It was agreed that the Members would then consider and determine each of the submissions in turn.

Submission No. 1:

Oliver McGowan – Land take associated with strategic drainage route and green corridors. Access to lands – (pages 9-11 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 2:

EPA – Compliance with EU & National Environmental Legislation – (pages 11-12 of Managers Report)

It was agreed that there was no change required to the Draft Plan arising from this submission.

Submission No. 3:

Joseph Dolan – Objective 5.2d – pedestrian route through the Bush Hotel – (pages 12-13 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 4:

Department of Education & Science – Provision of Educational Infrastructural Services & Facilities – (pages 13-14 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 5:

Padraig & Kathleen Coleman – Zoning of Lands – (pages 14-15 of Managers Report)

It was proposed by Councillor Gerard Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and unanimously resolved that the lands in question remain zoned as 'General Development' rather than being rezoned as 'Social and Community Use' as proposed in the Draft Plan.

It was agreed that this represented a Material Alteration of the Draft Plan and would have to go back on public display.

Submission No. 6:

Iarnrod Eireann – Importance of role of rail development – (pages 15-16 of Managers Report)

It was agreed that there was no change required to the Draft Plan arising from this submission.

Submission No. 7:

Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources – No issues raised – (page 16 of Managers Report)

It was agreed that there was no change required to the Draft Plan arising from this submission.

Submission No. 8:

NRA – Protection of National Primary Road – (pages 16-17 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 9:

Tesco Ireland Ltd. – Flood Protection Policies as they relate to Petrol Filling Station Policy and suggested changes required to facilitate petrol station beside Tescos - (pages 18-19 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 10:

Roscommon County Council – Need to strengthen links with / references to Cortober – (pages 20-22 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 11:

Spatial Policy Section, DoEHLG – Extent of Zoned Lands, Relationship with Cortober & Appropriate Assessment - (pages 23-24 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 12:

JHP Architects o/b Phylis McGrail & Eddie Guckian – Zoning of lands – (pages 24-26 of Managers Report)

It was agreed that there was no change required to the Draft Plan arising from this submission.

Submission No. 13:

Kenny Cunningham – Parking, Signage, One-Way System & Casual Trading Spaces – (pages 26-27 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 14:

John Spain Associates o/b Sean Brady – Zoning of Lands – (pages 28-30 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment constituted a material alteration of the Draft Plan and would have to go back on public display.

Submission No. 15:

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board – Protection of Water Quality & Flood Plains – (pages 30-32 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Submission No. 16:

Development Applications Unit, DoEHLG – Protection of Natural Heritage – (pages 32-33 of Managers Report)

It was agreed that there was no change required to the Draft Plan arising from this submission.

Submission No. 17:

Development Applications Unit, DoEHLG – Protection of Archaeological Heritage – (pages 34-35 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Issues raised at Councillors Meeting on the Draft Plan in Carrick on Shannon on 16th November 2009 – (pages 36-38 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Issues raised at Public Meeting on the Draft Plan in Carrick on Shannon on 16th November 2009 – (page 39 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Additional Issues raised arising from the on-going consideration of the Draft Plan – (pages 40-42 of Managers Report)

The Managers Recommendation in relation to the amendment of the Draft Plan, as outlined in the Managers Report was unanimously agreed. It was agreed that this amendment did not constitute a material alteration of the Draft Plan.

Mr. Dolan confirmed that the amendments to the Draft Plan in respect of Submission No. 5 and Submission No. 14 both represent Material Alterations of the Draft Plan and must be placed on public display for a further 4 week period. He advised that the Draft Plan cannot therefore be adopted at this stage.

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

“That the amendments as agreed be made to the Draft Plan and that the amendments to the Draft Plan on foot of Submission No. 5 and Submission No. 14 be placed on public display as Material Alterations to the Draft Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan.”

Mr. Dolan confirmed that the suggestion arising from the recent workshop on the Draft Local Area Plan in relation to seeking a meeting between the Carrick Area Elected Members and their counterparts in the Boyle Area in County Roscommon, to discuss matters of mutual interest particularly relating to Cortober, would be pursued.

10/62

1/2/10 Draft Road Works Programme 2010

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that the details of the Roads Allocation for 2010 are awaited. She suggested however that provisional dates should be scheduled for the Area Roads meetings and that these dates can be revised in the event that the allocation is not available.

It was agreed by the members to hold the Area Roads meetings to consider the Draft Road Works Scheme for 2010 as follows:

- **Dromahaire** Area Meeting – **Monday 1st March 2010 at 2pm** in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon.
- **Manorhamilton** Area Meeting - **Monday 1st March 2010 at 3pm** in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon.
- **Ballinamore** Area Meeting - **Monday 1st March 2010 at 4pm** in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon.
- **Carrick on Shannon** Area Meeting – **Wednesday 24th February 2010 at 4.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Sinéad Guckian raised the issue of the potential unavailability of staff to attend meetings out of office hours due to the ongoing national industrial action. She proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in this regard. She stated that employers are not under any obligation to release elected members during office hours to attend meetings associated with their role as public representatives, and out-of-hours meetings must be facilitated.

Councillor Enda Stenson seconded this proposal.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan stated that the Corporate Policy Group meeting would be rescheduled from 4.30pm to 5pm to facilitate the Area Roads meetings on the 1st March 2010.

This was agreed by the Members.

10/63

1/2/10 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

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

Strategic Policy Committees

Ms. McGovern outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had considered an update in relation to the new Strategic Policy Committees. She outlined that it is proposed, in advance of the first meetings of the new Strategic Policy Committees, to bring all of the SPC members together for a briefing / information session in relation to the role of Strategic Policy Committees and processes/procedures, primarily for the benefit of the external members of the SPC. She outlined that it is proposed, in so far as possible, to have the first meeting of each of the SPCs immediately after the briefing at which meeting the work programme and schedule of meetings for the year will be agreed.

Ms. McGovern outlined that a provisional date of Thursday, 18th February 2010 is proposed with the briefing/information session to commence at 2.30pm and the individual SPC meetings to commence at 4.00 pm.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mulligan asked if members had any difficulties with the proposal and the date and times proposed. No members raised any issue and the proposal was agreed by the members.

Carrick Local Area Plan

Ms. McGovern outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had also received an overview in relation to Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan and the Managers Report on submissions and observations received. She outlined that this item was listed separately on the Agenda for today's meeting.

Items for Council Meeting

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

This update was noted by the members

10/64

1/2/10 Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the members:

1. Letter dated 13th January 2010 from the Office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in relation to the publication of the National Carer's Strategy.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin expressed his disappointment with the response received from the office of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in this regard. He stated that the response is totally inadequate and proposed that a third letter, outlining more forcefully the members views, be issued to the Minister in this regard. This was seconded by Councillor Gerry Kilrane.

Councillor Gilmartin requested that a copy of the correspondence which issued in this regard be forwarded to him.

2. Letter dated 14th January 2010 from the National Irish Bank in relation to the closure of the National Irish Bank branch in Ballinamore.

Councillor Gordon Hughes expressed his disappointment at the reply received in relation to the closure of the National Irish Bank Branch in Ballinamore. He stated that he would not like to see this building, if it closes, falling into a state of disrepair. This was supported by Councillor Caillian Ellis.

3. Letter dated 18th January 2010 from Roscommon County Council in relation to Road No R280.
4. Email dated 13th January 2010 from Des Guckian in relation to the Dromod/ Rooskey By Pass.

Councillor Kenny queried the procedures in relation to deputations to Council meetings. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined the procedures as provided for in the Standing Orders. She advised that the Dromod Rooskey By-Pass has been raised with the Department and the NRA on a number of occasions and a response will issue directly to Mr. Guckian in relation to the issues raised.

Councillor Reynolds outlined that a number of members have already raised the issues in relation to the Dromod/Rooskey By-Pass. This was reiterated by Councillor Sinéad Guckian who pointed out that Members have already been working on this issue for the past 9 months.

5. Letter dated 15th January 2010 from the Department of Transport regarding the funding of the Regional Roads.
6. Letter dated 21st January 2010 from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the licensing and inspection of septic tanks and waste water treatment systems.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that proposals in relation to septic tanks are a matter of considerable concern for people and it is critical that we know the Department's proposals in this regard. He proposed that a letter be issued to Minister Gormley seeking an update on the Department's proposals in this regard. This was seconded by Councillor Martin Kenny.

7. Letter dated 22nd January 2010 from the Office of the Minister for Finance regarding the Christmas Bonus.
8. Circular Letter RLR 03/2010 from the Department of Transport in relation to the Interim spending in respect of Regional and Local Roads.

The following matters were also raised under Meeting Correspondence

Councillor Caillian Ellis expressed his disappointment that a response had not been received to date from Minister Harney or the Health Service Executive in relation to the setting up of a NOW Doc Service in Ballinamore. He proposed that a further letter issue in this regard. This was seconded by Councillor Gordon Hughes.

10/65

1/2/10 Vote of Congratulation

The Members passed a Vote of Congratulation to the following:

- Seamus Taylor, C/o Eamon Taylor, Main Street, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on being awarded an MBE by the English Government for his work with Minority groups in Britian
- Keith McGloin, Ahanlish, Kinlough P.O. Co Leitrim on receiving the Under 16 GAA County Player of the Year Award
- Senator Paschal Mooney on his re-election to Seanad Eireann.
- Councillor Enda McGloin on his recent engagement to Ms. Jennifer Duffy

10/66

1/2/10 Conferences

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

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following

- Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at the ICBAN Management Board Meeting in Monaghan on the 18th November 2009
- Attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at the ICBAN Management Board Meeting in Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh on the 16th December 2009
- Attendance of Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the Chambers Ireland Awards on the 28th October 2009 in Dublin
- Attendance of Cllr Thomas Mulligan at the Housing Awards at the Radisson Hotel, Athlone on the 16th September 2009

Proposed by Councillor John McTernan, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That the attendance of Cllr John McTernan, Cllr Frank Dolan and Cllr Siobhan McGloin at the TJK Conference Ltd, Planning Seminar for Councillors in the Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick on the 29th and 30th January 2010 be approved.”

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

“That the attendance of Cllr Francis Gilmartin at the I.P.I. Day Seminar in Kilkenny on the 9th February 2010 be approved”.

Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

“That the attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the Climate Change seminar on the 25th February 2010 in the Green House, Dublin be approved”.

***Proposed by Councillor John Ward, seconded by Councillor John McTernan
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED***

"That the attendance of Councillor John McTernan at the 18th Annual Kerry Environmental Recognition Conference at the Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry on the 4th to 8th March 2010 be approved".

Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor Michael Colreavy AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That the attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin at the 3rd National Renewable Energy Summit on the 4th March 2010 at Croke Park Conference Centre in Dublin be approved".

Part 1 Notices of Motions

10/67

1/2/10 Kinlough Playground

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

"That this Council pro actively work with Kinlough and the District Community Council to provide a playground in the Kinlough area (Kinlough Community Council have offered the Council a site free of charge)."

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

"The Council through its play and recreational policy continues to prioritise Kinlough in regard to a play ground facility but does not have the available resources to provide a playground directly in Kinlough at this time. However, the Council through it's Play Officer is very willing to assist the local community in the site selection, design and development of a proposed facility. It would also recommend the local community to engage with the Rural Development Program directly in an attempt to secure the necessary funding."

Councillor Siobhan McGloin stated that she was heartened by the discussion at the recent Budget Meeting in relation to Kinlough as a priority for the provision of a playground. She outlined that the community are very willing to work with the Council on this and she hoped that they would get all possible co-operation from the Council.

Councillor Tony Ferguson supported the motion. He outlined that unfortunately, when money had been available, a suitable site could not be found. Councillor Michael Colreavy also welcomed the motion. He outlined that there are a lot of young children in the catchment and every effort should be made to provide a playground in Kinlough.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development outlined that there are presently no funds available for a playground programme. He reiterated that the Rural Development Programme provides a good

opportunity for this type of initiative. He confirmed that a meeting would take place shortly to try and progress the matter.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin outlined that a number of public meetings had been held in January 2009 in Kinlough and there had been significant participation by local 13-15 year olds. She outlined that they wanted to see a skate park provided and had prepared sketch drawings in this regard. She outlined that it would be good to encourage the involvement of the local youth in the development of any project.

10/68

1/2/10

Additional Funding towards road repair works

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 Transport, Mr Noel Dempsey requesting that additional funding be provided towards repair works that are now urgently needed to both the local and regional roads as a result of the recent severe weather conditions. Unless additional funding is allocated by central government towards such works the continued upgrading of our road network will be significantly set-back by a number of years."

Councillor Hughes highlighted the impact of the recent severe weather conditions on roads throughout the county. He noted that there is as yet no indication that additional funding will be made available in this regard. He complimented Leitrim County Council on the condition of the road network up to the end of 2009. He stated however that unless Leitrim County Council get additional funding to repair the roads network our roads network will be set back a number of years. This was strongly supported by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds also supported the motion. He referred to Circular letter RLR 03 2010 from the Department of Transport in relation to the interim spending in respect of Regional and Local Roads and comments in relation to expenditure from 'own resources'. He suggested that a letter issue in response to this outlining that, despite our very scarce resources, Leitrim County Council had provided an additional €40,000 in our Budget from our own resources towards roads maintenance in the current year. He suggested that priority in terms of additional funding should be given to local authorities who had increased their roads funding.

Councillor Martin Kenny queried if a submission had yet been made to the Department of Transport in relation to the required roads funding. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure confirmed that a list of roads damaged as a result of the recent flooding had been submitted to the Department. He advised that an application for additional funding in respect of damage to the roads network as a result of the severe weather over the Christmas/New Year period would be submitted in the coming days. He advised that the problems are largely related to surface rather than structural damage and the submission would be seeking funding in the region of €1.2m-€1.3m. He reiterated however that there is no indication that there will be any additional funding in this regard.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin also supported the motion. He suggested that if additional funding is received some of it should be used for a pilot scheme in relation

to an alternative method of repairing potholes, as he has outlined previously. He stated that there is something wrong with current methods whereby potholes have to be repaired repeatedly and a method whereby the pothole filling is sealed would be more effective and should be deployed.

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

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Transport, Mr Noel Dempsey requesting that additional funding be provided towards repair works that are now urgently needed to both the local and regional roads as a result of the recent severe weather conditions. Unless additional funding is allocated by central government towards such works the continued upgrading of our road network will be significantly set-back by a number of years."

10/69

1/2/10

Flooded Homes

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

"I ask the County Manager to inform the Council what redress householders have in regard to their homes flooded in the recent past and the fact that people were permitted to build in areas which were under threat from flooding at all times - agents; legal people, Planners, Estate Agents etc all played a part in encouraging the developments in question."

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

"The Council is not aware of instances where houses were permitted to be constructed in locations that were known to be under threat from flooding without ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are taken. At all times the Planning Authority has taken into consideration the available flood level data at the time of the assessment of a specific planning application and this information forms the basis on which the decision on the application is made. Furthermore, Question 18 on the Planning Application Form asks the applicant to state whether or not the site that is the subject of the application has been subject to flooding. The Council will investigate the circumstances in respect of any specific instances that the Councillor may have in mind. The question of redress by the Council is not of relevance and it would be expected that house insurance cover would be in place in all instances."

Councillor Tony Ferguson thanked the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services for the reply and he confirmed that he would pass it on to the people who had raised the issue with him. He outlined that the issue arising in relation to re-insuring properties which flooded is one which must be addressed nationally.

10/70

1/2/10 Footpath and ESB on the Foxfield Road in Fenagh Village

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council complete the footpath and also have the E.S.B. connect the new public lighting on the Foxfield Road in Fenagh Village."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The District Office have contacted our lighting contractor who have informed us that the remaining public lights in Fenagh Village will be connected before the end of January. Unfortunately the extreme winter conditions have forced us to delay all development works until gritting, grit sweeping and pothole repair is complete. It is anticipated that the recommencement of the footpaths in the village will take place in Mid-February."

Councillor Caillian Ellis noted that works are to resume mid-February. He outlined that these works were to be completed prior to Christmas and he expressed the hope that the works would be completed before the end of March at the latest.

Councillor Gordon Hughes supported the motion. He stated that this matter has been ongoing for too long he sought an exact date for completion of the works. Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure reiterated that the extreme weather conditions had caused the delay. He advised that it is intended that the works will be completed by the end of March.

10/71

1/2/10 Mohill/Drumlsh Road No 01055-2 in the townland of Beihy

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

"Following on a number of accidents on a section of the Mohill / Drumlsh road No. 01055-2 in the townland of Beihy, I call on the roads section to immediately carry out a survey of this section with a view to improving safety for pedestrians, motorists and local people accessing this road from their homes and farms. The survey should address the following - Sightlines, Quality of road surface, Signage, Speed control, Road markings, Road alignment, Road widening. Following on this survey that a programme of works to improve safety on this road should immediately be put in place. The problem on this section is compiled by traffic coming at speed from Drumlsh on a long straight stretch and entering this section in Beihy which has a poor surface, numerous bends, poor sightlines and is dangerous for all road users particularly pedestrians."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The concerns raised with regard to the section of road in question will be investigated as requested."

Councillor Thomas Mulligan noted that this section of road is to be investigated. He outlined that there is some urgency in this regard as this particular stretch of road is causing ongoing problems. He stated that a survey needs to be carried out and a plan prepared in relation to how this stretch of road can be made safer.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion. He outlined that this was originally a regional road but was downgraded. He suggested that consideration should be given to upgrading the road to regional status again in order to access more funding.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane also supported the motion. He stated that this road carries a lot of heavy traffic and the safety issues need to be addressed.

10/72

1/2/10 **Unfinished Housing Estates**

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to consider setting up a sub committee of the Council made up of executive and members to review the issue of unfinished housing estates in County Leitrim and all the difficulties surrounding this problem."

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

"It is considered that the recently formed Planning, Environment and Emergency SPC is the appropriate forum to consider all issues relating to this matter and to bring forward policy proposals to the Council."

Councillor Enda McGloin noted the proposal in relation to the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC considering this issue but outlined that he considered that a forum outside of the SPC was required. He outlined that members are receiving continued representations in relation to the issues arising for residents in these estates. He outlined the detailed information which is required in relation to individual estates. He stated that this is a most critical issue which will have consequences for the Council for many years to come and he suggested that Members need to meet with the Executive on a bi-monthly basis in relation to dealing with this issue.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion and agreed with Councillor McGloin. He stated that this is one of the biggest issues facing the Council and is being made all the more difficult due to the level of media attention and inaccuracies in reporting. He also queried what constitutes a 'ghost estate'.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager advised that much of the information outlined by Councillor McGloin has recently been compiled following a walking-survey of residential developments throughout the county. She advised that this information will be made available to the members and represents a more accurate picture than that being portrayed in the media. She outlined that she understood that a 'ghost estate' has been defined as a development of 10 or more houses where 50% or more were unoccupied and/or unstarted. Mr. Ciaran Treacy, Senior Planner clarified some of the inaccurate assumptions underlying the report in this regard.

Councillor Michael Colreavy stated that consideration must be given to the experience of people who are living in these unfinished estates. He complimented Councillor Martin Kenny on his recent appearance on, and contribution to, 'The Frontline' programme on RTE. He stated that we must not accept that planning legislation as it stands, which is geared more towards the developer, is adequate.

Councillor Martin Kenny fully supported the motion and stated that we need to get a handle on this issue. He stated that the media debate has effectively become a blame game. He stated that a solution must be found. He stated that the people who

put the tax incentive schemes in place and extended them are to blame. He also cited the promised decentralisation which didn't materialise and stated that the solution must now come from central Government and a work programme must be put in place.

Councillor Gordon Hughes stated that he felt that the way in which Leitrim was portrayed on the recent 'The Frontline' programme on RTE was grossly unfair. He stated that the figures quoted will differ greatly from the reality on the ground. Councillor Hughes stated that when accurate figures are available that they should be issued to the national media. He stated that the Department are not going to come forward on this issue and Leitrim County Council must be proactive and take this forward. He suggested that a working group should be established.

Councillor John McTernan supported this and stated that we must also pressurise the various different Departments. He stated that there are a variety of issues which residents are facing and we must take action immediately.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds also supported the motion. He stated that this is the greatest problem facing the Council and that it is important that a committee or sub-committee of the Council is established which would meet on a bi-monthly basis. He outlined that the Government will have to form a policy at some stage and we should use this as an opportunity to identify and make suggestions to feed into that. He stated that the establishment of an internal forum will bring issues to light. He stated that the members must have up to date information in relation to this issue on an ongoing basis. He stated that the ongoing consideration of the Planning Bill in the Houses of the Oireachtas provides the ideal opportunity to amend the current provisions whereby developers have 7 years to complete their developments. He stated that this provision is grossly unfair to the people living in these developments.

Councillor Sean McGowan also supported the motion. He outlined that he had recorded an interview for the Newstalk Radio programme last week and had highlighted the positive aspects of the development which had taken place. He stated that none of this was covered on the programme and that the media are presenting the issue in an entirely negative light. He outlined that the Council had sought to get development into the county, were lucky to have secured the Tax Incentive Scheme and had sought its extension. He acknowledged that the focus of the extended scheme should possibly have been on commercial and industrial development rather than residential development but stated that he considered that there was cause for optimism for the future.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane stated that it is clear that the planning legislation as it exists currently is deficient. He supported the call for the establishment of a working group / sub-committee to consider the issue.

Councillor Enda McGloin thanked the County Manager for the information provided and asked that the detailed information would be available for the March Council meeting. He suggested that this document and information would form the basis on which to go forward. He thanked the Planning staff for their co-operation and work in this regard and stated that the ultimate goal is to make life better for the people living in these estates.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services confirmed that a lot of the information requested by the members is available. He outlined that an estate-by-estate walking survey had been completed in October/November 2009. He confirmed that it would be possible to give an overview of the condition of each estate but it would not be possible to provide an estimate of the value of the works to be completed re services etc.

The County Manager highlighted that the Council will be bound by a number of issues, primarily in relation to the legal provisions. She outlined that her preference would be to deal with this issue through the Strategic Policy Committee but would be bound by the members wishes in this regard. She advised that the detailed report would be available for the March Council meeting and the matter could be taken from there.

In relation to the Shannon Grove development which had been highlighted on The Frontline programme, Mr. Dolan confirmed that the developer was being pursued in this regard. Mr. Ciaran Tracey confirmed that enforcement proceedings had been initiated in advance of the recent coverage. He clarified that the Council had not been in a position to take action until certain commitments had been dealt with.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds proposed that a GP meeting be held prior to every second Council meeting to discuss and progress this issue. This was agreed by the members.

The Cathaoirleach in summing up the discussion outlined that the priority is to improve the quality of life for people living in housing estates and also to counteract the 'tag' of having the highest proportion of 'ghost estates' nationally.

10/73

1/2/10

Unfinished development in Newtowngore

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

"Due to the unfinished nature of a large development in the middle of Newtowngore, the streetscape has become derelict and dangerous. People who live on the Carrigallen side of the village have the choice between walking through ripped up footpaths and scattered rubble or the middle of the road. There is no footpath on the other side of the street and as the area is a pick-up point for the local primary school bus and the only access to the shops for a number of elderly people, the situation is totally unacceptable. The village has been like this for at least 5 years. The Council has recently placed a couple of temporary plastic barriers at the main entrance to the derelict estate. This measure has given the locals an impression of cynical tokenism on the Council's behalf and amounts to no significant improvement. It is clear that the developer has no intention of returning to the project. Regardless of his failure to abide by the law or to respect the locality and its residents, Leitrim County Council has a duty to leave the street safe and passable. I propose the immediate completion and clearing of this footpath."

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

"Planning permission for the development in question was granted on 16th August

2005 and the developer has a period of 5 years from that date to complete the works which are the subject of the permission or for such other extension of time, if sought and if granted. As the permission is still "live" in respect of this development it is therefore not considered to be a derelict site. The development company is still in existence and it may return to complete the development. Should it not return, it will be pursued for the full completion in accordance with the terms of the permission granted. The issue of the repair of the footpath will be pursued further."

Councillor John McCartin outlined that his first motion as a member of Leitrim County Council in July 2009 called for the issue of unfinished housing estates to be addressed and suggested that the demolition of some housing estates would need to be considered. He outlined that he was satisfied that the Council had taken on board his previous suggestion in relation to a study of developments throughout the county. He implored the executive to find any means necessary to short-circuit the legislative obstacles in relation to the completion of developments. He stated that the footpath issue in particular needs to be addressed. He stated that the country generally is facing depopulation or very high unemployment. He stated that we will not have the population to fill these houses. He stated that areas may have to be de-zoned or particular priority areas ring-fenced for development. He outlined that this is the most challenging issue facing the Council going forward and immediate action must be taken to deal with unfinished housing estates.

10/74

1/2/10

Road work repairs

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

"I request Leitrim County Council to carry out immediate repairs on the roads network in Ballinagar, Kilavoggy, Killargue and the general Dromahaire area where potholes have become hazardous for road users."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Following the recent exceptionally bad weather conditions significant damage has been caused to the road network through out the county. General repair work continues to be carried out on the entire road network in the Dromahair District with the more important routes being prioritised."

Councillor John McTernan thanked Council staff for the work done in relation to the potholes. He outlined that damage caused as a result of the ESB works in this area was very substantial and the compensation received from the ESB totally inadequate. He stated that the matter should be revisited – the damage has clearly been caused by ESB machinery and the ESB must be required to cover the huge cost of the repairs involved.

10/75

1/2/10

Special Needs Assistants

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

"Leitrim County Council requests the Minister and Department of Education to immediately reverse their decision to make 10% of Special Needs Assistants redundant with effect from 31st January 2010. Every child in this county and this country should have an absolute right to receive a level of education capable of supporting that child in reaching his or her full potential. It is simply wrong that children with special education needs are now to have their potential development hampered by cost savings decisions of the Minister and the Department. We ask that the decision to make Special Needs Assistants redundant be rescinded until there is a full, transparent, child-focused review of educational supports available for children with special needs."

Councillor Michael Colreavy expressed his anger at the large number of Special Needs Assistants who were laid off on Friday, 31st January 2010. He stated that the number of children with special needs is increasing nationally. He stated that it is unforgivable that the most vulnerable have to pay the price of economic cutbacks. He stated that this will set back educational services for children with special needs by decades and outlined that he believes that this action is discriminatory. He stated that it must be made clear that this decision was not made in the name of the elected representatives of Leitrim County Council. He stated that the decision must be condemned and that an immediate reversal must be requested.

Councillor Martin Kenny supported the motion. He outlined that the St. Joseph's Outreach Centre is due to move to its new premises next week and one of their Special Needs Assistants is now gone. He outlined that a child that needed a Special Needs Assistant some months ago is now deemed not to require this support despite no change in circumstances. He stated that this is a deplorable situation and we must demand an immediate reversal of this decision.

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the motion and cited the example of a student in his area. Councillor Gerard Reynolds also supported the motion. He stated that this step was taken for purely economic reasons. He stated that Special Needs children must be in mainstream education and every possible assistance must be given to them. He stated that this is a reactive response to a financial crisis and to take away this support is diabolical.

Councillor John McTernan supported the motion and he proposed that a deputation go to the Minister on this issue. This was supported by Councillor Siobhán McGloin. She stated that there is no good reason for this to be allowed to happen. Councillor Enda Stenson also supported the motion and stated that a very strong message must go back to the Minister in this regard.

Councillor John Ward supported the motion and stated that action must be taken. Councillor Francis Gilmartin outlined that he is involved with the St. Joseph's Outreach Centre. He stated that it is devastating for any parent to lose the Special Needs Assistant support for their child. He proposed that the motion be sent to every Council.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and suggested that the matter should be raised directly with Minister Batt O'Keeffe on his visit to Leitrim on Friday next. This was supported by Councillor Gordon Hughes who also supported the

proposal to seek a deputation with the Minister. Councillor Thomas Mulligan also supported the motion.

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

"That Leitrim County Council requests the Minister and Department of Education to immediately reverse their decision to make 10% of Special Needs Assistants redundant with effect from 31st January 2010. Every child in this county and this country should have an absolute right to receive a level of education capable of supporting that child in reaching his or her full potential. It is simply wrong that children with special education needs are now to have their potential development hampered by cost savings decisions of the Minister and the Department. We ask that the decision to make Special Needs Assistants redundant be rescinded until there is a full, transparent, child-focused review of educational supports available for children with special needs."

10/76

1/2/10 **Community Development projects**

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

"I am proposing once again that Leitrim County Council write to the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and also to Minister Eamonn O'Cuiv T.D. regarding clarity and guidance from the department for the future of the Community Development projects that cover County Leitrim."

Councillor Siobhán McGloin moved the motion on behalf of Councillor Sean McDermott who had to leave the meeting early.

10/77

1/2/10 **Disabled Persons Parking spot at Upper Main Street, Manorhamilton**

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

"At the February meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to consider providing a Disabled Persons parking spot at Upper Main Street, Manorhamilton and also ask why a cone is bolted to the footpath outside Centra in Manorhamilton as a permanent fixture."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A disabled Car parking space will be provided in this area. This will be marked when the road Line marking contractors are next working in the area. The cone that is bolted to the footpath marks the location of a decorative public light which was damaged and knocked down. The ESB have a new decorative light on Order and it will be erected at this location when delivered from supplier."

Councillor Frank Dolan confirmed that he was happy with the reply received.

10/78

1/2/10

Hard Shoulder at the Sligo end of the Dromod Rooskey By Pass

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

"At the February Meeting of Leitrim County Council I will again ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, has there been any further response from the NRA with a view to securing funding and putting in place a programme of works, to provide a hard shoulder at the Sligo end of the Dromod-Rooskey by-pass, from the exit of the old N.4 as far as Doherty's lane. It is extremely dangerous for motorists exiting from the old N4, and for motorists from the Fearnought-Moheraven road (Road No.LP-1475-0) who are heading towards Carrick-on-Shannon. There is a lot of concern in the locality, and the community are fearful that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs there."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This matter has been taken up with the NRA on numerous occasions over the past two years. They maintain the position that this junction is in compliance with design standards and therefore they will be not be providing funding for any alterations."

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that the By-Pass is an excellent road. He outlined that there are a couple of issues which have been highlighted including the issue of this badly designed junction. He suggested that the Inspectorate of the NRA be requested to meet with the Carrick Area Members and the executive in relation to these issues.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion and sought clarification in relation to the completion of some outstanding works by the contractor. Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer confirmed that the Contractor is to be back on site in the coming weeks to complete the outstanding works.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion. She outlined that it is almost 12 months since this issue was first raised with the NRA. Councillor John Ward also supported the motion. He suggested that an arrowhead pointing at the start of the dual carriageway should be considered.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds also supported the motion and queried whether the proposal for the new Carrick By-Pass to link up with this By-Pass was part of the rationale in not addressing this junction.

Mr. O'Connor outlined that the rationale is the Design Standards which do not favour acceleration lanes. Councillor Colreavy suggested that the NRA rationale in this regard should be questioned.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan also supported the motion.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That a meeting be requested with the Inspectorate of the NRA to provide an opportunity for the Carrick Area Members and the Executive to discuss the issues

arising in relation to the Dromod-Rooskey By-Pass”.

10/79

1/2/10

Central Park in Carrick-on-Shannon

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

"I ask if any discussions or progress has been made with the owners of the Central Park in Carrick with a view to creating much needed extra Parking in the Town centre before the busy Tourist Season arrives."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"A number of layout options have been explored but no formal discussions have taken place with the owners in the current year."

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that parking is one of the biggest issues in Carrick on Shannon. He queried what the possibility is of developing this area as a carpark and requested that the provision of some level of car park at this location be pursued in the short-term.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that options in this regard have been considered. She advised that various discussions had taken place with the Chamber of Commerce. She outlined that there is a difference of opinion in relation to the issue of parking adequacy. She outlined that she had confirmed that we would look at the issue but the response would have to involve a combined effort by all. She outlined that a number of possible layouts had been considered. She advised that no discussions have taken place with the owners in the current year. She stated that any solution has to be part of an overall plan for the town centre in conjunction with businesses.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds agreed that Central Park is the best location for car parking but highlighted that this area had been flooded recently. He stated that this issue needs to be taken into consideration. Councillor Sinead Guckian reiterated that the issue of flooding of this location needs to be considered. She outlined that she would hope to see the proposal coming to fruition and outlined that it is an objective of the Carrick Local Area Plan.

10/80

1/2/10

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

"I would like to bring to the attention of this Council a motion I had on the 11th May 2009 explaining the poor condition that the road was in at Lavagh where the McKeivitt family lives, also the road at Barry's and O'Boy's as part of the 2009 Area Programme. €40,000 was spent strengthening 2 kms of this road. To my disappointment the road at either of the houses that I requested to be resurfaced in May 2009 was left unattended. I request that the further works that are proposed for 2010 will include the road that leads to the houses mentioned above."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is road number LP3302-0 which is approx 7km long. €40,000 was spent in the 2009 Area Programme strengthening approximately 2km of this road. The remaining section of road will be assessed and considered for inclusion in the 2010 Maintenance Programme subject to priority. Routine Maintenance will be carried out until funding becomes available."

Councillor Francis Gilmartin stated that he was not happy with the reply received. He stated that work must be done outside these houses. He outlined that the Irish Wheelchair Association Bus uses this road and he proposed that the money to be spent in 2010 on this road be spent at these three houses. This was seconded by Councillor Enda McGloin.

Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the motion. He stated that works had been carried out on this road in recent days.

10/81

1/2/10

Amenity Site in Mohill

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to re-introduce opening hours at the amenity site in Mohill on Saturday's from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm to accommodate people who are working during the week. Closing on Saturday's at 1 pm is not suitable."

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

"The decision to change the dates and times of opening hours at the Civic Amenity Sites in Mohill and Manorhamilton was taken following extensive monitoring of the volumes of activity on each day and during the various hours of each day. It clearly emerged that volumes of activity at both locations on Saturday afternoons were much less than at other times and the numbers did not justify opening during the Saturday afternoon hours."

Councillor Ward expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply. He outlined that he had gone to the Civic Amenity Site in Mohill one Saturday afternoon after Christmas and there were three other cars there at the time. He stated that people were not aware of the change in opening hours. He stated that afternoon opening should be reintroduced to facilitate people who are working during the week.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan supported the motion. Councillor Michael Colreavy also supported the motion and stated that Manorhamilton Civic Amenity Site needed to be considered in the discussion also. He suggested that activity for February 2009 be compared with activity for February 2010 and outlined that he expected that activity would be shown to have dropped.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and stated that the Saturday afternoon closure should be reviewed. Councillor Stenson also supported the motion and suggested that Saturday afternoon opening to 3pm be considered.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that a survey has been undertaken over a long period of time and the usage in both locations on a Saturday afternoon was consistently very low. He confirmed that activity is being monitored and the situation will be kept under review. He outlined however that it is not expected that there will be a reduction in overall usage.

10/82

1/2/10

Carrickmakeegan Bridge

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

"I call upon Leitrim County Council to arrange to have the fencing adjacent to the Carrickmakeegan bridge replaced as it is in a very dangerous condition at present. I was given an undertaking that this would happen some time ago and as yet it hasn't happened. I would suggest Leitrim County Council carry out the work and then seek support for their costs from whatever other agency has a share of the responsibility."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The fence in question was erected by Waterways Ireland and it is their responsibility to maintain it. Leitrim County Council will raise the councillors concerns in relation to the condition of this fence with them."

10/83

1/2/10

Re-erect signs on dangerous bends

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

"I call on this Council to re-erect some signs regarding dangerous bends on roads where these were removed during road works in the past. Also some more new signs are requested and also make these signs more visible."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The sections of road in question will be assessed and appropriate signage will be provided if required."

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined that he had discussed the matter with the District Engineer and he was happy that the situation was being addressed.

10/84

1/2/10

Draft Health Service Plan for 2010 from the H.S.E.

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

"I am proposing that Leitrim County Council call on the Government not to approve the draft Health Service Plan for 2010 from the HSE which is now on Minister Mary Harney's desk, as if implemented, it would be a recipe for disaster. It proposes the

closure of a further 1,100 acute hospital beds and the reduction of hospital admissions by tens of thousands in 2010. This HSE plan must be rejected as it will only deepen the crisis in the public health services with further overcrowding in A & E departments and the downgrading of hospitals."

Councillor Martin Kenny stated that the structure of the HSE provides little or no voice or power to local representatives. He called on the Council to call on Government not to approve the draft Health Service Plan for 2010 and to go back to the old system.

All of the members supported the motion.

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that he would raise the issue at the Regional Health Forum.

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

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government not to approve the draft Health Service Plan for 2010 from the HSE which is now on Minister Mary Harney's desk, as if implemented, it would be a recipe for disaster. It proposes the closure of a further 1,100 acute hospital beds and the reduction of hospital admissions by tens of thousands in 2010. This HSE plan must be rejected as it will only deepen the crisis in the public health services with further overcrowding in A & E departments and the downgrading of hospitals."

Part II - Questions.

10/85

1/2/10

Derelict Sites List

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I wish to ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services for an up to date report on the Derelict sites list in Leitrim to include sites on the list and the level of progress if any on bringing owners of these 'eyesores' to account. I refer in particular to a major premises in Drumshanbo's Main Street which is in a very poor state and is having an adverse effect on neighbouring business premises."

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

"There are currently 29 no. sites listed on the Council's Register of Derelict Sites. A comprehensive review of the status of each of those sites has just commenced with a view to establishing if any of those have been rendered no longer derelict and to arrange for the imposition of site levies as per Part 111 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 on those remaining derelict sites that are located within the areas of the county that have been designated as "Urban" for the purposes of the Act. Simultaneously with this, work is ongoing on the identification of further sites which are now considered to be derelict and to start the process of their registration.

Substantial efforts are under way to deal with the complicated legalities relating to the

premises in Main Street, Drumshanbo which is referred to in this motion."

10/86

1/2/10

Road opposite old Buckode Post Office

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"That this Council carry out repairs to the road opposite the old Buckode Post Office known locally as Kevin Clancy's Lane"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is an access road from the R281 to Lough Melvin at Buckode. This is a private road and as such Leitrim County council have no responsibility for this road.

It is in poor condition and might be considered for improvement under a Local Improvement Scheme subject to the qualification criteria of the scheme."

10/87

1/2/10

Roundabout at High Street, Ballinamore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure what is the up-to-date position regarding the installation of a roundabout at High Street, Ballinamore at the junction of the new relief road with the main Killeshandra/Enniskillen road. It was my understanding that this was due to be built in conjunction with the opening of this road nearly 18 months ago. This is posing a significant traffic hazard at a busy intersection and is an accident waiting to happen unless these works are carried out as a matter of urgency."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The provision of this roundabout is dependant on funding, and as yet we have not received our Road Grants for 2010."

10/88

1/2/10

Gortahoosh, Corrawallen P.O.

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the Council widen the roadway R204-10 at Gortahoosh, Corrawallen P.O. which presently has steep falls either side of the main road together with a series of dangerous bumps which are providing a significant safety risk to passing traffic."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A Restoration Improvement grant for this section of the R204 can be included for consideration in the 2010 Roads programme. If the funding is made available we anticipate the works will include the removal of the bend at the Carrigallen side of Corrawallen and the material will then be reused to build up the required embankments at Gortahoosh."

10/89

1/2/10

Purchase of Houses in the County

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services to tell us where and when houses were purchased by the Council in County Leitrim in the past five years?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Leitrim County Council purchased a total of 10 houses over the period 2004-2009 as follows: 5 houses in Carrick on Shannon, two of which were under the Affordable Housing Scheme; 3 houses in Drumsna and 2 houses in Dromod. These purchases supplemented the Council's construction programme and were purchased to meet identified needs."

10/90

1/2/10

Spreading of grit and gravel on footpaths

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to clarify for householders, landowners, shopkeepers etc the situation regarding the spreading of grit and gravel on footpaths and roads by individuals with regard to responsibility for doing this work?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Department of the Environment are presently reviewing the issue raised in this question and we will revert to the councillor when we receive clarification."

10/91

1/2/10

Footpath in Cloone Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council what is the completion date for the footpath in Cloone Village."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The remaining works at Cloone Village require under grounding of ESB infrastructure and mini pillars. Once these works are complete, the ESB will pull their cables and connect up the supply. The footpath reinstatement will then carried out. Unfortunately the extreme winter conditions have forced us to delay all development works until gritting, grit sweeping and pothole repair is complete. It is envisaged that the construction of the mini pillars will take place in Mid-February."

10/92

1/2/10

Cloone River

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I ask Leitrim County Council what action has the Executive taken following making representations to the Area Engineer in relation to the cleaning of the Cloone River."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The river in question is part of the Rinn and Blackwater drainage system and will be examined and included for consideration for the work programme for 2010."

10/93

1/2/10

Dristernan, Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"With regard to the recent announcement of an allocation of remedial grants by the Department of Environment to Dristernan, Drumshanbo, can Leitrim County Council outline what proposed works are outlined for this Housing Estate?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The Council are awaiting official notification of approval from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on Phase I of the South Leitrim Remedial Works Scheme (Dristernan & Treanmore).

Works necessary to each house will vary dependent on the age and/or condition of the house and a detailed survey of the suite of works proposed for individual dwellings in the Dristernan estate and the communal areas will be completed in advance of proceeding to public tender."

10/94

1/2/10

LP 1534

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"The turn on the LP 1534 at Corracar near Drumeela on the county boundary has been the scene of many accidents in the recent past. I wish to ask Leitrim County Council to consider realignment of this section of road. As it would involve works on both the Cavan and Leitrim sides, we may be able to share the cost."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question can be included for consideration in the 2010 Roads programme subject to funding being available."

10/95

1/2/10

LS 1502-2 meets LP 1497

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"The junction where LS 1502-2 meets LP 1497 is raised and very narrow. Cars travelling from the Carrickmakeegan side have no place to meet and in slippery conditions, are in danger of sliding completely off the road. As this is the main access road to Drumreilly GAA grounds I would ask that the road be widened and margin or barrier be put in place."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question can be included for consideration in the 2010 Roads Programme but will of course be subject to the level of funding and other priorities relating to repair of road damage caused by recent frost and floods."

10/96
1/2/10

Deli Shop, Dromahaire

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;

"Has this Council a time scale for the completion of work at the Deli shop, Dromahaire as it is presently very dangerous for footpath users."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The council propose to re commence work to complete the footpath around the corner at the junction of the LP4165 with the backline in Dromahair on Monday 1st February. It is expected the proposed works will take 1 week to complete."

10/97
1/2/10

"Sir Robert Point"

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McTernan;

"Heavy rain has created a lake of water beyond "Sir Robert Point" on the Sligo to Dromahair road making it extremely dangerous for road users. This situation has caused alot of concern and anger with the general public and as I have raised this issue previously, I am requesting that it be addressed."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"At a number of locations along the R-288 North of Sir Roberts Point surface water flows from the rock face following periods of heavy rain. This water seeps away under the road through openings in the rock along the road margin. From time to time this openings get partially blocked with leaves and general road debris. Work is underway this week to have these openings cleared."

10/98
1/2/10

Housing List

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"How many people are currently on the housing waiting lists for family type and limited accommodation dwellings in Manorhamilton, Kinlough, Tullaghan, Kiltyclogher, Rossinver, Glenfarne, Glencar, Killargue and Drumkeerin?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The position in relation to the numbers on the Housing Waiting List with a first preference for Family Type (F/T) or Limited Accommodation Dwellings (LAD) in the locations outlined is as follows:

Manorhamilton: 29 F/T; 16 LAD
Kinlough: 14 F/T; 20 LAD
Tullaghan: 2 F/T; 2 LAD
Kiltyclogher: 2 F/T; 2 LAD
Rossinver: 1 F/T; 2 LAD
Glenfarne: 0 F/T; 0 LAD

Glencar: 2 F/T; 2 LAD
Killargue: 1 F/T; 2 LAD
Drumkeerin: 1 F/T; 9 LAD

It should be noted that these figures are inclusive of applicants that may previously have refused a first or second offer of local authority accommodation. Housing needs will continue to be met through the range of housing options available, including the Rental Accommodation Scheme where applicants are in receipt of rent supplement from the HSE for eighteen months or more."

10/99

1/2/10

Control of Dogs in public areas

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Does the Council have any legal right to ensure people in control of dogs in public areas have "poopy scoop" utensils with them? The current system whereby a Community Warden must see the dog pooping is ineffective."

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

"There is no legal requirement for owners to have a specific type of equipment with them when walking their dogs but they have a legal obligation to remove any dog fouling that occurs while walking their animals. Those who are in control of dogs are subject to on the spot fines if their dogs cause fouling or if they are found to be owners of uncontrolled dogs that are caught fouling. The Council will continue to raise awareness of this matter."

10/100

1/2/10

Single Rural Family type houses

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"At the February Council Meeting I will ask Leitrim Co Council, how many single rural family type Council houses, have they built in the county of Leitrim last year and how does that compare to 5 years ago?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"The 2004 Housing Construction Programme included 5 no. single rural Council houses as compared to 2 no. single rural houses commenced in 2009. It should be noted that the level of demand for single rural Council houses has dropped in recent years. In addition, the Council has been unable to proceed in relation to the provision of a single rural house for a number of families who have been approved, due to problems and delays with identifying a suitable site, problems with water supply to the site and in a number of instances ongoing issues in relation to the ownership and title to the site. It should also be noted that a specific case has to be made to the Department in respect of each proposed single rural house and Departmental approval must be obtained prior to proceeding to the Public Consultation stage."

10/101

1/2/10

Regional Road R283

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure for an update on the proposed work on the Regional Road R283 - this is the road between Manorhamilton and Kiltyclogher. This road has been subsiding along the edges at several locations?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"There were three number road slippages in the Lissinagroagh/Tawnyunshinagh area along the R283 road last November/December 2009 during the flooding period. A 10 T weight restriction advisory signs and variable speed message signs are located on the N16 and Kiltyclogher village. The road was also restricted to one way traffic during the flooding back in November/December 2009. It was opened to two way traffic in late December 2009 after temporary repairs were carried out. It is currently being closely monitored.

Road design Department are currently surveying this section of road and will produce a road design proposal for horizontal and vertical alignment of this section of road. This will detail the land acquisition requirement of proposed works. The Department of Transport have been alerted to this road failure and it is hoped works will start on this section of road this year subject to Funding for a Specific Improvement Scheme being made available from the Department of Transport and subject to land acquisition."

10/102

1/2/10

Portrooske Housing Estate

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I ask Mr Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services have the Council made any progress with the Developers of the Portrooske housing estate in Rooskey with regard to the removal of the sewerage treatment plant and the sterilisation of the site. The residents of the estate are anxious that the works concerned would be done as soon as possible and that the site reinstated and landscaped as was promised."

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

"The development in question is subject to grants of planning permission P01/251 and P04/1765. It is a condition of both planning permissions that the developer removes the on-site package treatment system once a connection to the public main is available. The Council has written to the developer advising of its availability and requesting that he remove the package plant as required by the grant of permission.. As he has not done so, he is considered to be in contavention of his permission and enforcement proceedings are being issued.

It is noted that the second permission on site allows for construction of 4 additional houses on the site where the package plant is now located, and an application for extension of duration of planning permission has been received."

10/103

1/2/10

Public Lighting at Fox's Tooman

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"I ask Mr John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of public lighting at Fox's of Tooman, which I have requested over the past number of years and where a commitment was given

to provide the lights. It is extremely dangerous at night time where there is a very busy shop, Post office and public house, and the local community are concerned for their safety."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We await ESB contractors to undertake completion of this project."

10/104

1/2/10

Junction on Shoalmore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I ask will the dangerous junction at Shoalmore on the R201 be included in this years road improvement schemes? This junction was included in 2008 and later withdrawn."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The junction in question can be considered under the proposals for low cost safety improvements."

10/105

1/2/10

Signage

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"I ask that the District Engineer erect a Stop sign on the Gortletteragh road exit on to the Mohill/Drumlish road at Fearnought cross."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"There is a Yield sign presently in position at this junction. We will examine the need for the alternative sign requested."

10/106

1/2/10

Sewerage Scheme in Drumcong

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Is the sewerage near completion in Drumcong?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This scheme in Drumcong is scheduled to be completed in May of the current year, and all the Towns and Villages Sewerage Schemes should be operational by mid-year."

10/107

1/2/10

Potholes

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Could this Council please repair the pothole that is at Willy Mortons of Ballinawing so that it will stay in it longer than a week as a lady lost a tyre in it during the weekend?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Permanent repair work is being carried out on the R209 at this location this week. Approx 25m of roadside piping will be replaced as the existing piping is damaged causing blockages and thus allowing surface water to seep into the road base. This was the underlying cause of the formation of potholes along this section of road."

10/108

1/2/10

Youth Reach Centre

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council why Leitrim appears to be the only county, that does not cater for early school leavers by means of a Youth Reach Centre. Where do they go if secondary school is not suitable for them?"

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

"The matter raised will be referred to the lead agency in this area the County Leitrim VEC and will also be raised at the next meeting of Leitrim County Development Board."

10/109

1/2/10

Tash Crossroads

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to remove a tree at Tash Crossroads that is growing on the edge of junction. Traffic coming from Tash find it impossible to exit as visibility is very poor."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The tree in question is located on the property of the landowner. We will examine the junction in question to explore how sightlines might be improved."

10/110

1/2/10

LT 153460

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

"Would Leitrim County Council please arrange to erect signage along the LT 153460 in the townland of Drumbrick at Drumeela indicating the series of bad bends which has been the scene of many accidents. This road is carrying a considerable volume of traffic and is particularly dangerous to those who aren't familiar with it."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road referred to is the LP1527-0 which runs from Drumbrick to Drumeela. We will erect this signage during our Regional Road sign posting programme."

10/111
1/2/10

Kilbrackan, Carrigallen

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

"I would ask Leitrim County Council to survey the bridge at Kilbrackan, Carrigallen - many are of the view that the parapet has sagged and needs attention."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Following a site visit to the old stone arch bridge at Kilbracken, we note that the bridge needs minor repointing and the approach walls have sagged and settled. Funding will be sought for this type of work."

10/112
1/2/10

Laragan Cross to Greaghnagullion

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"I call on this Council to make the road from Laragan Cross to Greaghnagullion, Drumshanbo a priority when the road works programme for 2010 starts, as it is impossible to travel on."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This road in question has been assessed and will be considered for inclusion in the 2010 Area Programme subject to priority. Routine Maintenance will be carried out until funding becomes available."

10/113
1/2/10

Iron Bridge

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Dolan;

"What progress is being made to have the Iron Bridge, Killavoggy upgraded before it goes into any worse repair."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Iron bridge at Killavoggy on Road No 8270-1 can be considered for upgrading works in the 2010 Area Programme if funding is made available, however the repair of damage caused by frost and flooding will have to have first call on funding."

10/114
1/2/10

Railway Terrace, Balliamore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Martin Kenny;

"I am asking the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will the work begin to have the new pumping station and sewer line installed at Railway Terrace, Ballinamore, as it was due to be started last October."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Funding is in place to finance these works and we hope to complete this work in the first quarter of the year."

10/115

1/2/10

Bus Shelter in Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"That this council ask Bus Eireann to provide a bus shelter in Manorhamilton for all those using the bus service."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services & Housing

"This matter was raised for follow up with the Bus Éireann representative who recently addressed the members at a Council meeting. A reminder can issue in this regard."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 8.15 pm

**SIGNED: Cllr Thomas Mulligan
Cathaoirleach**

**SIGNED: Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator**

DATE: 1st March 2010