

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

Members Present:

Bohan, Mary	McCartin, John
Colreavy, Michael	McDermott, Sean
Dolan, Gerry	McGloin, Enda
Dolan, Frank	McGloin, Siobhán
Ellis, Caillian	McGowan, Sean
Ferguson, Tony	McTernan, John
Gilmartin, Francis	O'Rourke, Paddy
Guckian, Sinead	Reynolds, Gerard
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 Brian Kenny, Senior Engineer
Mr William Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Terry McGovern, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms Vivienne Egan, Senior Executive Planner
Mr Michael Gunning, IS Project Leader
Ms Aideen McGovern, Meetings Administrator

10/116
1/3/2010

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Gordon Hughes, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That the Minutes of the Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras An Chontae on Monday, 1st February 2010, be adopted."

10/117
1/03/2010

Votes of Sympathy

The members extended a vote of sympathy to the following;

- Patrick Eames, Lurganboy, Co Leitrim on the death of Breda Eames.
- Frank & Joan McDermott, East Barrs, Glenfarne, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary McDermott.

- Sarah Land, Castlemoyle, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim on the death of Simon Land.
- Willie Clancy, Uragh, Tullaghan, Co Leitrim on the death of Bridie Clancy.
- Mary McGloin, Magh Ene, Drumons, Kinlough, Co Leitrim on the death of Margaret Tourish.
- Donal Hamrogue, Derryduffy, Tullaghan, Co Leitrim on the death of Martin Hamrogue.
- Junior McKiernan, Killegar, Drumeela, Co Leitrim, Via Cavan on the death of Peggy McKiernan.
- John Kenny, Meltron, Aughavas, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Bernadette Kenny.
- Frank Quinn, Mount Ida, Cloone, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Quinn.
- Peggy McGovern and Family, Loughross, Corramore, Glenfarne, Co Leitrim and Mrs Anna McManus, Largy, Spencer Harbour, Drumkeerin on the death of John McGovern.
- The Higgins Family, Drumshanbo on the death of Francis Curry.
- Oliver & Francis Feely, Larganough, Rossinver on the death of Nora Feely.
- The McKeon Family, Mohercieve, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Maura McKeon.

10/118
1/3/2010

Membership of Strategic Policy Committees

Ms. Aileen McGovern, Meetings Administrator outlined that the Environment Pillar had advised that their original nominee to the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services SPC had decided to withdraw and they had notified the Council of their new nominee. The report as circulated appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the nomination by the Environment Pillar of Mr. Garreth McDaid, Woodcain, Drumleague Hill, Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim to the Planning, Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee of Leitrim County Council be approved”

Ms. McGovern advised 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.

10/119
1/3/10 Adoption of Road works Scheme 2010

The Roadworks Scheme 2010 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Roadworks Scheme 2010 for Leitrim County Council be adopted”.

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that a letter should issue to the Minister for Transport expressing Leitrim County Council’s dissatisfaction at the reduction in the level of funding

allocated, particularly in the context of the very significant damage caused to the roads network as a result of the recent severe weather conditions. He stated that this allocation must be appealed in some way and outlined that no funding has been provided for Specific Improvement Grants in the Dromahaire area in the current year. He stated that it was important that our dissatisfaction in relation to the allocation is registered with the Minister. This was supported by Councillor Tony Ferguson who seconded the proposal.

Councillor Enda Stenson also supported the proposal. He outlined that the level of funding allocated is very disappointing with no Specific Improvement Grants in the Carrick area and Local Improvement Scheme funding almost wiped out. He stated that the LIS has been a hugely important and beneficial scheme in the Leitrim context and the waiting list, which had improved, will be seriously affected. He stated that the Council must appeal for additional funding.

This was supported by Councillor Frank Dolan who outlined that the LIS allocation will facilitate possibly only 10 projects in the current year compared to some 30 to 35 schemes in previous years. He stated that the LIS is critical for a rural county like Leitrim. This was supported by Councillor Ferguson who outlined that additional funding should be sought under the Local Improvement Scheme given the length of the waiting list.

Councillor Martin Kenny stated that it must be made clear to the Minister that it is not acceptable that adequate funding is not being made available for rural roads. This was supported by Councillor Gerard Reynolds who outlined that the majority of our population live in rural Ireland and the only service they get is the road to their house. He highlighted the huge cost of responding to the flooding and the severe frost and snow in recent months which has not been addressed. He also outlined that it will be very difficult to maintain jobs to the end of the year and the level of funding allocated will facilitate no temporary employment. He stated that a very strong letter must issue to the Minister outlining that a service cannot be operated without an adequate level of funding. He stated that the Road Works Programme must start but it will be very difficult to sustain the roads network given the level of funding provided.

Councillor Sean McGowan outlined his disappointment in relation to the reduction in the roads grants. He queried the position in relation to Rooskey Bridge which had originally been included for funding in 2009 and is not now included in the 2010 Programme. He stated that this work urgently needs to be carried out.

Mr. John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure outlined that the Specific Improvement Grant funding has been decreasing over recent years and that within that the Council's proposals have been significantly curtailed. He outlined that Rooskey Bridge has not been included in the funding for the current year although it had been included on the Council's list or priorities.

Councillor John McTernan expressed his dissatisfaction with the roads allocation and said that it will facilitate nothing more than patching and filling of potholes. He stated that the condition of the roads network will deteriorate and proposed that a deputation be sought with the Minister. This was seconded by Councillor Stenson.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach stated that the Roads Allocations are more than disappointing particularly when the indications were that some recognition would be given to the additional funding requirements arising from the severe weather conditions. He stated that the adoption of the roads programme is only being approved in the context of the necessity to get works progressed.

10/120

1/3/10 Date for General Purposes Committee Meeting

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager confirmed that a detailed report in relation to Housing Completions and Vacancy levels in Housing Estates in County Leitrim is today being circulated to each Member. She outlined that the report is very detailed and requires detailed consideration and discussion. She outlined that it is proposed that a General Purposes Committee Meeting would be convened prior to the April Council meeting to consider the report. She advised that members can request further information or clarification if required in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds suggested that this matter should be considered at a Special Council meeting. The County Manager outlined that there is no difficulty with a Special Council Meeting. She outlined however that some aspects of the report as circulated are sensitive, some cases are the subject of ongoing legal proceedings etc and that there is a requirement in the first instance that the matter be considered in committee so that members are aware of all the issues and constraints on discussing some aspects in a public forum. She outlined that it had been proposed and agreed at the February Council meeting that this matter would be considered in the first instance at a General Purposes Committee meeting of the Council.

Following discussion it was agreed that the April Corporate Policy Group meeting should be scheduled for 3pm, to be followed by the General Purposes Committee Meeting at 3.30pm to allow a reasonable time period for the meeting to consider the report.

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

“That the April Corporate Policy Group Meeting be scheduled for 3.00pm on Monday 12th April to be followed at 3.30pm by a General Purposes Committee Meeting to consider the ‘Report on Housing Completions and Vacancy levels in Housing Estates in County Leitrim’”.

Councillor Tony Ferguson complimented the Council Staff on the very comprehensive report as circulated.

10/121

1/3/10 Housing Grants Scheme

Report dated 23rd February 2010 from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services in relation to the Proposed Policy in relation to Housing Grant Schemes as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Quinn outlined that the Options Paper had been considered in detail by the Housing & Corporate Services SPC and it had been agreed that the Options Paper would be presented without amendment to the Corporate Policy Group with a recommendation that the proposals as outlined be approved for implementation. She advised that the Corporate Policy Group had also considered the report and were recommending the Options Paper to the Council for approval without amendment.

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

“That the Proposed Policy in relation to Housing Grant Schemes, as outlined in the Options Paper dated 18th February 2010 (Appendix 3 to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book) be approved for implementation”.

10/122

1/3/10 **Quarterly Report on Capital Works**

- **Housing**

Report from Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to outstanding issues in relation to a housing development in Drumkeerin which was completed in 2008 and asked that every effort be made to bring these matters to a conclusion. She outlined that she understood that the Clerk of Works is to meet with the Contractor on site in the coming days with a view to finalising the matter.

- **Water Services**

Report from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure as circulated to each member appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. The report as circulated was noted by the Members.

Councillor Caillian Ellis queried when the sewerage scheme at Railway Terrace, Ballinamore is scheduled to start. Mr. McGuinness confirmed that this work is to be carried out by the Area Office Staff and will be commencing within the next two to three months.

Councillor Enda Stenson sought clarification on the up to date position in relation to the Carrick-on-Shannon Sewerage scheme. Mr. McGuinness outlined that the work is ongoing and is due to be substantially complete by the end of the year.

- **Roads**

Report from John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure 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.

Councillor Enda Stenson sought clarification on when the footbridge in Carrick-on-Shannon would be opened to the public. Mr. McGuinness outlined that the footbridge is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. Councillor Gerard Reynolds queried whether this contract was due to be completed at an earlier date. Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads confirmed that the contract was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2009 but this timeframe had been negatively affected by the flooding and subsequently the severe cold weather.

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined his disappointment that no funding has been made available to continue the design work in relation to the N.16. This was supported by Councillor Michael Colreavy who requested that members ensure that political pressure is brought to bear to ensure that this project is progressed.

- **Other Capital Projects**

Report from Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural and Enterprise Development dated 22nd February 2010 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.

10/123

1/3/10 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 updates from two Strategic Policy Committees – the Housing & Corporate Services SPC and the Infrastructure SPC.

Councillor Enda Stenson, Chairperson of the Housing and Corporate Services SPC gave an overview to the meeting of the matters considered by that SPC. He advised that the SPC had adopted its Standing Orders, had agreed its Work Programme and a Schedule of Meetings for the Year and had also considered in detail the Options Paper in relation to the Housing Grants. He advised that it was agreed, following detailed consideration and discussion, that the Options Paper would be presented without amendment to the Corporate Policy Group with a recommendation that the proposals as outlined be approved for implementation. He outlined that the SPC were strongly of the view that it is critical that the available resources are targeted at those most in need of assistance and also considered that the means testing provisions within the schemes must be strictly applied. He outlined that this matter had been listed separately for consideration on the Agenda for the Council meeting.

The report as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Caillian Ellis, Chairperson of the Infrastructure SPC gave an overview to the meeting of the matters considered by that SPC. He advised that the SPC had adopted its Standing Orders, had agreed its Work Programme to September 2010 and a Schedule of Meetings for the Year and had also considered proposals in relation to the Smarter Travel Project. He outlined that the SPC is recommending that the Council would proceed to seek funding for this proposed project and to seek Part 8 Planning Approval for the project if funding is secured. This was agreed by the Members.

The report as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

- **Circular LG 2/2010 re Local Government Act 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010**

Ms. McGovern advised that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the requirements arising from the Local Government Act 2001 (Section 142) Regulations 2010. She outlined that the CPG had agreed that the matter should be considered by a Working Group of

members comprising the Cathaoirleach and the Party Whips/Representatives, who would meet with the Meetings Administrator with a view to formulating a policy/procedure. The matter would then be brought back before the Corporate Policy Group and the Members. She outlined that a meeting of this Working Group is to be convened, in consultation with the Cathaoirleach, to progress the matter in advance of the next meeting of the CPG.

This was noted by the members.

- **Items for Council Meeting**

The Corporate Policy Group had also considered an overview of the items for the Council Meeting and a prospective date for a General Purposes Committee meeting to consider the Report on Housing Completions and Vacancy levels in Housing Estates in County Leitrim.

This update was noted by the members

10/124

1/3/10 Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter dated 29th January 2010 from Eircom regarding broadband in Carrigallen.

Councillor Martin Kenny referred to the correspondence received from Eircom in relation to broadband in Carrigallen. He stated that the response is totally inadequate and that a further letter should issue to Eircom pushing the seriousness of this situation for many areas. He stated that it was unacceptable for Eircom to refer the matter on to their competitors to address under the National Broadband Scheme.

This was supported by Councillor Caillian Ellis who requested that Cloone also be referred to in the further correspondence to issue to Eircom as there is no broadband in Cloone.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke expressed his disappointment with the response received. He outlined that the query had requested specific information in relation to Carrigallen and the response received is quite vague and effectively directs the Council, and the consumer, to Eircom's competition. He outlined that in September 2007 an Eircom representative had attended a Corporate Policy Group meeting and outlined specific timeframes for broadband enabling of various exchanges. He stated that none of these commitments have been met. He requested that a further letter issue to Mr. Reid outlining the position and the commitments given and the clear breach of faith which has occurred.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin highlighted the critical importance of broadband. She queried why the Government is not challenging the breaches of contract in relation to the National Broadband Scheme whereby contractual commitments have not been delivered upon.

Councillor Mary Bohan reiterated the critical importance of broadband particularly in the context of setting up and retaining businesses. She queried the up to date position in relation to broadband in the county and what the Council can do in relation to the issue.

Councillor Colreavy outlined that there are two particular issues arising in relation to the national broadband scheme – the lack of clear contractual arrangements and the lack of comeback if service delivery is not achieved.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Community, Cultural & Enterprise Development outlined that he understood that '3', the National Broadband Scheme contractor, had agreed a roll-out schedule with the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources. He outlined that the area to be covered by the scheme was expanded but not to the extent that we had wanted. He advised that contact could be made with '3' seeking an update on the position. He outlined that there has been some discussion in relation to a Rural Broadband Scheme to mop up areas not covered. He outlined that the whole area of broadband service provision is very fragmented.

2. Letter dated 1st February 2010 from the Courts Service in relation to the refurbishment of Ballinamore Courthouse.
3. Letter dated 1st February 2010 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to turf cutting in County Leitrim.

Councillor Martin Kenny stated that as far as he is aware it is incorrect, contrary to what is stated in the letter from the Department, to suggest that no bogs in Leitrim are affected by the turf-cutting ban until 2014. He stated that the correspondence is simply avoiding the issue. He stated that a meeting should be sought with the Minister to discuss the issue. This was supported by Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Sean McDermott who stated that the issue must be sorted out.

Councillor John Ward stated that it is a deplorable situation whereby people would be prevented from cutting their own turf and he requested that a strong letter issue to Minister Gormley on this issue.

Councillor Siobhan McGloin stated that turf-cutting cannot be threatened. Councillor John McTernan stated that the Minister's Office is incorrect in stating that no bogs in Leitrim are affected and he should be requested to correct this statement. This was supported by Councillor Gerry Dolan.

Councillor Francis Gilmartin stated that, irrespective of a Ministerial Order, a ban on turf-cutting simply cannot be accepted.

Councillor Ferguson also outlined his concern in relation to this situation although he acknowledged that it does not have an impact in Leitrim until 2014.

4. Letter dated 29th January 2010 from Health Service Executive in relation to the NOW Doc Centre in Ballinamore.

Councillor Caillian Ellis stated that he was very disappointed with the response received from H.S.E. in relation to the proposal for a NOW Doc Service in Ballinamore. He stated that the HSE are clearly not listening to the people on the ground.

5. Letter dated 3rd February 2010 Fondúireacht an Phiarsaidgh in relation to the Pádraig Pearse Award 2010.

6. Letter dated 5th February 2010 from Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to the Community Development Programme.

Councillor Sean Mc Dermott highlighted the huge concern in relation to the future of the Community Development Projects in Leitrim and the fear of jobs being lost. Councillor Siobhan McGloin outlined that most of the CDP's had passed the viability test and this is now considered to be a flawed process. She stated that CDP's are not compatible with the system being imposed.

7. Letter dated 4th February 2010 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the review and update of the Regional Planning Guidelines.
8. Letter dated 3rd February 2010 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the financial assistance for flooding.
9. Circular LG 2/2010 dated 11th February 2010 in regard to the Local Government Act 2019 Section 142) Regulations 2010.
10. Letter dated 15th February 2010 from Donegal County Council in relation to a resolution adopted at their 8th February 2010 meeting in relation to review and revise current arrangements for the funding and operation of the Coroner's services.
11. Letter dated 22nd February 2010 in relation to the 2010 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations from the Department of Transport.
12. Letter dated 23rd February 2010 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in relation to funding for the Western Rail Corridor.

The following matters were also raised under Meeting Correspondence

Industrial Action

Councillor Gerry Kilrane expressed his concern in relation to notification received that, as and from 1st March 2010, IMPACT Trade Union members are instructed not to process political representations from Government Party TDs, Senators or Councillors. He stated that this is a very serious issue and expressed his disappointment that local members of the union have decided to take this action. He outlined that he is sympathetic towards civil and public servants in relation to the pay cuts etc. He outlined however that these staff are signed up to a Code of practice and Behaviour in relation to the delivery of public services. He stated that, as a public representative, he does not know how he can perform his duties if this position continues. He outlined that he respected that this is a national issue but asked that the local union members reconsider the position in relation to local elected members to allow them to do their job.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds outlined that he understood fully Councillor Kilrane's position. He stated that this decision will have a major effect on local democracy. He outlined that it appears that industrial action is to be heightened and he suggested that the Fianna Fáil members should contact their Senior Ministers to see if discussions and negotiations can be re-opened. He stated that this situation can only be resolved through consultation and the stand-off will have a huge effect on services, the general public and public representatives.

Councillor Mary Bohan acknowledged that this is a very difficult time for everyone – public and private sector. She stated however that this is a very difficult situation for Councillors, who have a mandate and a democratic right to have their representations dealt with. She stated that it appears that the pay-cuts are not going to be reversed and Councillors have no power to change that. She stated that she considered that this action is a step too far, is not impartial and is wrong.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds queried whether many staff are represented by the IMPACT Trade Union and how many departments are affected by this action. He stated that he had attended a HSE Regional Health Forum meeting last week and none of the questions put forward for the meeting had been answered due to industrial action. He stated that some form of negotiation must take place.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that IMPACT represents, by and large, the administrative grades and members would be spread throughout the organisation. She outlined that, as Manager, she will attempt to deal with queries arising. She advised that there are efforts at national level to try and recommence discussions and there is a possibility that some progress will be made in this regard over the coming weeks.

Councillor Tony Ferguson outlined that it would be a very serious issue if a division were to arise between the management and staff levels in relation to this issue. He stated that this action puts a lot of pressure on relations and expressed the hope that the situation does not escalate.

County Enterprise Board Allocation

Councillor Gordon Hughes expressed anger at the 30% reduction in funding for the County Enterprise Board for 2010. He stated that funding proposals for 2010 were approved towards the end of 2009 and this announcement has very serious implications. He stated that in a time of increased unemployment the reduction in funding makes no sense and the County Enterprise Boards should in fact be receiving additional funding to support local business. He called on the support of the Members in relation to writing to Enterprise Ireland seeking the reinstatement of the funding to 2009 levels.

Councillor Martin Kenny supported the proposal. He outlined that no response had been received to date in relation to correspondence which issued to the Minister on cuts in Social Welfare payments. He stated that it is incredible that the agency charged with developing enterprise has its fund cut by 30%. He stated that this represents a damning indictment of the Government and their whole approach to the economic crisis.

This was supported by Councillor John McCartin. He stated that while the grant amounts are small they are critical in supporting local business and encouraging employment. He outlined that the cost of Job Seekers Allowance is circa €20,000 per annum. He stated that the decision to cut funding to the CEB is detrimental not only to the businesses affected but also to the Government in terms of increased unemployment costs.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds also supported the proposal. He outlined that he has been a member of the County Enterprise Board. He outlined that a lot of assistance has been given to a lot of businesses with many jobs created. He stated that it is critical that every effort is made to keep and build employment. He also highlighted the value of the mentoring service provided by the CEB which has also been reduced at a time when this support is needed more than ever. He outlined that the CEB's are focused on manufacturing notwithstanding that the services industry represents such a huge source of

employment nationally and locally. He stated that the CEB's should be increasing their services to keep people in jobs and instead are having their funding cut substantially.

Councillor Caillian Ellis supported the comments made and proposed that a letter issue to the Tánaiste in relation to the issue.

Publication of Expenses

Councillor Gerard Reynolds referred to the information on members expenses sought by the Irish Times and the query as to whether there were plans to publish such expenses on the Council's website. Councillor Reynolds proposed that the members expenses be published to the website. This was seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and agreed by the Members.

10/125

1/3/10 Conferences

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

That Leitrim County Council approves of the following

Attendance of Cllr Martin Kenny at the Atlantic Conference 2010 in Tullamore on the 25th February 2010.

Attendance of Cllr Francis Gilmartin, Councillor Caillian Ellis at the International Conference on building Social Europe in Croke Park on the 19th February 2010.

Attendance of Cllr Caillian Ellis and Cllr Enda McGloin at the IPI Conference in Kilkenny on the 9th February 2010.

Attendance of Cllr Enda McGloin at the Local Government Housing Service Conference in Killarney on the 18th to 20th March 2010.

Attendance of Cllr Francis Gilmartin at the European Union 2020 Strategy seminar in Dublin on the 24th February 2010.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That the attendance of Councillor Francis Gilmartin and Councillor Enda McGloin at A Smarter, Greener Economy: The 2020 Strategy at European Union House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2 on the 24th February 2010 be approved".

Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That the attendance of Councillor Enda McGloin at the Renewable Energy Seminar on the 9th February 2010 in the Ormond Hotel, Ormond Street, Kilkenny be approved".

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

"That the attendance of Senator Paschal Mooney at the Library Association of Ireland A.G.M. on 11th March 2010 in the Royal Irish Academy be approved"

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

"That the attendance of Senator Paschal Mooney at the Library Association of Ireland, Conference on the 21st to 22nd April 2010 in Maldron Hotel, Tallaght be approved"

**Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor Francis Gilmartin
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

"That the attendance of Cllr Gerry Kilrane, Cllr Francis Gilmartin, Cllr Enda McGloin, Cllr John McTernan, Cllr John Ward, Cllr Enda Stenson, Cllr Gerry Dolan and Cllr Mary Bohan at the Bullying in the Home and Workplace Seminar in Croke Park, Dublin on the 9th March 2010 be approved".

10/126

1/3/10 Truly Irish Country Foods Deputation

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan welcomed representatives from Truly Irish Country Foods, Mr. Jarlath O'Dwyer and Mr. Eugene McHugh, to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr. Jarlath O'Dwyer thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Members for the opportunity to address the meeting. He then gave a presentation to the members on Truly Irish Country Foods in terms of the company, its producers, its products, its stockists and its plans for future expansion.

The members in turn thanked Mr. O'Dwyer for his presentation and sought clarification on various aspects of the business model and its operation. The Members outlined that this is an example of people 'doing it for themselves' and stated that the products, which are supporting local producers, should be supported in every way possible. They also welcomed proposals to expand into the beef and other sectors. Members outlined that consumers should not be afraid to ask questions in relation to the source of their food products and wished Truly Irish Country Foods every success for the future.

Part 1 Notices of Motions

10/127

1/3/10 Junction leading on to Bridge Street, Drumshanbo

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

"I ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to re-examine the junction leading on to Bridge Street, Drumshanbo known as Mart Road to make it safer at that junction for people and traffic."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Improvement Works to improve sightlines for traffic and pedestrians have commenced at

this junction of Bridge St and the Mart Link. This work is been carried out under a Low cost Safety Scheme and will be completed in early 2010."

Councillor Gerry Dolan outlined that various works had been undertaken at this junction previously. He outlined that he had discussed the matter with Pdraig MacShera, Area Engineer and welcomes the new proposals. Councillor Enda McGloin supported the motion and welcomed the positive response. He suggested that, once the works are completed, the situation be reviewed after some 5-6 months to ensure that the measures are effective.

10/128

1/3/10 **Bank of Ireland, Drumshanbo**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Bank of Ireland immediately in relation to a proposal the bank is bringing forward in the month of March where there will be no cash transferred on Wednesdays or Thursdays at their branch in Drumshanbo. I see this as being a severe inconvenience to people from Ballinamore who transferred their accounts to Drumshanbo when the Bank of Ireland closed the sub office in Ballinamore some years ago."

Councillor Caillian Ellis outlined the background to his motion and requested that a strong letter issue to the Bank and to the Minister in relation to the issue. This was supported by Councillor Reynolds. He stated that if this situation was allowed to happen the likelihood is that the other Banks will follow suit. He stated that the Government need to sit down with Bank of Ireland and AIB or the entire branch network will disappear.

Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Gerard Reynolds AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Bank of Ireland immediately in relation to a proposal the bank is bringing forward in the month of March where there will be no cash transferred on Wednesdays or Thursdays at their branch in Drumshanbo. This is seen as being a severe inconvenience to people from Ballinamore who transferred their accounts to Drumshanbo when the Bank of Ireland closed the sub office in Ballinamore some years ago."

10/129

1/3/10 **One off housing in rural Ireland**

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to condemn the Irish Planning Institute for their recent public utterances condemning the increase of one off housing in rural Ireland suggesting that the proliferation of one-off housing was "undermining rural towns by "siphoning" residential development from them", and that this increase "contributed to creating a social imbalance where poorer people stayed in the towns while the wealthy built large houses in the countryside". Such unfounded statements need to be challenged!"

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that these statements by the Irish Planning Institute should not be allowed to go without response. He stated that the pronouncement, by the professional body representing the majority of professional planners, is outrageous.

Councillor McGloin also raised the issue of the new EPA Code of Practice in relation to Waste Water Treatment Systems and the new Appropriate Assessment requirements, both of which have serious implications for planning, particularly in rural areas. He stated that these provisions will seriously undermine the policies of the Leitrim County Development Plan in relation to rural housing which Members had invested so much time in developing, and must be addressed.

Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services gave an overview of the provisions in relation to Appropriate Assessments which will apply to the majority of planning applications and the new EPA Code of Practice which applies to all applications involving a waste water treatment system received since 8th January 2010. He outlined that the details in relation to the Code of Practice had been circulated at the January Council meeting. He advised that briefing sessions are being organised in relation to the provisions at national and regional level following which briefings would be arranged for Agents to assist them in meeting the requirements.

Councillor McGloin confirmed with Mr. Dolan that the Guidelines must be adhered to. He outlined that 80%+ of sites in County Leitrim were likely to fail the new EPA site assessment requirements and this new Code of Practice will effectively mean that there will be no more planning in the countryside.

Councillor John McTernan stated that this is an outrageous situation and that planning permission is effectively no longer obtainable in large areas of the county. Councillor John Ward stated that it would be a very poor situation whereby a family member could not build on his/her own landholding.

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that this is a very dark day for Leitrim. He outlined that the Planning Authority in Leitrim has been very proactive in relation to facilitating rural development. He stated that Minister Gormley has done everything possible to stop one-off-housing. He outlined that the provisions of the Code of Practice would appear to be insurmountable in the Leitrim context given ground conditions. He stated that this dictat simply cannot be accepted.

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that this matter was brought to her attention by one of the local Planning Agents. She stated that this is a very serious issue and something will have to be done to address it. She stated that provision will have to be made in relation to reed-bed systems etc. She stated that there is nothing which can be done in relation to soil conditions in Leitrim but solutions have to be available. She stated that there would have to be serious discussion with the Oireachtas Members in relation to having this Code of Practice withdrawn.

Councillor Gerry Kilrane queried how Leitrim's population can be maintained if this Code of Practice is to be implemented. He stated that it will simply not be viable for people to live in County Leitrim. He outlined that he appreciated the parameters within which Planners have to operate. He stated however that this is about the sustainability of our rural communities and the Code of Practice cannot be applied, as it exists, to County Leitrim.

Councillor Martin Kenny stated that the suggestion is that people should not be given options in relation to where they live. He stated that the Guidelines copper-fasten this ideology and are outrageous. He stated that the EPA should be invited to attend a Council meeting to discuss the matter.

This was supported by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke who stated that every attention should

be drawn to how outrageous the requirements are. Councillor Colreavy also expressed his dismay at the requirements. He stated that there must be technical solutions to the 'P' and 'T' Test problems and that this is where attention must be focused.

Councillor Gerard Reynolds outlined that the reality is that the Code of Practice is now in place and affects all planning applications. He stated that the only way that this matter can be addressed is a political overturning of the Code of Practice. He stated that the difficulties will be far-reaching for the sustainability of the County and the Code effectively represents a further erosion of the limited powers of Elected Members in relation to the development of their area. Councillor Reynolds urged Fianna Fáil Councillors, as a national organisation, to bring this matter to the Taoiseach as a matter of extreme urgency. He stated that this is a further anti-rural policy with very serious implications which must be addressed.

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that this represents a disastrous situation for County Leitrim which must be addressed. This was supported by Councillor Sean McGowan who stated that the Fianna Fáil members will have to seek a meeting with the Taoiseach on the issue.

Councillor Guckian also supported the motion. She stated that the Code of Practice is contradictory to the Smart Economy and can be challenged. She stated that the matter would be brought to the attention of senior people in the Party.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan, also supported the motion which he stated needs a national focus.

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that a meeting should be sought with Minister Gormley as a matter of urgency to seek some form of derogation for Leitrim, with 3-4 Members to attend. This was seconded by Councillor Bohan who agreed to contact Minister Finneran in this regard with a view to securing a meeting with Minister Gormley on the issue.

Councillor Colreavy requested that the Council's technical staff check with other areas with similar soil conditions in relation to the technical solutions applied.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager suggested that the matter could be discussed further at the forthcoming Planning meeting. Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that the Code of Practice applies to all applications received on or after 8th January 2010. He advised that the rules relevant prior to 8th January 2010 are being applied to applications which were received prior to this date.

Councillor John McTernan proposed that all planning applications be put on hold pending an outcome on the issue. Ms. Jackie Maguire, County Manager outlined that legally planning applications must be dealt with within the statutory timeframes. Councillor Enda McGloin requested that Further Information requests issue in relation to such applications rather than a decision to refuse at this point.

10/130

1/3/10

R204-10 Gortahoosh, Corrawallen P.O.

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

"I ask the District Engineer, further to previous requests, 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 posing a significant safety risk to passing traffic."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council have received a Specific Improvement Grant which will enable work to start on this section of road. The work will be carried out later this year subject to agreement being reached with the adjacent landowners."

Councillor Hughes outlined that he has been highlighting this stretch of road since he was first elected to the Council. He stated that there is a significant safety risk at this location and welcomed the Specific Improvement Grant allocation for this section of road.

10/131

1/3/10

Road side Litter

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

"At the March Meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask Mr. Martin Dolan, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services, what plans or programmes he can put in place, as a matter of urgency, to deal with the growing problem of Road Side Litter throughout the county. The problem appears to be getting worse and it is likely that the community at large will need to be involved in any successful solution. The littered state of many of the road verges should be a cause of embarrassment to everyone in the county, and something we cannot continue to tolerate."

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

"It is noted that the problem of roadside littering seems to be on the increase. This is despite continuing environmental awareness campaigns. It stems from a lack of regard for the environment and the consequences of such actions. The Council has established a number of "Adopt a Road" groupings which continue to do good work in their own hinterlands. It is intended to encourage the establishment of more such groups and to provide them with the basic equipment needed for their work, such as gloves, high viz jackets, litter pickers etc. It is also intended that the Council will continue to provide practical assistance in the removal of collected litter from pre-arranged collection points. The assistance of the public is also necessary to assist in the elimination of this problem by persons being prepared to notify the Council when they witness instances of the offence of littering being committed and being prepared to give evidence in the event of prosecution. The Council has recently entered into a contract with a company to provide mobile cameras for use in detection of littering throughout the county and it is intended that they will be used for this purpose along our road network"

Councillor McGowan welcomed the provision of mobile cameras as proposed. He stated that this is a problem that has increased significantly and something additional must be done to address it.

10/132

1/3/10

New Agri Environment Scheme

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

"That this Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Brendan Smith TD to immediately

introduce a new agri environment scheme to be available to farmers who have completed their REPS 3 programme and cannot now enter REPS 4, and that this scheme would be compliant with the IFA proposal of a minimum payment of €5000"

Councillor Siobhán McGloin outlined that she has been contacted by several farmers in relation to this issue. She outlined that some 10,000 farmers cannot get into Repts 4 since 1st December. She advised that the motion should read 'average' rather than 'minimum' payment of €5,000. She stated that it is critical that such a scheme would be made available.

Proposed by Councillor Siobhán McGloin, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That this Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Brendan Smith TD to immediately introduce a new agri environment scheme to be available to farmers who have completed their REPS 3 programme and cannot now enter REPS 4, and that this scheme would be compliant with the IFA proposal of an average payment of €5000"

10/133

1/3/10

Planning & Development Bill 2009

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

"At the March Council Meeting I will ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley requesting that the proposed extension of the Planning Permission time period i.e. part of the Planning and Development Bill 2009, that is going through the Oireachtas at the moment, be back-dated as a lot of the Planning Permissions are running out since the down turn of the economy and people have no money now to build their homes."

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley requesting that the proposed extension of the Planning Permission time period i.e. part of the Planning and Development Bill 2009, that is going through the Oireachtas at the moment, be back-dated as a lot of the Planning Permissions are running out since the down turn of the economy and people have no money now to build their homes."

10/134

1/3/10

Centralisation of medical Cards

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

"I wish to call on this Council to contact the Taoiseach and Minister Harney by letter to reverse the unwarranted decision on centralisation of medical cards. It has already happened with over 70's where there is one person waiting for a medical card to have a hip operation. I had reason to contact the local medical department about the renewal of a student's card - this card was renewed and issued in a matter of hours. I want it to be

emphasised as to why the Government and Ministers are wasting time and tax payers money centralising medical cards etc - this is working far more efficiently locally - and to remind them of the annoyance and inconvenience this is causing the people of County Leitrim and all counties. I would request that this motion be forwarded to all County Councils in Ireland."

Proposed by Councillor Francis Gilmartin, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim County Council contact the Taoiseach and Minister Harney by letter to reverse the unwarranted decision on centralisation of medical cards. It has already happened with over 70's where there is one person waiting for a medical card to have a hip operation. I had reason to contact the local medical department about the renewal of a student's card - this card was renewed and issued in a matter of hours. I want it to be emphasised as to why the Government and Ministers are wasting time and tax payers money centralising medical cards etc - this is working far more efficiently locally - and to remind them of the annoyance and inconvenience this is causing the people of County Leitrim and all counties. Also that this motion be forwarded to all County Councils in Ireland."

10/135

1/3/10

R201 from the N4 to Mohill is in need of repair

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

"The R201 from N4 to Mohill is in need of immediate repair and upgrading particularly at Curragh, Sholemore Cross and from Laheenamona junction into town. I am requesting that a programme of works be put in place that will, over the next 2-3 years, totally upgrade and leave this road in proper condition, safer for walkers Cyclists and Motorists alike."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Road Design team will begin work to design a scheme for the major improvement of the R201 from the N4 into Mohill, with particular emphasis on the Mohill approach. Given the scale of the very necessary works involved substantial funding will be required and this will only be possible under Specific Improvement Scheme. There is no allocation for this road in 2010. The priority areas on this road are Shoalmore, Laheenamona, Treamore, and Curragh. Subject to the approval of the 2010 Roads Programme funding is in place to address some of the issues at Shoalmore Cross under Low Cost Safety Improvements, and Treamore Cross as part of the Restoration Improvement Scheme. The more substantial scheme at Laheenamona and Curragh will require Specific Improvement Allocations."

Councillor Stenson acknowledged the response.

10/136

1/3/10

Kinlough Village to Rossinver Road

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

"I request John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure to give details of the plans to widen the road from Kinlough Village to the Lakeside on the Rossinver Road, as this

road is used by a large number of pedestrians."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is the R281 Kinlough to Rossinver road. There is a footpath provided to the speed limits which marks the edge of Kinlough town on the R281 approach. As a policy we do not provide footpaths in rural area outside the town environs/speed limits.

There is currently no funding available for road widening in this area. This project can be considered for a Specific Improvement Grant in the future when funding becomes available."

Councillor Ferguson thanked the Director of Services for the reply.

10/137

1/3/10 Outreach Housing Assessment Service

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

"Go n-eagródh Comhairle Contae Liatroma go dtaga oifigeach measúnaithe tithíochta go Cluainín Uí Ruairc dhá uair gach mí chun freastal ar dhaonra thuaisceart Liatroma. Tá sé iomlán mí-chothrom gur gá do mhuintir an dúthaigh seo, mórán acu gan carrana, freastal ar chruinnithe dá leithéad i gCora Droma Rúisc

That Leitrim County Council will arrange for the Housing Assessment Officer to attend in Manorhamilton offices at least twice monthly to accommodate people from north Leitrim. It is patently unfair that people from this area – many of whom have no car or access to public transport – should have to attend at meetings in Carrick-on-Shannon to access this service"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Rinneadh athchóiriú ar socruithe maidir le Measúnaithe Tithíochta i mí Eanáir 2009 tar éis deireadh a bheith curtha le seirbhísí an Oifigeach Sinsir Sláinte Chomhshaoil agus i ngeall ar giorraithe ar caiteachas ar chostais taistil. Go dtí seo rinneadh socruithe i gcónaí do dhaoine nach raibh in ann taisteal go Cora Droma Rúisc. Cuirfear socruithe nua i bhfeidhm ionas go mbeidh clinicí ag an Oifigeach Measúnaithe Tithíochta i gCluainín.

Arrangements in relation to Housing Assessments were revised in January 2009 in the context of the services of the HSE Senior Environmental Health Officer being terminated and also having regard to the requirement to achieve efficiencies and limit travel expenditure. It has always been the case however that persons who were not in a position to travel to Carrick on Shannon were facilitated. Arrangements will be put in place however for the Housing Assessments Officer to hold clinics in Manorhamilton in this regard."

Councillor Colreavy queried how often clinics would be held in Manorhamilton. Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing & Corporate Services advised that clinics would most likely be on a monthly basis but that the position and the demand would be kept under review.

10/138

1/3/10 Dissolution or amalgamation of Leitrim VEC

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomas Mulligan outlined that as Motion No's 22 and 23 both relate to the proposed amalgamation of the VEC it is proposed to take these items together. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"That this Council object in the strongest possible terms to the Department of Education proposals for the dissolution or amalgamation of Leitrim VEC."

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to call on Minister Batt O'Keeffe to reverse his decision on amalgamation of VEC's as Leitrim V.E.C. provides a host of services and facilities to the county that are invaluable to the education and development of County Leitrim. If they amalgamate Leitrim would lose out to the bigger counties."

Councillor Kilrane outlined that it is critical that the spotlight is kept on this issue. He stated that the amalgamation of the VEC with another area would be to the detriment of the county and will dilute the services available in Leitrim. He stated that the Headquarters and all the jobs must be retained in County Leitrim.

Councillor John Ward stated that moves in relation to the amalgamation of County Leitrim VEC must be strongly resisted.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motions.

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Kilrane, seconded by Councillor John Ward AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That this Council object in the strongest possible terms to the Department of Education proposals for the dissolution or amalgamation of Leitrim VEC and that we call on Minister Batt O'Keeffe to reverse his decision on amalgamation of VEC's as Leitrim V.E.C. provides a host of services and facilities to the county that are invaluable to the education and development of County Leitrim. If they amalgamate Leitrim would lose out to the bigger counties."

10/139

1/3/10 Dental Services at Carrigallen Health Centre

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

"I ask that Leitrim Council Council call on the HSE to resume the services of a dentist and dental hygienist at Carrigallen Health Centre. This service was invaluable to the local community and was used by dozens of locals, mainly children, several days a week."

Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

"That Leitrim Council Council call on the HSE to resume the services of a dentist and dental hygienist at Carrigallen Health Centre. This service was invaluable to the local

community and was used by dozens of locals, mainly children, several days a week."

10/140

1/3/10 An Bord Pleanala Appointments

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council support the Irish Rural Dwellers Association in their call for an enquiry into the appointment of two senior Planning Inspectors to the Board of An Bord Pleanala."

Councillor Bohan outlined the background to her motion. She stated that there is no genuine rural representation on An Bord Pleanala despite the fact that 1/3 of the population live in single rural houses. She urged the members to support the resolution.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council support the Irish Rural Dwellers Association in their call for an enquiry into the appointment of two senior Planning Inspectors to the Board of An Bord Pleanala."

10/141

1/3/10 LS 55241

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

"I would ask that Leitrim County Council proceed with the works which were agreed to be necessary along road LS 55241 late last year. The subsidence has got worse over the winter with cars having to slow down to a speed of under 15 m.p.h in order to negotiate it safely."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"While the works referred to are desirable and necessary it will not be possible to carry out these works this year because of the reduction in overall funding available for road project in 2010."

Councillor O'Rourke stated that he was not happy with the reply. He outlined that he will continue to seek to have this matter addressed.

Part II - Questions.

10/142

1/3/10 Signage for St Brigid's Street and Main Street, Ballinamore

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I ask Leitrim County Council when do they intend to erect proper signage for St Brigids Street and Main Street at the junction where St Brigids Street meets the ring road as these signs were to be erected last year."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"These works were complete in February."

10/143

1/3/10 Welcome to Leitrim Signs at the border points between Leitrim and Cavan

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Caillian Ellis;

"I ask Leitrim County Council when they intend to erect "Welcome to Leitrim" signs at the border points between Leitrim and Cavan as these were to be erected two years ago."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This work will be carried out in conjunction with the regional road signage programme during 2010."

10/144

1/3/10 Street Lighting at Naomh Padraig Housing Estate in Drumshanbo

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask the Director of Services, Housing and Corporate Services to investigate the lack of street lighting around the houses at the rear of the 'Naomh Padraig' housing estate in Drumshanbo"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"This matter has been investigated and it appears that the 5 number public lighting columns at this location have inadvertently not been connected to the ESB. This matter has been taken up with the ESB with a view to having these lights connected as soon as possible."

10/145

1/3/10 Footpaths at Church Street, Carrigallen

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask the District Engineer when will the footpaths at Church Street, Carrigallen be completed and also when it is proposed to install disabled car-parking spaces in the village centre."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The footpaths on Church Street will be carried out once the developer has completed his works. The disabled carparking space will be installed adjacent the public library when weather conditions improve."

10/146

1/3/10 Review of bridge network in County

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gordon Hughes;

"I ask that the Council carry out a review of the entire bridge network within the county to ascertain their levels of safety and structural condition. In particular the bridge at Lower main Street, Ballinamore and at Kilbracken Bridge are just two examples of bridges that should be examined as part of any review."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"A report on the condition and safety of the significant bridges in the Ballinamore area will be carried out and will be made available to the councillor, it must be pointed that no funding has been made available in 2010 for any work on bridges because of the reduction in over all roads funding."

10/147

1/3/10

Drainage on the Eslin River

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the March meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask Mr. John Mc Guinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure, to put in place a programme of works in the current year to carry out drainage on the Eslin River from where it enters the river Shannon at Rooskey to Cloonboney Lough."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The part of the Eslin river can be considered for drainage works within the limit funding available."

10/148

1/3/10

Right Turning Lane at Five Crossroads junction and the N15 at Tullaghan

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"That this council request the NRA to provide a right turning lane at the "Five Crossroads" junction and the N15 at Tullaghan."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The Road Design Office will investigate this junction and discuss the feasibility of a right turning lane with the NRA Roads Safety Officer, and the councillor will be informed of the outcome of these discussions."

10/149

1/3/10

Improvement Works 2010 - Coast Road, Tullaghan to the N.15

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Siobhan McGloin;

"That this Council include the road from the Coast Road Tullaghan to the N15 known as the "Five Crossroads" in the improvement works for 2010. This is a very busy road and has suffered a lot of damage from the high volume of usage."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is LS 6059 which links the N16 to the coastal road LP 2059. A Road Restoration Improvement grant will be carried on Coastal Road LP 2059-1 as part of the 2010 Roads restoration improvement Programme, subject to the approval of the 2010 Roads Programme. There is No funding allocated to the link road but routine roads maintenance will be carried out on this road."

10/150

1/3/10

Marina at Leitrim Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I wish to ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services if he is aware what is the present and up to date position regarding the proposed new Marina at Leitrim Village that was to be provided by the developer of the adjoining apartment residential development and agreed with Waterways Ireland. Will there be any chance that this mooring facility will be ready in time for the 2010 tourist season? Furthermore can the Council contact Waterways Ireland and provide any further information that they may have for this meeting?"

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

"The Council has been informed that agreement has been reached between the developer and Waterways Ireland. The floating jetty will shortly be connected by pontoon to the bank, electrical equipment and lighting will be installed and made operational. It is anticipated that the facility will be available for use during the coming tourist season."

10/151

1/3/10 Road Repairs to the Drumhirk road in Gortletteragh (Road No LT 15722-0)

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the March meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask Mr Michael Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer Carrick-on Shannon, to carry out immediate repairs to the Drumhirk road in Gortletteragh, (Road No.LT-15722-0) as it has fallen into a state of disrepair, and to include the road for restoration in this year's roadwork's programme."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question is not a through road and given the over all reduction in the Road allocation it is not possible to carry out any work, on this road, this year, other than routine maintenance.

This maintenance work will be carried out when weather conditions improve."

10/152

1/3/10 Footpaths in Glenfarne Village

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask if the footpaths in Glenfarne Village could be checked out, as they have started to disintegrate recently?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The footpaths in Glenfarne Village will be inspected and routine repairs carried out if necessary."

10/153

1/3/10 Glenfarne/Glenboy Water Scheme

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council what progress is been made on the Council taking over the Glenfarne/Glenboy Water Scheme?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This scheme is not considered to be a Strategic Scheme as defined in our adopted Policy Document on Strategic Schemes for Take-over. This document defines such schemes as

being located in strategically important locations and which supply water to important locations within the County such as heavily built up areas.

Whilst Groups operating these schemes can access maintenance costs through the Subsidy Scheme, Leitrim County Council itself can not and has to fund these costs through its own revenue streams.

Consequently it is not possible to have this scheme taken-in-charge at the current financial climate."

10/154

1/3/10 **Traffic Calming in Townspark and Aughameeney areas**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"Resident Groups have requested Traffic Calming in Townspark and Aughameeney areas. May I ask has any progress been made on those promises."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Drawings have been prepared for traffic calming in the areas referred to.

A public consultation process will be undertaken in the near future, in relation to these traffic calming measures and a wider proposal for cycle lanes in Carrick on Shannon."

10/155

1/3/10 **FBD Insurance RAS**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"The FBD Insurance Ras is travelling through our county this year. It is a privilege for our area to have such an International event coming our way. One road earmarked for travelling on is the R299 from Kiltoghert to Drumsna - parts of this road are in need of major restoration work before this event as its present condition would not be suitable for such a cycle race. I am asking that this work is carried out."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The importance of the FBD Insurance RAS is fully recognised and the road in question will be attended to before the event."

10/156

1/3/10 **Obsolete Masts**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"Is there a provision in any planning permission that is granted by Leitrim County Council for a mast that when they become obsolete that they will have to be removed."

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

"The Planning Authority normally includes conditions in the grant of planning permission for telecommunications masts requiring that the structure and related ancillary structures shall be removed at the expiry of the period of the grant of permission, unless, prior to the expiry date, permission is granted for their retention for a further period. Furthermore, a condition is usually inserted requiring the site to be reinstated to its original condition on the removal of the structures."

10/157

1/3/10 Housing Rents

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"In view of the present deflation levels what reductions have been applied to Housing rents by Leitrim County Council?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Housing Rents are calculated in accordance with Leitrim County Council's Differential Rents Scheme, based on household income. Where there is a change in household circumstances and income we have always reviewed the weekly rent on a case by case basis. The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 requires housing authorities to make a new rent scheme and it would be premature to review our current Differential Rents Scheme pending the commencement of these provisions of the new Act."

10/158

1/3/10 House Purchases

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Tony Ferguson;

"Has Leitrim County Council purchased any houses in the Manorhamilton Electoral Area since June 2009 and if so where? What plans are in place to purchase houses in the near future?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"No houses have been purchased in the Manorhamilton Electoral Area since June 2009. While we are awaiting notification of our Housing Capital Allocation for 2010 it has been made clear by the Department that the focus in terms of housing supply will be through Long Term Leasing and the Rental Accommodation Scheme. It is unlikely that funding will be available for any substantial acquisitions programme. We currently have a Project Brief with the Department in relation to the proposed purchase of a dwelling in Kinlough to meet a Special Housing Needs case."

10/159

1/3/10 Naming of new residential and mixed use schemes

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"An féidir le Comhairle Contae Liatroma ár bpolasaí a leasú chun cinntiú de go mbeadh stair áitiúil, béaloideas agus/nó logainmneacha le sonrú i nGaeilge ar ainmneacha scéimeanna tithíochta agus ilchínéalacha nua nuair a ghlacann an chomhairle seilbh orthu.

Can Leitrim County Council amend our policy to ensure that the naming of new residential and mixed-use schemes reflect local history, folklore and / or placenames and are stated in Irish when the Council take charge of those new estates?"

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

"Tá sé ráite í Roinn 3.02.12 d'an Phlean Forbartha Chontae Liatroma gurbh é an polasaí an Chomhairle go dtugfaidh faoi áireamh logainmneaca áitiúla agus Eireannacha, gníomhaí eolaíochta áitiúla nó neasca stáiriúla in ainmneacha forbartha cónaithe. Tá sé ráite freisin go gceadfar na h-ainmneacha gach estáid cónaithe ag an Udarás Forbartha chun dubailt nó iomrall a sheachaint. Beadh gá le leasú an Phlean Forbartha chun an polasaí a eathrú chun go mbeadh ainm gach estáid í nGaeilge amháin roimh thógaint faoi chúram

an Chomhairle. Ní shineann an polasaí chómh fada le forbartha ilchineálach ach is feidir é a spreagadh.

Section 3.02.12 of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015 states that it is the policy of the Council that names of residential developments should reflect local and Irish placenames, local geographic features or historical associations. It further states that the naming of all residential estates shall be approved by the Planning Authority in order to avoid duplication or confusion. It would require an amendment of the Plan to require that all estates be named in Irish at the time of taking in charge. This policy does not extend specifically to mixed use developments but it is something that could be encouraged."

10/160

1/3/10 Traffic Management in Manorhamilton

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Michael Colreavy;

"Ar deineadh aon dul chun cinn ar fheabhsú páirceail i gcoitinne, bainistíocht sruth tráchta agus slándacht tiománaithe / coisithe i gCluainín Uí Ruairc, ach go háirithe ag achomhal an N16/R280 "Cúinne Gurns agus "timpeallán ospidéal"

Has there been any progress in improving the overall parking, traffic flow management and driver / pedestrian safety in Manorhamilton, particularly at the junction of N16 / R280 "Gurns Corner and at N16 "hospital roundabout"?"

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Tá an Oifig Dhearadh Bóithre ag ullmhú dearaidh chuimsitheach don chrosbhóthar taobh leis an slí isteach don ospidéal, bóthar N16 Sligeach go Inis Ceithleann agus bóthar LP 2643-1. Tá an Oifig Dhearadh Bóithre ag féachaint freisin ar mholtaí do cheansú tráchta don N16 le béim ar leith ar dhearadh an chrosbhóthair ag cúinne Gurn. Foilseofar na moltaí dearaidh seo go luath le haghaidh Pleanáil Páirt 8.

The Roads Design office are currently carrying out detailed design of the road junction adjacent to the hospital entrance N16 Sligo to Enniskillen road and Boelyhill road LP 2643-1. The Design office are also looking at Traffic Calming proposals for the N16 with particular emphasis on the design of the junction at Gurn's corner. These Design proposals will be advertised shortly for Part 8 Planning."

10/161

1/3/10 Remedial Works scheme for Treanmore Estate, Mohill

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"In light of the announcement by Minister Finneran (31/12/2009) of funding for a remedial works scheme for the Treanmore Estate in Mohill can I ask the Director of Services when is it likely that these funds can or will be drawn down; whether a programme of works has been prepared and when the works are likely to commence?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"Formal notification of approval for this Remedial Works Scheme is awaited from the Department and we are not in a position to progress the scheme pending such notification. Once the details of the approval are available, and assuming that Leitrim County Council can meet any match-funding requirement that may be imposed, work will commence on identifying the detailed requirements for the individual houses and the common areas in

the estates involved. Given the scale of the scheme and the level of work involved it is hoped to progress the scheme to tender stage in the current year."

10/162

1/3/10 Adequate Sight Lines

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Gerry Kilrane;

"I would refer the Director of Services, Infrastructure to the stretch of the R.201 outside Mohill (townland of Ussaun). This is a location where 3 minor roads (Shannagh Road, Cornee Lane and Laheenamona Road) enter onto the main public road. None of these minor roads would appear to have adequate sight lines. There is a severe dip in the main road which compounds matters and motorists on the main road are inclined to speed. All in all this is a very dangerous Junction. I ask that the Director arrange for the location to be inspected with a view to carrying out some works in the current years roads programme to improve the situation."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The area in question is indeed problematic and in need of major improvement and realignment. A detailed design for the improvement of the Carrick on Shannon approach road to Mohill will be prepared, and funding sought under Specific Improvement Works in 2011. The scale of the work required at this location is such that it could not be accommodated within the normal road improvement grants. It is however hoped, subject to the approval of the 2010 roads work programme, to carry out much needed work at the junction near the church this year."

10/163

1/10/10 Litter

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Emergency Services regarding the ongoing problem of litter being deposited along roadsides, that hidden camera's be installed (e.g. in old fridges or furniture), as they have in North Dublin which eliminated the problem and no sign's had to be erected."

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

"The Council has entered into a contact with a company to provide mobile cameras to detect illegal dumping and littering throughout the County. Those cameras will be deployed at different locations from time to time. It is hoped that they will be successful in securing the apprehension and prosecution of those who are found guilty of littering."

10/164

1/3/10 Crash Barrier on Main Street, Mohill

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John Ward;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to put a crash barrier in place on the Main Mohill Road, R201 for a distance of 50-60 metres between junctions L3445 and L7478 as this stretch of road is very narrow, and cars were ending up in the field during the frosty spell."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The area in question will be included as part of a detailed design review of the R201 and

the issue of a crash barrier at this location will be considered as part of this review. The solution to the inadequate road width may have to be addressed by way of a Specific Improvement Grant."

10/165

1/3/10

Lighting at the weir in Jamestown

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the March meeting of Leitrim County Council I wish ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure when will the works on the new lighting at the weir in Jamestown be completed. Additional poles have been erected by the ESB but no lights or connections have been provided yet."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"We are in discussion with the ESB regarding the concerns raised."

10/166

1/3/10

Public Lighting at Gowel Church

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"At the March meeting of Leitrim County Council I wish ask the Director of Services Infrastructure, when will the last additional public light be erected on the existing pole at the junction adjacent to Gowel church, as agreed with residents. I would also ask when will all the old cables which are no longer in use be removed."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Leitrim County Council are in discussion with the ESB regarding the concerns raised, however little progress has been made to date. We will be in contact again to get a definite date for completion and will revert to the Councillor."

10/167

1/3/10

LT-55262 linking R-204-15 with LS-5526 at Toome Corrawallen, Carrigallen

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"I ask that LT-55262 linking R-204-15 with LS-5526 at Toome Corrawallen, Carrigallen, be completed. This road was partially surfaced a few years ago but a hundred meters or so on the LS-5526 side was left undone. It has since become almost impassable and has caused a lot of damage to local traffic. It has left the residents on the road with nearly 2km round trip to get to the Newtowngore and Drumeela road which used to be only 100 meters."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"Unfortunately, due to the reduction in road grants this year, It has not been possible to included this section of local secondary road on the programme for 2010. It will receive routine maintenance in due course."

10/168

1/3/10

Potholes on LT-55201

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor John McCartin;

"I ask that a Leitrim County Council fill a number of large potholes on LT-55201 linking LS-5520 with the Ballinamore -Carrigallen road, R-204. This road links a major county road with a busy local road and carries a lot of local traffic."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The road in question will be included on the routine maintenance list.

All our resources are presently fully occupied addressing road problem resulting from the severe weather conditions, on important county roads and at this stage it is not possible to say when this road will be attended to."

10/169

1/3/10 **Footpath at Drumkeerin**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"When will the Council construct the footpath from Drumkeerin village to the children's playground on the Carrick Road."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The proposed footpath along the R280 from the junction with local road LS 8249-2 to the Amenity Area on the Carrick road will be constructed in April 2010."

10/170

1/3/10 **Bridge on the Ardlougher/Tents Road in Tarmon**

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"I request that this Council repair the Bridge on the Ardlougher/Tents road in Tarmon as a matter of urgency."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This bridge has been assessed and will be considered for repair work in the 2010 Works Programme subject to funding been made available."

10/171

1/3/10 **Signage at the National School in Carrigallen**

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

"I would ask Leitrim County Council to consider putting extra signage in place advising motorists of the pedestrian crossing at the National School at Carrigallen. While the crossing is a welcome improvement Drivers need to be alerted to its presence."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"There are currently two school ahead signs, two flashing school ahead signs, two pedestrian crossing signs at this location. The issue of careless and dangerous driving at this location will be taken up with Gardai."

10/172

1/3/10 **Road Repairs at Dumeela LP 1534**

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

"I would ask when will Leitrim County Council carry out the necessary repairs to road at

Drumeela LP1534. The recent severe weather conditions have taken a heavy toll on this stretch of road with damage to the surface."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"This section of local primary road has been included on our Road Works Programme and will be carried out during the surface dressing season, subject to approval of the 2010 Roads programme."

10/173

1/3/10

Flooding

To consider the following Question submitted by Councillor Francis Gilmartin;

"I would like to ask Mr John McGuinness, Director of Services, Infrastructure did he have the meeting with all parties in relation to the flooding and what was the outcome of same."

Report by Director of Service, Infrastructure

"The proposed meeting has not occurred yet due to diary scheduling problems with the various agencies but Leitrim County Council will contact them again and will revert to the councillor after that meeting."

This concluded the business of the meeting at 8.50pm

**Signed: Cllr Thomas Mulligan
Cathaoirleach**

**SIGNED: Aideen McGovern
Meetings Administrator**

DATE: 12th April 2010