

**Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2017**

**Members Present:** Councillor Mary Bohan  
Councillor Barry, Brendan  
Councillor Dolan, Gerry  
Councillor Dolan, Frank  
Councillor Fallon, Pdraig  
Councillor Ellis, Caillian  
Councillor Guckian, Des  
Councillor Guckian, Sinead  
Councillor Gurn, Felim  
Councillor Logan, Seadhna  
Councillor Mulvey, Caroline  
Councillor McCartin, John  
Councillor McDermott, Sean  
Councillor McGowan, Sean  
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy  
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola  
Cathaoirleach presiding

**Apologies:** Councillor Stenson, Enda

**Officials Present:** Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance and Water Services  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, A/ Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation  
Mr. Bernard Greene. Senior Planner  
Ms. Una Wynne, Financial/Management Accountant  
Ms. Ursula Corcoran, Senior Executive Engineer (Acting)  
Mr. Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

**17/86**

**03/07/2017**      **Votes of Sympathy**

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- The McPartland family, Brookfield House, Cherrybrook, Manorhamilton on the death of Pauric McPartland.
- The O'Brien family, Carrickfad, Fivemilebourne, via Sligo, Co. Leitrim on the death of Gerry O'Brien.
- Meave Balfe, Aughnahunshin, Dromod, P.O., Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Canon George Balfe.
- Anna Gallogly, Drumrane, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim on the death of Vincent Gallogly.
- Hugh Prior, Derrarda, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim on the death of Collette Prior.

17/87

03/07/2017 Deimhniu Miontuairisci

**Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Riverside Restaurant, Dromahaire, Co Leitrim on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 be adopted".

**Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council's Annual Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017 be adopted."

17/88

03/07/2017 Provision of a new footpath on the northern side of the Regional Road in Carrigallen linking the town to the GAA Grounds

Report Ref 17-C-02 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the provision of a new footpath on the northern side of the R201 Regional Road in Carrigallen linking the town to the GAA grounds in accordance with the Planning & Development Acts, 2000-2015 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2015, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That the provision of a new footpath on the northern side of the R201 Regional Road in Carrigallen linking the town to the GAA grounds be approved".

17/89

03/07/2017 Provision of a new walking/cycling route to extend for a distance of approximately 2.3 km from Ballinamore as far as Corgar Lake along the former Cavan – Leitrim narrow gauge railway

Report Ref 17-C-03 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the provision of a new walking/cycling route to extend for a distance of approximately 2.3km from Ballinamore as far as Corgar Lake along the former Cavan - Leitrim narrow gauge railway in accordance with the Planning & Development Acts, 2000-2015 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2015, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That the provision of a new walking/cycling route to extend for a distance of approximately 2.3km from Ballinamore as far as Corgar Lake along the former Cavan - Leitrim narrow gauge railway be approved".

17/90

**03/07/2017**    **Transfer of a plot of land comprising circa 2.257Ha or thereabouts in the townlands of Aughameeny and Keenaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon comprised in Folio 3914F of the Register of Freeholders County Leitrim**

Notice of Intention dated 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation in relation to the transfer of a plot of land comprising circa 2.257Ha or thereabouts in the townlands of Aughameeny and Keenaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon comprised in Folio 3914F of the Register of Freeholders County Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

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

“That the transfer of a plot of land comprising circa 2.257Ha or thereabouts in the townlands of Aughameeny and Keenaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon comprised in Folio 3914F of the Register of Freeholders County Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of intention to transfer a plot of land comprising circa 2.257Ha or thereabouts in the townlands of Aughameeny and Keenaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon comprised in Folio 3914F of the Register of Freeholders County Leitrim in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

17/91

**03/07/2017**    **Disposal of Freehold interest in rural cottage**

Notice of intention dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 from Ms. Kathryn Bohan, Administrative Officer, Housing Department in relation to the disposal of Freehold interest in rural cottage no 412, and adjoining site comprising circa 0.864 acres (0.35 hectares) in the townland of Tamlaghtmore, Mohill, Co Leitrim (Freehold Interest Registered in name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM4095) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Des Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of Freehold interest in rural cottage no 412, and adjoining site comprising circa 0.864 acres (0.35 hectares) in the townland of Tamlaghtmore, Mohill, Co Leitrim (Freehold Interest Registered in name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM4095) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

17/92

**03/07/2017**    **Proposal to lease a site at Attirory TD, Carrick-on-Shannon**

Notice of Intention dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 from Ms. Johanna Daly, Administrative Officer, Housing Department in relation to the proposal to lease a site at Attirory TD, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim comprising circa 1.794 Acres / 0.726 HA (Registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No 17864 and Folio No 17417) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government

Act, 2001 and as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That approval to lease a site at Attirory TD, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim comprising circa 1.794 Acres / 0.726 HA (Registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No 17864 and Folio No 17417) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

**17/93**

**03/07/2017 Disposal of Rural Cottage at Tullyoran, Mohill**

Notice of Intention dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 from Ms. Johanna Daly, Administrative Officer, Housing Department in relation to the disposal of Rural Cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.469 Acres (0.19 Hectares) in the townland of Tullyoran, Mohill Co. Leitrim (registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM1269 in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Paddy O’Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

That the disposal of Rural Cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.469 Acres (0.19 Hectares) in the townland of Tullyoran, Mohill Co. Leitrim (registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM1269 in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

**17/94**

**03/07/2017 Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive**

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2017 by Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive, dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 and 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 respectively, prepared in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, as circulated to the Members, appear as **Appendix 7** and **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Frank Curran provided an overview of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017 and the funding approved under the Clar Programme. He also advised that funding for the provision of lay-byes on the Dromod Rooskey By-Pass and funding for additional street lighting at Annaduff Church car park has been approved by the Department.

The Members welcomed the funding allocations and the following items were also raised:

- Councillor Des Guckian expressed concern that funding for a lay-by on the Dromod-Rooskey By-Pass has been approved. He advised that a hard shoulder is required on the By-Pass.

Mr. Curran outlined that the design of the Dromod-Rooskey By-Pass was determined by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) having regard to the national design guidelines.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the funding for the works to the car park at Annaduff National School. She requested an update on funding for the GAA Pitch at Annaduff, funding for Sheemore and an update on the proposal to develop a link between Drumsna and Jamestown. Councillor Guckian also requested an update on the mains water line in Drumsna.

Mr. Curran advised that the link between Drumsna to Jamestown will be progressed in the next phase of the Blueway and that the Council will continue to seek funding for the other projects when additional funding streams become available. Mr. Vincent Dwyer advised that Irish Water have introduced a new Network Portfolio project and that the water line in Drumsna will be submitted for consideration under this scheme.

- Councillor Mary Bohan requested an update on a project proposal to upgrade a footpath in Dromahaire.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported Councillor Bohan's request in relation to the footpath at Dromahaire. He also queried if funding will be provided for Corry Strand and if the water issue at Rossinver can be progressed.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that completion of the footpath in Dromahaire will be prioritised once a funding source has been identified. He agreed that the non-approval of the Rossinver project is disappointing and that that Corry Strand project proposal requires a Community Group to lead the project with assistance then to be provided by the local authority.

- Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed the funding allocation but expressed disappointment that projects submitted for Kinlough and Tullaghan were not approved for funding.

**17/95**

**03/07/2017**

**National & Local Performance Indicators 2016**

Report dated 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 from Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive in relation to the National and Local Performance Indicators, 2016 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 9** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Mr. Curran outlined that the local authority established a Quality Assurance Group to review and monitor the progress of the outputs achieved in the delivery of the National and Local Performance Indicators. He outlined that the 2016 data in relation to the National Performance Indicators was submitted to the LGMA on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. This update was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Sinead Guckian acknowledged the efforts of the staff in compiling the report on the National and Local Performance Indicators. She stated that the data is very useful for the Elected Members as means of evaluating the performance of the local authority across all service areas.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon queried if the performance of Leitrim County Council is less than the national average with regard to the time take to return vacant dwellings to habitable use.

Ms. Mary Quinn acknowledged that the average time taken to re-let vacant local authority dwellings for Leitrim County Council is relatively high, however, she advised that a number of factors negatively impact on this figure including the age of the property, the condition of the property when returned to the local authority and delays in procurement for properties upgraded under the Voids Programme. Ms. Quinn concluded by stating that there is a continuous focus on

reducing this average time taken to re-let vacant local authority dwellings and that in time the figure should reduce with the use of Contractors from the Framework Panels etc.

- Councillor Fallon queried if the figure of 57.14% under Planning relates to decisions made by the Local Authority.

Mr. Frank Curran advised that the figure relates to the number of appeals of planning decisions made to An Bord Pleanala in 2016.

**17/96**

**03/07/2017**

**Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001**

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

**17/97**

**03/07/2017**

**Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting:

The rotation of the Chairpersons of two of the SPC's has taken place as follows:

- Councillor Sean McDermott replaced Councillor Frank Dolan as the Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan replaced Councillor Enda Stenson as the Chairperson of the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development

**Update from Strategic Policy Committee's:**

○ **Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee**

A meeting of the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. The SPC discussed the mid-term review of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021. They also received a presentation on the Secure NPA Programme (Energy Efficiency).

○ **Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee**

A meeting of the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Committee was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017. The SPC received a presentation from Ms. Camilla Kelly, Manager Local Link Sligo, Leitrim & Roscommon on the Transport Co-ordination Unit. They also received a presentation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan from Mr. Brendan McKenna. The members also discussed the issue of illegal signage on the N4 and the problem with Japanese Knotweed.

○ **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee**

A meeting of the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. The SPC received an update on the Housing Programme, an overview of the development of a new Arts and Culture Strategy and a report on the Lifebuoy Community Scheme.

## **Schedule of Municipal District and Council Meetings**

Ms. Flynn advised that the Schedule of Municipal District and Council meetings for 2017-2018 will be listed on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Council meeting agenda for discussion.

## **Joint Policing Committee**

Ms. Flynn advised that a new Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee will be considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their September meeting.

## **Revaluation Project**

Ms. Flynn advised that the presentation from the Valuation Office on the revaluation project has been deferred until the September meeting of Leitrim County Council.

Ms. Flynn concluded by stating that the Corporate Policy Group also considered agenda items for the Council meeting and approved the attendance of members at forthcoming conferences and training seminars.

This update was noted by the Members

**17/98**

### **03/07/2017 Presentation on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021**

Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner provided a detailed presentation on the progress achieved to date, in securing the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 as required pursuant to Section 15 (2) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2016. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 10** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire thanked Mr. Greene for his presentation and invited any questions/comments from the Members. The following items were raised:

- Councillor Felim Gurn expressed concern in relation to former local authority tenants abandoning their dwellings in poor condition and later being approved for re-inclusion on the Housing Waiting List. He also stated that local builders/contractors cannot benefit from local authority construction projects once these schemes are advertised on e-tenders. Councillor Gurn expressed concern that contractors from outside the county are being awarded contracts and therefore there is no opportunity to support local employment.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan stated that all housing applicants should be vetted in advance of an allocation of a local authority tenancy.

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that there are only a small number of incidents of local authority dwellings being left in a less than desirable state by former tenants. She outlined that tenants can only be transferred to alternative accommodation on specific grounds and that a Tenant Liaison Officer is in place to provide pre-tenancy training and post-tenancy supports as required. Ms. Quinn advised that the Council is obliged to comply with public procurement provisions and that a Capital Works Framework is in place for local authority housing projects.

- Councillor Pdraig Fallon referred to the 4,000 vacant properties in the county. He queried if additional information is available with regard to the location and condition of the properties. Councillor Fallon also queried if it is possible to estimate how much investment would be required to have the properties available for letting.

Mr. Bernard Green advised that the census data is anonymous and that there is no method to 'drill-down' to establish where the vacant properties are located in the county. He advised that the Housing Agency have also raised this issue as a concern.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that Motion No. 28 in the name of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke would be taken at this stage of the meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"With regard to the Pilot Scheme for Treatment Plants at sites on poorer soils what is the most up to date position?. Have we got an indication from the Review Group as to when they will respond following their visit to some sites in the County earlier this year? Many people are very anxious to proceed with their building and need to be told as soon as possible where they stand as many need to make decisions regarding their likely locations for careers and family reasons."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"Leitrim County Council remains fully committed in the first instance to proceeding with the delivery of pilot sites in regard to those who have already been advised of their inclusion in that rollout. However, the Council has encountered some technical delays in moving to the next stage of this process but is confident that the householders will be briefed on the system in the coming two months. In regard to the review of the Code of Practice and the visit of the review group to the County it is unlikely at this stage that this review will change in any fundamental way the guidelines with regard to waste water treatment systems on low permeability soils. However, the review is leading to important discussions in relation to the on-going engagement process in regard to both these guidelines and building control regulations and their impact on counties such as Leitrim."

- Councillor O'Rourke expressed serious concern in relation to the lack of progress achieved to date on the Pilot Scheme for Treatment Plants on sites with poorer soils. Councillor O'Rourke was critical of the Review Group and he called for the matter to be progressed to ensure the future development of the county. He outlined that there has been no update from UCD on the agreed generic design for the willow bed system due to be piloted on 13 new sites. Councillor O'Rourke stated that applicants that had been approved for the pilot scheme are coming under increased pressure from their banks to make a decision on the drawdown of their mortgage or will be forced to consider other alternative accommodation options. He also outlined that the Members were informed in May, 2017 that a decision on the Pilot Scheme would be forthcoming within a number of weeks, yet no update has been provided to date.
- Councillor Caillian Ellis supported Councillor O'Rourke's Notice of Motion. He also expressed concern that no update has been provided by UCD.
- Councillor Mary Bohan referred to previous efforts by the Elected Members during the last term of the Council. She referred to meetings that had been held with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Minister in an effort to resolve the issue.
- Mr. Bernard Greene advised that the delay in the process is due to an amendment to the Technical Guidance on the building regulations. He advised that the review of the EPA Code of Practice is ongoing and there are indications this may lead to an increase in



accepted T test levels from the current 90 to 120. Mr. Greene acknowledged that the response of UCD is frustrating and that the local authority can consider other service providers. He advised that the Planning Department is anxious to bring the matter to a conclusion as soon as possible.

- Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a further meeting with the Minister should be sought in order to progress the matter.
- Mr. Frank Curran outlined that Minister Damian English is the Minister with responsibility for planning. He agreed that if the service provided by UCD is not acceptable then the Council can consider an alternative service provider.
- Councillor John McCartin dismissed the merits of the Zero Discharge Scheme. He stated that the problem rests with the EPA guidelines.
- Councillor Des Guckian agreed with Councillor John McCartin and stated that the EPA has set an impossible standard and that UCD should not be used as the scapegoat.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian also proposed that Leitrim County Council no longer engage with UCD and that an alternative option be explored.
- Councillor Brendan Barry queried the length of time a site must be monitored for, before a decision can be made on the site.

Mr. Bernard Greene stated that monitoring lasts for three years. He advised that the Council and applicants are both responsible for their own monitoring in order that there are two separate sets of results to compare.

- Councillor Justin Warnock also supported the Notice of Motion. He stated that Leitrim is a rural county and that people must be able to build homes in rural locations.

Councillor Sinead Guckian referred to the economic aspect of the presentation and acknowledged the significant work achieved to date in securing the objectives of the County Development Plan 2015-2021

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That if UCD don't progress the design options that Leitrim County Council seek an alternative service provider”.

**17/99**

**03/07/2017 Update on Budgetary Process**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, A/Head of Finance and Water Services provided an update in relation to the Council's Budgetary Process. He outlined that the budgetary process will have regard to the Council's current financial position and the projected income and expenditure for 2018. Mr. Dwyer advised that an advertisement on the Local Property Tax (LPT) will be publicised in July, 2017, the decision to vary the LPT will then be considered by the Members at the September Council meeting, the General Municipal Allocation will be agreed at the October Municipal District meetings and the Budget Meeting will be held in November, 2017.

- Councillor Sinead Guckian noted that the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for the Local Property Tax (LPT) will be included on the agenda for the September Council meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. Councillor Guckian expressed concern that details in relation to the funding from the Equalisation Fund to Leitrim County Council will not be available until later in the year. She requested the support of her fellow members to call on the Department to have the processes aligned in order that the members can make an informed decision to vary or not to vary the Local Property Tax at the September Council meeting.
- This proposal was supported by Councillor Felim Gurn. He also expressed concern in relation to the methodology applied to the re-valuation of commercial rates for licensed premises. Councillor Gurn outlined that a fairer method would be based on whether the business is trading a profit at year-end.
- The update on the Budgetary Process was noted by the Members.

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn and Y RESOLVED:**

‘That Leitrim County Council calls on the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government to align the budgetary process to ensure that details of the Equalisation Fund are made available to Leitrim County Council in advance of making a decision to vary/not to vary the Local Property Tax’.

**17/100**

**03/07/2017**

**Conferences/Training**

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the attendance of Councillor Felim Gurn, Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor John McCartin, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Justin Warnock at the Sean MacDiarmada Summer School on the 9<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 in Kiltyclogher be retrospectively approved”

“That the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the AILG Training in Bundoran, Co Donegal on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 be retrospectively approved”.

**17/101**

**03/07/2017**

**Meeting Correspondence**

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 from the Valuation Office in relation to the commercial Premises Revaluation in County Leitrim.
2. Letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to nurses and midwives and consultant child psychiatry posts.

- 2(a). Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to nurses and midwives.
3. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to agricultural educational requirements for applicants under the National Reserve and Young Farmers Scheme.
- 3(a) Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the National Reserve.
- 3(b) Letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with regard to the agricultural requirements for applicants under the 2017 National Reserve Scheme.
4. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding the review of the Remote Area Grant with regard to providing school transport.

Councillor Padraig Fallon queried if any response has been received to date from Minister Halligan. Ms Flynn advised no response has been received to date in this regard.

5. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Job Path.
- 5 (a). Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Department of Social Protection regarding the Job Path Service.
6. Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Leaving Certificate Applied Course and Youthreach.
- 6 (a) Email dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills with regard to the Youthreach provision in County Leitrim.

Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Des Guckian welcomed the positive response.

7. Letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Planning Permission for rural housing in County Leitrim.
- 7(a) Letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in relation to planning and rural planning.
8. Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to Irish citizens returning home to live in Ireland.
- 8 (a) Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development at the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with regard to Irish Citizens returning home to live in Ireland.

9. Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding a resolution of the Council in relation to special status for the North within the European Union.
- 9 (a) Letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development at the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the special status for the North within the European Union.
10. Letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council with regard to the National Policy on Afforestation.
11. Memo dated 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources to the Cathaoirleach and Each Elected Member with regard to the Student Grant Scheme 2017/2018.
12. Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with regard to the Regional Veterinary Laboratory in Sligo.
- 12 (a) Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the laboratory service in Sligo.
13. Letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 from the Department of Transport, Infrastructure Ireland in response to a Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the provision of hard shoulders for road realignments and new road layouts on national primary roads.
14. Resolution dated 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 from Tipperary County Council calling on the Minister for Health to take the necessary measures to make Regional Health Forum Committees relevant.
15. Resolution dated 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 from Sligo County Council calling on the Association of Irish Local Government to provide a briefing for elected members module on "The Role, funding and activities of the Local Government Management Agency as part of its annual Training Programme: and further request the AILG to ensure that an Elected Member will be included as a speaker at the said briefing.

**17/102**

**03/07/2017**

**Vote of Congratulations**

Councillor Sinead Guckian passed a Vote of Congratulations to the An Tostal Committee in Drumshanbo for capturing the imagination of the public with the Stylist Silage competition which formed part of the annual An Toastal Festival. Councillor's Brendan Barry and Gerry Dolan also paid tribute to everyone in Drumshanbo for the successful event.

This was unanimously supported by all Members.

## Notices of Motions

17/103

03/07/2017

### Proposal to amend the County Development Plan

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

"That we the Members of Leitrim County Council agree to begin the process of making alterations (amendments) to the current County Development Plan in terms of:

1. The amount of open amenity and recreational areas needed in each area,
2. Altering the current proposal to extend the N4 Dromod-Roosky Bypass, in its badly-designed form, by a further 18 km on past Carrick-on-Shannon.
3. Tackling the glut of housing we have in the County."

### **Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.**

"In accordance with the provisions and timeframes of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2016, the review of the current County Development Plan 2015-2021 is due to commence in late 2018. The Council have been presented with the 2 Year Report on Securing the Objectives of the County Development Plan which recommends that the County Development Plan, with its focus on a sustainable economy, sustainable heritage and sustainable communities, remains appropriate and will act as a catalyst for the continued economic recovery of Co. Leitrim. No variation of same other than to implement the provisions of the Vacant Site Levy have been deemed necessary. In the meantime, only specific and urgent requirements or those required by statute would warrant the investment of the significant resource required to complete a variation of the County Development Plan inclusive of the required Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of same. Furthermore, a variation to a County Development Plan requires a specific reasoning to do so and it is respectfully considered that none has been included in this Notice of Motion.

The amount of open amenity and recreational areas required is a matter for the review of the County Development Plan to consider. There have been no suggestions until the current Avant Ireland Property S.a.r.l. planning application was lodged that there is a deficit of such provision in Carrick-on-Shannon or elsewhere in the county. Caution is therefore required in this regard. The position with regard to the N4 National Primary Road is that the County Development Plan contains the preferred route for the Carrick on Shannon bypass which is provided for in the Plan following a detailed route selection process carried out and funded by the TII. Any alternation of this route can only be progressed in accordance with the requirements of the TII in the first instance. The matter referred to at number 3 is not relevant to the County Development Plan as a policy document and reference to same is made in the review of the Housing Strategy contained in the 2 Year Report on Securing the Objectives of the County Development Plan."

- Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the reply to his Notice of Motion. He stated that amendments to the County Development Plan are necessary. Councillor Guckian stated that an expanding town like Carrick-on-Shannon needs as much open space as possible. He advised that the Dromod-Rooskey By-Pass is an accident waiting to happen and that the number of unfinished estates in the county needs to be addressed.
- Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive outlined that variations to the County Development Plan can only be considered in exceptional circumstances. He further outlined that a process to amend or vary the County Development Plan must be placed on public consultation, requires a strategic assessment and may have significant implications for landowners etc.

Mr. Curran outlined that Transport Infrastructure Ireland went through a detailed route selection process for the Dromod Rooskey By-Pass and the route is not determined through the development process.

- Mr. Curran advised that unfinished estates are being dealt with on an individual basis and that regular progress reports on the unfinished estates are provided at Municipal District meetings.
- He concluded by stating that there is no requirement to vary the County Development Plan.
- Councillor Brendan Barry stated that the availability of good quality affordable accommodation in the county can be taken as a positive for people who come to work, live or invest in Leitrim.
- Mr. Frank Curran agreed that the availability of good quality accommodation in Leitrim is positive for companies considering establishing or re-locating a business to Leitrim.

17/104

03/07/2017

**Regional Development Officer for North Leitrim**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Pdraig Fallon;***

"In order to capitalise on the large number of visitors to those areas of Fermanagh, Cavan, Donegal and Sligo which border north Leitrim, we propose that the Executive seek funding for a Regional Development Officer specifically for North Leitrim. We believe that North Leitrim would profit from a closer liaison with these adjacent counties by marketing the region as a single entity. Whilst the employment of a Development Officer would primarily be of benefit to North Leitrim, the other counties mentioned would also be beneficiaries of closer product integration similar to that of the Wild Atlantic Way. Submitted on behalf of Councillor Felim Gurn, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Pdraig Fallon."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"The Council is currently not aware of any funding stream that would provide funding for the role requested. However, in the meantime the Council through all its relevant offices monitors and seeks to secure all opportunities to work collaboratively with the neighbouring counties in order to build on the tourism potential of the County. Initiatives such as the cross border driving routes which stretches across north Leitrim being from Mullaghmore to the marble arch caves along with the preparation of the Manorhamilton to Enniskillen Greenway project and funding proposal are examples of such collaborative actions."

- Councillor Felim Gurn outlined that he and his fellow Members Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Pdraig Fallon submitted this Notice of Motion calling for the appointment of a Regional Development Officer to work specifically on promoting North Leitrim. He outlined that there are unique tourist attractions in the North Leitrim area and that these attractions need to be promoted as part of a regional package with other tourist attractions in the bordering counties of Fermanagh, Donegal, Cavan and Sligo.
- Councillor Gurn also outlined that a brochure has been designed entitled "The Five Glens Wild Atlantic Loop". The brochure will be launched to promote the region and will be

distributed to all Hotels/B&B's/Restaurants in the region. Councillor Gurn advised that the brochure together with additional signage to highlight the route attractions will aim to increase the number of visitors to the county and tap into tourists that are travelling on the Wild Atlantic Way.

- Councillor Sean McDermott outlined his support for the Notice of Motion. He stated that North Leitrim needs to create a tourism product to link all of the visitor attractions together to provide an itinerary for visitors to the county and to increase the number visitors that stay in the county overnight.
- Councillor McDermott paid tribute to the volunteers who have been working very hard to promote the Ballroom of Romance in Glenfarne and the surrounding area. He stated tours to the Ballroom of Romance cannot continue to be facilitated based on the goodwill of the local volunteers and that proper resources need to be put in place. Councillor McDermott welcomed that a student is being employed in Sean MacDiarmada's house to open on Saturday and Sundays for the duration of the summer season. He proposed that a meeting be sought with the OPW to ensure that proper funding and staff will be in place for next year.
- Councillor Frank Dolan stressed the importance of promoting North Leitrim as part of a broader regional tourism project. He supported the call for a Regional Development Worker in order to manage and implement the proposal.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported the Notice of Motion and he called on the Chief Executive to support the proposal.
- Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Justin Warnock also expressed their support for the proposal.
- Councillor Des Guckian stated that the current Tourism Officer is promoting the many tourist attractions within the county. He advised that he would support the Notice of Motion if the proposal was extended to include the entire county.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the Notice of Motion.
- Mr. Frank Curran agreed that the promotion of tourism had to be on a regional basis as tourists want a complete experience involving a number of visitor attractions e.g. the Wild Atlantic Way, Wild Atlantic Salmon etc. Mr. Curran agreed to follow up with other Counties and to arrange a meeting with the OPW with regard to Sean MacDiarmada's House and to revert back to the Members with an update.

**17/105**

**03/07/2017**

**Proposal to restrict the use of the Weedkiller 'Roundup'**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;***

"I ask the Elected Members to support this Notice of Motion in calling on the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris TD and the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed TD to ban the use of Roundup (Weedkiller) as a desiccant on this nation's crops, including oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and many more.

This practice where farmers use thousands of gallons of herbicides annually to kill off crops 6-10

days prior to harvest is banned in many countries and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and many more Scientists believe it is a possible carcinogenic."

Councillor Justin Warnock called on the support of his fellow members for his Notice of Motion. He outlined the dangers of the product and its possible carcinogenic link. Councillor Warnock queried the use of roundup by the Council.

- Councillor Brendan Barry stated that he would support the Notice of Motion if it was amended to call for a ban on the use of Roundup on crops only. He stated that Roundup is beneficial in the control of weeds.
- Councillor Des Guckian stated that he would also support the Notice of Motion if it was amended to ban the use of roundup on crops only. He stated that roundup is useful for the control of Japanese Knotweed. Councillor Guckian queried if Leitrim County Council use Roundup to control weeds in graveyards and playgrounds.
- Mr. Shay O'Connor outlined that he would investigate if the Council use roundup and revert back to the members with an update.

**Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock and seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris TD and the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed TD to ban the use of Roundup (Weedkiller) as a desiccant on these nations' crops, including oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and many more.

This practice where farmers use thousands of gallons of herbicides annually to kill off crops 6-10 days prior to harvest is banned in many countries and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and many more Scientists believe it is a possible carcinogenic".

**17/106**

**03/07/2017**

**Primary School Transport Scheme**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that Motion No. 20 in the name of Councillor Sean McGowan and Motion No. 22 in the name of Councillor Caroline Mulvey would be taken concurrently as they both relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"I call on the support of Leitrim County Council in seeking a review by the Department of Education and Skills of the Primary School Transport Scheme currently in place in particular the emphasis on eligibility on the applicants proximity to the nearest school on the following basis; The rule has an anti-rural bias in that it does not take into account that our primary school system, are based on a parish model. I ask that the current rules be reviewed or amended to include an inbuilt discretion and presumption that the integrity of the existing school network on parish-based identity be preserved."

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Caroline Mulvey;***

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to both the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport and demand that full bus services are restored for our schools.



I am demanding assurances that no family in Leitrim will lose their school bus ticket this September whether it is concessionary or not."

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan and seconded by Councillor Caroline Mulvey and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council seek a review by the Department of Education and Skills of the Primary School Transport Scheme currently in place in particular the emphasis on eligibility on the applicants proximity to the nearest school on the following basis; The rule has an anti-rural bias in that it does not take into account that our primary school system, are based on a parish model. I ask that the current rules be reviewed or amended to include an inbuilt discretion and presumption that the integrity of the existing school network on parish-based identity be preserved."

"That Leitrim County Council writes to both the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport and demand that full bus services are restored for our schools.

I am demanding assurances that no family in Leitrim will lose their school bus ticket this September whether it is concessionary or not."

**17/107**

**03/07/2017**

**Public Counter in the Housing Department**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire;**

"When attending the Housing Section on behalf of clients I feel that any conversation is very public and hence uncomfortable. The design of the public space is not client friendly. Can we improve the space or offer an alternative client/staff meeting space. I propose this is done with minimum spend as I am very aware that a new building is on the way."

**Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services**

"The existing housing counter is an enclosed space with a level of privacy that allows for general housing counter queries and discussions. Additional customers who arrive when an existing customer is being dealt with are asked to wait in the seated waiting area which is outside of the counter area. Customers who have matters of greater detail or where a more prolonged discussion is required are offered an appointment in a private meeting room with the staff concerned either at that time if appropriate or at an alternate time when a meeting room is available. The new housing counter in the proposed office extension will have a dedicated private meeting room immediately beside the housing counter area for such situations which will greatly assist the presentation and arrangements at the housing counter."

- The Cathaoireach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that a space be created to accommodate members of the public attending the Housing Department to afford clients more privacy.
- Mr. Frank Curran outlined that customers who arrive when an existing customer is being dealt with are asked to wait in the seated waiting area located outside the public counter area. He advised that pre-scheduled meetings take place in a meeting room. Mr. Curran also outlined that the new office extension will have a fit-for-purpose Housing Department

with a designated Housing meeting room.

- Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that signage be erected in the waiting area which is outside of the counter area to make people aware of this.
- Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Des Guckian supported this Notice of Motion.

**17/108**

**03/07/2017**     **Outstanding payments owed to AEOS and GLAS farmers**

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brendan Barry;***

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed and the Government to immediately pay outstanding payments which are owed to AEOS and GLAS farmers. This money is desperately needed by the individual farmers, their families and the entire rural economy. Every €1 invested in Agriculture generates €4 for the national economy, hence prompt payment must be a priority for the Department of Agriculture rather than the recouping of overpayments/penalties."

**Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry and seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed and the Government to immediately pay outstanding payments which are owed to AEOS and GLAS farmers. This money is desperately needed by the individual farmers, their families and the entire rural economy. Every €1 invested in Agriculture generates €4 for the national economy; hence prompt payment must be a priority for the Department of Agriculture rather than the recouping of overpayments/penalties."

**17/109**

**03/07/2017**     **Extension to the Community Hospital in Ballinamore**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris to have an extension built to the Community Hospital in Ballinamore."

**Proposed by Councillor Caillian Ellis, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris to have an extension built to the Community Hospital in Ballinamore."

**17/110**

**03/07/2017**     **Provision of Mental Health Services**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris T.D., as a matter of urgency, to provide adequate funding and resources for the provision of Mental Health

Services. In particular for CAMHS Services which is totally under resourced and is causing severe hardship for many families."

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris T.D., as a matter of urgency, to provide adequate funding and resources for the provision of Mental Health Services. In particular for CAMHS Services which is totally under resourced and is causing severe hardship for many families."

17/111  
03/07/2017

**Former MBNA Building, Carrick-on-Shannon**

***Councillor Sinead Guckian moved this Notice of Motion in the absence of Councillor Enda Stenson***

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

"I ask Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran, have any discussions taken place lately regarding new tenants moving into the MBNA Building. It is essential that new tenants are got for this building to create new employment and to bring a new vibrancy into the area."

***Report by Chief Executive***

"IDA Ireland and the owners of this property Digital Office Centre are continuing to seek suitable tenants for this facility particularly in the Financial Services and Business Process Outsourcing areas. There were 8 IDA visits to the county in 2015, 8 visits in 2016 and one in the first quarter of 2017."

- Councillor Sinead Guckian outlined that Councillor Stenson had submitted this Notice of Motion and that it is important that new tenants are secured for this building to create employment opportunities locally and to benefit the local economy.
- Councillor Sean McGowan supported the Notice of Motion and he stressed the importance of the IDA promoting the building to companies that may be seeking alternative locations to base their business as a result of Brexit.

17/112  
03/07/2017

**Forestry in Leitrim**

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

"I call on this Council to re-examine the situation regarding forestry in Leitrim as it seems that scientists have said it's of no benefit to the clean air, so why is there a problem with turf cutting that's less harmful."

***Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.***

"Given the scale of thresholds involved in regard to afforestation the vast majority of such developments do not require planning approval by the Leitrim Planning Authority."

- Councillor Gerry Dolan acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion; however, he reiterated that given the scale of forestry in the county that planning permission should be mandatory for forestry developments. Councillor Dolan also stated that restrictions should be in place to prevent persons from outside of the county purchasing landholdings in Leitrim and availing of grants for such developments.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the Notice of Motion. She stated that this issue is regularly discussed at the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee. Councillor Guckian outlined that she is familiar with a local business that is being directly impacted by a forestry development in close proximity to their business which may put the business at risk.
- Councillor Sean McDermott stated that there is a restriction on planning applications in special areas of conservation in North Leitrim yet there is no such restriction on forestry.
- Councillor Pádraig Fallon proposed that a system should be adopted whereby forestry developments would be required to pay a financial contribution to the local authority to offset the cost of reinstating roads as a result of using roads as a haulage route.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported Councillor Fallon's proposal.
- Councillor Justin Warnock stated that the public had an opportunity to make a submission to the Mid-Term Review Group on the Forestry Programme 2014-2020.
- Councillor Brendan Barry noted that property owners have the right to insist that trees must be located a certain distance from dwellings in order that natural light is not restricted.
- Mr. Shay O'Connor informed the Members that a meeting with representatives from Sligo, Leitrim and Galway County Councils with private forestry managers and Coillte is scheduled to take place next week and that he will raise the issue at this meeting.

The business of the meeting concluded at 2.45 p.m.

**Signed: Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire  
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed: Sinead Flynn  
Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**