

Minutes of Meeting of Leitrim County Council held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 6th November, 2017

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Barry, Brendan
Councillor Dolan, Gerry
Councillor Fallon, Pdraig
Councillor Guckian, Des
Councillor Guckian, Sinead
Councillor Logan, Seadhna
Councillor Mulvey, Caroline
Councillor McCartin, John
Councillor McDermott, Sean
Councillor McGowan, Sean
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy
Councillor Stenson, Enda
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor Armstrong–McGuire, Finola
Cathaoirleach presiding

Apologies: Councillor Dolan, Frank
Councillor Ellis, Caillian
Councillor Gurn, Felim

Officials Present: Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services
Mr. Joe Lowe, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Mr. Bernard Greene. Senior Planner
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting Councillor John McCartin congratulated Mr. Joseph Gilhooly on his appointment as Chief Executive of Leitrim County Council.

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06/11/2017 **Votes of Sympathy**

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Tony Fahy, Bredagh, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on the death of Janet Fahy.
- The Family of the late John Joe Dolan, Church Street, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim.
- The Family of the Late Oliver McTiernan, Dernageer, Ballinaglera, Co. Leitrim.

- Rose Canning & Family, Dristernan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Brendan Canning.
- Fergus Moran & Family, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Peggy Moran.
- Marist Sisters, Marymount, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Sr Eva Horkan.
- Johnny Murray & Family, St Patrick's Park, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Bernard Murray.
- Michael Moran, Barrack Street, Kinlough on the death of Michael Moran Junior.

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06/11/2017 **Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of Leitrim County Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Aras An Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday, 4th September, 2017 be adopted”.

17/148

06/11/2017 **Provision of the realignment of the N16**

Report Ref 17-C-04 from Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive in relation to the provision of the realignment of the N16 National Primary Route in the townlands of Diffreen, Drummahan, Tawnamachugh and Mulkaun comprising the construction of a Type 2 single carriageway road for a distance of 1.55km from Diffreen Bridge to a location 760m east of the N16 junction with local road L-41382. The works will also include the improvement of 4 no. existing junctions off the N16, associated accommodation and fencing works, landscaping works, drainage works and ancillary works, including a number of stream diversions. The development will consist of a 7.0m carriageway with 0.5m hard strips, and an off-road 2-way cycle track located on the northern side of the proposed road 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 John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the provision of the realignment of the N16 National Primary Route in the townlands of Diffreen, Drummahan, Tawnamachugh and Mulkaun comprising the construction of a Type 2 single carriageway road for a distance of 1.55km from Diffreen Bridge to a location 760m east of the N16 junction with local road L-41382. The works will also include the improvement of 4 no. existing junctions off the N16, associated accommodation and fencing works, landscaping works, drainage works and ancillary works, including a number of stream diversions. The development will consist of a 7.0m carriageway with 0.5m hard strips, and an off-road 2-way cycle track located on the northern side of the proposed be approved”.

17/149

06/11/2017 Dispose of plot of land in the townland of Gortnaskeagh, Leckaun P.O.

Notice of Intention dated 25th October, 2017 from Mr. Kieran Brett, Senior Staff Officer, Finance in relation to the transfer of a plot of land comprising circa 0.0023 hectares (Freehold) in the townland of Gortnaskeagh, Leckaun Folio No. LM 19158 in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as circulated to all Members which appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the transfer of a plot of land comprising circa 0.0023 hectares (Freehold) in the townland of Gortnaskeagh, Leckaun Folio No LM 19158 in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 25th October, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved".

17/150

06/11/2017 Dispose by means of a 10 year lease of Drumkeeran Courthouse

Notice of intention dated 25th October, 2017 from Mr. Kieran Brett, Senior Staff Officer, Finance Department in relation to the disposal of the building known as the Courthouse in Drumkeeran, Co Leitrim by means of a 10 year lease to the North Connaught Youth and Community Services Ltd, Rockwood Parade, Sligo, Co. Sligo 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 Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That the disposal of the building known as the Courthouse in Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim by means of a 10 year lease to North Connaught Youth and Community Services Ltd., Rockwood Parade, Sligo, Co. Sligo in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention date 25th October, 2017 as circulated to all Members be approved".

17/151

06/11/2017 Overdraft Accommodation

Notice to approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December, 2018 subject to the sanction of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve month period ending 31st December, 2018, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and

Local Government, in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended, be approved.

17/152

06/11/2017

Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1st January, 2017 to 31st August, 2017 and 1st January, 2017 to 30th September, 2017 by Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive, dated 13th September, 2017 and 13th October, 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 4** and **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive provided an update in relation to the number of projects as outlined hereunder:

- LEO Competitive Funds: The Graduate Intern Programme is progressing well and a networking event was held for graduates and employers.
- Manorhamilton, Drumshanbo and Carrick-on-Shannon were awarded Enterprise Towns status.
- The Taste of Leitrim Initiative continues to be rolled out and a Harvest Feast recently took place.
- Leitrim Tourism continued to promote the tourist offering of the county and had a stand at the National Ploughing Championships in Screggan, Co Offaly.
- Carrick-on-Shannon has had its Purple Flag Award renewed.
- The Peace IV Programme was formally launched in the Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon.
- The Environmental and Community Awards were held in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon.

The update on the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report was noted by the Members and the following item was raised:

- Councillor Sinead Guckian requested an update on the Capital Works Project planned for the replacement of 1,680 meters of old 300 mm AC Trunk Main at Mountcampbell.

Mr. Billy Lowe, Senior Engineer confirmed that the scheme is going ahead and should be completed by year end.

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06/11/2017

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.

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06/11/2017

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.

Update from the Strategic Policy Committee's

- **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development SPC**

Ms. Flynn outlined that a meeting of the **Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development SPC** was held on Wednesday 6th September, 2017 and considered the following items:

- **Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability**

An over-view of the Housing & Disability Strategy was provided to the Members. It was noted that there are currently 81 households with a disability on the Council's Housing Waiting List and that an Action Plan will be developed in partnership with the Health Services Executive to address the housing need of this client group.

- **Statutory Assessment of Housing Need**

The Housing Department completed the Statutory Assessment of Housing Need in June, 2017 and a total of 328 households were deemed qualified for and in need of social housing support. A significant number of those households are in receipt of rent supplement from the Department of Social Protection. The roll out of the HAP Scheme commenced in Leitrim in December, 2016 to provide an alternative form of social housing support. Plans will be progressed with the Department of Social Protection to phase the transition of Rent Supplement recipients to HAP.

- **Housing Grants Scheme.**

Activity levels in relation to the Housing Grant Schemes continue to be monitored. The scheme will be kept under review and there is no requirement to consider the suspension of the scheme presently.

- **Adopt a Lifebuoy Community Scheme.**

The SPC reviewed the Draft Adopt a Lifebuoy Community Scheme and it was agreed to forward the Draft Scheme to the PPN for their comments.

Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee

Ms. Flynn outlined that a meeting of the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee was held on 10th October, 2017 and the following items of business were discussed:-

- **Update on Irish Water**

The Members received a detailed report on Irish Water Operations, the Capital Investment Plan 2017-2021 and the Minor Capital Works Programme for Leitrim.

- **Management of Japanese Knotweed**

The Members received a report on Japanese Knotweed. It was noted that a survey was recently carried out by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) of all national and regional roads to identify the

extent of Japanese Knotweed on these roads. The TII have commenced chemical treatment of the plant on the national roads – N4, N16 and N15. With regard to the non-national roads in the county it is hoped that funding will be provided by the Department of Transport next year to commence chemical treatment of the plant on these roads.

Bogs and Forestry Planning

The Members received a presentation from Mr. Bernard Greene on Bogs and Forestry (Planning Implications). The report provided an update on the Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation, Planning Permission, Turf Cutting, Opportunities in Forestry and the Forestry Regulatory Framework. The SPC Members requested that the Corporate Policy Group consider a request to have an Official from the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to attend a Council Meeting to discuss issues with Bogs and Forestry Planning.

Ms. Flynn outlined that the GPG had considered this matter at their meeting today and it was agreed to facilitate the presentation at the January 2018 Council meeting.

Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Ms. Flynn outlined that a Meeting of the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee was held on the 11th October, 2017 and that the following items of business were discussed:-

- **Update on Casual Trading Bye-laws**

Mr. Finbar Keaney, Staff Officer, Planning Department gave a presentation on the Casual Trading Bye-laws. It was agreed to review and bring back this matter to the December SPC meeting with a view to presenting the Draft Bye-laws for agreement. Subject to their agreement, it is then intended to bring the Draft Bye-laws to the January Council meeting prior to being placed on public display.

- **Overview on Draft Diaspora Strategy**

Mr. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services gave an overview on the Draft Diaspora Strategy informing the committee that in late 2015, Leitrim County Council was allocated €10,000 towards the development of a Diaspora Strategy.

Update on National Planning Framework

Ms. Flynn outlined that Mr. Bernard Green gave a presentation to the SPC on the National Planning Framework. She advised that the CPG agreed to discuss the submission on the National Planning Framework at the Council meeting and that the discussion would ensue after the completion of the update from the CPG was concluded.

Update on Budget 2018 and Date for the Budget 2018 meeting.

Ms. Flynn outlined that the CPG were given an update on the Budget preparation process which is ongoing by the Finance Department. She advised that the CPG are recommending that the Budget 2018 Meeting will be held on Monday 27th November, 2017 at 11.00am. Ms. Flynn further advised that the matter is listed as a separate agenda item to be agreed by the Members.

Update on the scheduling of Council and Municipal District Meetings.

Ms. Flynn informed the Members that the CPG agreed that the arrangements that are currently in place and that provide for monthly Municipal District and bi-monthly Council Meetings will continue for the remainder of the term of the existing Council to May/June, 2019. She also outlined that the CPG agreed that there will be a particular focus on responding to Elected Members

Representatives within the prescribed three-week time frame from the date of receipt of the request.

Ms. Flynn also outlined that an over-view of items listed on the agenda for the Council meeting was provided by Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Chief Executive and that the attendance of Members at forthcoming Conferences/Seminars was also agreed by the CPG. She advised that the annual Mass of Leitrim County Council for the Deceased Members will be held in St. Mary's Church, Carrick on Shannon on Monday 13th November 2017 at 8.00 pm.

The update from the CPG was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment that the schedule of monthly Municipal District and Bi-monthly Council meetings will continue for the remaining term of the current Council. He outlined that he considered that the alternative proposal to schedule monthly Council meetings and bi-monthly Municipal District meetings had considerable advantages over the current schedule.
- Councillor Sinead Guckian supported Councillor Warnock's comments and also expressed her disappointment that the alternative schedule of monthly Council meetings and bi-monthly Municipal District meetings could not have been trialled on a 12 month pilot basis.
- Councillor Mary Bohan stressed that it is not fair to say that the Members are not meeting regularly as the Municipal District meetings are well attended on a monthly basis.

This concluded the report from the Corporate Policy Group. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire then invited Mr. Bernard Green to give an over-view of the National Planning Framework.

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06/11/2017

Draft National Planning Framework

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly advised that the Draft Planning Framework discussed at a meeting of the Western and Regional Assembly attended by Minister Damian English last week. Mr. Gilhooly also advised that Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Justin Warnock also attended this meeting. Mr. Gilhooly invited Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner to give an overview of the submission that the Council has prepared on the Draft National Planning Framework.

Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner presented his report on Leitrim County Council's submission on "Ireland 2040 – Our Plan" which was published on 26th September, 2017 for its final round of public consultation. The report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix No. 6 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.**

Mr. Greene outlined that Ireland 2040 will guide national, regional and local planning opportunities throughout the Republic together with investment decisions for at least the next two decades. He advised that the submission period was initially to 3rd November, 2017 and is now extended to Friday 10th November, 2017. Mr. Greene outlined that the preparation of the submission also included consultation with the High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) and the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee. Mr. Greene provided a detailed over-view of the content of the submission to the Members.

This update was noted by the Members and it there was a unanimous consensus that the Draft Planning Framework is predominantly focused on developing and expanding the larger urban centres and that there is not enough of a focus on progressing the North West Region. The Members expressed their concern in relation to the lack of investment in infrastructure and services in this region particularly their concerns in relation to the issues that have previously been raised with the Minister in relation to the difficulties for rural housing, the availability of broadband and the lack of investment and employment opportunities in this region.

It was agreed that the submission would be submitted to the Department and that members should also engage with their Deputies to ensure that rural counties like Leitrim are not disadvantaged under the Draft Framework.

17/156

06/11/2017

Date of Budget Meeting

Ms. Flynn advised that the Corporate Policy Group is recommending that the Budget Meeting be scheduled for Monday 27th November 2017 at 11.00 am.

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott AND RESOLVED:

“That the Budget Meeting of Leitrim County Council be held on Monday 27th November, 2017 at 11.00 am in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon’.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that the Budget Meeting be held a week earlier.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance advised that the prescribed periods that apply for the holding of the 2018 Budget meeting is as follows:

All local authorities: 1st November, 2017 to 30th November, 2017.

The prescribed periods that apply for the holding of a meeting of a Municipal District to consider the General Municipal Allocation is as follows:

All local authorities: 16th October, 2017 to 17th November, 2017.

Mr. Dwyer also outlined that as set out in the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015 the meeting of a Municipal District to consider the General Municipal Allocation must conclude no later than 10 days prior to the local authority Budget meeting.

17/157

06/11/2017

Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2017/2018

The Leitrim County Council Winter Service Maintenance Plan 2017/2018 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 7** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer provided an over-view of the contents of the report. The report was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that the R281 be included in the Winter Services Maintenance Plan.
- Councillor Gerry Dolan proposed that road from Aughacashel/Ballinamore/Drumshanbo and the area locally know as “Alex’s Hill” be included in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan.
- Councillor Des Guckian if savings achieved by the Local Authority over the last two years having regard to the relatively mild winters conditions experienced in 2015 and 2016 could be utilised in 2017. He also queried the cost for a Community Group to purchase a salt bin from the Council. Councillor Des Guckian proposed that the grit location at Annaduff Church be extended to outside the school and cemetery wall.
- Councillor Sean McDermott proposed that the road from Manorhamilton to Kiltyclogher be included in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan.
- Councillor Enda Stenson complimented Council staff for providing grit at various locations last year for local people to use.
- Councillor Pdraig Fallon queried if sufficient quantities of salt and grit are available for this winter if required.

Mr. Shay O’Connor advised that the Council does not have the financial resources available to include any additional roads in the Winter Service Maintenance Plan. He advised that Leitrim has a small salt storage capacity with additional salt available to the Council from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) as required. Mr O’Connor advised that the Roads Budget runs on an annual basis and there is no capacity to carryover funding from one year to the next. He further advised that Community Groups can purchase salt bins at a nominal cost from the Local Authority.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire thanked all the staff of Leitrim County Council for their role in the response to Storm Ophelia on 16th October, 2017.

17/158
06/11/2017

Conferences/Training

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan at the Leitrim Association Annual Dinner in Luton on the 7th April to 9th April 2017 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Conference on “Invasive Exotic Species of wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals and lakes” in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork on the 24th to 26th November, 2017 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McGowan at the Conference on “A Practical Guide to Budget 2018” in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork on the 8th to 10th December, 2017 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Mary Bohan at the Conference on “Audit Committees in the Irish Local Government System” in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth on the 1st December, 2017 to the 3rd December, 2017 be approved”

That the attendance of Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Gerry Dolan and Councillor John McCartin at the Conference on the “Fair Deal Scheme” in Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork on the 17th to 19th November, 2017 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire at the Chambers Ireland Event in the Crowne Plaza, Dublin on the 25th November, 2017 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the Purple Flag Event in Norwich on the 16th to 17th November, 2017 be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the Brexit and the Border Corridor Launch in Brussels, Belgium on the 10th to 11th October, 2017 be retrospectively approved.”

“That the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Sean McGowan at the AILG Training Seminar in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on the 12th October and 13th October, 2017 be retrospectively approved.”

“That the attendance of Councillor Justin Warnock at the meeting on the Border Counties/Brexit in Dublin on the 6th June, 2017 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Justin Warnock at the AILG training in Tuam on the 19th September, 2017 be retrospectively approved”.

17/159

06/11/2017

Meeting Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Resolution received from Wexford County Council on 25th October, 2017 with regard to the protection of rural Post Offices.
2. Letter received from Páraic Ó Dufaigh, Ard –Stiúrthóir GAA regarding a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games Fixtures.
3. Resolution received from Monaghan County Council on 18th October, 2017 supporting and endorsing SIPTU Big Start/Early Years Campaign objectives of adequate investment in the early years sector to deliver quality and affordable childcare with decent pay for highly qualified early years professionals to secure quality early years care and education services for Children 6 months- 5 years that are accessible, affordable and support parents/families to promote children’s health, well being, learning and development in line with national quality standards.
4. Resolution received from Tipperary County Council on the 17th October, 2017 calling on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to reintroduce the Urban Road Minor

Improvement Grant as the loss of same has caused significant deterioration to the urban roads in towns in the County of Tipperary.

5. Letter received 11th October, 2017 from the HSE in regard to St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon.
6. Letter of acknowledgement received 11th October, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Control of TB.
7. Letter of acknowledgement received 6th October, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Disabled Persons Grant.
8. Letter of acknowledgement received 6th October, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding tax policy on residential rental income.
9. Letter of acknowledgement received 3rd October, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Prescription Charges.
 - 9(a) Letter from the Office of the Minister for Health regarding prescription charges.
10. Letter of acknowledgement received 4th October, 2017 from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding childcare.
 - 10(a) Email received 5th October, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs acknowledging Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Childcare.
11. Resolution received from Limerick City & County Council on 5th October, 2017 calling on the Government to put in place one Agency with full responsibility for the maintenance/repair/upkeep of all our rivers and streams.
12. Letter of acknowledgement received from the Office of the Taoiseach on 4th October, 2017 in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Housing Grant Scheme.
 - 12(a) Letter of acknowledgement received from the Office of the Minister on the 4th October, 2017 in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Housing Grant Scheme.
13. Letter of acknowledgement received from the Office of the Taoiseach on 4th October 2017 in relation to a resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding State support for higher education.
14. Resolution received from Offaly County Council on the 22nd September, 2017 calling on the Government for a complete an overhaul of the administration of the Social Housing Programme.

15. Resolution received from Monaghan County Council on the 15th September 2017 calling on the Government in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders, to re-assess current legislation regarding school transport with a view to ensuring that the maximum level of primary and secondary students are facilitated.
16. Letter of acknowledgement received from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Local Authority 2018 Budgetary preparation process.
17. Letter of acknowledgement received from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Community Hospital in Ballinamore.
18. Letter received 3rd November, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine concerning the Control of TB with particular reference to the question of studies into the vaccination of badgers as part of the TB Eradication Programme.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed this response.

17/160

06/11/2017

Vote of Congratulations

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Mr. Hugh James Gallagher, Chairman of An Toastal Festival, c/o No. 32 Dristernan, Drumshanbo on the success of the recent Halloween Haunted House Event.
- Ms. Jessica Doherty, Manor Grove, Kinlough on winning the “National Junior Baker” at the National Ploughing Competition.

17/161

06/11/2017

Presentation from the Leitrim Comhairle Na nOg

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed Mr. Ned Sweeney Ms. Aloisa Dias, Ms. Arlene Beirne and Ms. Jodie O Boyle on behalf of Leitrim Comhairle Na nOg to the meeting. She also welcomed Mrs. Rosie Dolan and Ms. Fiona Taylor to the meeting. The students provided a detailed presentation on Leitrim and Rural Ireland 2017 for Young People, Equality and an overview of the campaign ‘Use Your Brain not your Fists’ to alert young people to the danger of engaging in altercations/fights which can have devastating consequences for the parties involved given the serious and often life-threatening injuries that may result from a physical altercation.

A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and the Members unanimously paid tribute to the students, their mentors and Mrs. Dolan for their thought provoking presentation. The members proposed that the students be invited to give their presentation to the AILG and LAMA.

Notices of Motions

17/162

06/11/2017

John McGahern Interpretative Centre

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

"I ask the Chief Executive what, if any, progress has been made in relation to the development of a new centre in recognition of the contribution of John McGahern to the county. Has any approach been made to the family to seek their approval for such a facility, has any source of funding been sought/identified, either state or private? The centre could be both an interpretative centre and workshop space. Mohill would be an extremely relevant location for such as centre, given the well known Author's affinity with the town."

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

"This matter has been the subject of previous discussions and the position remains that the Council is happy to engage with any local or community initiative in this regard."

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that plans for an Interpretive Centre to honour the late John McGahern be progressed in consultation with a local community group and he also proposed that the Council explore funding mechanisms to develop the centre.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that Leitrim County Council had failed to honour Mr. McGahern in his lifetime.

Councillor Sinead Guckian voiced her objection to Councillor Guckian's comments and she stated that the Council had honoured Mr. McGahern during his lifetime. She also advised that a portrait of the author is displayed in the public foyer in the Council Offices.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly confirmed that the Council will engage with a Community Group in order to consider the proposal. He outlined that previous discussions with the McGahern family had established that the family did not support Mr. McGahern's legacy being developed as a tourist attraction for the county and that the wishes of the family need to be respected.

Ms. Mary Quinn outlined that the John McGahern Summer School Festival is now incorporated into the Iron Mountain Literature Festival which has been developed in collaboration between the Arts Office and the McGahern Family.

17/163

6/11/2017

Pilot Waste Water

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

"Following the recent presentation on the successful potential of the Pilot "Waste Water one off zero discharge system", and the associated expensive costs of same, at the November meeting of Leitrim County Council I will ask the Chief Executive to commence the process now, to adjust the Council's Development Contribution Scheme to waive the planning Development Contribution costs for any applicant who will be participating in this pilot scheme and therefore providing valuable data and research for the sustainability of rural living and culture in Leitrim."

Report by A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation.

"The Executive accepts the suggested approach has the potential to support the Pilot Scheme. This matter will be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee for consideration at their next meeting in December, 2017."

Councillor Guckian acknowledged the reply to her Notice of Motion and requested that the SPC examine the proposal as soon as possible. She referred to the recent presentation on the proposed Willow Bed System for one off rural houses and the projected cost of this system for households constructing their own dwellings in Leitrim. Councillor Guckian outlined that the estimated costs are considerable and in order to offset an element of this cost she proposed that such households be exempted from the payment of Development Levies to the Local Authority. Councillor Guckian stated that the future of rural communities and culture is dependent on ensuring that sufficient numbers of households are supported in this approach in order to safeguard the future of sustainable rural living and culture in County Leitrim.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the Notice of Motion and he advised that he had raised this issue with Minister Damian English and that the Minister gave a commitment to review the matter with the Department. Councillor Stenson also expressed concern that financial institutions and lending agencies will not incorporate the costs of this system into a mortgage approval. He advised that if the costs of the system are not reflected in the mortgage amount that the future progression of the scheme will be in jeopardy.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon also supported the Notice of Motion and he also expressed his concern that the cost element would be prohibitive. He stated that the data from the initial sites that adopted this method would be useful for future analysis

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to the very successful approach that was piloted in Wexford and she proposed that a subsidy/grant aid be made available towards the cost of this system and that a meeting be requested with Minister English in this regard.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported Councillor Bohan's proposal.

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed concern in relation to the time-frame involved in seeking a solution and he also raised concern in relation to the capacity of home-owners to get loan approval sufficient to cover the full costs involved. Councillor Warnock requested clarification in relation to the numbers of applicants for the scheme.

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the response from the Executive and he paid tribute to Mr. Joseph Gilhooly and Mr. Bernard Greene for their efforts in seeking to progress this item.

Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Gerry Dolan also supported the Notice of Motion.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly stated as referred to in the reply to the Notice of Motion that the matter will be referred to the next meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee for consideration at their next meeting in December 2017. He advised that following on from the consideration by the SPC that an update will be brought back to the full Council meeting in January, 2018. Mr. Gilhooly acknowledged that the original time-frame envisaged to seek a solution to the Zero Discharge Scheme was impacted upon by a change in the building regulations, however, he outlined that the Willow system has been tested in the county and is now down to a discharge rate of 5%. He further advised that with a revised design it is expected that the system may achieve 0% discharge in the future. Mr. Gilhooly also outlined that the Council will cover significant costs on the processing of the data because it will be a benefit to the county i.e. collection of samples, presentation of reports etc.

Mr. Gilhooly advised that in order for the scheme to be viable that a minimum of four to six households need to engage with the pilot scheme to allow trials to go ahead and get data on the discharge rates achieved. He advised that a number of applicants have indicated that they will not be progressing with this system and he is not sure who will be participating in the pilot scheme.

Councillor Mary Bohan thanked Mr. Gilhooly for his work on this pilot scheme over the last fifteen months.

17/164
6/11/2017

Mohill Landfill Dump

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

"That the Leitrim Chief Executive and Officials give us Councillors a guarantee that the now closed Mohill Landfill Dump is being maintained to the highest EPA environmental standards and that no seepage from it is getting into the town river or into Lough Rynn. How are the methane emissions and malodours from this dump being managed/lessened?"

Report by A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation.

"Leitrim County Council currently holds a landfill licence for Mohill Landfill, Licence No W0065-01, which issued in 2002. Extensive works were carried out at the landfill, which included capping of the landfill as per the EPA landfill protocol. A leachate collection system was also installed in the landfill with a collection chamber for leachate also installed. The leachate is collected and pumped to the wastewater treatment plant in Mohill. Leitrim County Council takes their obligations with regard the landfill licence very seriously. Ongoing monitoring of Mohill landfill is carried out to ensure full compliance with the landfill licence requirements. The monitoring is carried out quarterly, bi-annually and annually at various Groundwater wells, leachate and surface water locations as agreed by the EPA landfill licence. Leitrim County Council appointment Boylan Engineering in April 2017 to carry out a full site assessment of Mohill Landfill, including monitoring location assessments. Boylan Engineering whom have many years experience and expertise in this area of work, prepared and produced a very detailed Annual Environmental Report (AER) of Mohill Landfill in May 2017 to ensure landfill licence compliance. Other inspections are carried out periodically most recently in October 2017 by Council Staff and no odour issues were detected within the vicinity of the landfill or the surface water drains."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that the issue of Mohill Landfill dump needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency as there are no boundary walls and leakages are getting into the river.

Councillor Guckian proposed that a funding/grant be sought from the Department to carry out necessary works at the site and to have the waste treated correctly.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly referred to the response to Councillor Guckian's Notice of Motion. He stated that the site has been subject to regular inspections and monitoring to ensure the site is complaint.

Councillor Des Guckian insisted that the river adjacent to the O'Carolan Monument should be tested and a proper investigation carried out.

Councillor Seadhna Logan acknowledged the concerns of the residents of the O'Carolan Court Estate in Mohill that there may be leakages from the landfill and he referred to a presentation given on the 18th October, 2017 which confirmed that the water at Lough Rynn was reading from moderate to good.

17/165
06/11/2017

Leader Funding

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Seadhna Logan;

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Community and Rural Development to take immediate action to reduce the delays in accessing Leader funding for community groups; to make a commitment that no Leader Programme funding will be diverted to other projects and to make a commitment that the funding for Leader will be restored as soon as possible."

Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Community and Rural Development to take immediate action to reduce the delays in accessing Leader funding for community groups; to make a commitment that no Leader Programme funding will be diverted to other projects and to make a commitment that the funding for Leader will be restored as soon as possible."

17/166
06/11/2017

Trees

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

"As a result of the recent storm, and the unfortunate death of three people due to trees falling, I propose that we make a ruling that all trees along the public roads, and in particular trees that are laden down with ivy, be cut immediately as we now know that they are a danger to the public."

Report by A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Environment, Planning & Transportation.

"The responsibility to ensure that trees growing along public roads do not pose a risk to road users rests with the owners of these trees. Roadside trees are not in the ownership or control of the Council and are private properties belonging to the relevant owners of the lands abutting the

roads. It is, therefore, not possible for the Council to adopt a policy to fell or trim all trees along public roads.

However, through powers under the Roads Act, 1993, where a tree is considered a risk to road users the Council can issue the landowner with a notice requiring the felling or trimming of the tree. The recipient of such a notice has the right to appeal the notice to the Court.

It should be noted though that trees and hedgerows form a vital and integral part of the natural environment and ecosystems of the county and the removal of such a significant quantity of trees would have a large and detrimental impact on the biodiversity of the county. Such a detrimental impact would be contrary to the strategic goals, policies and objectives of the Leitrim County Development Plan, 2015-2021."

Councillor Enda Stenson highlighted that there are a lot of dangerous trees with ivy along the public roads, many of these trees might not be visible that they are dangerous until strong winds come and knock them down. Councillor Enda Stenson acknowledged that a lot of good work was carried out on trimming hedges during the summer.

Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Seadhna Logan and Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian queried as to what powers the Local Authority have to cut down trees that look dangerous.

Mr. Shay O'Connor stated that landowners are responsible to ensure that trees adjacent to public roads are not a risk to road users. He also stated that the Local Authority has the power under the Roads Act, 1993 where a tree is considered a risk to road users to issue the landowner with a notice requiring the felling or trimming of the tree. Mr. O'Connor also outlined that the landowner has the right to appeal the notice to the Court.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that a pilot project be brought before the Environmental, Transportation & Infrastructural Policy Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that it is the landowner's responsibility to ensure trees on their property are safe and that the landowner should engage the services of a competent tree surgeon in this regard.

17/167
6/11/2017

Rural Resettlement Scheme

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council commence and develops a Scheme similar to or along the lines of the Rural Resettlement Scheme."

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

"This matter has been the subject of previous discussions and as previously outlined there are no special provisions applying to facilitate applicants from other areas specifically under Rural

Resettlement. This would require a change in Government policy and revised regulations. The Housing Department have had informal discussions with Rural Resettlement Ireland in the recent past and have advised of the requirement that any potential applicants for Housing in Leitrim must apply and be deemed eligible for inclusion on the Housing Waiting List in accordance with the 2011 Social Housing Assessment Regulations where there are requirements with regard to an established connection with the local area. Adoption of a Rural Resettlement scheme will require regulations in the first instance in line with Government policy in this context. The Housing Department will engage in further discussions with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in this regard."

Councillor Pdraig Fallon welcomed the reply to this Notice of Motion. He called upon the Council to be proactive in order to address depopulation in many rural parts of the county.

Councillor Sean McDermott and Councillor Mary Bohan supported the Notice of Motion.

17/168
6/11/2017

Afforestation

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

"In early October the European Commission issued a new set of guidelines in which it stated that farmland was a "special asset" and sales can be restricted to help limit price speculation and preserve local communities. In County Leitrim in 2016, 1,072 acres of land was planted and all these were private plantings. So on behalf of local communities from Tullaghan to Bornacoola and with the support of the Elected Members I ask Leitrim County Council to write to Mr. Michael Creed, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry, to call for an immediate ban to granting Afforestation Licences to private companies in Leitrim."

Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council write to Mr. Michael Creed, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry, to call for an immediate ban to granting Afforestation Licences to private companies in Leitrim".

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly advised as outlined in the report from the Corporate Policy Group that an Official from the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will be invited to attend the January Council Meeting.

17/169
6/11/2017

Land Drainage and Improvement Grant Scheme

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

"With another fodder shortage looming I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed to put in place a Land Drainage and Improvement Grant scheme

as a long term solution to try and prevent this happening again. The Department needs to look for solutions not obstacles and design a scheme that will get European Commission approval and see all allocated funds being spent on machine hire and materials not assessments or bureaucracy. Land improvement would make Irish farms more viable, sustainable and efficient and add to Ireland's green image."

Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry seconded by Councillor Gerry Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Michael Creed to put in place a Land Drainage and Improvement Grant scheme as a long term solution to try and prevent this happening again. The Department needs to look for solutions not obstacles and design a scheme that will get European Commission approval and see all allocated funds being spent on machine hire and materials not assessments or bureaucracy. Land improvement would make Irish farms more viable, sustainable and efficient and add to Ireland's green image".

**17/170
6/11/2017**

Community Based CCTV System

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

"I ask that Leitrim County Council write to the Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald asking that her Department review the criteria for Community Based CCTV System Installation in towns. I ask that she and her Department agree to increase the grant level from 40% to 75% and raise the ceiling to €75,000. The ceiling is currently €40,000. This change would increase the uptake, which is the aim of the Scheme."

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald asking that her Department review the criteria for Community Based CCTV System Installation in towns. I ask that she and her Department agree to increase the grant level from 40% to 75% and raise the ceiling to €75,000. The ceiling is currently €40,000. This change would increase the uptake, which is the aim of the Scheme."

It was agreed by the Members that this motion would be circulated to all Local Authorities.

**17/171
6/11/2017**

GLAS Scheme

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

"I call upon the Department of Agriculture to deploy whatever number of extra staff it requires to proceed with the long overdue payments due and appeals under the GLAS Scheme. This delay is

causing hardship for farmers who have had considerable outlay in order to participate in the Scheme."

Councillor Sinead Guckian moved the motion on behalf of Cllr Paddy O'Rourke as he had to leave the meeting early.

Proposed by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Agriculture to deploy whatever number of extra staff it requires to proceed with the long overdue payments due and appeals under the GLAS Scheme. This delay is causing hardship for farmers who have had considerable outlay in order to participate in the Scheme".

**17/172
6/11/2017**

Local Improvement Scheme

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on Mr. Shane Ross T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to provide adequate resources to deal with the huge number of Local Improvement Schemes (LIS's) in County Leitrim awaiting funding and for new schemes to be accepted."

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on Mr. Shane Ross T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to provide adequate resources to deal with the huge number of Local Improvement Schemes (LIS's) in County Leitrim awaiting funding and for new schemes to be accepted."

**17/173
6/11/2017**

Election Days

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

"At the November Council Meeting, I will ask that Community Centres and such buildings be used for voting on Election days instead of Primary Schools. I am asking Leitrim County Council to make enquires if this would be possible. We recently saw school days lost through weather conditions. I am aware that recently at a Committee Meeting of I.C.A, concerns were raised on the issues of Primary Schools been used on Election days."

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

"This matter will be raised with the County Registrar."

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services confirmed that she will take this matter up with the County Registrar.

**17/174
6/11/2017**

Jobpath Scheme

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Government and Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to abolish the Jobpath Scheme as it is not fit for purpose.

Proposed by Councillor Caroline Mulvey seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

"That Leitrim County Council call on the Government and Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to abolish the Jobpath Scheme as it is not fit for purpose".

The business of the meeting concluded at 3.20 p.m

**Signed: Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed: Joan Lowe
Meetings Administrator**

Dated: 8th January, 2018