

**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> September 2018**

**Members Present:** Councillor Armstrong-McGuire, Finola  
Councillor Bohan, Mary  
Councillor Barry, Brendan  
Councillor Dolan, Frank  
Councillor Dolan, Gerry  
Councillor Ellis, Caillian  
Councillor Fallon, Padraig  
Councillor Guckian, Des  
Councillor Guckian, Sinead  
Councillor Gurn, Felim  
Councillor Logan, Seadhna  
Councillor McCartin, John  
Councillor McDermott, Sean  
Councillor O'Rourke, Paddy  
Councillor Stenson, Enda  
Councillor Warnock, Justin

And Councillor McGowan, Sean  
Cathaoirleach presiding

**Apologies:** Councillor Mulvey, Caroline

**Officials Present:** Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive  
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic  
Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation  
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate  
Services, Culture and Emergency Services  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services  
Ms Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Bernard Greene. Senior Planner  
Mr Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr Joe Lowe, Head of Enterprise  
Ms. Mairead Shanley, Meetings Administrator  
Ms Susan Barry, A/Senior Staff Officer  
Ms Michelle Reynolds, Economic & Community Development Officer  
Ms. Kathleen McGovern Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Members and Staff back after the summer break. Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan noted that it was agreed at the Corporate Policy Group meeting that recordings of the presentations from candidates seeking nomination for the Presidential Election be facilitated.

18/129  
03/09/2018

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Margaret Hegarty, Corduff, Gortagh on the death of Peg Hagarty.
- Helen Flynn, Hill Street, Mohill on the death of Richard Flynn.
- Trish Gilchrist, No 5 Fairgreen Leitrim Village, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of James Gilchrist.
- The Family & Friends of the Late Robert Quinn, Fenagh, Co Leitrim.
- Eoin Kane, Lavour, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Maria Kane.
- Tomas & Marie Beirne, Drumleague, Leitrim, Carrick-on-Shannon on the death of Tommy Beirne.
- Michael Glancy, Park Drive, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Mary Glancy.
- Mary Burke, Autumn View, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on the death of Agnes Coles

18/130  
03/09/2018

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 be adopted".

18/131  
03/09/2018

Market Yard, Carrick-on-Shannon

Report Ref 18-C-04 from Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive in relation to erecting a proposed roof canopy over the South Western area of the Market Yard, Carrick on Shannon; the erection of a new gate to the existing archway to the south west of the Yard; along with associated site works & services. The proposed works are being undertaken in partnership with MRD (Carrick on Shannon) Ltd in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018, as circulated to the Members, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and RESOLVED:**

"That the erection of a proposed roof canopy over the South Western area of the Market Yard, Carrick on Shannon; the erection of a new gate to the existing archway to the south west of the Yard; along with associated site works & services. The proposed works are being undertaken in partnership with MRD (Carrick on Shannon) Ltd be approved".

Councillor Des Guckian said he opposed the development and that he would not be rubber stamping this proposal. Councillor Des Guckian said Leitrim County Council is on “very thin ice” in supporting this development and it is “setting a very dangerous precedent”.

Councillor Des Guckian said the report submitted to the Elected Members lacked detail including cost projections, maps were vague and lacked Computer Aided Designs of the proposed development project. Councillor Des Guckian stated that there were issues in regard to the legal ownership of the site, some stakeholders had not been contacted about MRD’s intention to carry out these works and the question about right of way.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that the documents provided are not design documents and that level of detail is not required at Part VIII stage. Any issues in regard to right of way or ownership are not a matter for the Part VIII stage.

Mr Bernard Greene advised that the proposal to provide a new timber gateway to the existing inner archway shall not be permitted pursuant to this Part VIII approval. Revised proposals in this regard are to be submitted to the Planning Authority before this part of the development is progressed.

The archaeological mitigation recommendations contained in the submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltachts Affairs shall be adhered to by the successful contractor and consideration for the dissemination/presentation of archaeological findings shall be discussed with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Affairs.

At present this proposal has not reached the design stage and there is no necessity at this stage for the proposed development to be costed in the document and as this project has yet to go to tender stage no final costing is available.

**18/132**

**03/09/2018**

**Disposal of Rural Cottage and adjoining site**

Notice of Intention dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Corporate Services, in relation to the disposal of Rural cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.275 acres (0.18 Hectares) in the townland of Gortatresk, Killargue, Dromahaire, Co Leitrim – Folio No LM1106F 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 Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of rural cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.275 acres (0.18 Hectares) in the townland of Gortatresk, Killargue, Dromahaire, Co Leitrim – Folio No LM1106F in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

**18/133**  
**03/09/2018**

**Disposal of land**

Notice of Intention dated August 2018 from Seamus O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads in relation to the disposal of land at Tullylannan, Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim comprising circa 0.061 acres (0.025 Hectares) in the townland of Tullylannan, Co Leitrim (registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM19158) 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 Finola Armstrong McGuire seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of land at Tullylannan, Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim comprising circa 0.061 acres (0.025 Hectares) in the townland of Tullylannan, Co Leitrim (registered in the name of Leitrim County Council – Folio No LM19158) in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Notice of Intention dated August 2018 as circulated to all Members be approved”.

**18/134**  
**03/09/2018**

**Budgetary Process**

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Water Services presented a detailed overview of the Budgetary Process for 2019. A copy of the Presentation appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

The update was noted by the Members.

**18/135**  
**03/09/2018**

**Setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2019**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan invited the Chief Executive to give an overview of the setting the Local Adjustment Factor for the Local Property Tax Rates in Leitrim for 2019.

Mr. Power informed the Members that a public consultation process on the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax Rates for 2019 had taken place from 25th July, 2018 to 27th August, 2018. He advised that no submissions were received during the public consultation. A copy of the report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 5** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Power invited Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services to give his presentation.

Mr. Dwyer outlined that the value of a potential increase or decrease in the 2019 Local Property Tax if the variation of 5% is implemented would be +/- €106,670 and that every 1% variation equates to approximately +/- €21,334.00 to Leitrim County Council. He also advised that Leitrim County Council will gain or lose 100% of any variation applied.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Power advised that Leitrim County Council are not looking for any variation on the rate of Local Property Tax for 2019.

This update was noted by the members and the following comments were made.

Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the report that Leitrim County Council are not recommending an increase in the Local Property Tax for 2019. Councillor Mary Bohan stated that she has been seeking for the last 5 years notice of the Budget in advance of setting the Local Property Tax. Councillor Bohan highlighted that Leitrim is a county with the highest commercial rate vacancy and she proposed that Leitrim County Council call on the Government to put a special focus/effort to get industry into County Leitrim.

Councillor Des Guckian proposed that further funding of €20 million be sought from the Government.

Councillor Padraig Fallon welcomed that the Local Authority is not seeking an increase in the Local Property Tax for 2019.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan acknowledged that there would be no increase in the Local Property Tax for 2019.

Councillor Mary Bohan queried if there will be high speed Broadband in our Towns and our Villages before Christmas.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that Drumkeeran was on target for Broadband before the end of 2018 and 51% of the Towns and Villages on the list are on target for Eir 300.

**18/136**

**03/09/2018**

**Loan Approval to draw down funding from Housing Finance Agency**

Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant in regard to loan approval to draw-down funding from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA) in relation to House Annuity Loan and the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. A copy of the report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 6** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“The drawdown of €143,230 under the Housing Annuity Scheme and drawdown of €1,000,000 under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 be approved”.

18/137

02/09/2018

**Monthly Management Reports by the Chief Executive**

Monthly Management Reports for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 by Lar Power, Chief Executive, dated 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 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, appears as **Appendix 7** and **Appendix 8** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The reports as circulated were noted by the Members.

18/138

03/09/2018

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

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive outlined that there were no commitments to note under this item.

18/139

03/09/2018

**Corporate Policy Group Report**

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community, Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services gave an overview of the items considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held prior to the Council meeting:

**Update from Strategic Policy Committee's**

**Economic Development and Planning SPC**

Councillor Sean McDermott, Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC gave a report from the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as follows:-

- Update on Diaspora Strategy and recommendations from the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC.
- Policy of Leitrim County Council in regard to Afforestation and recommendations from the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC.

Ms Quinn outlined that the re-establishment of the Leitrim Heritage forum was discussed and the LCDC report was noted.

Ms Quinn also outlined that it was agreed that the presentations from candidates seeking nomination for the forthcoming Presidential Election could be recorded.

Ms. Quinn also outlined that an over-view of items listed on the agenda for the Council meeting was provided and that the attendance of Members at forthcoming Conferences/Seminars was also agreed by the Corporate Policy Group.

Councillor Enda Stenson highlighted the need for outdoor staff to be employed to ensure Local Improvement Schemes are completed before the end of 2018.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly acknowledged that there is a 20% increase in the Roads Programme this year and that a review of the roads area is currently being carried out.

Councillor Sean McDermott queried as to what percentage of applicants that were on the LIS list are no longer interested.

In reply to Councillor Sean McDermott, Mr O'Connor said a report on this matter will be presented to the SPC, following which it will be referred to the Council meeting.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon proposed that the current LIS Scheme that is closed be reopened to receiving new applications.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive introduced members to Mr Justin Fannon and welcomed him to Leitrim County Council on his appointment as Senior Executive Officer.

**18/140**

**03/09/2018**

**Conferences/Training**

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, seconded by Councillor Caillian Ellis AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor Gerry Dolan, Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor John McCartin at the LAMA 2018 Autumn Training Seminar on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co Kerry be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the AILG Training for Elected Members Module 4 – The new ePlanning (on-line planning applications) and the National Building Management Project held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the Silver Springs Hotel Cork be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire at the AILG Training for Elected Members Module 4 – The new ePlanning (on-line planning applications) and the National Building Management Project held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon be approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sean McDermott at the AILG Training on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in the Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Sinead Guckian at the JPC National Consultation Annual Event 2018 on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at the Ashling Hotel, Park Gate Street, Dublin 8 be retrospectively approved”.

“That the attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson at event on “Rural Society in Transition” on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk be retrospectively approved”.

1. Circular RW 8/2018 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 in regard to 2019-2021 Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme.
2. Circular FPS05 2018 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 in regard to Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – Call for Proposals.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that this item would be listed on the Agenda of each Municipal District Meeting in October.

Mr Gilhooly advised that it is important that Leitrim County Council do compete for funding for Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton under this programme before the end of September 2018.

3. Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Scheme Outline and Information Booklet.
4. Letter received 5th July 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2 in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding Afforestation and Premium Scheme.
5. Letter received 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding Community Based CCTV Scheme.
6. Letter received 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard upgrading of the N4.

Councillor Sinead Guckian expressed her disappointment with the reply received in this regard.

7. Resolution received 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Longford County Council calling for an “interim payment of €50,000 to be made to the woman and families affected by the cervical cancer misdiagnosis”.
8. Resolution received from Wexford County Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 calling on the “Government to establish an independent convention on the future of local government, that will examine powers, autonomy and funding. In the event of the failure of Government to act, this Council calls on LAMA and the AILG to establish such a convention and to seek cross party support”.
9. Resolution received 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Donegal County Council calling on “Government Ministers to reconsider the current government policy regarding the building of public contracts”
10. Resolution received 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Donegal County Council calling on the “Minister for Education to address the discrepancies which exist in the rates of pay and benefits paid to ancillary staff in our schools and calls for an end to the precarious employment conditions



imposed on these valuable staff members. In addition, this Council calls on the Minister to increase the capitation grant paid to schools as outlined in the "Action Plan for Education".

11. Resolution received 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Limerick City & County Council calling on the "Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris, TD and the Minister of State with Special responsibility for Disabilities, Mr Finian McGrath, TD, bring forward legislation that all Government Grants, Social Welfare Payments and all other State Supports be categorised as non-means tested Universal Payments for people with Disabilities".

**Proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the "Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris, TD and the Minister of State with Special responsibility for Disabilities, Mr Finian McGrath, TD, bring forward legislation that all Government Grants, Social Welfare Payments and all other State Supports be categorised as non-means tested Universal Payments for people with Disabilities."

12. Letter received 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Orla McNabola acknowledging the good wishes she received from Leitrim County Council on her success on being Crowned Miss Leitrim 2018.
13. Letter received 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to staffing levels in schools in Co Leitrim.
14. Letter received 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine concerning GLAS Scheme.
15. Letter received 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from An Post acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the Post Office Network.
16. Letter received 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the provision of Occupational First Aid.
17. Letter received 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection regarding the Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to possibility of reinstating the service of the Community Welfare Office back into the Towns of Mohill and Drumshanbo.
18. Email received 30 July 2018 from Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in relation to Abortion.
19. Letter received 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Apple State Aid case.
20. Letter received 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to upcoming legislation in relation to abortion.
21. Letter of acknowledgement received 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding the Post Office Network.

22. Letter of acknowledgement received 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 from the Office of the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the Backstop Agreement.
23. Letter received from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in reply to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding the possible reinstatement of the Community Welfare Services in Mohill and Drumshanbo.

Councillor Seadhna Logan expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard.

24. Letter received 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 from Minister Denis Naughten, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in regard to the collection of waste.

Councillor Sinead Guckian pointed out it is proving difficult for people to bring bins to the end of their laneways and the Waste Collectors are unable to collect waste in areas where the waste collector vehicle is unable to gain access to properties because the roads are too narrow. Councillor Sinead Guckian noted that each local authority can designate areas that are not suitable for wheelie bin collections i.e. designate areas which can remain on bag collections.

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to Creevela road where the Waste Collector is not going up that road and householders are not prepared to bring their waste to the end of the laneway. Councillor Bohan referred to an agreement that was reached with the service provider that a small lorry/van was to be provided to collect the waste.

In reply to Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Mary Bohan, Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that this is not a ideal/appropriate solution in rural areas and it is more for Urban areas where access is limited.

25. Resolution received 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 from Donegal County Council calling on the Minister for Health, Simon Harris to "Intervene in the HSE's decision of not automatically awarding medical cards to cancer patients and to issue a directive from Government, to ensure that all patients who receive a cancer diagnosis are awarded a medical card".
26. Letter received 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council concerning Occupational First Aid Training encompassing CPR.
27. Resolution received 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Kildare County Council calling on the "Insurance Regulator and all home insurance providers who offer policies within County Kildare voice concern, disappointment and opposition to the apparent misinterpretation of the current Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies maps by the insurance industry and the fact that this misinterpretation is now affecting house sales within County Kildare".
28. Resolution received 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Limerick City and County Council calling on the "Taoiseach and the Government to legislate to ensure that employees who have a recognised degree would be legally entitled to be paid a liveable wage and that their employers would not obstruct these graduates from being in pensionable and unionised jobs".
29. Resolution received 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from Monaghan County Council calling on the Minister for Agriculture to "immediately make hardship funding available to assist the farming community

given the severe shortage of fodder quantified by some as up to 5 million tonnes. This will not or cannot be made up now with at least 60% of the growing season already passed”.

30. Email received 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to the upcoming legislation in relation to Abortion.
  31. Letter received 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in regard to Garda Resources.
  32. Letter received 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from the Minister for Health concerning Occupational First Aid Training, encompassing CPR.
- Councillor Brendan Barry expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard.
33. Email received 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 from the Water Quality Section of the Department regarding Extension to Fertiliser-spreading period.
  34. Letter of acknowledgement received 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in regard to Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to the provision of public transport services in the North Leitrim Area under the Rural Transport Programme.
  35. Letter received from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in regard to teacher allocations to all schools.

#### **The following item was also raised under Meetings Correspondence**

##### **Funding for Drainage**

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that notification has been received from the OPW confirming that Leitrim will receive an additional €50,000 in funding for drainage in Leitrim.

Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed the funding allocation.

**18/142  
03/09/2018**

##### **Vote of Congratulations**

The Members proposed a vote of congratulations to Eamon O’Grady, Drumkeeran, Co Leitrim who officiated as a Sideline Official at the All Ireland Football Final.

18/143

03/09/2018

**Presentations from Candidates seeking nomination for the forthcoming Presidential Election**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Mr Peter Casey, Mr Sean Gallagher, Ms Sarah Louise Mulligan to deliver their presentations in seeking nomination for the forthcoming Presidential Election to the meeting. Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed RTE, Virgin TV and the local Media. Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan noted Mr Patrick Feeney was travelling from Dublin by train and he would attend the meeting later at 1.30 pm to deliver his presentation.

Mr Peter Casey, Mr Sean Gallagher and Ms Sarah Louise Mulligan individually addressed the Members and thanked the Members for facilitating their request to meet with them.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan thanked Mr Peter Casey, Mr Sean Gallagher and Ms Sarah Louise Mulligan for their presentations and wished them every success in their future campaigns.

**Notices of Motions**

18/144

03/09/2018

**Nomination of Candidate for the Office of President of Ireland**

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

"I propose that Leitrim Co. Council in accordance with Section 16(1) of the Presidential Elections Act 1993 and Article 12.4.2 of Bunreacht na nEireann convene a meeting following the signing of the Presidential Election Order by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to allow Leitrim County Council give consideration to the exercise of our legislative and constitutional prerogative to nominate a candidate to contest the election for the office of President of Ireland."

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

"The nomination of candidates for a presidential election by county, city, and city and county councils is a reserved function, regulated by law under section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act 1993. With the Presidential Election Order now signed, Councils may by resolution, resolve to nominate one candidate. Not less than 3 clear day's notice of the intention to propose the resolution must be given in writing to every person, who, at the time when the notice is given, is a member of the council."

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that a Special meeting be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 1.00 pm to execute the powers to nominate a candidate to contest the election for the Office of President of Ireland.

Councillor John McCartin supported this motion.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community Corporate Services, Culture and Emergency Services advised that all notices of motions should be submitted by 10.00 am on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to the Meetings Administrator for consideration at the Special Meeting of Leitrim County Council, on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**18/145**

**03/09/2018**

**Zero Emissions from Septic Tanks**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 15 in the name of Councillor Des Guckian and Motion No 17 in the name of Councillor Sean McGowan would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"That we agree that there is reform needed in terms of the granting of planning permissions, especially in rural areas. The present scheme of zero emissions from septic tanks is so costly and so unattainable that it is farcical. Young couples, in rural areas, are being denied their basic civil right to get planning permissions on their own properties, at a reasonable cost and with a minimum of red tape."

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

"The reform that is required is not at local Council level but at a national level. Compliance with the EPA Code of Practice (Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses) is required pursuant to Part H (Drainage and Waste water Disposal) of the Building Regulations 2010. This is separate from any consideration of a proposal by the Planning Authority. These current codes ensure that the proposed means of treating and disposing of wastewater from a dwelling house is not prejudicial to public health or causing environmental pollution. The EPA Code of Practice is presently being reviewed and it is expected that this will result in certain marginal sites being able to accommodate tertiary treatment systems with disposal to ground. The Planning Authority cannot grant planning permission unless it is satisfied that a site can deal with the wastewater arising from a one off dwelling in a manner which is not prejudicial to public health or would cause environmental pollution.

The Planning Authority have engaged over a period of time with external stakeholders in demonstrating other methods of treating and disposing of wastewater which would not be considered prejudicial to public health or would causing environmental pollution. The proposed 'Zero Discharge System' is one such system.

Separately and through the work of the Leitrim Public Participation Network, Sligo IT has proposed a Research Proposal: Sustainable Options for Single House (Domestic) Wastewater Treatment Systems. This proposed study by staff and students in Department of Civil Engineering & Construction at Institute of Technology Sligo will investigate issues relating to the planning of single houses in rural locations remote from public sewerage schemes with a specific focus on site soil and other properties that limit the options for the installation of domestic wastewater treatment systems. The Planning Authority has requested that this would examine the potential for disposal also to water bodies."

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

"At the September meeting of Leitrim Co. Council I will again ask the Chief Executive to write as a matter of urgency to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr Eoghan Murphy TD, to provide funding to assist in the cost for those applicants in the Zero discharge waste water treatment pilot scheme, as it is with the cost of €55,000 is prohibited for most applicants."

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

"Leitrim County Council wrote to Minister Ring, Minister for Rural & Community Development and to Minister English, Minister for Housing and Urban Development based at the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in January of this year. These letters outlined the ongoing work of Leitrim County Council in the pursuit of innovative solutions to facilitate the design of a wastewater treatment and disposal facility that would have the potential to have a zero discharge or near zero discharge of effluent and, if successful, allow sites with poor percolation characteristics to treat the discharge of treated wastewater in a manner which was not prejudicial to public health.

The Council asked both Ministers to consider the detail submitted in the context of developing and releasing grant aid streams under various Rural Development initiatives within their respective Departments' remit, as this would be considered very beneficial for the ongoing development in rural Ireland and in particular areas that are facing depopulation because of this challenge.

This letter was followed by a meeting between officials with Minister Ring and his officials in Dublin last April.

The Council is aware of ongoing liaisons between both Government Departments on this matter and we await the outcome of these deliberations."

Councillor Des Guckian gave the background to his motion and highlighted that the present scheme for zero emissions is outrageous and should be rejected, as it is too expensive and impossible to achieve.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that he was not totally happy with the reply he received to his motion in this regard. Councillor McGowan noted Minister Eoghan Murphy and Minister Ring are currently looking at this issue and hopefully a positive outcome will shortly issue.

Councillor Caillian Ellis expressed his disappointed that no reply to date has been received from the EPA or the Minister for Housing, Planning and the Environment on foot of a Resolution passed at the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Council meeting inviting the EPA and Minister Eoghan Murphy to attend a meeting of Leitrim County Council to discuss the problems that zero discharge from septic tanks is causing in relation to people getting planning permission for a rural house.

Councillor Ellis proposed that a further letter issue in this regard.

Councillor Mary Bohan said that every Member of this Council has had a motion on this issue stressing that this is a National issue and the Government have to do something to resolve this problem.

All Members supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation advised that this is a national requirement set out under Regulation made by the Government. He advised Leitrim County Council has been in touch with Fermanagh District Council and hope to see discussions taking place shortly.

Councillor Des Guckian thanked the Members for their support on this issue and said now it is time to deal with it.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that a Ministerial Order was signed that brought this requirement into Law and the Planning Authority must abide by this Regulation.

Councillor Sinead Guckian paid tribute to the Executive and Members of Leitrim County Council who have put alot of work into this Pilot Scheme.

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

"That Leitrim County Council as a matter of urgency call on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr Eoghan Murphy TD, to provide funding to assist in the cost for those applicants in the Zero discharge waste water treatment pilot scheme, as it is with the cost of €55,000 is prohibited for most applicants."

**18/146  
03/09/2018**

**Tourism, Recreation and Amenities Funding**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 16 in the name of Councillor Padraig Fallon, Motion No 24 in the name of Councillor Felim Gurn and Motion No 26 in the name of Councillor Sean McDermott would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"I propose to ask Leitrim County Council for a breakdown of Tourism, Recreation and Amenities funding received along with a breakdown of spend per project in each Municipal District so far during this Council term."

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

"The information requested will be compiled and provided to the Member when collated."

***To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;***

"Now that the Greenway strategy has been published will the council do all in their endeavours to work in conjunction with the recreation forum and where necessary, the SLNCR Rail trail committee to have an application for funding submitted in time for the new Greenway funding pool and proceed with the screening out of the project with all possible haste."

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

"The Government launched its strategy in regard to the future development of Greenways in the Country in July. This strategy clearly sets the framework for the future support by the State for Greenways. A funding program to the value of €53m for the period of 2019 to 2021 has also been indicated and while the Council is not aware of the scheme having been launched it is expected that calls for projects will close at the end of November.

In regard to the SLNCR the Council has commissioned an Economic Appraisal in accordance with the Public Spending Code and it is expected that this will be complete by the end of October 2018. Once received the appraisal will receive detailed consideration and this coupled with the potential rate of aid will determine the next steps. The Council needs also to be mindful of the impact of a EU Court Judgement in April 2018 which, given the situation of the SLNCR, confirms that a full Natura Impact Assessment will be required. As a consequence the project will require assessment by An Bord Pleanala rather than through the Councils Part 8 Public Consultation process. Furthermore the new strategy sets out very specific consultations and engagement with land owners along with the need to have in place access agreements that gives clarity given the significant state funding involved.

Taking all of these matters into account actions list and timescales have been developed that are required to be completed in moving to the point of being in a position to submit a detailed application for funding should it be determined that the project is feasible to proceed with at each relevant milestone. This timescale indicates that an application for funding would be potentially ready for submission to the department for a funding call in mid 2020."

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

"I will raise the issue of Tourism Promotion at the September Council Meeting. The county finds itself the 2nd least visited county in Ireland when it comes to tourism. How can we address this issue?"

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

"The Council has and continues to invest within available resources in the development of the tourism sector in terms of adding product and attractions and also marketing of the county as a destination. Having analysed the statistics available since the publication of the Council's tourism strategy in 2015 it is seen that the decline is particularly attributable to the UK market which stems primarily from the adverse currency adjustments in recent years. The Council will continue to resource the marketing and further product development along with the delivery of other services of the Council relevant to tourism development. The County has also now available to it a new avenue to market through the establishment of the Hidden Heartlands brand proposition which fits extremely well with the product and experience available to visitors to Leitrim. The County also has the benefit of its engagement and learning through the Slow Adventure Tourism initiative delivered over the last two years."

Councillor Pdraig Fallon highlighted that a number of good projects are seeking funding and there must be a commitment to "push these projects over the line" for funding. Councillor Fallon acknowledged that a lot of information has to be collated in this regard.

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the Blueways Project in Drumshanbo and Mohill Rowing Project. Councillor Gurn highlighted that there is a need for a major infrastructural project for North Leitrim.



Councillor Sean McDermott stated that Leitrim County Council should be spending much more on tourism and Leitrim County Council needs to work with our neighbouring counties.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motions and paid tribute to the Voluntary groups in Leitrim and she said they are the best in the country.

Councillor Sean McGowan paid tribute to the Tidy Town Committees throughout the County.

Councillor John McCartin said Leitrim needs to be included in package deals with other counties e.g. North West Region.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said Angling is very important to this Region. Councillor O'Rourke noted that people seeking angling are advised to go to other agencies. Angling has served this County well in the past and it is important to keep it

Councillor Des Guckian paid tribute to Ms Sinead McDermott, Tourism Officer who has to work with limited resources.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that all the data that Leitrim County Council has is what is available to the Local Authority. He acknowledged that certain visitor numbers are not recorded. He explained that putting packages together is difficult in a trade in Leitrim as they are single operators. Leitrim County Council is working with other counties under the USEFE.

Councillor Padraig Fallon expressed his concerns that some projects in North Leitrim may not come to fruition and there is need for more balanced Regional Development in the county.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised the Greenway Strategy was published in July, €53 million funding is available and the public call has not issued to date. Detailed work is ongoing in regard to greenways.

**18/147**

**03/09/2018**

**Presentation from Mr Patrick Feeney, Candidate seeking nomination for  
the forthcoming Presidential Election**

At this point the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed Mr Patrick Feeney to deliver his presentation in seeking nomination for the forthcoming Presidential Election to the meeting.

Mr Patrick Feeney addressed the Members and thanked the Members for facilitating his request to meet with them.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan thanked Mr Patrick Feeney for his presentation and wished him every success in his future campaign.

**18/148**

**03/09/2018**

**Closure of Businesses**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 18 in the name of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire and Motion No 27 in the name of Councillor Enda Stenson would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members.

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

"In all towns in our county the face of Retail is changing rapidly. What are we doing to address the closures of businesses that have been serving communities for decades? We must take actions to ensure the town centres are vibrant community spaces and that viable business can thrive. Have surveys been done in past 3 years? What has been the uptake on Town and Village renewal in Retail? In refurbishment of old derelict buildings? Allowed to go unchecked the picture in our towns and villages will be bleak."

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

"The changing concept of retail is a well recognised phenomenon both nationally and internationally. Despite numerous studies on the topic over a number of years no distinct solution has been found. Each town centre is unique in its own right and future uses and retail offerings that will be sustainable will have to work in the context of the individual town centre and general area.

Leitrim County Council has been working proactively with all stakeholders in regard to the sustaining of the County's towns and villages. In regard to the main town of each Municipal District i.e. Carrick on Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton the Council has led the establishment of town teams or similar such groupings and continues to proactively work in collaboration with the groups. Strategies and plans have been developed through thorough consultation for each of the three towns and these plans are forming the basis for projects through various funding streams such as the Town and Village Scheme and the Leader Program.

Leitrim has been extremely successful in securing funding through the T&V schemes totalling approx. €1.5 million and previously securing €350,000 through the REDZ funding initiatives. Through these schemes, which are open to public call for projects, several towns and villages have secured very worthwhile projects. The Council also has in place an incentive scheme to support start up town centre businesses in regard to rates payable.

Currently, the Council is taking significant steps and devoting substantial resources to put in place detailed funding applications for the three towns under the Urban and Rural Regeneration Programs announced recently by the Government. In addition the Council is also working with the Tier 2 towns of Mohill and Drumshanbo in regard to initiatives such as Smarter town concepts to the Food Hub."

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

"May I ask our Chief Executive, does he think we have reason to be concerned at the recent number of businesses that ceased to trade in the county town of Carrick on Shannon recently? Have we as a local Authority any plans to enhance the town centre, with a view to attract in new business ventures? Is there some reason for the recent closures that we can address?"

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

"The changing concept of retail is a well recognised phenomenon both nationally and internationally. Despite numerous studies on the topic over a number of years no distinct solution has been found. Each town centre is unique in its own right and future uses and retail offerings

that will be sustainable will have to work in the context of the individual town centre and general area.

Leitrim County Council has been working proactively with all stakeholders in regard to the sustaining of the County's towns and villages. In regard to the main town of each Municipal District i.e. Carrick on Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton the Council has led the establishment of town teams or similar such groupings and continues to proactively work in collaboration with the groups. Strategies and plans have been developed through thorough consultation for each of the three towns and these plans are forming the basis for projects through various funding streams such as the Town and Village Scheme and the Leader Program.

Leitrim has been extremely successful in securing funding through the T&V schemes totalling approx. €1.5 million and previously securing €350,000 through the REDZ funding initiatives. Through these schemes, which are open to public call for projects, several towns and villages have secured very worthwhile projects. The Council also has in place an incentive scheme to support start up town centre businesses in regard to rates payable.

Currently, the Council is taking significant steps and devoting substantial resources to put in place detailed funding applications for the three towns under the Urban and Rural Regeneration Programs announced recently by the Government. In addition the Council is also working with the Tier 2 towns of Mohill and Drumshanbo in regard to initiatives such as Smarter town concepts to the Food Hub."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed Mr Justin Fannon on his appointment to Leitrim County Council as Senior Executive Officer to Economic Development and wished him well in his role.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire highlighted the last few weeks in Carrick-on-Shannon with the number of businesses that have recently closed in Carrick-on-Shannon some of which have been in families for decades. Councillor Armstrong McGuire highlighted that commercial rates have been a reason why some businesses closed and all of the businesses she spoke with referred to better town centre signage which has previously been promised but hasn't been implemented.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire acknowledged shopping is not what it used to be in view of shopping on-line. Councillor Armstrong McGuire said it is vital that action be taken to ensure towns centres are vibrant community spaces so that viable businesses can thrive.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed that exit interviews be held with the owners of those recently closed businesses in a bid to identify problems that need to be addressed.

Councillor Enda Stenson agreed that the decline in town centres needs to be addressed and he expressed his disappointment with the number of the recent closures of businesses in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Enda Stenson paid tribute to the Executive and the Community Groups to rejuvenate Mohill and praised the success projects like the Food Hub in Drumshanbo.

Councillor Seadhna Logan acknowledged that the change of face in retail is changing and there is a lack of traditional retail units in our towns and this is especially evident in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Des Guckian said that larger companies are refusing to sell to smaller shops, the cost of insurance and higher rates are also huge factors in the closure of businesses.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan noted that it is regrettable that any businesses has to close its doors and it is sad especially when long term businesses close their doors. Councillor McGowan acknowledged that on-line shopping has grown and proper signage is vital.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly referenced numerous studies on the changing face of retail over the years. Each town is unique in its own right and future users and retail offerings that will be sustainable will have to work in the context of the individual town centre and general area. Leitrim County Council is working proactively in this regard through the Tidy Town Committees, Chamber of Commerce and Purple Flag to develop strategies and plans for towns and villages. These will form the basis of projects through various funding streams such as Town and Village Schemes and Leader. Plans are currently being finalised for applications for Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton under the Rural and Urban Regeneration Programme.

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance noted that the Revaluation of Process which took place in Leitrim saw 70% of ratepayers with a reduction in their rates bill and 30% saw an increase. Mr Dwyer explained that properties had not been re-valued for a number of years and businesses have grown since last re-valued. Mr Dwyer advised that ratepayers can appeal their rates and Leitrim has one of the lowest appeals in the country.

**18/149**  
**03/09/2018**

### **Forestry Planting**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that Motion No 19 in the name of Councillor Sinead Guckian and Motion No 28 in the name of Councillor Gerry Dolan would be taken concurrently as they all relate to the same matter. This was agreed by the Members

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

"At the September meeting of Leitrim County Council, I will ask the Director of Services what work has been carried out to date, following my March Motion, which was supported by members, to commence the process of amending the County Development Plan to address the growing concerns of the over-concentration of forestry planting in the county and the monoculture of silka spruce plantations. It was agreed by the Members that the proposal to amend the County Development Plan would go before the relevant SPC for further consideration."

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

"Afforestation is primarily an exempted development. As outlined to the last Council meeting the County Development Plan doesn't have an impact in regard to exempted development. As a consequence following discussion at the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th July, 2018 it was agreed that Leitrim County Council will appoint consultants to review the Landscape Character Assessment which was undertaken in 2003 and which will become relevant as a contributing document to the next review of the County Development Plan due to commence next year."

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

"There are serious impacts from the increased amount of Sitka spruce plantations in Leitrim which are having a negative impact on the economy and social fabric of our rural communities and businesses. I ask Leitrim County Council to carry out a detailed study or research into the

decimation of our communities as a result of the plantations."

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

"This matter was discussed at the Economic, Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24th July, 2018. It was agreed that consideration would be given to assess the socio economic costs to the Leitrim economy of the reduction in agricultural enterprise and associated businesses / services as a result of the loss of traditional farming land to forestry and associated depopulation.

This matter was considered further following the SPC. The legitimate use of land by a land owner is a private decision for each land owner. The planting of land with trees is exempted development which now includes the provision of an entrance onto non national roads. Planting is supported by national policy and incentives to increase the extent of land planted. The merit therefore in undertaking such an exercise is questioned in the context of the above and it is therefore seen as a futile exercise."

Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the report and the recommendations from the Economic, Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee in regard to forestry which was circulated and thanked the Committee for their report.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that Leitrim County Council move forward urgently on the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Sinead Guckian expressed her disappointment with regard to Item No 4 Meeting Correspondence regarding a letter received from the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme which confirms that the current scheme will not be reviewed.

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the motion and noted that the amount of Sitka Spruce Plantations in Leitrim was at 14% and has now increased to 19%. Councillor Gerry Dolan insisted that this is having a negative impact on the rural communities and something needs to be done quickly.

Councillor Brendan Barry said that it is very important that forestry is included in the County Development Plan Review next year and he proposed that all TD's approve the Bill on Forestry when it comes before the Dail.

Councillor Justin Warnock noted the terrible decline forestry is having on all over Leitrim, there are 145 townlands that nobody is living in, 100 townlands only a handful of people are now living in.

Councillor Mary Bohan referred to previous motions that have been issued to the Department in regard to the review of the afforestation grants system, calling for applications for forestry to be subject to Planning Permission and she noted they have been very dismissive. Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council write again to the earlier motion.

Councillor Des Guckian pointed out that vulture funds will be buying up land in Leitrim and the opening up of this will destroy the county and country and it is important that TD's are lobbied on this issue.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised Afforestation is primarily an exempted development under National Legislation and Leitrim County Council do not have the resources to find out why so many

townlands have a decline in them.

Councillor Sinead Guckian pointed out that there is a need to build a case that will help in changing National Policy on this issue.

**18/150**  
**03/09/2018**

**Home Support Services**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the HSE and request that funding for home support services in Leitrim be increased so that those on waiting lists can receive the home support they need and to reverse the cuts to home help that other elderly people have received."

Councillor Brendan Barry moved the motion as Councillor Caroline Mulvey was absent from the meeting.

**Proposed by Councillor Caroline Mulvey, seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fallon AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council write to the HSE and request that funding for home support services in Leitrim be increased so that those on waiting lists can receive the home support they need and to reverse the cuts to home help that other elderly people have received."

**18/151**  
**03/09/2018**

**Cluain Álainn, Clooncorrick, Carrigallen**

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

"I wish to ask Leitrim County Council, what is the up to date position regarding the negotiations between the council and Liberty Insurance who hold the bond in respect of the development of the Cluain Álainn estate at Clooncorrick Carrigallen. Cluain Álainn has been occupied since 2005. During which time the residents have endured a great number of shortcomings in the development of the estate, sewerage, drainage, lighting and final road surfacing. The residents are now anxious to know what stage the negotiations are at and when they can look forward to the completion of the necessary works and the estate been taken in charge."

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

"The responsibility for completing this estate rested with the Developer of the estate and its maintenance through whatever management arrangement was put in place between the Developer and the Residents when the houses were purchased. The Council is not responsible for this and will only become responsible for the maintenance of the roads and sanitary services once the estate is taken in charge.

As part of the taking in charge process the Council has had to make a call on the Bond attached to the estate on foot of a condition forming part of the grant of permission. It is a condition of all such Bonds that they will cease to exist once an estate is taken in charge by the Council. As a consequence of such conditions the Council cannot initiate any procedures or works on any estate

where we will have to rely on the Bond to put towards any works necessary to bring an estate to a sufficient standard to enable its taking in charge.

In the case of Cluain Álainn, the Council and Bonds Company have now agreed, to a financial settlement procedure and discussions are underway as to the amount of the settlement. It is hoped that these discussions can be concluded in the near future and that the Council will then be in a position to consider taking in charge of this estate."

08/152

03/09/2018

**2020-2040 National Planning Framework**

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

"I will ask for the support of the elected members to demand Designated Special Status for County Leitrim under the 2020 - 2040 National Planning Framework. Leitrim is Ireland's most rural county and our uniqueness as a sparsely populated county made up of small villages, rural communities and small farms is what defines us as a people. The NPF as it is structured when implemented will starve this county of the financial resources needed to sustain and grow our rural based economy and will be the final nail in the coffin for Leitrim's indigenous people."

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

"Project Ireland 2040 was launched on 16th February 2018. This is the Government's overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic and cultural development of Ireland. It consisted of the National Planning Framework and was accompanied was the National Development Plan for the period 2018-2027.

The National Planning Framework has therefore been determined following an extensive public consultation process in which Leitrim County Council participated in fully. At no stage in this public consultation process was there a suggestion to seek special designated status for Leitrim as outlined in this Notice of Motion. However, taking into account the framework being at National level it is highly unlikely such requests would have been considered.

The next stage of implementing the National Planning Framework is the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, a draft of which is expected to be published towards the end of September / beginning of October. This will allow the Council another opportunity to shape and influence the detail for our region and to reflect the positioning of Leitrim in same.

It is the funding streams made available under the National Development Plan 2018-2027 that the Council should seek to avail of in order to achieve the intention of the notice of motion."

Councillor Justin Warnock highlighted the need for Leitrim to be afforded special status.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that deadline for submissions in regard to the National Planning Framework is closed. The next stage of implementing the National Planning Framework is the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, a draft of which is expected to be published towards the end of September / beginning of October. This will allow the Council another opportunity to shape and influence the detail for our region and to reflect the positioning of Leitrim in same.

Councillor Frank Dolan sought clarification if the Northern and Western Regional Assembly liaise with the local authority in drafting the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

In reply to Councillor Frank Dolan, Mr Joseph Gilhooly confirmed that the Northern and Western Regional Assembly do correspond with Leitrim County Council in drafting the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

**Proposed by Councillor Justin Warnock, seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council demand Designated Special Status for County Leitrim under the 2020 - 2040 National Planning Framework. Leitrim is Ireland's most rural county and our uniqueness as a sparsely populated county made up of small villages, rural communities and small farms is what defines us as a people. The NPF as it is structured when implemented will starve this county of the financial resources needed to sustain and grow our rural based economy and will be the final nail in the coffin for Leitrim's indigenous people."

**18/153  
03/09/2018**

**Insurance Fraud Unit**

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the government during this current year to establish an Insurance Fraud Unit within An Garda Síochána, a national Insurance claims database and place an obligation on insurance companies to legally challenge claims that are suspected of being fraudulent. The state makes having motor Insurance a legal requirement and so has an obligation to the people, to make sure that insurance is affordable and fair."

**Proposed by Councillor Brendan Barry, seconded by Councillor Des Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

"That Leitrim County Council call on the government during this current year to establish an Insurance Fraud Unit within An Garda Síochána, a national Insurance claims database and place an obligation on insurance companies to legally challenge claims that are suspected of being fraudulent. The state makes having motor Insurance a legal requirement and so has an obligation to the people, to make sure that insurance is affordable and fair."

**18/154  
03/09/2018**

**Road Safety Authority**

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

"That Leitrim County Council calls on the RSA (Road Safety Authority) to install a permanent full time driver tester in County Leitrim to address the backlog of driving tests in the county as a matter of priority."

**Proposed by Councillor Seadhna Logan, seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**



“That Leitrim County Council calls on the RSA (Road Safety Authority) to install a permanent full time driver tester in County Leitrim to address the backlog of driving tests in the county as a matter of priority”.

**18/155**  
**03/09/2018**

**Local Improvement Schemes**

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council request that any funding likely to be made available for Local Improvement Schemes not be conditional on works being carried out during the winter months when our resources should be utilised in draining and maintaining roads at risk of water damage."

**Proposed by Councillor John McCartin, seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire  
AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“That Leitrim County Council request that any funding likely to be made available for Local Improvement Schemes not be conditional on works being carried out during the winter months when our resources should be utilised in draining and maintaining roads at risk of water damage."

**The business of the meeting concluded at 3.50 pm**

**Signed: Councillor Sean McGowan**  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed: Kieran Brett**  
**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated: 5th November, 2018**