Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim

On Monday 10th April 2017 at 3.30 pm

Members Present:  
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Sinead Guckian
Councillor Enda Stenson
Councillor Séadhna Logan
Councillor Sean McGowan

Officials Present:  
Johanna Daly, Meetings Administrator
Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
Darragh O'Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Marie Mulligan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Department
Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

CMD 17/47

Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
held on Monday 13th March 2017

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

"That the Minutes of Carrick on Shannon Municipal meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 13th March 2017 be adopted."

Matters arising from Minutes:-

CMD17/38 (13/03/17) – Oak Meadows Estate – Councillor Sinead Guckian informed the meeting of the response she received on 7th April 2017 informing her that a valid Taking in Charge request had not been received (Appendix 1 to these Minutes). She made reference to the fact that the
Residents themselves made an application to have the estate taken in charge. She stated that the reply does not outline why the application was not valid. She asked Joseph Gilhooly to elaborate on this reply and if he could not do it today she requested that she would have an explanation in the next 7 days as the residents are awaiting a response to this. Councillor Des Guckian supported Councillor Sinead Guckian in this matter.

Councillor Sinead Guckian asked Mr Gilhooly if he could get someone in the Planning Department to confirm what the next stage of the Taking in Charge process was.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly stated that there is a particular process involved and that there is to be a workshop organised soon which may clarify what is involved in this. Correspondence on this will issue shortly.

**CMD 17/48 Allocation of Funding under the Arts Festivals Support Scheme 2017**

10/04/17

A copy of this was report was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting (Appendix 2 to these Minutes).

Joseph Gilhooly outlined the scheme to the Members.

He informed them that there were 3 successful schemes as follows:-

- Carrick on Shannon Water Music Festival - €5,700
- Green Door - €1,600
- Sessions on the Shannon - €500

Total Grant Amount of €7,800.

Councillor Sinead Guckian wished all the groups every success with their events.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported this.

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Carrick on Shannon Municipal District approve the allocation of funding under the Arts Festivals Support Scheme 2017.

**CMD 17/49 Allocation of Funding under the Community Tourism & Arts Grants Scheme 2017**

10/04/17

A copy of this report was circulated to the Members at the meeting (Appendix 3 to these Minutes).

Joseph Gilhooly outlined the scheme to the Members and informed them that there was a budget of €5,000 available.
There were 7 applications received.

The 5 successful projects were:-

1. Carrick on Shannon Heritage Group - € 300
2. Carrick on Shannon Tourism & Angling - € 750
3. Carrick Carnival - €1,550
4. Water Music Festival - €1,200
5. Sessions on the Shannon - €1,200

The 2 unsuccessful projects were:-

- Leitrim ICA – Production of Calendar
- Breffni Resource Centre – An Arts Project

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that she was disappointed to see that the Breffni Resource Centre did not qualify for funding and she enquired if paperwork would be sent back to them informing them as to why they were unsuccessful.

Joseph Gilhooly informed her that it would. He informed the Members that they were expecting more applications than the number received.

Councillor Sinead Guckian commented that she had concerns about the scheme and asked how it was marketed. She said that there appeared to be a good concentration of projects in Carrick Town and added that a lot of community groups have to potential to do something. She suggested that maybe it could be looked at doing it differently going forward.

Councillor Sean McGowan commented that the budget is so small that in a lot of cases community groups just don’t bother to apply.

Joseph Gilhooly informed them that the funding was specifically for Community Tourism Projects.

Councillor Des Guckian enquired as to where the money comes from and is there any contribution from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Joseph Gilhooly said that they received no funding from the Department and funding comes from Leitrim County Council’s core resources through the General Municipal Allocation and also local sponsorship.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Carrick on Shannon Municipal District approve the allocation of funding under the under the Community Tourism & Arts Grants Scheme 2017.
CMD 17/50 Allocation of Adopt a Bring Bank Support from the General Municipal Allocation
10/04/17

A copy of this was report was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting (Appendix 4 to these Minutes).

Joseph Gilhooly briefed the Members that this scheme was similar to the one run three years ago. He added that there is not the same level of interest as there was when the scheme was first introduced. He said it would be going back to the SPC later on in the year for discussion.

Councillor Enda Stenson enquired as to the amount each Bring Bank receives. Joseph Gilhooly responded €500.

Councillor Sinead Guckian agreed that a review of the scheme was needed.

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Carrick on Shannon MD approve the allocation of funding under the Adopt a Bring Bank Support from the General Municipal Allocation.

CMD 17/51 Report on Leitrim County Council Estate Management Grants Scheme for Local Authority Estates 2017
10/04/17

A copy of this was report was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting (Appendix 5 to these Minutes).

Ms. Marie Mulligan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Department gave an overview of the scheme to the Members. She informed them that the allocation for the Carrick Municipal District for was €4,000. The breakdown of this Flat Rate Contribution is as follows:

Estates with up to 30 houses - €400
Estates over 30 houses - €600

Councillor Sean McGowan enquired if the scheme was for public or private estates.

Ms Mulligan responded that it was for Council Estates only where there were Resident’s Associations established.

Councillor Sinead Guckian enquired as to how it was based - was it on housing stock or number of residents association?

Ms Mulligan said that she was unsure but would find out and revert back to her.

Councillor Des Guckian said that he had concerns that the Residents Associations had to have proof of Public Liability Insurance via the Leitrim Residents Network. He commented that this imposes quite a burden on estate groups and enquired how much the public liability was.

Ms Mulligan informed the meeting that Ms. Angela Moran, Staff Officer, Housing Department deals with this scheme and unfortunately she was unable to attend today and Ms Mulligan was asked to
deputise. She said that she did not have that information to hand but would find out and get back to him.

**CMD 17/52**

**Presentation on the Irish Language**

10/04/17

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong MaGuire welcomed Seán Ó’Súilleabháin, Rossa O’Snodaigh and Caitriona Nich Chonchradha to the meeting.

Seán Ó’Súilleabháin delivered his presentation to the members in which he outlined the obligations of local authorities under the Official Languages Act 2003 and he circulated documentation to the Members which set out a list of 7 requests that he hoped the Council would take into consideration for implementation. (Appendix 6).

Rossa O’Snodaigh gave the second part of the presentation entitled “Gaeilge Liatroim” in which he presented various statistics regarding use of the Irish language in the county.

The Councillors each in turn thanked Seán and Rossa for their informative presentations.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he found it disturbing that the Council staff no longer participate in Irish courses and that Irish is no longer a requirement for staff employed in the library service. He stated that the Council has an obligation to have Irish on its website.

Councillor Sean McGowan commented that there should be an Irish Officer. He said that the list of objectives submitted by Mr Ó’Súilleabháin were not excessive and he said he hoped the Councillors and Executive could get together to look at the objectives and that over a period of time they may become achievable.

Councillor Sinead Guckian questioned the council’s position in relation to the use of the Irish language and also enquired as to the status of an Irish Officer. She said that she fully supported Mr Ó’Súilleabháin’s campaign.

Mr Gilhooly informed her that Gerry Doyle was a part-time Irish Officer.

Councillor Sèadhna Logan stated that a strong message needed to go to the Ministers at National level as to the importance of the use of the Irish Language.

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that he fully supports all that the Council can do to promote the Irish language and that this presentation will go to all the Municipal Districts and then back to a full council meeting and that maybe then there will be some forward movement on the issue.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that Mr Ó’Súilleabháin’s endeavours will be brought forward at the council meeting.
A number of items of correspondence were received and circulated to the Members.

**Item 1**
Letter from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 22nd March 2017 acknowledging receipt of correspondence in relation to funding for footpaths and public lighting (**Appendix 7**).

**Item 2**
Letter from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 22nd March 2017 acknowledging receipt of correspondence in relation to Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes (**Appendix 8**).

**Item 3**
Letter from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 6th April 2017 outlining the position in relation to Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes (**Appendix 9**).

Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Sean McGowan both conveyed their disappointment at the reply received.

Councillor Sean McGowan said there had been none of those schemes in the county since 2011 and Leitrim has lost a lot of money over the years. He said that the local authority should let the Minister and the Department know that this is just not good enough.

**Item 4**
Letter from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 6th April 2017 regarding funding for Footpaths and Public Lighting. Copy of correspondence (e-mail dated April 4th) issued to Ann Warnock, Meetings Administrator for Ballinamore MD in relation to the same matter (**Appendix 10**).

**Item 5**
Email from Kathleen Griffin, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding meeting request dated April 7th (**Appendix 11**).
Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire informed the meeting that Councillor Séadhna Logan had to leave the meeting early and asked to the Members if there were any objections to taking his motions first. There were no objections.

Agreed that Motions No. 18 and 19 in the name of Councillor Séadhna Logan would be taken first.

**Part 1 – Notices of Motion**

**CMD 17/54   Civic Amenity Site Mohill – Old Paint for Recycling**
10/04/17

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

"As part of planned restructuring to the operations at the civic amenity recycling facility in Mohill, the council have decided to cease accepting old paint for recycling. Will the council re-consider this position as there is a fear that this may lead to an increase in illegal dumping of such products."

*Report by Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation;*

"It was decided to stop accepting paint as the cost of the disposal and the complexities of dealing with hazardous on the site was prohibitive. As an alternative, an annual hazardous waste collection day will be implemented where hazardous wastes such as old paint cans can be disposed"

Councillor Séadhna Logan noted the response and enquired as to the proposed date for the collection of hazardous wastes. He asked if the collection would be in each Municipal District or in the North and South of the county. He enquired as to the possibility of there being a collection bi-annually in Spring and Autumn as this is the time when most of the waste accumulates from work being carried out.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion and agreed with the suggestion of a bi-annual collection.

Councillor Sean McGowan also supported this.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion and made reference to the recent cost cutting measures at the Civic Amenity Sites. She suggested to Joseph Gilhooly that the tickets for the Civic Amenity Sites should also be available for purchase in the council’s office.

Joseph Gilhooly said that he would take this suggestion on board and also added that there would be costs involved in having a bi-annual collection. He said that this is something that could be looked at when next year's budget was being prepared.
Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Sean McGowan agreed with the suggestion that tickets could be purchased at the council offices.

CMD 17/55 Jimmy Gralton Monument – Takeover of Lighting
10/04/17

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

“Has contact been established with the Jimmy Gralton monument group to formally take over the lighting at the monument site, as had previously been agreed at a municipal district meeting.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“As discussed previously at the February Municipal District meeting Leitrim County Council is willing to take over responsibility for the running and operation of the public lights at this monument providing the land owner indemnifies Leitrim County Council and its agents against future liability and proper certification for the installation of the public light. We were expecting the group responsible to contact us but this has not happened. We will now make contact with the group to progress this matter.”

Councillor Séadhna Logan noted the reply and said it was a miscommunication on the group’s behalf and that they would be making contact shortly.

CMD 17/56 Footbridge over River Shannon at Rooskey
10/04/17

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

“To ask Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, to again have immediate discussions with his colleagues in Roscommon County Council, in relation to having a joint approach to the Department of Transport in seeking to secure funding in the current year, for the provision of a much needed footbridge alongside the Bridge over the river Shannon at Rooskey, a footbridge similar to the one that was erected in Carrick-on-Shannon linking Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober would suffice. It is extremely dangerous for the many people both local and tourists who use the bridge on a daily basis.”

Report by Director of Senior Engineer, Roads;

“This item was discussed at the joint meeting of Carrick on Shannon and Boyle Municipal Districts last year. All sides agreed to support the project. Since that meeting we have made an application to the Department of Transport to carry out improvement works to a number of bridges in the county including the bridge at Rooskey.”

Councillor Sean McGowan said that this matter had been raised on a regular basis over a long number of years. He called on both Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils to look at a bridge
similar to the bridge which crosses the Shannon in Carrick. He said that such a structure might be more acceptable to the Department with a view to financing.

Mr Gilhooly pointed out that a bridge design would also have to incorporate a lifting section and this would add to the cost of any project.

Darragh O'Boyle said that the council had written to the Department seeking funding for this. The works would fall under that of a Specific Improvement Grant, which the council have not received any funding for.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported this motion and commented that a solution is needed to this ongoing problem.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire also supported the motion.

Councillor Sean McGowan asked the Executive to keep pushing this matter as the volume of traffic in this area has increased significantly over the last number of years.

CMD 17/57  
Works at Dromod Railway Station including Additional Car Parking  
10/04/17

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

"At the April Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District, I will again seek the support of members in calling on Mr. David Franks, Chief Executive of Iarnród Éireann, requesting them to carry out some much needed improvement works at Dromod Station. Additional car parking spaces need to be provided at the station. It is extremely difficult for customers of Iarnród Éireann to park their cars at the Station after the 8 o'clock train in the morning as the car park is already full to capacity and people are forced to park at the entrance to and along the road leading to the station."

Councillor Sean McGowan informed the meeting that the issue of the car park being full was a regular occurrence.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion and said that we have to keep lobbying for it as it is becoming a growing problem.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion. He said that it was badly needed.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire supported the motion and commented that all Members would be behind this.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

“At the April meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District I will ask the Senior Executive Engineer to have maintenance and cleaning carried out on the flyover bridge, Drumsna. The flyover, which is at an important entrance to the village, has not been cleaned or maintained for many years and the surface and railings are unsightly. The work required is beyond the capability of the local voluntary Tidy Towns Group, Drumsna Development Association, but this piece of infrastructures’ current state needs to be addressed prior to the annual national Tidytowns adjudication.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“The maintenance of structures on the national road network is the responsibility of the TII. We will inform the TII of your request.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that she had made previous requests with Shay O’Connor regarding this matter. When the Tidy Towns Committee analysed the Tidy Towns Report it highlighted this issue. She pointed out that it is impossible for the committee to carry out this type of work. She said that this area is usually where the adjudicators start their tour. TII had been informed previously but there has not been a positive response, they stated that there was not a budget for such works. It is important that this work is carried out and she requested that this matter is followed up with the TII to ascertain from them if there is a schedule of such works or do the council need to lobby to get this work done.

CMD 17/59  Leaving Certificate Applied Courses
10/04/17

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

“At the April meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask for the support of Members to reiterate our Councils call in January, on the ETB and the Minister for Education, Mr. Richard Bruton TD, to intervene and address the current situation where students in Leitrim have no access to the Leaving Certificate Applied Course, or a dedicated YouthReach Service, in their own county. Since our request we have only received an acknowledgement from the Ministers office and meanwhile students who wish to complete the Leaving Cert Applied Course have no indication what is going to happen with their futures.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian informed the meeting that this matter was raised at a full council meeting in 2016 when it called on both the ETB and Department of Education to clarify the position in relation to this scheme. She said parents are in the position that they do not know what the plan is come September. She called on the support of the Members to go back to the ETB and Minister for Education to seek an urgent update on this matter.
Councillor Enda Stenson said that this matter had been raised by Councillor Mary Bohan and she had been informed that that this course was available in Mohill and in the Community School, Carrick on Shannon.

Councillor Sinead Guckian informed him that parents had asked was it available in Carrick Community School and they were told no.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that clarity needs to be sought from the Carrick Community School.

Councillor Des Guckian informed the meeting that in a letter from the Minister for Education it did not stipulate a minimum number necessary to carry out these courses. All of the council’s requests have been ignored by both the ETB and the Minister.

Councillor Enda Stenson informed them that a meeting of the ETB was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 11th April at 4.00pm and Chairperson, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke could raise this issue.

It was agreed that a letter needed to go to both the ETB and the Minister for Education from the Carrick Municipal District.

CMD 17/60
10/04/17

Traffic Management – Convent Lane, Mohill

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

“May I request that our Senior and Area Engineers, meet with the School Principal, the Chairperson of the Board of Management of St. Manachans National School Mohill and the Local Garda Sergeant, to discuss the ongoing problem of traffic management at Convent Lane, Mohill.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“A meeting will be arranged with the school and Gardaí as requested.”

Councillor Enda Stenson informed the meeting that there appears to be a problem with children getting off the school bus and running across the road and it is proving very dangerous.

Daragh O’Boyle informed Councillor Enda Stenson that he would be available to meet with him on site to look at this problem.

Councillor Enda Stenson suggested when the holidays were over, possibly the week after the schools re-open.

Mr O’Boyle asked who would arrange the meeting. Councillor Stenson said he would do so.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"May I ask, Mr. Joseph Gilhooley to request Barna Waste to collect the Bins at the entrance to Leitrim Gaels pitch, rather than householders having to push those bins out to the Main Road, where there is no place to place bins for 8 houses."

*Report by Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation;*

"This has already been reviewed by the waste collector and it is not feasible to turn the collection lorry on this road."

Councillor Enda Stenson told the meeting that Leitrim Gaels have informed him that the gate to the pitch can be left open to facilitate the turning of the truck. There would be a person there to oversee this.

Joseph Gilhooly informed him that the Council would need to contact the Contractor with this proposal to see if they were willing to engage with this arrangement. He asked Councillor Stenson to forward on the relevant information to the council.

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

"That the construction on the public footpath, near what was O'Connor's shop, Main St, Dromod, be removed by relocating the ESB pole or the transformer."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;*

"There is a narrow footpath at this location which is further complicated by the presence of the public light and mini-pillar. We will ask our public lighting contractor to price the re-location of both these items. Depending on the costs quoted we will consider carrying out the works."

Councillor Des Guckian informed the meeting that there was an error in the wording of the Notice of Motion and the word "construction" should read "constriction" as per notice he submitted.

Correct wording of Notice of Motion should read:-
"That the **constriction** on the public footpath, near what was O’Connor’s shop, Main St, Dromod, be removed by relocating the ESB pole or the transformer."

Councillor Des Guckian informed the meeting that the footpath was only about 2 feet wide. He said that he had asked for works on this to be carried out 2 years ago and that he hoped it would now be taken seriously. He said that a couple of days ago he witnessed a man with a child in a pushchair and another small child who was walking, trying to negotiate the path. The man had to come down from the path and out onto the road with the pushchair and child and it was very dangerous.

Darragh O’Boyle said that they could look at moving the pole around the corner, the cost of which would be roughly in the region of €2,000 and that it would all depend on the availability of funding. The relocation of the mini pillar would cost considerably more, but at least by moving the light pole it would give some space back on the footpath. He said he would get back to Councillor Des Guckian regarding the situation of funding availability for this job.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this and stated he didn’t know why they were placed there in the first place leaving the footpath so narrow.

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**CMD 17/63**

*Structural Safety Survey – Flyover Bridge – N4 at Drumsna*

10/04/17

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

"That the TII be asked to do a structural safety survey on the fly-over bridge across the N4 at Drumsna. It looks as if it has cracks in it."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;**

"The TII who are responsible for all structures on national roads have been requested to inspect this structure. The results of this inspection will be forwarded to the councillor."

Councillor Des Guckian noted the reply and commented that on his way in to the meeting today he checked the bridge to assess the cracks. He said that there is an area of discolouration where the cracks are. He said the blotch has expanded and is like seepage. He raised concerns that if there is severe frost these cracks could expand and pose a safety problem.

Darragh O Boyle agreed to write to the TII to have a look the bridge to see if it is anything structural.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that it was not as a result of anything hitting the bridge.

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**CMD 17/64**

*Marking at Pedestrian Crossing Points*

10/04/17
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire;

"New pedestrian crossing points have been clearly marked in some of our towns. It has been brought to my attention that near accidents have occurred at them. There are no signals to drivers as to the crossing point. While painted on the road the driver does not see the significance of the pathway. Pedestrians are assuming that it is a zebra crossing. Can I suggest that lettering is painted on the roadway at step down point asking those crossing to LOOK RIGHT OR LOOK LEFT. This should be done in all towns and villages across the county."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;*

"Markings as requested are painted on roads where there are controlled crossings either by beacons or traffic signals. They are not usually painted on roads where uncontrolled crossings or dropped kerbs exist. We would be reluctant to provide these markings due to the number of such crossings that exist in the county plus it may give the pedestrian the idea that they have the right of way which is not the case."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that the crossing at Kelly’s shop at the junction with Summerhill was an example of what she was referring to. She remarked that a number of pedestrians seem to think that this is a designated pedestrian crossing and are using it as one.

Darragh O’Boyle said that there are hundreds of uncontrolled crossings at junctions throughout the county. They were installed for disability access. There is not a budget available to stretch to mark all of these. He suggested that he could look at the one at Kelly’s in isolation to see if there something which can be done.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported this proposal to look at this location in isolation.

**CMD 17/65 Improvement Works School Bus Stop at Mulross in Kilclare**

10/04/17

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

"Has there been any progress in improving the bus stop for school children at the junctions at Mulross in Kilclare. There should be a sign erected on each side of the stop area that drivers should be aware of a bus stop at the junction. The verge is quite wide at the stopping point and it would be money well spent to extend the Alighting area for the children."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;*

"The local authority does not provide bus stops for school buses. We have passed your concerns regarding this stop location to Bus Eireann and advised them that we available to meet and discuss any alterations they may want to do at this location."
Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire noted the reply and added that there is no proper place available here.

Darragh O’Boyle said that they have liaised with Bus Eireann in relation to this matter.

Councillor Des Guckian seconded this motion.

**CMD 17/66**

*Any Other Business*

10/04/17

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire informed the meeting that Councillor Des Guckian wished to have an Emergency Notice of Motion submitted for discussion.

**Carrick Fins Swim Club – New Contract – Aura Leisure**

Councillor Des Guckian circulated a report to all members. *(Appendix 12 to these Minutes).*

Councillor Des Guckian gave a summary of the issue.

On 28th March 2017, Mr Shane Smith, Aura Operations Manager in Carrick wrote to Carrick Fins Swim Club. His letter required them to hold an EGM on 24th April 2017 to discuss the proposed increase in the cost of the use of the lanes per session.

For the past seven years, the rate for the club has been €5 per lane, per session but the following increases are now applicable:

- From 8th May 2017 it will rise to €17 per lane, per session
- From 4th September 2017 it will rise to €22.50 per lane, per session
- From 1st January 2018 it will rise to €25 per plan, per session

He pointed out that Carrick Fins paid €560 per month and is now being asked to pay €675 per week and that this was beyond their means.

A deadline of Tuesday 2nd May has been placed on the club to sign a new contract on the price increases.

Councillor Des Guckian informed the meeting that the officers and parents involved have assured him that this will finish off the club. He said that the club has three coaches and 71 children. He appealed to the Council not to let this happen.

He concluded by saying that the Carrick Fins Swim Club were looking for answers to the following questions:-

- Who owns the building?
• Has the County Council any say?
• Who has the final say on fees increase?
• Is the County Council to buy back the building in 2018?
• What is in the County Council/Aura Contract?

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that all Members of Carrick Municipal District had been approached by Carrick Fins Swim Club and she enquired as to what the role of the council was in this matter and asked what could be done?

Councillor Sinead Guckian asked Joseph Gilhooly to clarify on public record what the council’s involvement was in the Aura Leisure Centre?

Councillor Enda Stenson asked could a discussion about this be held at the next Municipal District Meeting.

Councillor Des Guckian responded that it would not be possible to postpone a discussion on this matter as the Swim Club have been asked to sign the new contract by 2nd May 2017.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that the Carrick Fins Committee had been placed under a great deal of pressure to sign the contract. She said that a number of points could be clarified at this evening’s meeting. She said that there were a number of misconceptions out there and the Members needed to know the limitations. Is there an obligation on the club to sign this contract? We need clarity on the position with Aura.

Joseph Gilhooly responded that the position is as follows:-

Leisure Centre Building was financed through an investment model under the Rural Renewal Tax Incentive Scheme and it has always been the arrangement that the Council would buy back the building in 2018.

The operation of the facility is carried out by Aura under operating licence acquired through the procurement process.

Aura is responsible for the operation and management of the facility i.e. the day to day running of it.

Mr Gilhooly added that the Carrick Fins Club had a historical rate which was extremely low and there was a considerable lack of parity with other clubs using the facility.

Councillor Sinead Guckian enquired about the management licence agreement between Aura and the Council and what references it made to the type of services it provided. She said that a situation has now occurred where a council provided infrastructure has turned around to a voluntary club and hit them with a 220% increase in fees at very short notice. She said she would like to know how this happened.

Councillor Enda Stenson if the Councillors could do anything to postpone the meeting until the council meets with the Management Company to discuss this matter.
Councillor Des Guckian said that Council should ask them to postpone this and to tease it out with council officials. He also questioned the agreement between Leitrim County Council and Aura. He asked was there any help available to the club through the Leitrim Sports Partnership.

Councillor Enda Stenson said that he is the Chair of the Leitrim Sports Partnership and that no contact has ever been made with them and it has never come up at any of the meetings. He said the next meeting of the Sports Partnership was scheduled for 10th May 2017 and it could be discussed.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that needed to establish if there is a stipulation in the management licence agreement about what type of service must be provided as this is a council building and the council set up the licence. She said that they just needed to see the terms not any commercially sensitive information.

Councillor Sean McGowan agreed with Councillor Sinead Guckian and commented until the members see the wording of the agreement and increase is out of the question.

Mr Gilhooly said there is a proposal made to the club and they are awaiting the club’s feedback to the operation following the EGM. Councillors will be kept informed.

Councillor Des Guckian said that he was sure there was a clause in it somewhere. He asked the Council to write to Aura and ask them to postpone it and then meet them to put pressure on them.

**Vote of Sympathy**

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire proposed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Frank Dunne and Alexandra Malkin-Dunne who tragically drowned in Carrick on Shannon.

She also proposed a vote of sympathy to families who had lost family members in a number of tragic accidents in the area of the last number of weeks.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: ____________________________  ____________________________

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire  Johanna Daly
Cathaoirleach  Meetings Administrator

Date: ____________________________