Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
On Monday 13th March 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 Gilholly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

Prior to the commencement of the Order of Business Councillor Enda Stenson informed the meeting that he had been requested to attend a Board of Management meeting at 4.30 pm. He said he had only received the notification at 3.00 pm. He asked the Cathaoirleach would it be possible to have his notices of motion taken first in order to allow him to attend this meeting.

The Cathaoirleach consulted the members and there was no objection to this.

Agreed that Motions No. 8 and 9 in the name of Councillor Enda Stenson would be taken first.

CMD 17/34
13/03/17
Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
held on Monday 27th February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, 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 27th February 2017 be adopted.”

No matters arising from Minutes.
Correspondence from National Transport Authority dated 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2017 re: Bus Eireann’s Expressway Services.

A copy of this was circulated to Members in advance of meeting. \textit{(Appendix 1)}

Before the Notices of Motions were taken the following items were raised:

\textbf{Community Facilities Grants Scheme}

Mr Gilhooly informed the Members that in recent days the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government had announced the “Communities Facilities Grants Scheme”

He said that there was a national allocation of €2m for 2017. There was funding of up to €1000 per project. These were small scale grants for community groups all across Ireland. He said that the details of the scheme were due to be advertised shortly and would be administered by the LCDC.

Each Municipal District will be presented with submissions for their area to consider.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire asked what were the monies overall allocated for Leitrim.

Mr Gilhooly said that €64,500 was allocated.

\textbf{Irish Language Presentation}

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that last year it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all Members to receive a presentation at each of the three municipal district meetings form Sean O’Suilleabhain on the Irish Language.

Councillor Des Guckian said that he was very disappointed that Mr O’Suilleabhain had not been invited to make a presentation before this. He asked Mr Gilhooly why was there reluctance on the council’s behalf?

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that a recent meeting of the Corporate Policy Group they were informed that there was no availability to have such a presentation as the programme for 2017 was completely full, however, she noted there was no presentation scheduled on the Agenda for today’s Municipal District Meeting.

Mr Gilhooly responded that this proposal didn’t go to the Corporate Policy Group until February as they were seeking clarity as to what the presentation would be about. He said that once it had been clarified it was now going to be facilitated at the April meeting.
Attendance of Chief Executive at Municipal District Meeting

Councillor Sinead Guckian made reference to Carrick Municipal District Meeting held on 13th February 2017 at which she requested that the Chief Executive would attend the March meeting to clarify to the Members the reduction in the allocation to Carrick under the Municipal District Works Scheme.

Mr Gilhooly said he was not sure as to the schedule for the Chief Executive.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that it was important that this matter be discussed with the Members of Carrick and that she was anxious to tie this matter down. She requested that Mr Gilhooly follow up this matter and reschedule it as she did not want to see this matter pushed out towards next year’s roads programme.

Mr Gilhooly stated that the message could be fed back. He said that there were no reductions in the allocations for Carrick for this year as compared to 2016.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that she understood this but would like clarity from the Chief Executive as to why the allocation was cut by 1%.

Part 1 – Notices of Motion

CMD 17/36 Installation of Railway Line on track of Narrow Gauge – Dromod to Mohill Station
13/03/17

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

“I ask what is the present position, of the CEO, and Leitrim County Council regarding the installation of the railway line on the track of the Narrow Gauge, from Dromod to Mohill Station. This would be a massive Tourist attraction for the whole area, a lot of preparatory work is already done on this project, and I believe we should push this forward.”

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

“A project of this nature would require to be either private sector or community led. In this case funding may be available through programs such as the Leader Program or future small capital grants from Failte Ireland. In the meantime the Council would be happy to advise a project lead on matters such as planning permission, feasibility studies etc.”

Councillor Enda Stenson noted the reply. He said that as a tourism initiative it would be absolutely massive for the whole area. He said he wasn’t sure how feasible it was but he reiterated how important it was from a tourism point of view and for attracting people to Mohill and the surrounding area. He mentioned that he had been in contact with the IDA and they informed him that there were no plans for Mohill.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion. He said that a good bit of work had been done in the late 90’s and there was a committee in place then but it has since ceased. John McGuinness, former Director of Service with Leitrim County Council was heavily involved in it. He said he did not know whether a Feasibility Study was carried out at the time. He felt that with the proposed Greenway they project could go hand in hand with it. He commented that the local authority has to take a lead and that funding was a huge problem. He said that in the past studies had been carried out and that when the Rooskey By-pass was being designed there was provision...
for a track to be accommodated under it. He said that he realised that this project would cost a vast amount of money and asked Councillor Enda Stenson was there any funding he could source in his role in Europe.

Both Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Sean McGowan praised Michael Kennedy for his wonderful work with Cavan and Leitrim Railway and Museum.

Councillor Des Guckian informed the meeting that the railway line closed at the end of March 1959. He commented that the members needed to be realistic in what was said and proposed. It is simple and simplistic to say it is about getting employment back into the area. The area has been in decline for the past 40 years. He said that the narrow gauge failed because the upkeep was too costly. He said that he had spoken recently to Michael Kennedy in relation to this and asked who is going to provide the money to start up this venture and keep it running. Councillor Des Guckian said that the burden would fall to local people and that services would suffer a result.

He said that this project had been researched a number of years back and at the time the obstacle was the huge insurance costs involved in the region of £40,000 (pounds) at the time. He commented that a lot of people with property where the track once ran would like to see it privatised. It was being used as a dump for rubbish, scrap and dead animals. He added that he did not think it should get funding at the expense of the local roads, byroads and lanes.

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that it was not about money, it is about generating a tourism project in the area.

Councillor Séadhna Logan said he didn't like the inference from Councillor Des Guckian that the old railway line was being used as a dump and asked him to retract this comment, adding it was a scandalous claim.

Councillor Des Guckian refused to do so and stated that he knew for a fact that this was the case.

Mr Gilhooly explained to the meeting the role of the local authority was one of support, advice on the next steps, planning etc. He said a feasibility report or a business case would be required and if there is one already in existence it would need to be updated. A robust case would be needed for such a project that would also look at how it would be operated and managed into the future.

Councillor Enda Stenson said he would take it to the people and come back on this matter.

CMD 17/37  Sheemore - OPW - Erection of Gate/Stile
13/03/17

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

“There is a large increase in the numbers of walkers who now climb Sheemore, I ask would the OPW consider the erection of a gateway/stile along the road and a small Car park there in the interest of safety. The Land owner is very accommodating to all comers, I believe the O.P.W and the Local Authority should revive and help out this beautiful attraction in our area.”

Report by Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation;
“This matter was previously discussed at Carrick on Shannon Municipal District and as was outlined at that time Leitrim County Council is working with Waterways Ireland on the Leitrim Carrick portion and that this is the current priority. Moving on to improve facilities at Sheemore is
an interesting proposal and as was mentioned at that time it was hoped a local development association would show interest as this may provide access to other funding opportunities. In the meantime however the OPW can be written to on behalf of the Municipal District with the suggestions raised."

Councillor Enda Stenson said he hoped to get the OPW to make a car park at this area. He commented that large numbers of people visit this area and there is a huge history attached to the site. He said it must be acknowledged that the landowner has been very amenable in allowing people to access the area from his lands. He enquired as to what the position would be should something happen to someone on these lands. He remarked that there is a definite need for handrails and steps in places in the interests of public safety.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion and stated that Councillor Enda Stenson was not exaggerating about the numbers using this. She acknowledged the goodwill of the landowner in allowing people to gain access. She said that it was timely that we address this issue now as the centenary of the “Sheemore Ambush” was approaching and the number of people visiting the site would likely increase. She said that this is an area used by people out for walks, picnics and even day trips taking in the beautiful scenery.

Councillor Sean McGowan also supported the motion and agreed that it was a timely issue. He enquired what can be done to get the OPW to consider works at this area.

Councillor Des Guckian said that he was not against this idea but highlighted the issues of Insurance and suggested some sort of compensation be made to the landowner for his goodwill shown.

Councillor Enda Stenson asked would the local authority look positively on the upgrade of this facility.

Mr Gilhooly stated that if there was a community association willing to get involved in such a project the council could engage with them with a view to moving things forward.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire said that if these works were to take place and Sheemore was opened up to the wider public, the numbers would exceed all expectations and it would also be of benefit to the catchment area.

CMD 17/38 Taking in Charge – Oak Meadows Estate – Drumsna
13/03/17

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

“At the March meeting of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask Leitrim County Council to take in charge, the Oak Meadows estate in Drumsna.”

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

“The Council has not received a valid taking in charge request for this development and cannot consider taking in charge in the absence of same. Whilst the Council is satisfied that the majority of the works are completed and generally appear to be in a satisfactory condition, the connection of the street lights remains outstanding. Until such time as these lights are connected and made
operational the Council is not in a position to consider any request for taking in charge."

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that in the reply she received the council had not received a "valid" taking in charge request, however, she informed the meeting that two years ago the residents made a request to the Planning Authority to have this estate taken in charge. She made reference to a visit to the site by the then A/Director of Services, Vincent Dwyer in 2015.

Mr Gilhooly stated that he did not have the information to hand and he would revert back to her.

Councillor Sinead Guckian sought clarity from Mr Gilhooly regarding the criteria of a "valid" taking in charge request. She asked Mr Gilhooly to recheck this and if it was found that a valid application had been made by the residents she proposed that the council should proceed as a matter of urgency with the taking in charge process. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan.

Councillor Des Guckian agreed with this motion. He said that this had been going on for years and that the council should give its reasons for not taking this estate in charge. He commented that this was not acceptable and said that the council was stalling.

Mr Gilhooly said he would check with the Planning Department regarding this and revert back and let the members know the situation.

CMD 17/39  Lay-Bys – Faulties Bridge to Derrycarne Road L3468-0
13/03/17

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

“That as an interim measure, in the interests of safety and traffic flow, at least six new lay-bys be immediately provided along the Faulties Bridge to Derrycarne road L3468-0.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;
"It is policy that Leitrim County Council would only construct lay byes on roads which had restoration grant funding. There is currently no grant funding on this section of public road in the current road works programme."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that this was a very negative reply and that he was quite disappointed. This is a very busy road with fleets of buses, trucks and cars using it. Day trippers are also using it, brought in by the signage for the likes of Shannon Blueway. He explained that this road is particularly narrow, approx 9 feet wide and two cars cannot pass with ease. There is no place for either party to go and with one of the cars having to pull in on the margin, it is continuously being cut up and as a result of this and vehicles are being damaged. He commented that people would be entitled to contact the local authority seeking compensation as a result of the local authority’s neglect. He asked that the reply be revised and this matter be looked at seriously.

Mr O’Boyle said that general maintenance works could be carried if it was found that the road is cut up.
Councillor Des Guckian said that this problem cannot be ignored and that he hoped it would be followed up.

CMD 17/40 Water- Dromod Side of Faulties Railway Bridge
13/03/17

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

“That our engineers be asked to find a workable solution to the almost permanent large puddle of water that exists 50m on the Dromod side of Faulties Railway Bridge close to where the L3468-0 emerges on to the old road into Dromod.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads - General
"We will investigate the problem at this location and report back to the councillor"

Councillor Des Guckian noted the reply. He informed the meeting that the area he was talking about was the turn off on the old N4 heading towardsFaulties Railway Bridge. He said that the problem has been there for years. He explained that after heavy rainfall the water comes half way out on the road and motorists have to go around it. In his opinion he said that the margin needs to be lowered. He said the road had a dip in it and then works were carried out to build up the road and the water now gathers in this dip. He said he hope the works will be carried out soon.

Mr O Boyle having clarified the location with Councillor Guckian said that land cuts had been carried out at this location recently and it had relieved the problem somewhat but Storm Doris had not helped the situation, he stated more works could be carried out.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he had driven that road today and the flooding is still on it.

CMD 17/41 Stone Wall Removal – Junction Rooskeynamona – Keelagh Road
13/03/17

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

“I will ask the Darragh O Boyle District Engineer, Carrick-on-Shannon, to have discussions with the landowner with a view to setting back the stone wall to improve the view for motorists at the Junction of the Rooskeynamona –Keelagh road, No. LP-1630-0 onto the R202 at town land of Keelagh, area known locally as "Gort Cut". It is extremely dangerous for motorists exiting from this road onto a very busy R202 with a limited view back towards Dromod.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;
"These works would require a specific improvement grant and will entail the purchase of land and removal of an old structure. In the event of several recorded accidents occurring at this location, a low cost safety grant would also cover this type of work."

Councillor Sean McGowan noted the reply. He again asked the District Engineer Mr O Boyle could he talk to the landowner with a view to getting the wall set back. He enquired if it would be possible to do the works as a joint venture.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion. He said that he knew this place well and it is very dangerous. Having researched the history of this area he informed the meeting that “Gort Cut” has been in existence since 1884 and that very little has been done with it since then.
Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion and enquired as to whether a Specific Improvement Grant could be carried out this year.

Mr O’Boyle responded that there are no Specific Improvement Grants for any of the Municipal District Areas for this year. He said only Specific improvement and Low cost Safety improvement grants allow for land purchase and land agreements and there is no funding currently available.

Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his concerns regarding a bulge in the wall in this area and its potential to fall out onto the road. He asked could the District Engineer talk to the landowner with a view to put a programme of works in place to improve the view at this area if not this year sometime in the future.

CMD 17/42 Replacement of Damaged Fence Panels – Cloonturk Roundabout
13/03/17

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

“I will ask that Darragh O Boyle District Engineer, Carrick-on-Shannon, what is the delay in having the damaged fence panels replaced on the roundabout at Cloonturk; on the Dromod – Rooskey Bypass, those panels were broken following two different traffic accidents last summer, there is a deep drain on the inside which leaves it extremely dangerous as well as being most unsightly.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;
"Leitrim County Council have received a quotation for these works and are currently pursuing the motorist for the damaged caused."

Councillor Sean McGowan noted the reply. He commented that the area is looking very unsightly and asked could the council put up temporary fences until such time as the specially constructed panels arrive. He said that the accident which damaged the fences occurred last August and repair works still have not been carried out.

He also asked the District Engineer to investigate why is this happening. There was an accident at this location last August and also last September. He asked if something could be done regarding road signage perhaps.

Councillor Des Guckian supported this motion stating that this By-pass was badly designed and dangerous. He commented on the number of vehicles speeding. He said that there was a need for signs and also some form of reinforcement of speed limits along the bypass.

Mr O’Boyle informed the members that there are advance warning signs in place. He said that the council is meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland this month’s to review all National Primary routes in the county. He also added that the council had met recently with the Gardai who have been active at this location and will continue to be so.

With regard to the barriers he said that these were specialised barriers and the council has received two quotations and are awaiting a third one. It is the Transport Infrastructure Ireland who justify the spending of moneys on such items.
Councillor Sean McGowan asked Mr O’Boyle could it be possible to put something on the road surface to slow down traffic, he said he was not in favour of the use of rumble strips.

Councillor Des Guckian enquired as to whether it would be possible to put additional reflective strips at the roundabout.

**CMD 17/43 Cleaning of Gullies in Carrick on Shannon**

13/03/17

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

“Surplus water drainage in Carrick is restricted by gullies unable to take rainwater. When can Leitrim County Council commit to extracting all debris from drainage and clearing what public feel are blockages. Small works are not sufficient in some areas. Waterflow not going into gullies is causing major problems for residents in their properties. The problem is widespread.”

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads - General*

"We will endeavour to clean the road gullies in Summerhill and other affected areas of Carrick on Shannon. If the rain fall can no longer be alleviated by these gullies further investigation may be required and we shall seek funding for drainage/gully renewal. Storm Doris has caused widespread pluvial flooding which has been exacerbated due to windy conditions causing debris to clog up the system."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire noted the reply. She referred to the area in Summerhill from St Patrick’s Hospital down to Oaklands Estate. She said that the surface water has nowhere to drain to and is flooding people’s gardens. Some people have taken to doing works in their gardens to try and alleviate flooding.

She also made reference to a gully at St. George’s Restaurant on St. George’s Terrace. She said that the gully appears to be blocked with building debris and is not able to take the surface water.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion.

**CMD 17/44 Cleaning of Playground – Station Road, Mohill**

13/03/17

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

“That the playground on Station Road, Mohill gets a good cleaning and any necessary works as required. All surfaces are badly in need of a deep clean and some of the frames could do with a touch of paint.”

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;*

"We will endeavour to get the gateway personnel to carry out general maintenance and cleaning of this playground."

Councillor Séadhna Logan enquired as to the status of Gateway Personnel in the county. He said that it was his understanding that this project would be concluding shortly.
Mr Gilhooly informed him that the Gateway Scheme was nearing an end. Discussions are ongoing nationally. No replacement scheme proposed at the minute. He commented that the scheme was found to be very advantageous.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire commented that the Gateway Scheme was very successful and the workers were excellent. She said it was a highly important scheme which benefitted the community.

Councillor Des Guckian agreed that the Gateway Scheme should be expanded.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the comments.

Mr O Boyle informed Councillor Séadhna Logan that these works had recently been carried out.

CMD 17/45  

**Breakdown of Money spend on Eslin to Mohill Water Pipe**

*13/03/17*

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

“That the Councillors are given a full breakdown of all the money spent to date on repairing all leaks and all associated costs (including parts, man power, over time, machine costs, costs towards repeatedly digging up and filling in the road and health and safety) on the Eslin to Mohill water pipe in the last 3 years. As this pipeline has been a long running farce and consistently been delayed, it is only fair the public are aware of how much the total spend on repair and maintenance on this line has amounted to?”

**Report by A/Head of Finance & Water Services;**

“There were 32 repairs carried out on the Mohill Eslin Trunk Main over the 3 year period 2014-2016. The additional cost arising over the period was €52,000 or approximately €1,600 per repair. The relevant section of water main has now been tendered for replacement by Irish Water, who are in the process of appointing a Contractor. It is anticipated that work will commence in the coming months.”

Councillor Séadhna Logan said he was not surprised at the cost involved. He commented that it was a shocking waste of money and it should have been replaced long ago. He welcomed the fact that works were to commence on the replacement of the relevant section in the coming months. He added that what was spent on repairs was almost one tenth of the cost of the total replacement of the pipe adding that it worked out at €1600 per repair on one small stretch. He queried what the cost of such repairs was in the entire county and said Irish Water had serious questions to answer.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and commented that it was an awful lot of money to be spent on one section. He said that the number of problems experienced at Eslin is much the same as that of Drumsna. He commented that a new line is needed.

Councillor Sean McGowan commented that Irish Water staff should be out at night carrying out repairs.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion. She said that in the Foxborough area of Drumsna there is a similar amount of leaks and it is hard for the people to accept these recurring outages. She commented that this issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible.
Councillor Des Guckian commented that while the situation was regrettable he asked what is the alternative? He told the meeting that we have to be pragmatic and that leaks have to be fixed when they occur. They cannot be left.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said the matter needs to be address as soon as possible and she would favour it being replaced rather than repaired.

CMD 17/46  Any Other Business  
13/03/17

No items were raised.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: ___________________________ ___________________________

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire  Johanna Daly
Cathaoirleach  Meetings Administrator

Date: ___________________________