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

On Monday 13th November 2017 at 3.30 pm

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

Apologies:        Councillor Enda Stenson

Officials Present: Ms. Kathyne Bohan, Meetings Administrator
                  Mr. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services, Economic
                  Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
                  Mr. Denis Creaton, A/District Engineer, South Leitrim
                  Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Water Services
                  Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads Department
                  Ms. Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant
                  Mr. Joseph Gilhooley, Chief Executive
                  Ms. Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning,
                  Environment and Transportation

CMD 17/149
13/11/17

Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
held on Monday 9th October 2017

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 9th October 2017 be adopted.”
There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

CMD 17/150  General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
13/11/17

A copy of report from the Chief Executive dated 10\textsuperscript{th} October 2017 was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting (Appendix No. 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services outlined the background of the budgetary process to the members and where the General Municipal Allocation came in the process and outlined the details of the General Municipal Allocation as set out in the Report circulated. Mr. Dwyer said that the funding amounts for 2018 were the same as in 2017.

Mr. Dwyer informed the members that there was no variation in the Local Property Tax (LPT) for the coming year and that commercial rates for 2018 could not be altered, as per national guidelines but that going forward it is no longer sustainable to consider budgets without increases in Commercial Rates and LPT. Mr. Dwyer highlighted the fact that this council had not increased the Commercial Rates in 9 years. Mr. Dwyer said that the council have to be seen to be prepared to help ourselves by increasing Commercial Rates and/or LPT and this would assist the Council in seeking further Government Funding/Grants. He referred to Longford County Council which had increased the Local Property Tax by 5\% this year. He said that the Council needs to be showing local contribution increase when seeking additional funding/grants at Central Government level.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said she would like to see more funding but that the financial pressures on homeowners and businesses remain and it is very difficult to increase either commercial rates or LPT given the current situation. She said that more funding needs to come from Central Government.

Councillor Sean McGowan said he echoed the sentiments of Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire. He said that commercial rate payers and LPT payers cannot be expected to pay any more and that more funding needs to come from Central Government.

Councillor Sinead Guckian concurred with what was said. She enquired whether the other Municipal Districts had agreed their allocations. She referred to the requirement to set the rate of LPT in early September and the fact that the GMA and Budgetary Process is at a later date and asked if this structure was going to change. She said that there needs to be a more coherent approach to the budgetary process. Councillor Guckian also referred to Floral Pride and the need to adequately reflect the role of the Council in the Floral Pride Awards.

Councillor Des Guckian said the Council were fighting for scraps of funding. He said it was grossly unfair and he was opposed to any increases in either Commercial Rates or LPT. He reiterated the need to demand more money from Central Government.

In response to Councillor Sinead Guckian’s query regarding the setting of the LPT rate in September and the budgetary process, Mr. Dwyer said that the LPT rate needs to be set at this time in order to facilitate Revenue who are responsible for collecting this tax. However, Mr. Dwyer stated that the Heads of Finance Group are working with the CCMA, Central Government and Revenue in order to try to bridge this gap.
With regard to the Floral Pride Awards, Mr. Joseph Gilhooley stated that the Council are still predominantly involved in these awards and that the role of the Council will be adequately reflected in the roll out of the Floral Pride Awards in 2018.

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

“That the General Municipal Allocation for the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District in accordance with the provisions of Section 102(4A)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 be approved”

**CMD 17/151 Proposed Special Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District to discuss RAPID Funding**

Before the items of correspondence were taken Cathaoirleach Councillor Seádhna Logan informed the members that it was proposed to hold a Special Meeting of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District in order to approve proposals under the RAPID Programme and that this Special Meeting would be held directly after the Budget Meeting which was being held on Monday 27th November 2017.

Mr. Shane Tiernan informed the members that the funding was announced on 2nd November 2017 by Minister Michael Ring T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development and that there was an allocation of €2 million in Capital Funding for disadvantaged urban areas. Leitrim has received an allocation of €64,500 for projects in urban and provincial towns and this is the first time that Leitrim has received funding under this Programme. In the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Area the two towns eligible are Carrick on Shannon and Mohill. A minimum of €7,000 and a maximum of €15,000 will be approved for each project. Mr. Tiernan further outlined that there is a very short time frame for applications for funding under this Scheme. Applications have to be submitted to Leitrim County Council on or before Wednesday 22nd November 2017. All applications submitted for the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District will be assessed and projects recommended by the LCDC will be brought before the members for their approval at the proposed Special Meeting on 27th November 2017.

**Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That a special meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District be held directly after the Budget Meeting on Monday 27th November 2017 for the purposes of approving applications for funding under the RAPID Funding Programme.”

**CMD 17/152 Correspondence**

13/11/17

Copies of correspondence were circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.
Item No. 1
Copy of letter dated 5th October, 2017 from Irish Water regarding the disposal of septic tank waste to the Irish Water Waste Water Treatment Plant. (Appendix No. 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Councillor Des Guckian said that he was puzzled with the response from Irish Water. He understood that when the waste water treatment plant was commissioned it would be able to cater for all of South Leitrim, he enquired what had gone wrong with the system that it could not cater for such capacity.

Mr. Shane Tiernan responded that the waste water treatment plant was typically designed to meet the needs of the town and any expansion to the town. He said he could not elaborate on it any further at the moment but he would contact the Water Services Department and seek a report from them in relation to this matter.

Item No. 2
Copy of letter dated 6th November, 2017 from the OPW in relation to funding for river cleaning/drainage in County Leitrim. (Appendix No. 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Councillor Sinead Guckian noted the response in relation this matter and she asked that discussions would be kept open in relation to this.

Item No. 3
Copy of letter dated 9th November, 2017 from the Department of Rural and Community Development regarding Local Improvement Scheme Allocation 2017. (Appendix No. 4 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Item No. 4
Copy of letter dated 9th November, 2017 from the Department of Rural and Community Development regarding River Cleaning/Drainage in County Leitrim (Appendix No. 5 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Part 1 – Notices of Motion

CMD 17/153 Lay-Bys – N4 Dromod – Roosky By-Pass
13/11/17

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

“I am asking Leitrim County Council Engineers why it is taking so long to put two small lay-bys along the N4 Dromod-Roosky By-Pass and why there are so many bollards and signs being used by the Council or Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)?”
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“The works on the N4 Lay-bys commenced on the 9th October 2017 and it is estimated that works will be complete by the end of November 2017 and this would not be deemed a significant length of time to carry out the civil engineering works involved in this project. The associated traffic management which includes the bollards, cones, signs, etc. is set up in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and is for the safety of staff carrying out the works and for the safety of vehicular traffic passing the associated roadworks.

It should be noted that there were no traffic delays during these roadworks. The Traffic Management Plan was left in place on both sides of the dual carriageway for the construction period. To take it down from one side, while we worked on the other side of the dual carriageway, and set up again would have increased our costs.”

Councillor Des Guckian enquired as to the need for so many bollards and signs for the installation of 2 small lay-bys. He stated that he is concerned that there could be a pile-up of vehicles on this by-pass. He stated that there appears to be no monitoring of speed on this road.

Mr. Denis Creaton, A/District Engineer stated that the works were due for completion at the end of November 2017 and that the level of traffic cones and signs are in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) minimum requirements for a high speed road such as this one. The reason the works are being carried out on both sides at the same time is for cost saving purposes as a contractor has to come in and do resurfacing works and this will save time and money if both stretches can be done. He informed the meeting that the lay-bys are a new addition to the road from the original design as approved by the TII. Mr. Creaton advised that the monitoring and enforcement of speed is a matter for the Gardai.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Seádhna Logan said he would like to see the works completed as quickly as possible as this is a particularly busy stretch of road particularly in the run up to Christmas.

CMD 17/154  Survey – Dangerously Overhanging Trees
13/11/17

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

“That Leitrim County Council engineers arrange to carry out a survey in order to discover the most dangerously overhanging trees, or groves of trees, along the National and Regional Roads within this Municipal District, and that in the event of landowners refusing to co-operate in their removal, that the Council should cut them and leave the timber into the owners properties.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“The responsibility for trees along public roads rest with the landowners. Leitrim County Council do not have the resources to carry out a complete survey of all trees and hedges adjoining the National Primary Route and Regional Routes in the Carrick Municipal District. However, staff do audit areas during their routine duties and where they deem trees or hedges to pose a hazard to road users safety notices are issued to the associated landowners accordingly. Leitrim County Council also act upon requests from members of the public regarding the same issue where the
trees or hedges are deemed a hazard to road users safety. In the event that landowners do not comply with the relevant notices Leitrim County Council must follow the Roads Act 1993 in arranging for the trees or hedges that pose a hazard to road safety to be removed as there are associated legal implications.”

Councillor Des Guckian said that he is very concerned with regard to dangerous trees along public roads and asked that the worst trees be identified and logged and if the landowners refuse to cut these trees, that Leitrim County Council should cut down the trees and leave the wood back on the owners land.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion. He said that there are a number of roads where there are trees covered in ivy leaving them particularly dangerous. He suggested a survey of same and maybe enlist the help of the IFA and landowners in co-ordinating same.

Mr. Denis Creaton advised that Leitrim County Council do not have the resources to cut down all such dangerous trees. He also advised that it would be necessary to get a specialist such as an Arborist to assess trees. Mr. Creaton stated that Hedge/Tree Cutting Notices are issued and that if they are not complied with a further Notice is issued and that the serving of such notices will be pursued but that there are legal implications and costs involved.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Seádhna Logan enquired as to the penalty for deliberate and consistent non-compliance with hedge cutting notices.

Mr. Creaton outlined the process to the meeting. A notice is issued to the landowner under the Roads Act 1993. If they do not comply the Council issues a further notice. In a case where the Council have to go in on the land to cut down a tree there is a process that has to be gone through to seek compensation/costs from the landowner. There are legal and cost implications to this as solicitors are involved to recoup the costs and then if the matter goes to court there are further costs.

CMD 17/155  
Toilet Facilities – Leitrim to Drumshanbo Blueway

13/11/17

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

“I ask that Leitrim County Council take steps to improve facilities at the Leitrim To Drumshanbo Blueway by opening and operating Toilet Facilities all year round. The facilities that have been seasonal to date must be made available to the public as soon as possible.”

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

“The management of the Blueway is a matter for Waterways Ireland. The matter raised will be brought to their attention.”

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire highlighted the need for toilet facilities along this route and suggested that the toilets at Drumshanbo Swimming Pool could be used as all the necessary
infrastructure is in place already but that it would require staffing. She requested that the Council write to Waterways Ireland with regard to this matter.

Councillors Sinead Guckian and Sean McGowan both supported the motion.

It was agreed that the matter would be taken up with Waterways Ireland.

CMD 17/156 Group Sewerage Scheme Connection – School Road, Jamestown 13/11/17

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

“At the November meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation to progress the application made by residents on the school road, Jamestown, for a group scheme connection to the public sewerage line already servicing the rest of the village."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“This matter falls under Measure 4 (d) of the Rural Water Programme 2016 – 2018 – Demonstration Projects - Cluster of Households and/or Group Sewerage Schemes where individual septic tanks are not a viable option, particularly from an environmental perspective.

In 2016, the first year of the Rural Water Programme 2016 – 2018, a total of 13 No. New Group Sewerage Schemes were submitted by Leitrim County Council to the Department for Funding under the above measure. The Department has advised that a total of only 6 No. Such Demonstration Schemes will be brought forward for the whole country for the lifetime of the 2016 – 2018 Rural Water Programme. A total of 2 such Schemes in County Leitrim were approved in 2016 for funding under the 2016 – 2018 Rural Water Programme and these Schemes were Hartley-Cartown GSS and Edenvilla GSS. To date, funding only for the Hartley-Cartown GSS has been approved and while Edenvilla has been approved, no funding has as yet been allocated. No other Schemes are to be progressed for the duration of the 2016 – 2018 Rural Water Programme.

However, Leitrim County Council will include this group sewerage scheme in our bids for funding when these are requested by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that it is very disappointing that only 6 schemes are to be progressed for the whole country under this 3 year Programme and that this is a very poor national plan. She stated that schemes are needed for Drumsna and Jamestown and it is disappointing that there is no proper programme in place for this.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and said that the Council should contact the Department and Minister Ring to seek additional funding and to seek the putting in place of a proper Programme for such Schemes.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that there should be Public Sewerage Schemes provided.
Councillor Sinead Guckian said that we should go back to the Minister seeking more funding for such schemes in light of the situation here in Leitrim with septic tanks and zero discharges. The proposal to contact the Minister was supported by all the members.

CMD 17/157  
Enforcement Notices – Maintenance of Hedgerows  
13/11/17

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

“At the November meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the District Engineer have many Enforcement Notices been issued to landowners, in this Municipal District, to maintain their hedgerows along the road side and to date what level of action has been happening, as a consequence of same. It was previously stated that from January 2018, Leitrim County Council would engage in a strong enforcement process and legally challenge owners who fail to act on served notices.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“Leitrim County Council have issued 32 Notices to landowners in 2017 in the South Leitrim Engineering Area and to date the majority of landowners have complied with the notices. Leitrim County Council intend to commence enforcement action in 2018 where landowners have not complied with the associated notices. However, there is a legal process to be followed and the associated trees or hedges must pose a hazard to road users safety.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that discussions had taken place earlier in the year and the members were advised that a strict approach would be taken. Leitrim County Council has introduced a Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme in 2017 but she does not believe that this Grant Scheme is the answer to the problem. She stated that there is a need for enforcement where notices are not complied with.

Councillor Des Guckian said that he supported the Pilot Grant Scheme for hedgerows. He enquired regarding a representation he had received from a person who had made an application under this scheme but they had not received any correspondence in relation to it and said that the person felt aggrieved and disappointed.

Ms. Kathryne Bohan advised the members that the Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme has now been extended until the end of the year and that all applicants have been responded to. However, Ms. Bohan said that she would look into the particular application referred to by Councillor Des Guckian.

Mr. Shay O’Connor stated that taking into account applications received to date under this Scheme, approx. 25kms of hedge will be cut. Mr. O’Connor said that a number of applications have been approved and the next stage is for the landowners to agree the works with the District Engineer. No payments have been made as yet as works must first be completed and then inspected by Leitrim County Council.

Councillors Sean McGowan and Seádhna Logan welcomed and supported this scheme.
Funding for Footbridge at Roosky

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

“To ask the Senior Engineer, Roads Department, has there been any indication to either Leitrim or Roscommon County Council's from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport with regard to providing funding for a much needed footbridge alongside the Bridge over the River Shannon at Roosky and has there been any feedback from the meeting with Minister Denis Naughton on this matter earlier this year?”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“Roscommon County Council are the lead authority on this scheme to provide improved pedestrian facilities at Roosky Bridge. We have had a number of discussion with Roscommon County Council on this and they are including such a scheme in their village plan that they are at present compiling. I understand Minister Naughton has taken the matter up with the Department of Transport.”

Councillor Sean McGowan enquired whether Roscommon County Council, as the lead authority, had received any correspondence from the Minister or the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.

Mr. Shay O’Connor stated that no response had been received from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and he stated that he had recently met with staff from Roscommon County Council to discuss their village plans including the bridge. Mr. O’Connor advised that the Council would continue to pursue this matter with Roscommon County Council.

Councillor Des Guckian and Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire both supported Councillor Sean McGowan in this motion.

Drainage Works – Eslin River from Cloonboney Lake

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

“I will ask the District Engineer, South Leitrim, when is it planned to carry out drainage works on the Eslin River from Cloonboney Lake to where it enters the River Shannon at Roosky. There is a lot of fallen trees and heavy vegetation in this section of the river. Funding was provided for river drainage in the Budget for 2017.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“Leitrim County Council have expended the drainage funds for 2017 in Carrick Municipal District
on the works at Mohill Culvert/Bridge and on the cleaning of a section of stream/river on the Headford Lough Drainage District in Lisnagee and Lisduff townlands. Therefore, the section of the Eslin River that you are seeking drainage works carried out will be considered as part of the 2018 Drainage Budget.”

Councillor Sean McGowan said he hopes that these works will be included in the 2018 Drainage Budget. He said there are a number of areas in the county in need of maintenance but this one is particularly bad. He also asked could these works be carried out when the land is dry.

Councillor Sinead Guckian and Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan supported the motion.

CMD 17/160 Reduction in Opening Hours – Branch Libraries
13/11/17
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Séadhna Logan;

“I propose that Leitrim County Council do not consider any reduction in opening hours in any Branch Library throughout the County, as any such reduction would reduce the current level of customer service.”

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services;

“While the matter of library opening hours is being reviewed there are no proposals to reduce opening hours.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan strongly welcomed the response that there are no proposal to reduce opening hours.

Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian said that the libraries must continue with a personalised service and he added that it is extremely important that budget funding would not be reduced and should be increased.

CMD 17/161 Flood Relief Works
13/11/17
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Séadhna Logan;

“As we are entering the wettest wintery months of the year can I get an update on all Flood Relief Works completed in the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District to date this year, including routine drainage and river cleaning works as well as all other necessary flood prevention works”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“Leitrim County Council have expended the drainage fund in 2017 in Carrick Municipal District on
the works at Mohill Culvert/Bridge and on the cleaning of a section of stream/river on the Headford Lough Drainage District in Lisnagee and Lisduff townlands. There was jetting and cleaning of surface water sewers and roadside gullies carried out on sections of the surface water sewer networks in Carrick on Shannon, Mohill, Dromod and Leitrim Village. There were also valves installed on the surface water sewer network in Leitrim Village. Roads were raised at Lisdadnan, Ballynacleigh and Deffler where they suffered flooding previously. Routine maintenance in the form of cleaning open roadside drains was carried out in several rural areas in the Carrick Municipal District. This routine drainage maintenance will commence again in the near future when staff resources become available."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Seádhna Logan noted the response and welcomed the works which have been completed.

Councillor Sinead Guckian informed the meeting that Councillor Enda Stenson had left instruction for his Motions to be moved in his absence and he would accept the replies.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Seádhna Logan moved both motions in the name of Councillor Enda Stenson.

CMD 17/162  

Acres Lake – Pedestrian Crossing and Public Lighting  
13/11/17

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

“May I ask are there plans in place to put a pedestrian crossing and public lights in place at the entrance to Acres Lake in Drumshanbo. In light of the huge volume of people converging on this beautiful amenity it is imperative that we upgrade this area.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“Leitrim County Council have currently upgraded and installed new public lighting in this area adjoining Regional Road R207-3 at Acres, Drumshanbo under a CLAR Scheme in 2017. However, the public lighting has not been commissioned to date but should be completed in the near future. It is also proposed to seek funding under a low cost safety scheme or similar type grant in 2018 to construct a pedestrian crossing at this location in Acres, Drumshanbo.”

CMD 17/163  

Inclusion of Stretch of R201 in 2018 Road Works Programme  
13/11/17

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

“Following the installation of the new water main between Drumdoo, Eslin, and Mohill, may I ask will this stretch of the R201 be re- surfaced in 2018 under the 2018 Road Works Programme.”
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“Leitrim County Council have no specific grant for the R201 at this location under the proposed Restoration Improvement Grants programme in 2018. However, it can be considered for inclusion in the event that additional funding is allocated by the Department in 2018. Otherwise it will be considered in the 2019 programme. It should also be noted that road reinstatement including a full overlay of a section of the road forms part of the existing watermain project contract.”

CMD 17/164 Any Other Business
13/11/17

- The next meeting of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District is scheduled to take place on Monday 4th December 2017 at 3.30 pm in the Council Chamber.

- Mr. Joseph Gilhooley reminded members once again of the Special Municipal District Meeting scheduled for Monday 27th November, 2017 to approve applications under the RAPID Programme. This special meeting is to take place directly after the Budget Meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: ________________________________ ________________________________

Councillor Séadhna Logan Ms. Kathyne Bohan
Cathaoirleach Meetings Administrator

Date: ________________________________