Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
On Monday 12th June 2017 at 3.30 pm

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

Officials Present: Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Ms. Kathryne Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Mr. Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads Department
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner, Planning Department
Ms. Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Mr. Philip Delamere, Arts Officer

At the outset of the meeting, newly elected Cathaoirleach Councillor Seadna Logan welcomed all to the meeting.

CMD 17/87 Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
12/06/17 held on Monday 8th May 2017

Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, 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 8th May 2017 be adopted.”
Matters arising from Minutes:

Councillor Des Guckian made reference to Item CMD17/83 (Page 15) under the heading of “Any Other Business” and the matter relating to the Lough Rynn Regatta and the issue of timber in the weir. He commented that this matter should have been part of the official business of the meeting and not dealt with after the meeting.

Mr. Gilhooly responded that this matter was raised and he had advised members that he would brief the members after the meeting and that this item had not been on the Agenda for the meeting.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said that there had been an invitation to all Councillors to attend a briefing with regard to this matter after the meeting.

CMD 17/88 Presentation – Arts Officer, Philip Delamere
12/06/17

Mr. Philip Delamere gave a presentation to the Members regarding the Leitrim Arts Plan 2018 – 2022. (Appendix 1 to these Minutes)

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan thanked Mr Delamere for his informative presentation.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire enquired if enough is being done to promote the Arts at Secondary Schools. Mr Delamere stated that more work is being done at National School level due to the large curriculum and exam pressures at Secondary School level.

Councillor Sinead Guckian referred to the positive Policy of the Council to ensure that there would be no development contribution required for the development of Arts Facilities in the County.

Councillor Des Guckian referred to the John McGahern Summer School which he stated is now gone. Councillor Des Guckian also stated that a lot of money is being invested into the Arts Facility at The Dock but that there should also be investment in other areas in local communities. Mr. Delamere stated that the Council do fund Arts Projects and Centres around the County but that the Dock is the largest and the Dock is a Flagship Facility and has a regional appeal and that the Council have developed the John McGahern Award in the form of a Bursary for budding writers. Councillor Des Guckian said that we need to put life back into local communities and more help is needed in this area. Mr. Delamere also referred to the Festival & Events Application Process which provides assistance for local events.

Mr. Delamere also referred to the Creative Ireland Programme 2017 – 2022 which is a very exciting project and part of our National Cultural Strategy and the Creative Ireland Programme will work in tandem with our Arts Programme.

The Councillors in turn each thanked Mr Delamere for his presentation.
A copy of Speed Limits Review 2016/2017 – Proposed Revisions to Special Speed Limits together with Mr. Shay O’Connor’s Report dated 6th June, 2017 was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting (Appendix 2 to these Minutes).

Mr. Shay O’Connor informed the members that the purpose of this presentation was to bring them up to date on the position regarding Revision to Speed Limits since the last meeting. He recapped on the background to the review. He informed them that these changes came about following the publication of the “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland” published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS). Leitrim County Council was requested to carry out a review of all our speed limits on non-national roads in the county to ensure they comply with the guidelines. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) was requested to carry out the review of speed limits on national roads.

He referred to the December 2016 Municipal District meeting where the changes proposed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland to the national roads in the district i.e. N4, were a cause of concern for the members. He said that they had gone back to the TII with the concerns raised and the TII have revised some of their original proposals.

He informed the members that the next stage of the process following today’s presentation would be to forward a copy of the proposed speed limit updates to An Garda Siochana for their comments. The review will also be put on public display for a period of one month to allow members of the public to view and make comments. When the period of public consultation is over all comments received will be considered and brought back to the Municipal District Meeting in September for further discussion. The final step will be to bring the review before the full council for adoption. Mr O’Connor advised the members that any changes to speed limits on national roads must be approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

He then went through the areas relevant to the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District.

The areas discussed were:-

- Aghamore
- Carrick on Shannon
- Dromod
- Drumsna
- Jamestown
- Kilclare
- Kiltoghert
- Leitrim Village
- Mohill
- Roosky

A discussion took place between the members and Mr. O’Connor about the various proposed changes. In relation to Aghamore, the TII proposes to replace the existing 60 km/h zone on both approaches to the village with a 100 km/h speed limit and the existing 50 km/h speed limit in the village will remain but advanced warning sign of the 50 km/h speed limit will be provided. Councillors expressed their particular concern regarding these proposals particularly in light of the
proximity of the Centre of Excellence and Annaduff GAA Park and requested that these concerns be brought to the attention of the TII.

Councillors also expressed their concern with regard to the TII proposals to change the existing Speed Limit of 50 km/h on the N4 on the Dublin side of Carrick on Shannon to 60 km/h.

Councillor Sean McGowan requested that the media get the message out to the public regarding the upcoming public consultation on these proposed Speed Limits Review as he felt this needed to be highlighted in order for people to be informed and to get involved in this review.

**Part 1 – Notices of Motion**

**CMD 17/90 Mohill Town – Improvements to Sight Line**

12/06/17

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

"That, in Mohill Town, the sight-line be greatly improved at the junction at the top of the town. Motorists coming down from the Church, School, Shannagh etc currently have a very restricted view of the road from the Carrick-on-Shannon side (The Canon Donohoe Hall and Cashin's Garage). The obstacles need to be removed or lowered."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads:**

"The existing sight lines are somewhat restricted to the Carrick-on-Shannon side when trying to access the R201 from Church Lane. The area between the regional road and the church lane is soft landscaping which is maintained by the Tidy Towns and adds to the visual amenity of the town. If there are accidents or repeated near misses we can consider applying for a Low Cost Safety Scheme at this junction, however that would require the removal of this landscaped area. We must also consider that we do not want to provide a clear sight distance that will allow traffic to access the regional road without stopping and is therefore good design practise to provide screening to mitigate this manoeuvre."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was not happy with the reply. He made reference to the line of the response “If there are accidents or repeated near misses we can consider applying for a Low Cost Safety Scheme at this junction.......”. He said he could not believe what he was reading. He asked Mr. O’Boyle were the Council seriously going to wait for an accident to occur. He explained that people who were concerned about this have actually met with him on site to discuss this.

Mr. O’Boyle advised that Low Cost Safety Funding cannot be accessed without evidence of accidents/near misses having occurred. Mr. O’Boyle advised that a possible solution could be the removal of one of the car parking spaces in order to improve visibility.

Councillor Sean McGowan enquired as to the possibility of looking to remove the one parking space that was causing the visual obstruction.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said that he could see the point being made regarding
the car parking space. However, he stated that the Canon Donohoe Hall was very dependent on these car parking spaces when they have events in the Hall and he said he was reluctant to see these spaces taken away. He said that he could not see a simple fix to this problem.

Councillor Enda Stenson advised Mr O’Boyle that it would be necessary to speak to the committee of the Canon Donohoe Hall.

Councillor Des Guckian enquired if this motion had been passed so that there would be no more coming back to it.

Cathaoirleach Séadhna Logan said that we could not say it was passed unless there was funding for a Low Cost Safety Scheme, which there is not.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification on foot of the motion as to what was actually going to be done.

Councillor Enda Stenson said that this matter had come up several times in the past. Mr. Michael Flynn, Mr. O’Boyle’s predecessor, had come out and looked at the area in question. The reply he issued at that time was similar to the reply to the current motion.

Mr. O’Boyle confirmed that he would speak to the committee of the Canon Donohoe Hall and Cashin’s Garage with a view to removing this one parking space to improve visibility.

CMD 17/91 Inquest into all Maternal Deaths in Ireland 12/06/17

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

“That we support the attempts being made in the majority of Councils in Ireland to raise awareness of the need for automatic Inquests into all maternal deaths in Ireland. In response to the Exhibition Showing in Ennis, Clare County Council have unanimously passed a Notice of Motion to request the Government to progress the Coroner's Bill as a matter of urgency and that the Coroner's Bill will provide for an automatic inquest into every maternal death in the State. We need to do the same.”

Councillor Des Guckian said that every Councillor had been circulated with information on this item. He said that every other case of sudden death in Ireland is given an automatic inquest. He called on the support of his fellow Municipal District Members to highlight this issue. He explained that it is very distressing and painful for families who are mourning their dead without them having to fight to get information about how their loved ones died.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire suggested that a bit more research be done on this subject and that it then should be brought back to a full council meeting.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that it would be passed to the other two municipal districts for their consideration.
Ms. Sinead Flynn said that it could be circulated to the other Municipal District Meetings as meeting correspondence.

All the Members were in support of this motion.

CMD 17/92 Disposal of Septic Tank Waste
12/06/17

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

“What is the situation regarding disposal of septic tank waste, as each household received notification, encouraging us to do same but it seems impossible to dispose of this waste, even for Registered Licensed Contractors.”

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

“A list of Septic Tank Sludge Removal Permitted Waste Contractors for the County of Leitrim can be viewed on Leitrim County Council web site. Please note that this is a Non-Exhaustive List. Offaly County Council were appointed the National Waste Collection Permit Office and has been in operation from the 1st February 2012. Their role is to accept and process all new and review Waste Collection Permit applications for all Waste Management Regions in the Republic of Ireland. They also carry out additions and amendments to existing Waste Collection Permits. A full list of permitted Waste Contractors can be viewed on www.nwcpo.ie (National Waste Collection Permit Office) who are the lead body is the issue of Waste Collection Permits to Waste Collection Contractors.”

A list of Permitted Waste Contractors was circulated to the Members at the meeting (this appears as Appendix 3 to these Minutes).

Councillor Enda Stenson made reference to the list of contractors supplied which includes 3 registered Contractors in County Leitrim. However, such Septic Tank Sludge cannot be disposed of in County Leitrim and he asked what is to be done when a tank needs emptying. He said that when they get their licence they have to go to places like Longford or further to dispose of it. This will put up the cost financially. He commented that it would not encourage anyone to get their tank emptied as the cost is too prohibitive.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion. He asked why it is not possible to have a point in Carrick on Shannon for the emptying of this waste. He enquired to the cost involved of providing a discharge point.

Mr. Gilhooly said that disposal of sludge from septic tanks is waste. The permits are issued centrally from Offaly and Waste can only be disposed of in an authorised manner. Councillors asked if the waste could be disposed of at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Carrick on Shannon. Mr. Gilhooly said that waste disposal at treatment plants is a matter for Irish Water. He said that the query could be referred to them and also seek a quotation from them for the provision of a discharge point.
Mr. O’Boyle commented that the plant in Carrick is running at 50% capacity. The plant is designed to work at half stream. It was agreed to write to Irish Water with regard to this matter.

CMD 17/93  Date for Trimming Back Overgrown Grass Verges
12/06/17

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

“Is there a date when we can trim back the overgrown grass verges that makes driving particularly dangerous on country roads.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“The majority of verges and hedges along the public local road network belong the landowner. The hedge cutting season is defined in law under the Wildlife Act from end of September to April. The Local Authority can carry out verge and hedge trimming during this period where traffic safety and regulatory signage is compromised.”

Councillor Enda Stenson said the grass along road verges is now very high and this grass falls out towards the road particularly after a spell of wet weather thereby creating blind spots on roads.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan agreed with the comments made. He said that the grass is high around signage and road delineators, blocking the view of the drivers.

Councillor Sean McGowan agreed and said that this is also a feature on regional roads.

Councillor Enda Stenson concluded by saying that they has been huge growth in the last month and it was impossible to see particularly on county roads.

CMD 17/94  Road Markings – Junction of Crowhill with Quay Street, Drumsna
12/06/17

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

“At the June meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District I will ask the Senior Area Engineer to investigate the junction of Crowhill with Quay Street, in Drumsna, with a view to moving or altering the "Stop" road markings to allow for safe vehicle access onto Crowhill from Quay Street and to accommodate and retain the residential parking outside the Harbour View homes.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“The current situation at this junction has a stop line and centre line on the minor road L7661 approach to Quay Road. The removal of this line would warrant a stop sign and double yellow lines which would prohibit the car parking of the local residence. We can monitor this low trafficked
Councillor Sinead Guckian noted the reply and thanked Mr. O'Boyle for taking a look at it. She said that she accepts that there is not a ready solution and is not in favour of anything which will restrict parking. She welcomed the fact that this will be monitored.

Councillor Sean McGowan also supported the motion.

**CMD 17/95 Upgrade Mains Water Supply to Drumsna 12/06/17**

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

“At the June meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask for the support of the members, to once again call on Irish Water to upgrade the mains water supply to Drumsna and the surrounding areas. The cost of repairing the constant burst on this line must exceed the replacement of same.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she had raised this at the main council meeting and at previous municipal district meetings. She said that Drumsna is still suffering at least one leak a fortnight. She called on the support of her colleagues to continue the fight to have this issue resolved.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion and said that he hoped Irish Water will release funding.

Councillor Enda Stenson agreed.

Cathaoirleach Séadhna Logan stated that everyone would be in agreement in supporting this motion.

**CMD 17/96 Lighting between Glen Carraig and Leitir Gheael, Carrick on Shannon 12/06/17**

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

“Can I ask what progress has been made in suggestions regarding lighting the area many walkers use between Glen Carraig and Leitir Gheal in Carrick on Shannon.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“The link laneway between Summerhill and the Aura amenity area is situated between private dwellings. The owners of these dwellings are not in favour of constructing public lighting along the length of the laneway. However, there are 2 existing lighting standards at each entrance point and junction.”
we have programmed to upgrade these standards to deliver more illumination at these points of entry.”

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire noted the reply and asked when these works would be carried out.

Mr. O’Boyle replied that at the moment there is one contractor for all of Connacht. The work is scheduled on their programme.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that there was an issue with the light being intrusive in two dwellings. Mr. Michael Flynn had met with the residents who raised their concerns. They were also concerns regarding incidents resulting from low level lighting. She said that Mr. Flynn had given a commitment on this but that the solution would not be high level or intrusive lighting.

Mr. Gilhooly commented that the council are aware of issues raised in the past and in relation to concerns with regard to low level lighting.

**CMD 17/97 Railway Station, Carrick on Shannon – Longer Opening Hours for Waiting Area at Weekends**

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

“I ask that Iarnród Éireann are requested to provide longer opening hours at the waiting area in Carrick-on-Shannon Railway Station. The office, waiting area and access to toilets are all closed to customers on Friday evening until Monday morning. There are many people using the train during this time and facilities we regard as basic should be provided to all.”

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire informed the meeting that at present the ticket office, waiting area and access to toilets at the station were closed from 5pm on Friday evening to Monday morning. She said that there are many people using the train during this period and the facilities which are regarded as basic should be provided to everyone.

She also commented that at the moment there is no shelter for anyone coming to collect people from the station, no place for people who are waiting for trains or arriving from other places, to take shelter during bad weather and no toilets available. She said that the traffic on the train is very heavy at weekend. This is a situation where Iarnród Éireann will either have to open the doors to the waiting rooms and toilets or provide a better canopy outside this area and include a public or pay toilet there. She pointed out that the situation was exceptional in Carrick-on-Shannon as the station was located away from other shops and businesses. In towns like Boyle, Longford or Sligo passengers or those waiting to collect them, are only a short distance from shops or bars where they can use facilities.

Councillor Sean McGowan noted that the current staffing level was low. He said that he could not see a reason why a member of staff from Boyle Station could not come in and open the waiting area and toilets for the periods mentioned.
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire proposed to contact Iarnrod Éireann with a view to getting better access to facilities at the station over the busy weekend periods.

Councillor Sean McGowan seconded the proposal.

Councillor Des Guckian commented that it was a ridiculous situation and indeed lacking at various towns in Leitrim.

It was unanimously supported by all members.

**CMD 17/98**

Cutting Back of Heavy Vegetation – Cloonturk Roundabout

12/06/17

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

“At the June Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District I will ask Mr Shay O’Connor Senior Engineer Roads, to put in place a programme of works, cut back the heavy vegetation on and approaching the roundabout on the Dromod Rooskey Bypass at Cloonturk, and to have immediate discussions with TII with a view to securing funding package for to change the design of both the roundabout’s on the Bypass to one of a low maintenance type.”

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;*

“An application has been made to the TII to reconstruct this roundabout to a no/low maintenance roundabout.”

Councillor Sean McGowan noted the reply. He commented that the roundabouts are very unsightly and a poor advertisement of the county. He said that the Tidy Towns judging was due to commence in the next week or two and asked Mr O’Boyle would it be possible to get someone out to have a look at this in the next week or so in order to improve it.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported this notice of motion.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire also supported the motion and commented that a huge effort had been made by both the residents of Roosky and Dromod Villages but that the state of the N4 was letting down the good work carried out by members of the community on a voluntary basis. She commented that the roundabout at Rooskey is at the entrance to County Leitrim and it does not portray a good image.

Mr. O’Boyle informed the meeting that the Council had gone to Tender for a Contractor for the cutting back of vegetation on the N4 and that the trimming back of the vegetation on these roundabouts would be carried out in the next week or two.

Councillor Des Guckian enquired if this work included strimming at the Rooskey roundabout. Mr. O’Boyle informed him that it did.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

“At the June Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District I will ask Mr. Bernard Greene Senior Planner to have discussions with the developers of Cuain Eslinne housing estate in Dromod with a view to getting the 4 public lights connected. The residents are concerned with the delay in having the lights switched on, the area is extremely dark at night time and they are anxious to have this matter resolved before the winter time sets in.”

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

“This estate is a private estate and not in charge of Leitrim County Council. The issue of the operation of street lights within private developments is something that is covered in the purchase contracts between the purchasers and the vendor of these houses. The Council is not a party to these contracts and so is unaware as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the lights and the conditions relating to such maintenance. This is a civil contractual matter between the purchasers and the vendor and is not a matter that the Council can become involved in.”

Councillor Sean McGowan noted the reply. He noted that the developer wanted to keep this estate private and expressed the concerns of the residents who are anxious to have the lights switched on. He asked would it be possible for Leitrim County Council to write to the developer informing him that representations have been made from the Carrick Municipal District Members and residents to have the lighting switched on.

Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner said that he was happy to write to the developers – NPS Ltd.- informing them of the request.

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

“That the Council immediately examine traffic calming measures for the main approach into Mohill town from Carrick on Shannon from the junction at Cornee lane, as far as the crossroads at Treanmore. Traffic travels at needlessly high speeds through this residential area.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“Earlier this year, we have met with elected members and local residence groups to discuss the traffic volumes and traffic speed on this local road L1451 which links the school and church with the Regional Road R201. It is clear that some vehicles use this road as a “rat-run” to avoid possible delays on the regional road. We will replace the old speed ramps at this location with new chevron speed ramps along with ancillary signage.”
Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan noted the reply. He stated that he was delighted with the introduction of new chevron speed ramps as speeding is a serious problem on this road. He said that he understood that there is no simple solution to this problem.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion.

CMD 17/101 Improvement of Visibility and Sightlines on R202 from L1630
12/06/17

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

“That the Council try to improve visibility and sightlines for traffic entering the Main Road R202 from Local Road L1630 at the junction at Gort Cut. Turning onto the Main Road for either Dromod or Mohill is very difficult at this location.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“As previously discussed with other elected members, 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 cover this type of work.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said that he was very conscious of the fact that this matter had been raised by Councillor Sean McGowan and other members in the past. He acknowledged the great work done to date. He commented that on the Dromod side of the road the traffic was moving quicker. He noted that at that particular junction there were a number of overhanging trees and branches.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and asked that something would be done to improve the view on that particular stretch of road.

Councillor Des Guckian asked Mr O'Boyle what has been done since.

Mr. O'Boyle responded that nothing had been done as the council has not secured a Specific Improvement Grant and all works would depend on the amount of funding available.

CMD 17/102 Any Other Business
12/06/17

The next meeting of the Carrick Municipal District is scheduled to take place on Monday 10th July 2017 at 3.30 pm in the Council Chamber.

This concluded the business of the meeting.
Signed: ______________________________________  ________________________________

Councillor Séadhna Logan
Cathaoirleach

Kathryne Bohan
Meetings Administrator

Date:  10th July, 2017