Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
On Monday 13th February 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
Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads
Aoife McDermott, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

CMD 17/14 Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
13/02/17 held on Tuesday 10th January 2017

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND
UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Carrick on Shannon Municipal meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Tuesday 10th January 2017 be adopted.”

CMD17/15 Presentation from Waters and Communities Office
13/02/17

The Members introduced themselves and a presentation was given by Ms. Bernie O’Flaherty and Ms. Karen Kennedy from the Water and Communities Office. After the presentation Ms O’Flaherty asked the Members to forward a list of Community Groups and Tidy Towns Committees from their areas that would be interested in working with the Water and Communities Office regarding water related projects as community engagement is essential to the plan.

All the Members agreed and thanked Ms.O’Flaherty and Ms. Kennedy for their presentation.

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that although a lot of work has been done in Leitrim regarding Tourism there are many small lakes and rivers around the county which have been neglected and are inaccessible. He
furthered that the development of these rivers and lakes would create employment and tourism in the area. He asked if this sort of project is within the remit of Water and Communities as there is an industry there to be utilised.

Councillor Des Guckian commented on the term Environmentalists and said that it has become a soured term in this area. He stated that he was referring to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in particular who seem to have become dictators, not allowing people to cut turf on their own bogs anymore. He continued that proper drainage of the Shannon and its tributaries is not permitted so people are left with swamp land and more is thought of the birds and the frogs than the people who struggle to work the land.

Councillor Sean McGowan agreed with Councillor Des Guckian and stated that drainage and flooding are major issues. He added angling has declined greatly over the years as there is no access available to the lakes and rivers and stands are badly needed. He furthered that works would be welcomed.

Ms. Bernie O’Flaherty replied that angling access issue is not directly their area but Inland Fisheries Ireland have a national strategy to develop Angling and there may also be funding available regarding lake access under the Leader programme. Ms. O’Flaherty stated that their office aims to bring a better understanding of how we can help enhance and encourage local communities and all the stakeholders involved to work together in the management of our natural waters.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed the new offices to Carrick on Shannon and their involvement with the Tidy Towns Committees. She added the image in the presentation regarding water quality is a powerful one and that the map provided showing the quality of water particularly where there is bad quality needs to be acknowledged.

Councillor Seadhna Logan asked what level of engagement has taken place with the Forest Industry regarding the impact on water quality and levels. Ms. O’Flaherty replied that her office has not yet made contact but Inland Fisheries Ireland have and progress is being made on the ground.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that this office is a positive step forward but funding will be critical for this to be a successful project. She added that Leader do not have an unlimited supply of funds. She asked if there will be sufficient funding available for addressing the issues that Community Groups will be raising. Ms. Karen Kennedy stated that the office has a funding lead in the Clonmel Office and if a project is not suitable for the Leader programme other funding options can be sourced for community groups. She stated that education and awareness will be the focus of the Office for the first year and they have a small funding pot of their own to work with Community Groups. Ms. O’Flaherty stated that the Heritage Council also has funding for water related projects.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire thanked the Water and Communities Office for attending the meeting and wished them luck in the future.

CMD17/16 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 (to include Area Programme 2017.)

A general discussion took place and it was felt that due to the fact the documents were received by Members on 10th February 2017, that not enough time had been given to allow proper consideration of them and in particular to the Area Programme and the roads element of it. Therefore it was decided to hold a separate meeting on 27th February at 3.30pm in order to give Members an opportunity to consider fully the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 and the Area Programme 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan Seconded by Councilor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That a separate meeting be held on February 27th, 2017 at 3.30pm to discuss further the Schedule of Municipal District Works and the Area Programme 2017.”
The response from Minister Shane Ross, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was circulated to the Members. Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that it was a very "hands off" response and Councillor Des Guckian suggested that the letter is marked read and continue with the meeting.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that this correspondence needs to be followed up.

**Part 1 – Notices of Motion**

**CMD 17/18**  
**Cats Eyes/Safety Feature along Footpath on Lough Rynn Road**  
13/02/17

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

"That Leitrim County Council arrange to install cats eyes or some form of safety feature along the curbing of the footpath on the Lough Rynn road as far as the finishing point beside Kelly's Lane. The curb along this road is quite high and it is not very visible at night as the adjacent footpath has no public lighting."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads*

"We would not be in a position to place cats eyes as this process would only be carried out on RIG's and then again only on national roads or very busy regional road junctions. We can consider placing a dash hard shoulder yellow line along this edge subject to funding availability."

Councillor Seadhna Logan acknowledged the response and stated that this needs to be addressed under safety measures. Councillor Sean McGowan and Enda Stenson supported the motion.

**CMD 17/19**  
**Public Lighting Costs at Jimmy Gralton Memorial**  
13/02/17

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

"On 3rd September 2016, President Michael D. Higgins formally unveiled a tribute to Jimmy Gralton. The Jimmy Gralton Committee fundraised, commissioned the piece and they protected and maintained the site over a number of years at great personal expense. They have created a brilliant tribute that is accessible to all and a real point of interest within the County. I therefore propose that the Council would assist the Committee's hard work and efforts by taking over the public lighting at the site. It would be an appropriate gesture if the Council took on the minimal running costs of this lighting."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads*

"There is currently one public light at this vicinity which is an unmetered supply. We will consider this request but please be aware this light is in private property and as a minimum we will require the land owner indemnifying Leitrim County Council and its agents against future liability and proper certification for the installation of the public light."

Councillor Seadhna Logan stated he was very happy with the response and he would encourage the Council to meet with the Committee and the owner. It would be a gesture of goodwill in appreciation of the hard work undertaken by the Committee to have public lighting taken over at the location.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

"That Leitrim County Council Engineers advise the TII (NRA) that the exit off the Dromod-Rooskey Bypass, at Fearnaught, has been left in a deplorable state. There is excessive speeding on the Bypass. The two lanes are suddenly merged and speeding traffic on the right-hand lane often rushes to get past those on the left."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The Dromod Rooskey Bypass has been subject to the required safety audit inspection and has passed these inspections. Excessive speeding is a matter for the Gardaí and we will pass on the councillors concerns at our next meeting with the Gardaí."

Councillor Des Guckian stated he was not happy with the response. He stated that there is excessive speeding in this area and that the Gardaí are never seen at this area of the road. He furthered that the bypass is 10km long, type 2 dual carriageway with no hard shoulder so there is no-where to go. It is extremely narrow and it was an experiment from day one and has been abandoned at the Fearnaght end. Councillor Des Guckian added that the arrows are completely wrong and advance signage is needed to warn drivers of the narrowing of the road and that they need to reduce their speed. Mr. Shay O’Connor replied that the By-Pass was designed and passed as acceptable by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Safety Audits had been carried out. There are advance signs in place warning the driver that two lanes are merging into one. He added that he agreed speeding is an issue but that that is a matter for An Garda Siocahna. He stated that Leitrim County Council hold regular meetings with the Gardaí and the Joint Policing Committee and this matter will be brought to their attention at the next meeting with them.

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

"That Leitrim County Council Engineers advise the TII (NRA) that there is need to do further adjustments to the road alignment, at the Mohill Cross, Annaduff. The problem is where road R201, from Mohill, meets the N4. An articulat ed truck turning left, for Dromod, is forced way out on to the middle lane of the N4 so as to avoid its rear wheel's catching the high kerbing that is there in the way."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The junction has been designed and constructed to the TII Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. The TII will carry out a stage 3 audit at this completed junction and if any changes, borne from this audit, are required we can then implement them."

Councillor Des Guckian praised the works that have taken place at this location were first class at the turn of from Carrick to Mohill but added that the approach from the Dromod side is a disgrace. He stated that lorries turning for Dromod from Mohill cannot do so safely as they are forced out into the middle lane of the N4. He added that the kerbing in this area is destroying the tyres of the lorries, and that the triangular island area needs to be taken away or greatly reduced. Mr. Shay O’Connor replied that the works have just been completed and that a safety audit is due to be carried out and these concerns will be brought to their attention. Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion stating he doesn’t understand why the island is there it should be reduced. Councillor Seadhna Logan questioned why there is a second island on this stretch of road as it has reduced space in the slip for employees of Masonite. Mr. Shay O’Connor stated that the islands were placed there to help reduce speed at this busy junction but this matter will be looked at during the safety audit.
New Signage – Advertising Carrick Town Centre

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, when will the proposed new signage to advertise the town centre, be erected on the approach roads to Carrick-on-Shannon. This "advanced signage" is needed to highlight the many attractions, businesses and services within the town centre. It is a necessary marketing and information asset to encourage visitors into the town and it's provision is long overdue."

Report by Director of Service, Community Development
"The matter of advanced signage continues to be under discussions with the Chamber through the town team process."

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that similar responses have been given each year since this matter was brought up in 2014 and we are now in 2017 and discussions are still ongoing. She stated that every year we are waiting for signage is another year wasted for Carrick Town and that 2017 cannot pass without signage. Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire supported Councillor Sinead Guckian’s comments and said that money is the biggest issue. She added that the large parking signage on the N4 has angered people and has interpreted Carrick as a paid parking town for people to just pass through. She stated that a bigger sign is needed at the Leitrim Road regarding turning right. She added that signage for Carrick needs to be fast-forwarded as people need to experience all Carrick on Shannon has to offer. All the Members supported this motion.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly stated that the paid parking signage is a statutory requirement. He stated that discussions have been ongoing for some time but there have been issues regarding funding from the Local Authority and the business community and that agreement needs to come from all parties. Councillor Sinead Guckian asked for a commitment that signage will be erected in 2017. Mr. Joseph Gilhooly replied that there is a cost sharing arrangement to this that still has to be figured out.

Realignment Works/Lack of Hard Shoulder on N4 (L-1475-0)

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

"I will ask the Senior Executive Engineer what is the up to date position with regard to the proposed works to realign and address the dangerous lack of a hard shoulder on the N4, from the Carrick on Shannon side of the junction with the L-1475-0 “Duignans Mills”), towards the junction of the link road to houses, on the N4, at Fearnought Aughamore. In July last year members were advised that the Council had contacted the TII and the next step was to carry out discussions with the residents/landowners who live along the laneway."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"As agreed with all members of this Municipal District the meeting mentioned in the notice of motion was cancelled as it was apparent that all members were in agreement to provide the hard shoulder and not close a junction at this location as proposed.

We have advised the TII of our position and we are currently working with our inspector to try and progress this matter."

Councillor Sinead Guckian asked that this matter be kept as a priority and acknowledged that the Council are waiting on the TII.
Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion.

CMD 17/24  Speed Limit Signs & Improvement Works at Gilroy’s House, Beihy
13/02/17

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

"I ask the Carrick-on-Shannon Area Engineer, to provide two 60 KM speed signs on the Farnaught side of Patrick Gilroy’s house, Beihy, (Mohill – Drumlish Road) and to have improvements to the sightlines on this stretch of road included in the 2016 Roadwork’s Programme. It is extremely dangerous for the Gilroy family coming onto the road, they have little or no view back in the Mohill direction and they are concerned for their safety with the speed of traffic on the road."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"All speed limit changes were discussed and agreed at our Municipal District meeting in December. In any case such a proposed speed limit change is not in accordance with the Guidelines for Speed Limits.

I have visited this site and under the roads act have agreed, in principal, that the land owner can remove this hedge to provide improved site distance at this location. We currently have a Restoration Improvement Grant proposed within the 2017 Roads Programme and can carry out realignment of fencing/hedges under this funding stream, once the land owners are in agreement."

Councillor Sean McGowan was happy with the response and hopes the work can be carried out.

Mr Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South, said it would be unusual to put a specific speed limit in rural areas. He said subject to the land owner agreeing to it, the hedge will be removed under the Restoration Improvement grant.

CMD 17/25  A.I.B.P. Group – Plans for Former Meat Plant in Dromod
13/02/17

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

"I ask the Chief Executive to make contact with the Management of A.I.B.P.(Anglo Irish Beef Processers) group of companies to find out what plans they have in mind if any, in relation to the former meat plant in Dromod."

Report by Director of Service, Community Development

"Contact will be made with the confirmed owners of the former meat plant facility in Dromod and ascertain their plans for the existing site. When contact has been made and their plans confirmed, this will be communicated to the Elected Members."

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the response.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services reminded the meeting that a lot of effort had been made previously on this matter including the holding of a meeting in Dublin but he said the matter will be looked into again.

CMD 17/26  Linear Park Path Surface & Lighting along Boardwalk
13/02/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire;
"The Pathway through the Linear Park in Carrick-on-Shannon has been worn thankfully by great use. The pathways now require additional gritting. Lighting along the Boardwalk also needs to be maintained properly. A review needs to be done of the lighting as it is a beautiful feature of this facility. Both works should be viewed as essential safety precautions."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"Due to the success of the linear park, the pathways will require routine maintenance. The lighting along this riverside amenity was carefully designed with both wildlife and people in mind. Any increase or decrease in the ambient lighting may have an effect on birds, bats and other nocturnal fauna. Normal maintenance of the lighting columns will be carried out as part of our maintenance programme.

The lights along the Boardwalk have been damaged by flood waters since their installation. We have received a quote to replace these lights but unfortunately it is not possible within our current budget to carry out this work. We will ask our lighting contractor to design an alternative scheme for the Boardwalk which we can consider if this is within our budget."

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire noted the reply and asked that as soon as funding becomes available the lighting be restored.

**CMD 17/27 Valuations of Business Properties**
13/02/17

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

"Recent Valuations of Business properties have been done as an overall exercise of our County. I would ask that this local authority look carefully for additional means of raising monies for revenue. Businesses costs have escalated in all areas and acknowledgement must be given to small town businesses in reducing costs such as rates. Small businesses fund communities beyond measure. If our small towns are without businesses, community life will suffer."

**Report by Head of Finance, Finance**

"The revaluation process, administered by the Valuations Office, provides a forty day window for Ratepayers to make written representations to address concerns surrounding the indicative valuations proposed. Leitrim County Council would urge all Ratepayers who have a concern to make appropriate written representations within the timeframe allowed. The effective collection of Commercial Rates is critical to the financial management and control of Local Government generally, within the current funding model."

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire expressed her fears for towns and villages stating that she thinks many of the valuations are above what they can carry. She said town centres are becoming very quiet and alternative sources of funding to rates need to be considered. Small businesses are also now competing with on-line purchasing and need every assistance they can get. She mentioned certain businesses for example, artist’s studios, “Jewel” where jewellery is made on site and “Trinity Rare Books” all of which are not simply shops in the conventional sense and should be subject to an alternative assessment method. She urged that the message allowing a forty day window for ratepayers to make written representations be well publicised.

Councillor Seadna Logan mentioned that the letter from the Valuation office did not enclose an explantation of how the ARV was calculated so it was not very clear for the ratepayer.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services stated that the setting of a valuation is not the responsibility of the
County Council, it lies with the Valuation’s Office. He said that Leitrim County Council would publicise the 40 days representational period.

CMD 17/28 Replacement of Water Trunk Mains – Kildoo to Mohill
13/02/17

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

"May I ask, when will the main water trunk from Kildoo to Mohill be replaced, and are there other water mains to be replaced in the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District?"

Report by Head of Finance, Finance
"Tenders have been received for the replacement of a 2.2Km section of trunk main from Kildoo to Mohill along the R201. The tenders have been assessed and a report and recommendation has been sent to Irish Water to appoint the preferred bidder. It is expected that a contractor will be appointed in the very near future with commencement on site likely to be in April 2017. These works will take 3/4 months to complete. Irish Water has approved the replacement of old cast iron watermains in Mohill (1.3Km) and Ballinamore 2.2Km. Designs and tender documents are being prepared for the procurement of contractors. These works will be undertaken in the current year."

Councillor Enda Stenson expressed his satisfaction to the reply.

Councillors Finola Armstrong Mc Guire, Seadna Logan and Sean Mc Gowan supported the motion.

CMD 17/29 Closure of Business in Mohill
13/02/17

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

"With another Shop closed in Mohill this week, may I ask is there anything we can do to help Mohill. We cannot sit back and be seen to be helpless, something must be achievable, to help to re-vitalize a once vibrant town."

Report by Director of Service, Community Development
"The Council is currently supporting the town of Mohill is a number of ways. The town was priorisised under the Town and Village Scheme with additional footpath works. The Lough Rinn rowing facility will continue to be developed and provides the basis for a continued increase in activity to the town. The Council rates incentivised scheme is available on an ongoing basis to eligible applicants for the reuse of vacant or unused business premises.

The Local Enterprise Office has supported the set up of the Mohill Business Association early in 2015 following a sustainability/green energy expo in the Canon Donohoe Hall where over 100 people attended in Dec 2014. Energy audits with approx 12 businesses in Mohill were also carried out. The businesses where interested were assisted to carry out some of the cost saving measures with a small fund made available through the LEO. Start Your Own Business courses have been ran in Mohill along with information sessions during enterprise week on energy awareness. Work is currently ongoing in developing a Sustainable Energy Community in Mohill among businesses, community businesses etc. Meetings with this group continue and are now working towards a better energy communities application in Feb 2017. Further initiatives include cookery classes in the youth cafe members ie: young people age 8-12 during Feb 2017, encompassing nutrition and healthy eating, ongoing engagement is happening between LEO and the Arts Office and the Old Convent in Mohill which is being developed as a creative centre.

All of the business supports in relation to one to one meeting , business advice and business training and
mentoring are available to businesses in Mohill and the County as a whole, online Trading Vouchers Scheme, Micro Finance Ireland loans etc are open to any eligible business wishing to avail of it.”

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the reply and acknowledged the support structures in place and the good work being done. He stated however that the town was really struggling and asked what could be done to revitalize this once thriving town stating that the businesses and the agencies cannot sit back and be seen to be helpless on this issue.

Councillor Seadna Logan supported the motion and stated that larger towns in addition to smaller towns are also struggling. He asked that the councillors put forward a positive image of the town.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion. He asked that the Chief Executive and Director of Services of Leitrim County Council get all the agencies together and to work along with them to do all they could.

Councillor Seadhna Logan asked if the Enterprise office could promote the vacant offices in the town.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services referred to the rate incentive scheme and reiterated the various supports in place as set out in his response to the motion. He stated that young people need to get involved and that the Local Enterprise Office would welcome all contact made.

**CMD 17/30  Any Other Business**
**13/02/17**

No items were raised.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:  ____________________________________________________________________________________

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire  Johanna Daly
Cathaoirleach  Meetings Administrator

Date:  ____________________________________________________________________________________