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
Seamus O'Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads
Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

CMD 17/22 – New Signage – Advertising Carrick Town Centre
Councillor Sinead Guckian sought clarification from Mr. Gilhooly in relation to funding for this signage. She said that at the September meeting of the full Council the Chief Executive informed
the Members that the cost of the signage was included for 2017 but at the last meeting of the Carrick Municipal District, Mr. Gilhooly said it was not included.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that to have the Minutes in order it would be necessary to clarify what funding the Chief Executive referred to.

Mr. Gilhooly stated that he was not sure of what budget the Chief Executive alluded to. He stated that there will be a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce next Wednesday to discuss the funding issue further as a cost sharing arrangement is required in this matter.

CMD 17/16  Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 (to include Area Programme 2017).

Councillor Des Guckian made reference to the bottom of page 2 of the minutes of the meeting of 13th February, 2017. He stated that as mentioned in the minutes he was in agreement that there had not been enough time given to the members to consider the items. He stated that at the meeting that Seamus O’ Connor, Senior Engineer, made a statement outlining that these documents could be adopted on the day or they would have to come back and approve them anyway on another day. He said that he personally felt that this was an arrogant attitude and that the Members were being forced into it. He stated that the two roads he nominated were not included and were being ignored and he did not feel that this was appropriate and that this should have been recorded in the minutes.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she totally disagreed with this comment as there was no arrogance involved on Mr. O’ Connor’s part.

Councillor Enda Stenson commented that this remark was not fair or justified and that he has always found Mr.. O’Connor and all of the council staff to be helpful in every way possible.

Mr.. O’Connor stated, that the basis of his remarks were that the information within the Municipal Works Programme has already been approved by the members and that there was nothing new in it and thus there were no surprises in it that the Members were not already aware of. He explained that regardless of when adopted, on the day proposed or an alternative date the contents would not change. He stated it was in this context he had made the statement. He stated that the other Members had also roads ommitted that could not at this time be included.

Councillor Des Guckian said he had no proper explanation as to why his two roads had been left out.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that she took issue with speaking about any person in derogatory terms. She did not accept it and would like to be associated with positive comments concerning council staff at all levels. In addition she said that she understood that funding was limited but was happy to see that some roads proposed for 2018 have been moved into the 2017 programme.

Councillor Sean McGowan commented that such a statement should not have been made and that he had the utmost respect for Mr. O Connor.

Councillor Séadhna Logan requested that the slur be withdrawn as it is in no way acceptable to single out any staff member like this.
Mr. Gilhooly stated that a lengthy discussion took place on the day, at the end of which it was agreed to defer the matter to a further meeting of the Municipal District which was now taking place today. He added that a good part of an hour was spent, on that day, discussing this particular issue and that everyone was given an opportunity to put forward their views.

Councillor Des Guckian commented that the administration of this whole scheme was sloppy from the beginning. He commented that some Members only got the information the day before the meeting, while he himself only received the information on the morning of the meeting.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that the intention of deciding to hold a separate meeting was to allow all Members time to study the documentation received. They had only received the documents the Friday before the meeting but she understood the reasonable explanation for this. She said she was disappointed that there was an attempt to make out that something untrustworthy is happening. She commented that the elephant in the room was the statement made that staff were treating Members “like dirt”. She went on to say that an explanation had been received as to why the documentation was circulated late and everyone else had accepted this and moved on from it.

Mr. Gilhooly then outlined to the Members the process and level of work involved in the preparation of the Municipal Works Programme. He commented that the allocations are not known until the end of January and that Carrick Municipal District are the first of the areas to have their meeting in February with a view to discussing/adopting the Municipal Works Programme. He said that the information is provided to the Members as soon as possible given the timescales involved. He suggested that for the 2018 Schedule of Municipal Meetings, there may be need to reschedule some dates to allow suitable time for examining the programme and that this could be looked into.

Cathaoirleach Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that the members would now discuss the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 (to include Area Programme 2017).

Councillor Sinead Guckian said she proposed the adoption of the Minutes subject to the relevant amendment being made.

**Proposed by Councillor Sinead Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

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

**CMD17/32 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017**
**27/02/17**
**(to include Area Programme)**

Copies of the following documentation were submitted to the Members in advance of the meeting:-

- Schedule of Municipal Works 2017 (Appendix 1 to these Minutes)
- Annual Area Programme Overview 2017 (Appendix 2 to these Minutes)
- Annual Area Programme 2017 (Appendix 3 to these Minutes)
Mr. O’Connor gave an overview of the Schedule of Municipal Works (Appendix 1). He said that this was a programme of repair and upkeep and the breakdown in budget was aligned to each Municipal District Area. He said he wanted to highlight the full report to the Members not just the allocations relating to roads.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that she was disappointed to see in the 2017 Programme that there were no Local Improvement Schemes or Community Involvement Schemes included. She sought clarification from Mr. Gilhooly as to why there was a 1% decrease to the Carrick Municipal District allocation from what was granted in 2015. She said the figure appears to have gone from 29% to 28% and that Carrick MD is now nearly €0.5m behind Manorhamilton and €400,000 behind Ballinamore.

Mr. Gilhooly stated that the current breakdown was 28% Carrick Municipal District, 35% Ballinamore Municipal District and 37% Manorhamilton Municipal District. He said that a workshop was held in advance of the 2016 Municipal Works Programme to show the proportional split. It worked out at this breakdown for the four main grouping of grants, whilst bridges, low cost safety grants or amenity grants did not come into the calculation.

Mr. O’ Connor, stated that when at first the Municipal Districts were set up, the initial split went by road length and population but that the members had later disagreed with this calculation method. In 2016 at the workshops held, road length, population, urban areas, traffic volumes and condition surveys were taken in account and the calculation resulted in the 28%, 35% and 37% split as previously mentioned.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that a workshop is simply a workshop and he did not recall voting. He said that the Council, as a whole, was very wanting. They stood back and allowed allocations be cut. We are left with scraps to deal with. He stated that small road, by-roads and lanes are being deserted and as a result they are falling apart. He stated that he was told by Mr. O Connor Senior Engineer that his roads may be looked at next year but that is no good. He said the two roads Faulties bridge to to Derrycarn and the Derrywillow road will have to be added otherwise there is something very wrong going on, with which, he didn’t want to be associated.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that he was disappointed to see that there was again no funding for Local Improvement or Community Involvement Schemes. He said that for the last 7 or 8 years this has been the case. He commented that the list for Local Improvement Schemes must be up in the region of 300 at this stage. He said that it was not acceptable or good enough. He also remarked that the Community Involvement Schemes have always proven to be popular with communities delighted to get them.

Councillor Enda Stenson enquired as to whether there have been any discussions at a higher level with regard to Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes.

Mr. O’Connor said that he understood that there was a provision of Local Improvement Schemes in the “Programme for Government”, however there was difficulty in determining whether local authorities will get a separate allocation or will have to fund them from their own resources. He agreed with the Members that separate funding was needed to operate this.

Councillor Enda Stenson enquired as to the possibility of contacting the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and highlighting to them the importance of Local Improvement Schemes and also to highlight that they generate employment and funding should not come from local authority funds.
Mr. O’Connor stated that last year they put in an application for 10 Local Improvement Schemes but were not successful with any of them.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson;

“That the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport be contacted to highlight the importance of Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes in Leitrim and to also request funding from them for the provision of same”.

Mr. O’Connor asked the Members were they happy to progress to the next document.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she disagreed that the Carrick Municipal District had agreed to a 1% reduction and said that she felt that Carrick Municipal District were being penalised and she was only advising the Members of same. She said that no one else seemed concerned by it.

Mr. Gilhooly explained that the Municipal Districts were created in 2014 and in 2015 they had used the 50% roads 50% population split, to determine the breakdown of funding. This had resulted in Carrick MD receiving 29%. The Division of funding and the breakup of it is ultimately a function of the Chief Executive. As the Members had expressed discontent with this method a workshop was set up for 2016 so that consultation could take place prior to adoption of the roads programme. He explained that a detailed matrix was presented at the workshop and that as an executive function the division of funding was brought forward from the workshop for 2016 resulting in Carrick MD receiving 28%.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire asked how often the proportionality split would be looked at as population and road conditions are subject to change. Mr. O Connor said that really the road conditions change very little and population would be taken from census figures.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that a workshop is simply a workshop and he did not recall voting. Mr. Gilhooly explained that as this is an executive function no voting would have taken place.

Councillor Sinead Guckian proposed that the Chief Executive be invited to the next meeting of Carrick Municipal District to discuss and clarify how the county pot is allocated across the three municipal areas.

Mr. Gilhooly informed the meeting that the formula for allocation in 2015 had been superceded by a new formula in 2016.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she was not saying that the allocation was wrong however for 2 years the Carrick Municipal District has been receiving a reduced budget.

Mr. Gilhooly said that there were no changes to policy without the Members being made aware of same. This apportionment is a matter for the Chief Executive who put this in place in 2016 and what was being presented today was in accordance with that.

Councillor Des Guckian commented that the Members were not being given full information. He said that he wanted to ask Mr. O’Connor about roads that had been brought forward listed for 2018.
Mr. O’Connor said that currently the Roads Programme is drafted in advance for a three year period i.e. 2016, 2017 and 2018 based on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sports Allocations in 2016. Due to increased allocations in 2017, it was possible to bring forward some of the roads listed for 2018 and complete them in 2017. He explained to Councillor Des Guckian that assuming that we maintain a similar level of funding in 2018 we may be in a position to fund additional roads which will be added into 2018’s listing.

Councillor Des Guckian commented that the members had not been informed of this decision to take roads from 2018 and complete them in 2017.

Mr. Gilhooly responded by stating that the programme includes a multi annual programme and that is a scheme of priorities. It is a long list of roads and if we can deliver it in 2.8 years rather than 3 financial year then this is what happens. The prioritisation of the roads is not altered.

Mr. O’Connor informed the meeting that the Roads Management Office have taken over from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the Programmes. They will now be on a two year basis instead of three. That means that sometime during this year a listing will be sought for a programme for 2018 and 2019.

In relation to the bringing forward of roads from 2018 Mr. O’Connor said that commitments have been given to people whose roads need to be done. This was deemed the fairest way to do it.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that they were going round in circles. Ballinamore and Manorhamilton have already adopted their programmes. He said that he agreed with Councillor Sinead Guckian that a 1% reduction in funding is significant. He suggested that the Members adopt what they have and review it for 2018.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire asked what would be the correct procedure to query the 28% allocation going forward.

Mr. Gilhooly informed her that there is a Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 6th March where it can be discussed and a plan of action put in place for going forward.

Councillor Sinead Guckian referred to her proposal that the Chief Executive be asked to come to the Municipal District meeting to explain how the breakup of funding is arrived at rather than to a meeting of the full Council. Mr. Gilhooly stated that he would take this request back to the Chief Executive.

Councillor Des Guckian reiterated that he would not support the adoption of this programme. He said that the two roads he nominated are badly in need of repair. He stated he was not given any explanation as to why they were not included. He commented that all Members should get a fair share of the roads they nominate that there should be a number of roads per Councilor. He said he would not accept anything else other than the two roads he had mentioned being included in this programme.

Cathaoirleach Finola Armstrong McGuire asked that the Programme now be gone through.

Mr. O’Connor then moved onto the Annual Area Programme 2017 Overview (Appendix 2). He gave the background to where the various grants were received from and also how much they were up or down on last year’s allocations.

A discussion took place between Mr. O’Connor and the Members, the following items were raised;
Hartley Bridge

Mr. O’Connor informed the meeting that they are still waiting on Contractors to carry out assessments on the bridge. He said that an application has been made to the Department asking for a special allocation to carry out works here, however, to date no reply has been received. He added that this may take a couple of years to get these works done.

Hard Shoulder at Fearnought

Mr. O’Connor said that a proposal had been brought forward regarding the closing off of one end of this junction, however as previously raised by the Members this would not be an option and discussions have not concluded on this matter.

Councillor Des Guckian said that it is important that this is kept going as this is a very dangerous junction.

Footpath/Public Lighting Works

Mr. O’Connor informed the Members that at a meeting of the Ballinamore Municipal District held earlier that morning it was agreed by all Members there that they would write to the Department requesting a specific allocation for foothpath and public lighting works.

Foxborough Bridge

Councillor Sinead Guckian referred to Mullaun Bridge. She said that under the Bridge Rehabilitation Grants she noted that Foxborough Bridge was listed for works. She enquired as to whether there were any plans to carry out works at Mullaun Bridge as an inspection was recently carried out there and the parapets are in a dangerous state.

Mr. O’Connor informed her bridges are assessed under a conditions rating and he will check to see the results for Mullaun.

Annaveeha Bridge

Councillor Séadhna Logan asked could someone have a look at Annaveeha bridge, there was some recent damage and someone has placed the loose stone on top of the bridge and it is quite dangerous. It down from Fox’s of Tooman. Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion.

Restoration Improvement Grant – Attirory

Councillor Enda Stenson enquired about the Restoration Improvement Grant allocated for Attirory. He asked would the allocation of €65,764 be enough to complete the works here.

Mr. O’Connor said that it may not complete it this year. The job entails undergrounding of services, surface dressing, pedestrian crossing, lighting. He informed the members that at the moment they were awaiting the agreement of a landowner. He said that presently they are unable to talk to the landowner for personal reasons but assured them that there is no problem getting the land.
Councillor Des Guckian commented that having read the report and summarised it, it would appear to him that in Leitrim there is very little political clout. He enquired as to what was the point of all these statistics if allocations are not made fairly.

In response to Councillor Des Guckian comment it was suggested by Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that a delegation from Leitrim County Council meet with Minister Shane Ross, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to seek more funding.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson;

“That a delegation from Leitrim County Council meet with Minister Shane Ross, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to seek additional funding.”

Mr. O’Connor informed the meeting that they are in constant contact with officials from the Department and they have told him that they are competing with Health, Education and Housing for funding. There is not an unwillingness on their part to co-operate with the local authority.

Councillor Sinead Guckian commented that with the recent increases in the price of Petrol and Diesel and Motor Tax Revenue increase there should be some money available.

Cathaoirleach Finola Armstrong McGuire enquired as to whether it would be possible for the Members of Carrick Municipal District to join with the Members of Ballinamore District in writing to the Department seeking specific funding for footpaths and public lighting.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan;

“That the Members of both Ballinamore and Carrick on Shannon contact the Department to seek specific funding for footpaths and public lighting.”

This concluded the discussion on the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Works for 2017.

Councillor Des Guckian said that he was opposed to the adoption of same because as previously mentioned the two roads he sought to have included were completely disregarded and he felt he was not treated fairly.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan;

“That the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 for the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District be adopted”

CMD 17/33 Any Other Business
27/02/17

Ivy Growing on Trees
Councillor Enda Stenson enquired as to whether anything could be done with regard to ivy growing on trees. He said the ivy is weakening the trees and causing them to fall in stormy weather.

Mr. O'Connor informed the meeting that trees are the responsibility of each landowner. He said that from time to time the local authority advise landowners regarding trees which are in a dangerous state.

Councillor Sean McGowan suggested that the local authority could have discussions with the IFA to highlight to landowners their responsibility with regard to dangerous trees on their lands.

**Storm Damage Clean-up Works**

Councillor Sinead Guckian wished to publicly acknowledge the work of the Outdoor Staff and the Emergency Services in dealing with the damage caused by the recent storm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Councillor Finola Armstrong-Cathaoirleach  
Johanna Daly-Meetings Administrator

Date: ______________________________