Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District

Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim

On Monday 11th September 2017 at 3.30 pm

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

Officials Present: Ms. Kathryne Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services
Mr. Shane Tiernan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services
Mr. Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer, South Leitrim
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner, Planning Department
Ms. Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
Ms. Nicola McManus, Local Enterprise Office

Apologies: Councillor Enda Stenson

CMD 17/121 Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Monday 10th July 2017

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

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

Matters arising from Minutes:-
Councillor Sinead Guckian made reference to Item CMD 17/111 (Page 6) of Minutes under the heading of “Waste Collection – Houses on the Leitrim Gaels Community Grounds Road” and enquired as to whether there was any update in relation to this issue and Councillor Guckian requested that the Director of Services meet with Barna Waste in relation to this issue.

Ms. Mary Quinn said that this matter will be followed up and we would revert with progress on this issue.

CMD 17/122
11/09/17

Declaration of Public Roads in Carrick on Shannon Municipal District

Report dated 7th September 2017 from Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation as circulated to the Members (Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Declaration of the following roads as Public Roads in the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and Article 5 of the Roads Regulations 1994, be Approved, namely:-

- Road off Local Road LP-3412-1 serving Summerhill Court Housing Estate in the townland of Townparks Td. for a distance of 47 meters

- Road off Regional Road R280-6 serving Cois Abhainne Housing Estate in the townland of Tullylannan Td. for a distance of 369 meters.

CMD 17/123
11/09/17

Presentation from the Local Enterprise Office

Presentation by Ms. Nicola McManus from the Local Enterprise Office.

Ms. McManus circulated Members with a handout of her presentation (Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Ms. McManus outlined in her presentation the various aspects of work of the Local Enterprise Office and the supports they provide throughout the county.

The members in turn each thanked Ms. McManus for her informative presentation and she then answered questions from the Members.

CMD 17/124
11/09/17

Correspondence
Copies of correspondence were circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

1. Appointed Taxi Stand Bye Laws 2017 made by Boyle Municipal District in relation to Carrick on Shannon Train Station, Cortober, Co Roscommon (Appendix 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

   Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed this development and outlined that the station is extremely busy, particularly at weekends when large numbers visit the town, and the provision of a taxi rank had been sought by local councillors and Carrick-on-Shannon Chamber of Commerce to cater for the people arriving by train. However, she said there needs to be more signage on the platform directing people to the taxi rank which will not be situated at the steps as you exit the train station but will be sited up from the station at the other exit. She said signage is also needed to stop people from parking in the taxi ranks. Councillor Armstrong McGuire requested that a letter issue to Roscommon County Council with regard to the issue of proper signage of this Taxi Rank.

   All Councillors welcomed the introduction of these Bye Laws and said that it was a positive move.

2. Correspondence from Department of Justice and Equality dated 31st July 2017 in relation to Coroners (Amendment) Bill 2017 (Appendix 4 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

   Councillor Des Guckian welcomed the reply from the Department and the Minister’s intention that the drafting and publication of the Coroners (Amendment) Bill 2017 will include mandatory reporting and inquests into maternal deaths. He commented that there is a delay in bringing Bills forward and he feared such a worthy motion would be lost. He called on his fellow municipal members to unite and push for this Bill.

3. Correspondence dated 4th August 2017 from Irish Water regarding upgrade of a section of the mains pipework serving Drumsna (Appendix 5 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

   Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed Irish Water’s plans to replace a section of the pipework on the water mains serving Drumsna.

   Councillor Des Guckian also welcomed Irish Water’s plans but said he had some concerns with regard to the fact that the works will not be completed until Quarter 2, 2018.

4. Correspondence dated 3rd August 2017 from Irish Rail regarding opening hours at Carrick on Shannon Railway Station (Appendix 6 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

5. Correspondence dated 9th August 2017 from Irish Rail outlining the estimated costs of the provision of additional car parking facilities at Dromod Train Station (Appendix 7 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).
Councillor Sean McGowan commented that there does not appear to be any definite proposals with regard to the provision of additional car parking facilities as the correspondence states that no design has been done for this project and that this is only an estimate of the cost of works. He said he hoped it would go ahead and commented that during peak times there can be an overflow of cars out onto the public road.

**Part 1 – Notices of Motion**

**CMD 17/125 Undergrounding of Cables – Main Street, Drumsna**

11/09/17

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

“At the September meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the Directors of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation, what progress there has been to date for the proposed undergrounding of cables on Main Street, Drumsna and I will seek the support of members in ensuring provision is put in place in this year’s budget to fund same.”

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;**

“This Council has a desire to underground overhead cables in our towns and villages, including Drumsna, which has been discussed previously. At present there is no funding scheme available for these works but if and when one becomes available we will consider these works in Drumsna.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian noted the reply. She said that this time last year she asked to have provisions made in the 2017 Budget to have this work carried out. She said she was again calling on the support of her colleagues to ensure that provision would be made in the forthcoming 2018 Budget for this work.

Councillor Des Guckian seconded this and added that it would improve the appearance of the village.

**CMD 17/126 New Town Plan for Carrick on Shannon – Progress Update**

11/09/17

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

“At the September meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District I will ask the Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation what progress has been made to date on our proposal in 2016, of a joint approach between Leitrim and Roscommon County Council’s, to develop a new town plan for Carrick on Shannon.”

**Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services;**
"In March 2015, the existing Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan (2010-2016) was extended for a further period of 3 years (expiration date being 9th May 2019). This decision followed a comprehensive review of the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan as varied/amended to ensure that the strategy contained therein was consistent with the Core Strategy of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021. Furthermore, owing to the economic conditions which have prevailed during the life of the LAP, the objectives of the Local Area Plan had not been substantially secured to date.

It is an aspiration of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 to prepare an integrated Local Area Plan for the county town of Carrick on Shannon and the adjoining village of Cortober in conjunction with Roscommon County Council (Section 1.4.2 Scope of the County Development Plan refers). Preliminary discussions took place between both Local Authorities in this regard. Preparatory work on the preparation of Strategic Issues Papers had been completed by the Planning Authority late in 2015.

However, since these preliminary discussions surrounding the future forward planning for Carrick on Shannon had taken place, the national planning framework and timescale for preparation of same became clearer. The publication of a new National Planning Framework (replacing the National Spatial Strategy) is expected to be presented to the Oireachtas before the end of this year. Likewise, a replacement for the current Regional Planning Guidelines, the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy is being prepared for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly administrative area. The positioning of Carrick on Shannon / Cortober from a regional perspective will be determined through the above processes. It will also provide the context for the population and household allocation for the town and environs.

The priority continues to engage with the national and regional planning framework preparation to secure adequate and appropriate recognition of our County town within the national and regional hierarchical framework. As a consequence and taking into account that there is no urgency for either Local Authority in preparing a new land use plan for Carrick on Shannon / Cortober, it would be premature and potentially wasteful of resources to embark on the preparation of a new land use plan at this time. The requirement of Local Area Plans to be consistent with national and regional planning frameworks is enshrined in legislation so it would be considered prudent and efficient to await the conclusion of the national and regional frameworks prior to considering a successor to the existing land use strategy for the town.

Separately and in addition, the flood event which occurred in December 2015 / January 2016 highlighted once again the need for a comprehensive surface water management strategy to be developed in conjunction with the Shannon CFRAM Plan prepared by Jacobs Consulting Engineers on behalf of the OPW. The preparation of such a strategy would be required to inform and shape the direction of land use management which would be contained in a new land use strategy for Carrick on Shannon / Cortober. It would be considered ill advised to prepare a new integrated Local Area Plan in the absence of the completion of the Shannon CFRAM process.

The matter will continue to be reviewed as progress of the national and regional planning frameworks develop."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Seádhna Logan said he had a similar motion tabled for today’s meeting – Motion No. 12 (CMD 17/132) and that he had received the same response to his motion.
Councillor Sinead Guckian informed the members that she was seeking an update on what progress had been made to date on the Municipal District’s proposal for a joint approach by both Leitrim and Roscommon County Council’s to develop a new town plan for Carrick on Shannon. She said that she had received a lengthy reply from the Director of Services and that she was not happy with this reply.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported Councillor Sinead Guckian and Councillor Seádhna Logan. He asked if any works had been undertaken and if not what were the reasons that no works had been undertaken.

Ms. Quinn, Director of Services, stated that there was no lack of will but that there were discussions ongoing at national level and it would be prudent to await the conclusion of the national and regional frameworks prior to developing a new town plan for Carrick on Shannon / Cortober.

Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner, stated that there was no urgency in terms of a statutory requirement as the existing Local Area Plan had been extended up to 2019. He stated that there are issues in Carrick on Shannon with regard to flooding and that the new Frameworks will not be available until mid 2018. He stated that at present there is no work being done on the Carrick on Shannon Area Plan and that this decision was made by the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that she fully understood that there was no statutory obligation on the members at present but that she would like to see progress being made. She stated that she understood that it is going to be a difficult and lengthy process and added that the Members took a decision that the plan would progress and it has not progressed. She stated that the Chief Executive had not informed the members of his decision in this regard.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that there needed to be cooperation between Leitrim and Roscommon County Council on this issue.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said that the Chief Executive’s decision was not referred back to the elected representatives. He said that this is an important issue for this area and for the people of Carrick on Shannon. It has to be looked at in its entirety and the bigger picture needs to be looked at.

Councillor Des Guckian commented that there seems to be a reluctance to plan ahead both at a national and local level and said that he was disappointed that no progress has been made on this issue.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that it was important now that the Acting Chief Executive in Leitrim and the Chief Executive of Roscommon take a lead on this issue and that we need to plan together on this matter.

CMD 17/127
11/09/17

Change of Design for Roundabout’s on the Dromod - Roosky Bypass

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;
"At the September Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District I will ask the Senior Engineer, Roads, has there been any response from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) with regard to securing a funding package in order to change the design of both the roundabout's on the Dromod – Roosky Bypass to one of a low maintenance type."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department:**

"We are seeking funding from the TII for these works under their National Primary Maintenance Grants. We have been advised that all funding under this scheme has been allocated for this year. The application will remain in place and be considered for funding next year."

Councillor Sean McGowan noted the reply but commented that it was not a positive one. He asked Mr. O'Boyle could Leitrim and Longford Local Authorities put pressure on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to release funding to make these roundabouts low maintenance. He said he was asking this as a matter of urgency and would like to see the funding in place for 2018.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported this motion.

**CMD 17/128**

**Works on Drainage System – Upper Main Street, Mohill**

11/09/17

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

"At the September Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District I will ask the Senior Engineer, Water Services, has there been any response from Irish Water with regard to carrying out necessary works on the Drainage system along Upper Main Street, Mohill. There have been days over the past number of months when there was a terrible stench coming from the drainage along that area of the town."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads:**

"The odour that occurs in the Main Street in Mohill originates from old cross connections of the sewer and drainage system. This sewer system now belongs to IW and thus, responsibility rests with them. IW have requested that the district engineer's office replace 4 existing gullies with 4 new trapped gully systems. We will carry out these works as part of our annual drainage works along with clearing the Mall in the town centre. We have programmed these works for November."

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the reply and hoped that it would prove positive in rectifying this problem which has gone on for far too long.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan stated that he had similar motions previously.

Mr. O'Boyle stated that the issue is with the Sewer System which is owned by Irish Water but Leitrim County Council have agreed to carry out these works on behalf of Irish Water as part of our Drainage Works.
Councillor Sean McGowan asked if it is difficult to get a response on issues from Irish Water and also asked if Irish Water would re-imburse Leitrim County Council for the cost of these works. Mr. O’Boyle stated that we do liaise on an ongoing basis with Irish Water and with our Senior Engineer in Water Services. He also stated that we will pursue Irish Water for the cost of these works.

Realign & Improve Junction on the N4 Dromod–Roosky Bypass at Faulties, Annaduff
11/09/17

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

“That we request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to realign and greatly improve the junction, at the start of the N4 Dromod-Roosky Bypass, in the townland of Faulties, in Annaduff, where the old road L1601-2 (from Dromod) meets the N4. This is now shown to be an urgent matter, following a number of really serious accidents, the latest of which was on Saturday 19th August, 2017.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“We will review the Gardaí reports on the recent accidents to see if the cause has anything to do with the junction layout. If so we will request alterations to the junction from the TII.”

Councillor Des Guckian noted the response. He informed the meeting that the junction from Dromod leading onto the N4 in his view was too narrow with bends and is potentially dangerous for buses and lorries and indeed motorists who are not familiar with the road. He stated that previously a car had crashed into the Arrow Sign and it had taken 6 months to have the sign replaced. He commented that following the accident on 19th August 2017, it had taken a number of hours to clean up the road and to re-open the road. He said he later contacted the Gardaí looking for information on the accident and he said that they did not want to give him the information and that in his opinion the Gardaí are not monitoring this junction. He said that pressure needs to be put on the TII to review and improve this junction.

Mr. O’Boyle said that Garda Reports will strengthen the Council’s case in seeking funding for Low Cost Safety Works at this junction. Mr. O’Boyle said that the Council have a very good working relationship with the Gardaí.

Councillor Des Guckian enquired as to why it took 6 months to replace the sign which had been damaged in a previous accident.

Mr O’Boyle responded that the reason it took 6 months was that they have to follow up with the person responsible for knocking the sign and follow them for costs and this can be a lengthy process.
"That we put pressure on Leitrim County Council, Roads Section, whose problem it is, to greatly speed up their efforts to discover the source of the bad smell that greatly affects Main Street, Mohill and adjacent areas, and then repair the problem. This is now a matter of widespread public health and safety. I've been in contact with both Irish Water and Leitrim County Council Waste Water Section, but both have dragged their heels."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

"The odour that occurs in the Main Street in Mohill originates from old cross connections of the sewer and drainage system. This sewer system now belongs to IW and thus, responsibility rests with them. IW have requested that the district engineer's office replace 4 existing gullies with 4 new trapped gully systems. We will carry out these works as part of our annual drainage works along with clearing the Mall in the town centre. We have programmed these works for November."

Councillor Des Guckian said that Irish Water had reverted to him to state that this matter was the responsibility of Leitrim County council. Councillor Guckian asked how can we be sure what the problem is and if we were sure why has the matter not been resolved before now. He stated that this matter has been referred back and forth between Irish Water and Leitrim County Council.

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

"That an engineer would examine the possibility of removing the kerb which is adjacent to the houses on the left hand side at the bottom of the Ath na Ri, Housing Estate in Aughameeney. This would facilitate better parking in front of these properties and ensure easier access for larger or emergency type vehicles. I am aware of incidents where ambulances struggled to gain access to a property at this location because of the narrow space provided, resulting in damage to an ambulance and the entrance piers to the property. Adequate parking and turning space should be provided at this location."

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

"The Housing Engineer has discussed this item with Councillor Logan and will examine the issue on the ground."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Seadhna Logan stated that he was happy with this response.

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Seadhna Logan;
"It has long been an ambition of this Council to take a broader more co-operative view on planning for Carrick on Shannon going forward. In this regard plans that were previously put in place for a Joint Local Area Plan encompassing Carrick on Shannon and Cortober in Partnership with Boyle Municipal District and Roscommon County Council seem to have stalled. What is the current position of this plan and can this be moved along positively, or has it been scrapped for the duration of this term?"

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services:-

"In March 2015, the existing Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan (2010-2016) was extended for a further period of 3 years (expiration date being 9th May 2019). This decision followed a comprehensive review of the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan as varied / amended to ensure that the strategy contained therein was consistent with the Core Strategy of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021. Furthermore, owing to the economic conditions which have prevailed during the life of the LAP, the objectives of the Local Area Plan had not been substantially secured to date.

It is an aspiration of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 to prepare an integrated Local Area Plan for the county town of Carrick on Shannon and the adjoining village of Cortober in conjunction with Roscommon County Council (Section 1.4.2 Scope of the County Development Plan refers). Preliminary discussions took place between both Local Authorities in this regard. Preparatory work on the preparation of Strategic Issues Papers had been completed by the Planning Authority late in 2015.

However, since these preliminary discussions surrounding the future forward planning for Carrick on Shannon had taken place, the national planning framework and timescale for preparation of same became clearer. The publication of a new National Planning Framework (replacing the National Spatial Strategy) is expected to be presented to the Oireachtas before the end of this year. Likewise, a replacement for the current Regional Planning Guidelines, the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy is being prepared for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly administrative area. The positioning of Carrick on Shannon / Cortober from a regional perspective will be determined through the above processes. It will also provide the context for the population and household allocation for the town and environs.

The priority continues to engage with the national and regional planning framework preparation to secure adequate and appropriate recognition of our County town within the national and regional hierarchical framework. As a consequence and taking into account that there is no urgency for either Local Authority in preparing a new land use plan for Carrick on Shannon / Cortober, it would be premature and potentially wasteful of resources to embark on the preparation of a new land use plan at this time. The requirement of Local Area Plans to be consistent with national and regional planning frameworks is enshrined in legislation so it would be considered prudent and efficient to await the conclusion of the national and regional frameworks prior to considering a successor to the existing land use strategy for the town.

Separately and in addition, the flood event which occurred in December 2015 / January 2016 highlighted once again the need for a comprehensive surface water management strategy to be developed in conjunction with the Shannon CFRAM Plan prepared by Jacobs Consulting
Engineers on behalf of the OPW. The preparation of such a strategy would be required to inform and shape the direction of land use management which would be contained in a new land use strategy for Carrick on Shannon / Cortober. It would be considered ill advised to prepare a new integrated Local Area Plan in the absence of the completion of the Shannon CFRAM process.

The matter will continue to be reviewed as progress of the national and regional planning frameworks develop.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said he had nothing further to add to this motion as it had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting in a similar motion tabled by Councillor Sinead Guckian (Notice 6 – CMD 17/126 of these Minutes).

CMD 17/133
11/09/17

TII – Marking out of Bus/Taxi Lane on Boyle Road, Carrick on Shannon

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

“I ask that Leitrim County Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland asking that they mark out a Bus/Taxi Lane on the Boyle Road, Carrick on Shannon. It would be greatly appreciated by Travel Companies and Taxis if markings were in place for use particularly on evenings of Thursday to Sundays. I would suggest markings commence at the entrance to Old Road in Hughestown and continue to the Drishogue Roundabout at Supervalu. Buses and Taxis work to schedules and timetables and need cooperation of the Roads Authority to plan journeys. Thus providing a second lane would also have positive results for those going to The Retail Park.”

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire outlined the problems with traffic congestion coming from the Sligo side of the town particularly at the weekends. She requested that Leitrim County Council issue letter to the TII regarding this matter.

Mr. O'Boyle advised the members that as this area is outside of the administrative area of Leitrim County Council and within the administrative area of Roscommon County Council, it would be more appropriate that we would write to Roscommon County Council rather than the TII will regard to this matter. It was agreed that a letter would issue to Roscommon County Council regarding this matter.

Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion.

CMD 17/134
11/09/17

Any Other Business

The next meeting of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District is scheduled to take place on Monday 9th October 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: __________________________