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

On Monday 8th July 2019 at 11.00 am

Members Present: Councillor Paddy Farrell (Leas-Cathaoirleach)
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor Thomas Mulligan
Councillor Enda Stenson

Officials Present: Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning & Transportation
Darragh O'Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Mairead Shanley, Meetings Administrator
Pamela Moran, Meetings Support

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire welcomed everyone to the meeting.

CMD 19/69  Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on
08/07/19  Monday 8th April 2019

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

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 8th April 2019 be adopted.”

Matters arising from the Minutes: -

Councillor Guckian made reference to page 3 of the Minutes (CMD 19/51 – 08/04/19). He
enquired if there had been any update from the HSE. Ms. Shanley informed him that no response had been received to date. He asked could the HSE be written to again in relation to the matter of sheltered accommodation.

CMD 19/70  Minutes of Annual Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Friday 14th June 2019

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

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal Annual Meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Friday 14th June 2019 be adopted.”

No matters arising from the Minutes.

Part 1 – Notices of Motion

CMD 19/71  Reversal of Traffic Flow – Leitrim Road, Main Street, Priest’s Lane

08/07/19

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

"That Leitrim County Council revert to the original pre May 2019 traffic flow directions in the Leitrim Road, Main St and Priest’s Lane area of Carrick-on-Shannon. The present one-way clockwise circulation is causing distress and is widely condemned."

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

"The Council has been trialling the revised system of traffic flow at upper Main Street Carrick on Shannon and have formed the view that the revised system is proving effective in achieving the required objectives. In addition feedback has proved overall positive which is also worth noting. Following consultation with the Gardaí and review by the Council's traffic consultant some remaining matters remain to be addressed. The traffic flow will continue in this new layout and when the remaining matters are concluded the continuance of the system on a permanent basis will be facilitated."

Councillor Guckian stated that while he was canvassing in Carrick he met a number of people who widely condemned the new one way traffic system. He said that in his opinion it was a misguided decision. He cited incidences of long traffic delays and his personal experience on a number of occasions of vehicles travelling in the wrong direction. He was at a loss to know why the system
was introduced in the first place. He also made reference to the fact that trucks were being encouraged to divert away from the town. He said that this was forcing trucks onto the Castlecarrar Road, which was overly busy before this extra traffic.

He asked that council officials would publish the number of complaints received from the public in relation to this matter.

He stated that the old system worked well and he wanted to see it returned to this way.

Councillor Stenson said he did not agree with the comments made and that he believed the system is working perfectly, resulting in traffic on the Leitrim Road flowing freely. He commented that with any type of change there are always going to be initial concerns and worries.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that there were a lot of incidents at the start but this has settled down now. The feedback he has received is that in general people are quite happy. He highlighted concerns for pedestrians trying to cross at various places in the town. He said that when the public realm works were completed the inclusion of designated pedestrian crossing points would alleviate this problem.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire said she would like to add to the comments made already. She also highlighted the difficulty for pedestrians trying to cross over particularly at Joe Lowes corner and Kelly’s supermarket at the Summerhill junction. This, she said has always been a problem but hopefully it will be resolved with the new public realm works. In relation to previous comments made about negative feedback in relation to the system she said that anyone she had spoken to was happy with it. She commented that negative people speak very loudly.

Mr O’Boyle informed the meeting that the issue of traffic control is an executive function however consultation took place with elected members, traders and the chamber of commerce. It was given a month’s trial and was adopted last month as a permanent system. This new system has led to large lorries being kept out of the town as a result of advanced signage advising them of alternative routes.

He said that a total of 6 complaints had been received, 1 was in relation to a parking matter and 5 were in relation to pedestrian access. He commented that in general people who give out about things don't write in about them. He stated that the upcoming public realm works would deal with the issues of pedestrian access and safety.

Mr Gilhooly gave an outline of why this trial traffic system was implemented. This one way system has facilitated a number of extra parking spaces within the town. He informed the meeting that the feedback received in general has been positive. The Gardai are reasonably happy with how it is operating. He said that there has been ongoing consultation with business, chamber of commerce and the Gardai.

Councillor Guckian reiterated that this new layout was a failure. In response to Councillor Armstrong McGuire comments he said that it is not negative if people state their problems, it is part of the debate.

Mr Gilhooly concluded that from an executive perspective the current system is working well.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

"That Leitrim County Council immediately urge the government's implementation of the CFRAM flood control barriers programme as laid out for the villages along the Shannon and for Carrick-on-Shannon."

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

"Leitrim County Council's Capital Office are currently working with the Office of Public Works (OPW) to finalise tender documents for the procurement of Consultants. These Consultants will be tasked with carrying out the Detailed Design of a Flood Relief Scheme in Carrick on Shannon. Once appointed, the Consultant will undertake the Options Assessment, Environmental Reporting, Planning Process, Detailed Construction Design, Procurement of Works Contractor, Construction right through to the Handover of the Works."

Councillor Guckian said that the response he had received stated that this project is being worked on, however he noted that no immediate timescale was given. He enquired about Dromod and other areas. He referred to the flooding in 2009 commenting that Carrick resembled Venice with the level of flooding. Nothing much appears to have been done to prevent a recurrence of such a situation. He said that Carrick on Shannon was promised gates, Leitrim Village was promised an embankment, where have all the promises gone? He said that he had recently attended an Oral Hearing facilitated by An Bord Pleanala in relation to a compulsory purchase order regarding Flynn's Field. He commented that he found it most disturbing that the site in question was liable to flooding yet it was not mentioned at the oral hearing. He called on the Executive to make contact the relevant department to request the immediate draw down of the funding.

Mr Gilhooly outlined the CFRAM process. He explained that the process is a complicated piece of work and involved a lot of work behind the scenes.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion. He made reference to the visit by Minister Moran and commented that a fair bit of work has been carried out since that, which has relieved a lot of pinch points. He said he hoped that the 8 million euro announced for the council to carry out these works will be soon forthcoming, adding that he hoped that it wasn't just an announcement for the sake of it. He enquired as to the type of wall is proposed.

Councillor Stenson also supported the motion and stated that he hoped there were no further delays with the proposed works. He said he had raised the issue of walls with the Chief Executive 6 months ago. He made reference to walls used in Waterford and suggested that it might be beneficial for the members to take a trip to Waterford to see firsthand what the walls are like in situ.

Councillors Farrell and Mulligan supported the motion and hoped works will progress soon. Councillor Mulligan enquired as to the location of the works proposed for Mohill.
Mr Gilhooly said that there are no further details available at the moment. There is no specific deadline for these type of works. We have to work within the timescale of the Office of Public Works.

In response Councillor Guckian said that we are talking about crippling flooding and delays are not acceptable. The country should have learnt from previous flooding. There should be no waiting, we should be going after the government. He said that this matter should be dealt with the greatest of urgency.

Mr Gilhooly informed the meeting that there were no delays, the process takes time. There will be 2 staff employed to work with Shay O'Connor in the Capital Projects Office on delivering this project. Their posts are funded through allocation received for project.

There is a collective willingness to get this work done. He commented that once you get a design in place, work starts to speed up.

CMD 19/73 Racial Abuse/Verbal Assaults – Dublin/Sligo Train Service
08/07/19

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

"At the July Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Council, I will seek the support of the members in calling on Iarnrod Eireann to take immediate steps to address the serious problem with racial abuse, verbal assault on passengers which is on the increase on the Dublin / Sligo train service and is now almost an everyday occurrence."

Councillor McGowan informed the meeting that a number of incidents had been brought to his attention over the last few months. He has heard of incidents where families have been verbally abused. People were intoxicated and he pointed out they were not all young people. He said people paid money to travel on the train and they expect to travel in comfort and peace. They are annoyed and concerned and are being put off from using the train.

He commented that Iarnrod Eireann needs to put more personnel on the train. Most times it is just the driver. The ticket checker is not always on the train for the duration of the journey. Catering staff are employed on contract work and have no dealings outside of catering duties.

Councillor Farrell supported the motion and commented that the weekend seemed to be the biggest problem.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire said that all members would be in support of this motion.

Councillor Guckian said that the deliberate abuse of people on public transport should be totally opposed. He agreed with Councillor McGowan that more staff are needed on the trains and that anyone who behaves inappropriately should be taken off the train at the next stop and arrested.
Councillor McGowan said Iarnrod Eireann are losing revenue as a result of not having a ticket checker on some of their trains.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire suggested that a letter should issue to Iarnrod Eireann highlighting concerns raised. She added that such instances are putting people off travelling by train and the matter needs to be addressed.

As both Councillor McGowan and Councillor Armstrong McGuire had tabled similar motions it was agreed to take them together.

CMD 19/74
08/07/19

Waterways Ireland – Toilet Facilities at Drumsna Harbour

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

"At the July Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Council, I will ask the Director of Services, Infrastructure to have discussions with Waterways Ireland with a view to them providing much needed toilet facilities at Drumsna Harbour."

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

"Waterways Ireland have advised that their policy in relation to service blocks is to have 1 at every 12 miles stretch of water unless there are extenuating circumstances. There are currently service blocks in both Carrick on Shannon and Dromod which is approx. 12 miles apart so the inclusion of a further service block at Drumsna is not envisaged by Waterways Ireland at this stage in light of their restricted Capital and Operational resources."

CMD 19/75
08/07/19

Update on request for Toilet Facilities at Drumsna Quay

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

"At Carrick Municipal meeting I will ask for an update on progress with request to have toilet facilities installed at Quayside in Drumsna."
Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation;

"Waterways Ireland have advised that their policy in relation to service blocks is to have 1 at every 12 miles stretch of water unless there are extenuating circumstances. There are currently service blocks in both Carrick on Shannon and Dromod which is approx. 12 miles apart so the inclusion of a further service block at Drumsna is not envisaged by Waterways Ireland at this stage in light of their restricted Capital and Operational resources."

Councillor McGowan said that he had been contacted by the Drumsna Development Association in relation to this matter. He noted the contents of the reply. He commented that the people of Drumsna would like to see boats staying longer in the village. At the end of the day it is about revenue for the area. If there are no facilities people are not going to stop off.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported these motions. He said that this issue had been raised with all members. He commented that toilet facilities were an important and necessary facility to have anywhere.

Councillor Farrell also supported these motions.

Councillor Guckian informed the meeting that he had raised this issue in May. He said that visitors who come to Drumsna need proper facilities, this would then in turn encourage them to take in what the village has to offer. The lack of these facilities is a black mark against the village. The Drumsna Tidy Towns committee wrote to Waterways Ireland on this matter but no reply had been received since 23rd May 2019.

Mr Gilhooly stated that Leitrim County Council has a good working relationship with Waterways Ireland. He said that the council was well aware of the policies of Waterways Ireland. This is an operational issue. There is no finance to construct and run such a facility. He requested that details of the matter be forwarded to the Development Officer of Leitrim County Council with a view to meeting and working with reps from Drumsna. He hoped that it may be possible to facilitate discussions in September.

CMD 19/76  Major Improvement Works – L-3409 Leitrim/Drumsna to Kiltoghert
08/07/19 Community Centre

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy Farrell;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to carry out major improvements to Road No. L3409 leading from Leitrim Drumsna road to Kiltoghert Community Centre. There is a large volume of traffic on this narrow stretch of road."

Report by Roads – General;

"This section of public road serves the communities of Gowel, Kiltoghert, Kilnagross and
Effernagh. In order for the road to be widened, we would require either a specific improvement grant or a low cost safety scheme. These projects are rated on traffic volume and recorded incidents on the public road. I will ask for this section of road to be included in our low cost safety submissions to the Department, but I am unaware of any recorded incidents on this section of local road. Our normal Road Improvement or Maintenance grant system does not allow for road widening."

Councillor Farrell said that he would like to see this road put on the top of the agenda to get it fixed. There is very heavy traffic on this road from cars, school buses and lorries. He commented that there are two particularly dangerous points on the road, the width of the road is the same as it was 60 years ago.

Councillor Armstrong Maguire supported this motion and stated that the growth of Carrick has led to the increased volumes of traffic on this road.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and said that a good swipe of land was needed as there isn't much room to play with. He said that in general traffic goes slow on this stretch of road. Speeding was not the issue but the narrowness of the road.

Councillor McGowan also supported the motion and suggested that if some of the hedges were taken out it would go some way to solving the problem.

Councillor Guckian agreed with the motion. He suggested that there should be speed regulations to slow down traffic and the first issue that needed to be addressed was the dangerous sections where there is a drop of 10 feet on a turn.

For the purposes of the newly elected members Mr O'Boyle went through the various road grants/schemes available to the Roads Department and what their specific purposes were. He also made reference to the schemes given in his response.

CMD 19/77
08/07/19

Signage for Taxi Ranks

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

"At July municipal meeting I am asking for clear signage at all Taxi areas. Taxi Ranks are operational in our towns. Customer parking is confined on our shopping streets. Can we have clear signage put in place so that the rules can be applied and policed. Taxis wishing to collect clients need to do so 24/7 yet I understand there are hours of public parking in some of these areas. Clarity of signage is needed for everyone."

Report by Roads – General;

"An inspection of all taxi ranks will be carried out to ensure that all correct signage and road
markings are in place. It should be noted however that some of the taxi ranks are part time from 7pm to 7am and are used for public parking outside these hours. A full review of the Taxi parking will be undertaken as part of the public realm works that are programmed in Carrick on Shannon, and the appropriate Bye laws will be adjusted accordingly."

Councillor Armstrong McGuire said that the identification of taxi ranks is not clear. People sometimes have to pull in at the Post Office to collect someone and they are not sure if it is a full time designated taxi rank or a part time one. Parking is extremely important to the businesses in the town.

Mr Gilhooly said that there are two types of taxi ranks operation in Carrick town - a 12 hour and a 24 hour rank. The 12 hour taxi ranks contribute to the availability of parking during the day as they are only operational between the hours of 7pm and 7am. He said that a review of taxi signage and bye-laws will be undertaken however he said that he had concerns about spending money on areas that were going to come under the forthcoming public realm works.

She enquired as to who polices the taxi ranks. Mr Gilhooly informed her that it was the Traffic Wardens and the Gardai.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion and enquired as to the status of the taxi rank outside the post office

Mr Gilhooly informed him that the taxi rank directly outside the post office was a 12 hour rank while the one at the town’s clock was a 24 hour rank.

Mr O’Boyle said that all road markings and signage would be replenished under the regeneration works proposed for the town.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire remarked that there needed to be clarity for everyone in relation to where the taxi ranks are and what their status is i.e. 12 or 24 hour.

CMD 19/78
08/07/19

Update - Taking in Charge - Lis Cara Estate

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

"May I ask, what is the update with the proposed takeover of the Lis Cara housing Development."

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

"The Bond claim in regard to this development is about complete with proceeds to be divided between the Council and Irish Water to cover the cost of any unfinished works or repairs that each party will have the responsibility to maintain. Discussions in respect of the equitable division of the settlement monies and deciding the lead organisation for the purposes of procurement and
engagement of a contractor should be completed during the third quarter of 2019. Once these matters are agreed and a contractor procured, the Council will be in a position to commence the statutory public consultation process to enable taking in charge. Once the estate is formally in charge the Council and/or Irish Water will have the legal authority to enter the estate and undertake the identified works. Any works undertaken will be to elements of infrastructure that are in charge and the extent of works will be constrained by the amount of monies available through the settlement."

Councillor Stenson welcomed the reply. He said he had met with Lis Cara residents recently as they were concerned that the estate did not appear on the list published for takeover by the council recently. He said that he was happy now to see it moving along and that he understood that there has to be a timeframe.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion.

Mr Gilhooly reiterated the response given.

Councillor Guckian made reference to the reply and discussions with Irish Water. He wanted to know if this was in relation to the water supply or sewerage.

Mr Gilhooly informed him that it related to both and they also would be discussing the pumping station.

CMD 19/79  Completion of overlay Kiltoghert to Drumsna Road
08/07/19

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

"May I ask, when will we be able to complete the overlay on the Kiltoghert to Drumsna road, and is the pipe laying near complete."

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

"Irish Water Capital have completed their new pipe reinstatement. Irish Water have not completed the bursts reinstatement. Once completed we will reassess the grant availability and provide a surface dressing to this regional road."

Councillor Stenson stated that the condition of the road is not in a good way. He asked if there is an end in sight for these works. It is not fair on the residents and road users alike.

Councillor McGowan supported this motion. He stated that all the elected members had received reps in relation to this matter. The contractor only carried out work on the trenches which still have to be completed. This road is in a very poor state and people have concerns about it.

Mr O'Boyle informed the meeting that this was the worst regional road under his charge. He gave a brief outline as to the reasons which led to Irish Water carrying out the current works. He said that Irish Water were looked upon as a service provider like ESB or EIR, which means
they require a Road Opening Licence to carry out works. When the works on the road are completed by them there is a 2 year road warranty.

Councillor Stenson thanked Mr O'Boyle for the response and added that he hoped Leitrim County Council would continue to pursue Irish Water on this matter.

Councillor Farrell supported this motion.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion commenting that this road needs a good surface. He added that this road is not gritted in winter.

Mr O'Boyle informed him that this stretch of road is gritted in winter.

CMD 19/80  
08/07/19

Any Other Business

Notices of Motions – Councillor Thomas Mulligan

Councillor Mulligan informed the meeting that he had submitted two Notices of Motions but that they did not appear on today's agenda. The reason for this was that he was not set up on the Extranet system and had forwarded them by text. However, as they had not been received through the online system they could not be added to the Agenda.

Community Involvement Schemes

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire highlighted to Members circular from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to application for funding under Community Involvement Schemes (Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Mr Gilhooly informed the meeting that the closing date for the scheme was 20th September 2019. He said that this scheme was for two years, 2020 and 2021.

Councillor Mulligan enquired if there was any scheme available to deal with local roads which had grass growing in the middle of them.

Mr O'Boyle responded that he was not in favour of removing grass from the middle of such roads as it weakens the road. There would be no advantage to carrying out such works as the grass would not damage the sump of a car.

New Sculpture on Dromod Roundabout – N4

Councillor McGowan complemented Gavin Duignan and all at Irish Church Seating on the recent sculpture which was erected on the Dromod Roundabout. He said it was a beautiful piece of
sculpture. He wished them well. He also complemented Mr O’Boyle and his staff who facilitated the works.

New Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire welcomed Ms. Mairead Shanley to the meeting. She is taking over the position of Meeting Administrator from Mr Gerard Doyle, who has recently taken up a post in the North Western Regional Assembly. She wished her well in her role and wished Mr Doyle well in his new post.

Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 9th September 2019 at 11.00 am in the Council Chamber.

- This concluded the business of the meeting at 12.20 pm

Signed: Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Cathaoirleach

Mairead Shanley
Meetings Administrator

Date: 9/September 2019