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

On Monday 14th January 2019 at 3.30 pm

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

Officials Present: Ms. Kathryne Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning & Transportation
Mr. Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Ms. Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning & Transportation
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Finance Department
Ms. Carmel Doherty, Ms. Eilish McGovern & Ms. Mary Reynolds, Finance Department

CMD 19/01 Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on
14/01/19 Monday 3rd December 2018

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 3rd December 2018 be adopted.”

No Matters arising from the Minutes.
Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson informed the meeting that in light of the recent fire at the Shannon Key West Hotel in Rooskey he was giving each member an opportunity to express their feelings/views on this matter.

**Councillor Sean McGowan (Cathaoirleach Leitrim County Council):**
Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his deep concern and unhappiness at the suspected arson attack that occurred at the former Shannon Key West Hotel. Councillor McGowan condemned this behaviour and appealed to members of the public to assist the Gardai in any way possible in their investigation of this matter. Councillor McGowan commended the members of the emergency services who attended the incident and outlined that it is his hope that this property can be restored to its full potential and will become a valued asset to the wider community once more.

**Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire:**
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire endorsed Councillor McGowan’s comments and said that she knew this community well and that what had occurred would be against the wishes of the local community who want to see what is best for Roosky.

**Councillor Des Guckian:**
Councillor Des Guckian said that he was opposed to any type of violence and that the only way to confront this matter was through dialogue. Councillor Guckian condemned the Media whom he said had unjustly attacked the local community. Councillor Guckian said that the Department of Justice had been made aware that this was not a suitable location for such a large number of Refugees and that the wish of the Community is that this premises would be used as a Hotel in the future.

**Councillor Sinead Guckian:**
Councillor Sinead Guckian endorsed all of the comments already made on this issue and condemned this behaviour.

**Councillor Séadhna Logan:**
Councillor Seadna Logan also endorsed all of the comments already made on this issue and also stated that Direct Provision centres are not working and that the whole model needs to be reviewed.

**Councillor Enda Stenson - (Cathaoirleach Carrick on Shannon Municipal District):**
Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson said he concurred with everything said by his colleagues. He also agreed that the Direct Provision model was not working and that this venue should be looked at again by the Department of Justice.
CMD 19/03  
**Rate Collection Report 2018 and Schedule of Uncollected Rates**  
**14/01/19**

Report dated 14th January, 2019 was circulated to the Members at the start of the meeting. *(Appendix No. 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).*

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Finance Department gave an overview of the report to the members.

Councillor Sinead Guckian asked when will the first Rates Invoices issue for the Vacant Properties and Ms. Flynn advised that these would be issuing in February 2019.

Councillor Des Guckian asked what was the main reasons for non-payment of rates and what about Business’s who are unable to pay the Rates which are due. Ms. Flynn advised that payment plans are worked out to assist such Business’s and that Rates is a business tax which must be factored into any Business Plan.

Councillor Sean McGowan enquired about the “Write Off’s” figure on the Rate Collection Report. Ms. Flynn explained that this related to vacancy write offs and irrecoverable debt.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that business’s have a large number of costs and they need to look at all of their costs.

Councillor Seadna Logan asked what was the estimated Income for 2019 from Vacant Properties and also asked when do we declare a debt to be irrecoverable. Ms. Flynn advised that the estimated Income for 2019 for Vacant Properties was €80,000 approx. and as regards declaring a debt as an irrecoverable debts, this depended on the circumstances in each case.

CMD 19/04  
**Correspondence**  
**14/01/19**

**Item No. 1**

Letter dated 31st December 2018 from Group Customer Complaints, Bank of Ireland relating to letter issued from Carrick on Shannon Municipal District in relation to ongoing issues with ATM in Mohill town. *(Appendix No. 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).*

In response to the correspondence received Councillor Des Guckian stated that the reply was unsatisfactory and he stated that this issue had been going on for years.

Ms. Kathryne Bohan stated that this was a standard generic response from Bank of Ireland and as stated in their letter an update will issue not later than 22nd January 2019.
Part 1 – Notices of Motion

CMD 19/05 Extension to Public Sewerage Line – Ballynamoney Townland
14/01/19

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

“That we agree the absolute need for an extension of the public sewerage line, in Ballynamoney Townland. There are many closely packed houses and building sites there along the R280. The sites cannot get planning permissions, from the Council, if they are not on the public sewerage line. There is a nice gradual fall, along the R280, from Ballynamoney to the Liscara Estate. Ballynamoney must be one of the few residential communities, in Ireland, on the edge of a town, which is being denied this very necessary facility."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;
“This council has submitted for funding a group sewerage scheme in this location as part of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme. We were not successful in 2016. However a new programme will be established in 2019 and we will include this scheme in our submission.”

Councillor Des Guckian stated that this Scheme is urgently needed and he hopes that there will be funding for this Scheme in 2019.

This Motion was supported by all Councillors. However, this is one of many Schemes which has been submitted for funding under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme with no indication of when funding will be made available.

CMD 19/06 Roadside Drain requiring remedial works – N4 Dromod Roundabout
14/01/19

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

“That Leitrim County Council engineers contact Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) with regard to a roadside drain, approx. 140 metres long, in need of cleaning and deepening. It is along the Dromod Roundabout and on the eastern corner of same. The starting landmark is a yellow-coloured house which is immediately on your right-hand side as you leave the Roundabout, heading for Mohill. From there go round the corner heading for Rooskey. Pass lamp standards 11, 12, 13 and almost to 14. A “tributary drain”, from a hilly area to the east, feeds in to your drain and it is blocking up and flooding several properties.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;
“This issue has been brought to the Municipal District previously. The Local Authority has carried out arterial drainage through the OPW districts with the agreed LCC drainage grant along the Eslin River. Any tributaries feeding into this system is the responsibility of the Land Owner. The TII/LCC own the short section at the Dromod roundabout and will apply through the TII defects application to access funding to carry out this drainage section. This proposed drainage works on LCC property will not mitigate drainage issues for dwellings which do not have a catchment system installed at the boundary with the public road, as required by planning and galvanised by the
Roads Act Section 76(5)."

Councillor Des Guckian noted the reply and he stated that he hoped Funding would be received for these works.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion and he added that the drain along the bypass needs to be look at too. Councillor McGowan said that some landowners may have to carry out some works on their lands to facilitate this and he asked that this be looked at now when there was machinery in the area doing work on the N4 Roundabout at Dromod.

On an aside to the issue raised above, Councillor Des Guckian requested that a reporting system be put in place to follow up on progress of replies given to Notices of Motion.

CMD 19/07 Traffic Calming Measures – Farnaught to Rynn - Local Road – L-5612-0 14/01/19

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

“At the January meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the District Engineer, South Leitrim to see what steps can be taken to slow the traffic down on the road from Farnaught to Rynn, L-5612-0. I have been contacted by a number of people about the speed of traffic on this road, particularly the first section when you come off Road No. L-1055-1. This road is used on a regular basis by visitors to Lough Rynn, who are directed down that road by Google maps. Should we look at reducing the speed limit as well as providing some “Slow Down Please” signage along the road?”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;

“In December 2018, the district office erected 2 No. pedestrian walking signs along this public laneway. New stop signs have also been erected at the junctions. It is unlikely that a speed limit reduction in this rural area would be advised by the executive. The hazard is not the road or the surrounds but driver behaviour and this issue can be brought to the attention of the JPC for consideration.”

Councillor Sean McGowan noted the reply and enquired if it was possible to have the “Stop” sign coming from the Rynn direction moved back and also to re-examine the possibility of reducing the Speed Limit on this road when Speed Limits are next being reviewed.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer responded that the speed limit set on this road is in accordance with speed limit guidelines and he advised that the speed limit is not a target and it was the responsibility of each driver to drive at the appropriate speed having regard to road conditions etc.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

“At the January meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District I will again ask the Senior Engineer, Roads Department, what progress has been made with regard to the extension of the footpath on the R202 Road from the roundabout on the Dromod-Rooskey Bypass at Cloonturk, as far as Cloonturk Church. It is extremely dangerous for the large number of local people as well as the many tourists who walk from the village of Dromod to attend mass and other church services on a regular basis on this very busy stretch of roadway.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;

“There is no funding available for this footway in our current budget. If funding becomes available we can consider design and construction. An alternative source of funding may come from T&V or CLAR which will need local community input. This office is more than happy to meet and discuss with these community spokespersons.”

Councillor Sean McGowan said he has been seeking this work for a long time and that he hoped to see some progress on this matter in 2019. Councillor McGowan asked that a special effort be made to complete this work in 2019.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, said that there is no funding at present for these works but that, as stated in the reply, if there was a community group which could come together for this project, Leitrim County Council would be happy to meet with them and discuss options for possible funding.

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

“At the January meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the Director of Services, Housing, how many properties are on the HAP scheme in this Municipal District, are all properties inspected prior to the applications being accepted and if there have been any changes to qualifying criteria for "HAP" properties in the past 12 months or if there are any concerns that a number of occupied properties will have to be withdrawn from the scheme following recent inspections."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services;

“There are 74 households accommodated in the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District under the HAP scheme. Under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 as amended, the property provided by the landlord, to the tenant must be in compliance with these regulations. The application form signed by the landlord when applying for HAP, details that the local authority will carry out an inspection of the property within 8 months of commencing HAP payments to
ensure that the property is in compliance. If this inspection identifies matters of non compliance with the standards, the landlord will be obliged to remedy the matter(s) of non compliance within a period of time indicated by the local authority in written notice to the landlord. Failure to remedy any matters of non compliance within the stated timeframe will result in the suspension or cessation of HAP payments. There have been no changes in the qualifying criteria for HAP in past 12 months.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian noted the reply. She informed the meeting that the Public Accounts Committee compiled a report on the level of inspections carried out by local authorities and this Report highlighted that some local authorities did not reach their Inspection targets. Councillor Guckian stated that there are a lot of accidental Landlords in County Leitrim and that the message needs to be got out that Leitrim County Council will work proactively with Landlords in order to achieve compliance.

This motion was supported by Councillor’s Enda Stenson and Sean McGowan.

CMD 19/10  Footpaths in Carrick on Shannon
14/01/19
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire;

“Some of the Footpaths in Carrick on Shannon are very much in need of replacement. While town centre plans will correct some, the areas of lower Summerhill opposite Campus 2 Scoil Mhuire as well as areas of St Patrick’s Park and Shannon Lodge need attention. I ask that an assessment is carried out and priority is given to replacing and repairing them.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;
“In 2019, there is a restoration grant attached to this section urban road. We intend to carry out small footpath realignment to co-inside with this grant scheme. We have met with the ESB and Public lighting contractor and are awaiting prices for these elements of work. However, any funding for these works must come from LCC as the RIG only applies to Road restoration and kerbing and associated drainage.”

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire noted the reply and referred to potholes which have occurred on the road close to the Shannon Roundabout in Carrick on Shannon.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer said that some of these problems were occurring due to works carried out by the Water Services Department.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire;

"The Road from Lismakeegan to Kiltoghert is busy both ways and many new drivers are using it. Currently it is very narrow for meeting vehicles to pass each other. On turning off the R299 on to L3409 and travelling towards Kiltoghert Community Centre drivers regularly find themselves in ditches. Maps given to us show 2020 plans for junction nearby as on our roadworks schedule, can the very much needed widening of this road be included in these works?"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;
“This issue has been addressed at previous council meetings. The widening of any road requires land take and land purchase. These works are not applicable to our RIGs or RMG schemes. These type of works require a specific improvement grant or a large Low Cost Safety scheme. As road widening on this section of public road would be welcomed, we will place this request for submission under LCS.”

Councillor Finola Armstrong informed the meeting that this road is an extremely narrow road and is especially dangerous for anyone who is not familiar with the road and that the traffic on this road has increased considerably and this road is used by people travelling to/from funerals in Gowel Church.

This motion was supported by all members.

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

"The Road from Eslin Bridge to Stuck Crossroads is becoming impassable due to a succession of water bursts from the trunk water main. Work needs to be done on this road immediately or the School bus will refuse to travel here."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;
“Following consultation with Irish Water agents, we have been made aware that this road will be closed from February to June to allow water mains rehabilitation works to be carried out. Before this occurs, LCC will carry out required maintenance works on this public road.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson noted the reply. He said that he had concerns about the long period of this propose road closure and the implications of this for the School bus which travels this road.

Mr. Darragh O'Boyle explained that the water-main on this road needed to be replaced and these works will be carried out by Irish Water. Mr. O'Boyle outlined that the proposed road closure will be advertised and that there will be a period for public submissions / objections.
Councillor Des Guckian stated that a full road closure should not be necessary and he referred to the recent works completed at the Dromod Railway Bridge where a traffic lights system was in operation which enabled the road to remain open for the duration of the works.

**CMD 19/13 Raised Pedestrian Crossing on R201 into Mohill**

14/01/19

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

“The issue of speeding coming into Mohill on the R201 from Carrick on Shannon, has been discussed here on numerous occasions in the past. We were promised a raised pedestrian crossing, and the entrance/exit to old Treanmore is extremely Dangerous and needs proper road markings and signage.”

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;*

“A commitment was given by this office to construct a raised ramp at this pedestrian crossing. As stated, this works will be carried out when our macadam contractor returns to carry out similar ramp works at Dromod and Rooskey. The timing of these works will be February to allow road lining and markings to be installed which is temperature dependant.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson noted the reply and stated that this matter had been raised before. He referred to the speed at which traffic is travelling coming into Mohill from the Carrick on Shannon side and he also referred to the junction onto the R201 from the area known as old Treanmore which he said is very dangerous as he said there are no road markings to show that the area is there.

Councillors Sean McGowan and Seádhna Logan both supported the motion and referred to another dangerous junction on this Road at the entrance to Comee Lane (Ussaun).

Councillor Des Guckian said that the key to this problem was a raised pedestrian crossing and he asked when will this raised Pedestrian Crossing be put in place on this road.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle stated that this raised Pedestrian Crossing will be completed in conjunction with similar works at Dromod and Rooskey and these works will be completed in February, weather permitting.

**CMD 19/14 Funding for Playground Facilities – Station Road, Mohill**

14/01/19

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

“That in 2019 Leitrim County Council would seek funding through Clár or any other suitable grants scheme or funding stream to modernise and upgrade the public playground facilities on Station Road, Mohill to enhance the existing playground and space. That the council would also endeavour to maintain the existing facilities by replacing the old faded signage and doing more routine maintenance with an emphasis on power hosing of the site as the need arises.”
Report by Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning & Transportation;

“Measure 2 under the CLAR Programme includes for School and Community Play areas with 90% funding from the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD). The maximum number of applications that can be submitted by each LA annually is capped at 15. The number of applications received by LCC annually far exceeds this number necessitating a short listing process based on the merits of each application. Should the Mohill Playground Upgrade application score high enough for inclusion in the top 15 projects, LCC will seek funding from the DRCD under CLAR Measure 2 during April 2019.”

Councillor Séadhna Logan thanked Leitrim County Council for works completed at the Playground last weekend. He welcomed the works done and raised a few items which he would like to see addressed - He said that the public signage at the playground is faded and needs replacing, the gate is damaged and children can get out easily through it. Councillor Logan outlined that this playground was built in 2004 and is now one of the older ones in the county and is in need of upgrade. Councillor Logan said that this Playground is used a lot as there are a lot of young families in Mohill and he said that this Playground needs to be upgraded and he strongly urged the Council to do everything within its power to ensure that the upgrade of this Playground is included in the applications for Clar Funding.

Councillor Sean McGowan and Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson both supported this Motion.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly outlined that the Clar Scheme is a publicly advertised Scheme and that a Community Group in Mohill would need to liaise with Ms. Suzanne Duffy, Community Development Section of Leitrim County Council where they would receive advice and assistance in their application for Clar Funding for this Playground.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle informed the meeting from an operational and maintenance point of view regular audits of the playgrounds are carried out and he outlined that he would look at the issues raised above by Councillor Logan.

CMD 19/15 Assessment of Public Walkways and Footpaths – Mohill Town
14/01/19

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

“That an assessment be undertaken by Leitrim County Council on all public walkways and footpaths in and around Mohill town, and if necessary any funding for upgrades, replacement or repairs be sought as a priority. Over the last number of years very little work with footpaths has been done locally. Mohill, as a town that had been identified as a pilot for an age friendly town, should be leading the way in ensuring footpaths and accessibility for all.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads Department;

“The District Office is aware of public footpaths in Mohill. We will endeavour to seek funding through DTTAS and DRCD. The priority for footpaths in Mohill are to repair any damaged footpaths as they arise and also to widen the Glebe Street footpath. The majority of damage caused to public footpaths are caused by unlawful parking of cars on the footpath causing stress and settlement. This office have met with local interest groups who are currently seeking funding
for minor urban renewal works through T&V and CLAR programmes."

Councillor Séadhna Logan noted the reply and welcomed the proposals to widen the footpaths on Glebe Street. Councillor Logan said that very little works have been done with Footpaths in/around Mohill in recent years and he highlighted the bad state of repair of the footpaths on both sides of the road from Green Road to the Enterprise Centre. Councillor Logan also referred to footpaths on Hyde Street and parts of Main Street which are in need of upgrade. Councillor Logan said that Mohill is an “Age Friendly Town” in accordance with the Barcelona Agreement and the current state of the footpaths is causing an accessibility issue.

This Motion was supported by all Councillors.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle informed the meeting that he had met with the local community in Mohill regarding the footpaths in the town and the first priority is to widen and upgrade the footpaths on Glebe Street and he advised that this will curtail parking of vehicles on the right hand side of Glebe Street.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson raised the issue of no street name sign for Castle Street in Mohill and he said that a number of streets in Mohill have no Street Name sign.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle said that the matter of Street Name signs in Mohill would be looked at and signs put up with the permission of the owners of the properties involved.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly advised that the Road Grant Programme does not provide funding for the replacement of footpaths. Mr. Gilhooly said that the issue of Street Name Signage would be looked at.

CMD 19/16  Any Other Business
14/01/19

Notice of Motions – Implementation of Reporting System

Councillor Des Guckian asked for the implementation of a reporting system on Notices of Motion passed, whereby, where a Motion is passed, an update Report would be sent to Members updating them on the progress of the motions passed. Mr. Joseph Gilhooly said the replies to Notices of Motions were as clear as possible in their content and most replies come down to the availability/unavailability of funding and he advised that there is no facility to allow for providing updates on Notices of Motions. He advised that Councillors need to keep in touch with the relevant Departments with regard to the progress of their Motions.

Congratulations – Winners – BT Young Scientist 2019

Councillor Sean McGowan extended congratulations to Hugh Boyce, Erica Ridge and Darragh Boyce from Mohill Community College who won 1st place in the Intermediate Section of the recent BT Young Scientist Exhibition.

He commented that with such talented people as this the future of Leitrim is in good hands.
All Members expressed their congratulations on this achievement.

**Best Wishes – Carrick on Shannon Hurling Team – All Ireland Semi Final**

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson, on behalf of the entire Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, expressed good wishes to the Carrick on Shannon Hurling Team who are taking part in the All-Ireland Semi Final in Mullingar this coming weekend.

All members expressed their good wishes to the Team.

**Date of next meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District**

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly informed the meeting of the following:-

The February meeting is to be held on 11th February 2019 – at this meeting the Part 8 for the “Carrick on Shannon Public Realm Improvement Scheme” will be tabled for discussion. He said that The Schedule of Municipal District Works and the Area Programme are usually discussed at the February meeting, however the Programme may not be ready for the meeting on 11th February as this is dependent on when the Roads Allocations are received from the Department. If this is the case it is proposed to hold a separate meeting on Monday 25th February 2019 at 3.30 pm for the purposes of discussing the Schedule of Municipal District Works and the Area Programme.

This proposal was agreed to by all members.

Before the close of business Mr. Gilhooly informed the meeting that due to recent restructuring of staff and resources, Ms. Kathryne Bohan would no longer be working in the role of Meetings Administrator. He wished her well in her move and thanked her for her work.

Signed: ____________________________________________  ____________________________________________

Councillor Enda Stenson  Ms. Kathryne Bohan
Cathaoirleach  Meetings Administrator

Date: ________________________________