Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
On Monday 9th September 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 19/81 Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Monday 9th September 2019

Proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan, Seconded by Councillor Paddy Farrell 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 9th September 2019 be adopted.”

No matters arising from the Minutes.

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Before the items of correspondence were taken Councillor Stenson enquired it if would be possible to change the start time of the meetings from 11.00 am to 10.00 am. He was wondering did any of the other members have an objection to this and enquired of the executive if this could be easily facilitated.

Councillor Guckian said he objected to the change and stated that this was a matter for discussion at the AGM.

No other members had an objection to the changing of the start time.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire asked the executive was this something that could be done.

Mr Gilhooly advised her that on occasion meetings could be held at different times to facilitate members should the need arise.

Councillor McGowan said he did not think there was anything contained in Standing Orders which would prevent the changing of times.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire asked Councillor Stenson if he wished to make a formal proposal in relation to this change.

Mr Gilhooly advised that he would check to see what rules were contained in the Standing Orders in relation to the changing of times of meetings and report back at the next meeting.

Councillor Guckian said that the October meeting should be held at 11.00 am.

Councillor Stenson was agreeable to this.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire informed the meeting that the time for the October meeting would remain at 11.00 am and pending advice from the executive, members could look at setting the time for all forthcoming meetings at 10.00 am.

CMD 19/82 Correspondence 09/09/19

Item No. 1

Email from Councillor Enda McGloin, Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council dated 21st August 2019. The email was from was sent to Councillor McGloin from Brian Purcell on behalf of IBEC Industry body Forest Industries Ireland (FII) seeking a meeting with each Municipal District to discuss the matter of the forestry industry in Leitrim. (Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).
It was agreed that they could meet with the delegation prior to, or directly after the October meeting.

Mr Gilhooly informed the meeting that the date of the October meeting will have to be moved from the scheduled date of 14th October to the 21st October.

This change is necessary to facilitate the statutory deadline required for a municipal district to adopt the draft budget plan in advance of the budget meeting, which is scheduled to be held on 11th November 2019.

This was noted by all the members.

To clarify the situation for all present Councillor Armstrong McGuire restated that the next meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District would be held on Monday 21st October 2019 at 11.00 am.

It was agreed to meet the IBEC delegation prior to this meeting at 10.00 am

**Item No. 2**

Email dated 8th March 2018 from Jane Creegan, Iarnrod Eireann regarding issues of racial abuse on Sligo line. (Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Councillor Armstrong McGuire welcomed the reply received and read it out the members.

Councillor McGowan, who originally raised this matter also welcomed the reply and said that he was very happy to see Customer Service Agents being introduced on the rail network. He said he had noticed a few on the trains in the last number of weeks. He commented that this was a step in the right direction.

Councillor Stenson also welcomed the response and said that this is a national issue rather than a local one.

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**Part 1 – Notices of Motion**

**CMD 19/83  09/09/19**

**Dangerous Roads – Annaduff NS to Curragha Crossroads and Castlecarra Road**

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

"I'm asking the Council engineers to face up to the fact that two roads have become very
dangerous for all users, particularly pedestrians. One is the L 3470-0, past Annaduff NS on to Curragh Crossroads. The second is the Castlecarrar Road L3408-0 and its extension L3409-0 up to Kiltoghert old school. Both are dangerously narrow in places, have dangerous turns/ hills on them and are just not safe for pedestrians e.g. school children walking to school. Both roads are used as short cuts by heavy lorries and timber lorries. Plans need to be drawn up now to make them safer for all. This to include proper signage."

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

"Leitrim County Council have addressed the L3409 to the Kiltoghert Community centre on previous occasions and have highlighted that any widening of this local road will require a large specific grant and the purchase of land. To allow this to happen the council would have to apply for a low cost safety scheme which is based on the number of accidents on this local road. The Castlecarrar road has had major investment this year and the road will be completed in 2020. There are no plans to construct a footway and public lighting along this section of road as it is outside the urban speed limits.

Regarding the L3470, there is currently a community involvement scheme where communities can apply for funding for construction of footpaths, however the majority of the L3470 is outside the speed limits approved by the elected members."

Councillor Guckian wished to state that firstly the wording of his notice of motion had been changed. It was not his doing and he did not know who did it but stated that he would not like to see it happen again. He said that wording cannot be changed by some official. He then made reference to the reply received and stated that he was disappointed with same. A lot of members have mentioned this matter before and it has been ignored. There is a great depth of feeling by road users and residents alike.

The reply suggests that there are not enough accidents being reported in order to apply for funding to get works done. This is a woeful thing to say and does not address the urgency of the situation. He said that the council were not keeping up with the emergency situation that was evolving. He described the road as dangerous, narrowing in places, with blind turns. A driver’s vision is completely blocked. The road poses a huge danger to children. Footpaths are badly needed. Children can’t walk to school but have to be brought by car for their own safety. Both roads are used as shortcuts by a lot of lorries especially timber lorries. He stated that there had been an accident involving a lorry on a turn and it had been recorded/noted at a previous municipal district meeting.

He requested that both roads be put on the forthcoming budget. The first job, in his opinion, was to erect suitable signage and cut back overgrown hedges. There is no use in waiting for a serious accident to happen. He requested the council to talk to Transport Infrastructure Ireland and to buy land necessary. He also requested that the relevant areas should be declared villages or creggs as this would allow the council to put in footpaths and widen roads. He said that the council needed to be proactive and get working on these words. This cannot be ignored. He called on all the members present to support him.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion and added that both roads are quite busy and are used frequently as a short cut. There are quite a lot of young families along that road. It certainly would
be good if something could be done.

Councillor Farrell supported the motion and welcomed the fact that the council had cut hedges on the road leading up to Kiltogher school.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire said that all members had been approached in relation to these roads. Kiltogher road had been raised at the last meeting. She commented that the roads are very narrow and we are all aware of this every time we use them.

Mr O'Boyle informed Councillor Farrell on a point of information, that it was not the council who had cut the hedges but the landowners. This was done after the council issued hedge cutting notices by registered post to all landowners.

Referring back to Councillor Guckian's comments regarding reporting of accidents, Mr O'Boyle informed him that the TII have a points system in place which they use to determine the number and severity of accidents on a particular road. This is laid out in TII procedures.

Regarding the L 3470-0 at Annaduff he said hedge cutting would be required in this area and the relevant landowners have been written to. He referred back to his original response in relation to the community involvement scheme for construction of footpaths.

Councillor Guckian thanked the members for their support. He called on the officials of the council and the engineers to take this matter seriously and to study all issues. He said that accidents are not always reported. Regarding the matter of the community involvement scheme he said that this is a discrimination of people living in rural communities. Why should they have to be the ones to look for this funding to get the work done.

Mr O'Boyle informed the meeting that any review of speed limits on a particular stretch of road was a reserved function and could only be carried out every three years.

Councillor Guckian concluded that we can’t wait three years and hoped someone wouldn’t be killed in the meantime.

CMD 19/84  Kingston Terrace/Breffi Heights – Road to be resurfaced/widened
09/09/19

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

"That the narrow access road into Kingston Terrace and Breffi Heights, Carrick-on-Shannon, coming off the L3398, needs to be surfaced and widened. Lorries delivering diesel etc are finding it very difficult if there are cars parked, along the road, at Regan’s, and in the turning bay that was meant for turning lorries. Emergency services access is threatened also."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation;
"There are no plans to widen Kingston Terrace and Breffni Heights. This would involve major civil engineering works as the road is currently built on retaining walls along the Lisnagot road.

If the parking in the turning bay is causing issues with the local community we can erect signs and lines to prevent this activity."

Councillor Guckian stated that the residents were promised this work would be done more than 30 years ago. He said he was disappointed with the reply he had received stating that there are no plans to carry out widening works.

He gave an outline of the area to the meeting and stated that the road was just too narrow for today’s needs. He explained that there was a twist in the road coming from Kingston Terrace to Breffni Heights and it was extremely narrow, just about the width of a lorry. He said that if there were a vehicle reversing out from one of the houses it would be impossible to get up the road.

He said that he did not bring this matter lightly, there is talk about regenerating the town but here is a practical example of somewhere where works must be done.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire seconded the motion. She too reiterated that this road does not meet the modern day needs of the residents using it. Turning bay needs to be kept clear. She referenced an incident with access on this local road which had taken place recently. Irish Water were carrying out works on Kingston Terrace and had blocked off local access to residents. They had not been informed of this and were unable to use the road for a number of hours.

Mr O’Boyle informed the meeting that the local authority can install double yellow lines and signage in the turning bay area. With regard to the surfacing of the road, this is a public road and he would look at applying for a Restoration Maintenance Grant next year, this road is unusual in the fact that the road is a cul-de-sac. Regarding the issue of the local access being blocked by Irish Water he said that residents should have been informed of when the road was going to be closed off.

CMD 19/85
09/09/19

Traffic Calming Measure on R201 – Mohill/Carrick on Shannon Road

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

"At the September Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Council, I will ask Mr Darragh O Boyle Area Engineer Carrick on Shannon to see what additional steps can be taken to slow the traffic on the Mohill / Carrick road R201 as you approach Mohill from the Carrick end, around Treammore. There have been a number of accidents and incidents along this section of road over the years, and while the Council have carried out good work to leave the road safer, motorists still tend to speed coming into town."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation;
"To date, Leitrim County Council have erected numerous signs, road markings, diver feedback signs and are currently investing in a low cost safety scheme which will reduce the potential hazard of the blind junction at Treanmore.

Continuous speeding at this location should be brought to the attention of the Gardaí at the joint policing committee."

Councillor McGowan noted the reply and acknowledged the great work already carried out by the local authority. He said the issue was the speed of the traffic coming into the town. He asked Mr O'Boyle would it be possible to paint wording on the road such as “Slow Down”. He remarked that people have a tendency to slow down when they see the flashing signs then speed up once they have passed them.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion. He enquired when work will be done on the Low Cost Scheme for Laheenamona.

Councillor Mulligan also supported the motion and commented that he was aware of the situation and appreciated the work has been done and said that speed is an issue.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire said that all members were in support of this.

Mr O'Boyle recapped on all the works carried out by Leitrim county Council in an effort to reduce speeding.

CMD 19/86 Lift at Dromod Railway Station 09/09/19

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

"At the September Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Council, I will seek the support the members in calling on Irish Rail to provide a lift alongside the footbridge at Dromod Rail station. This is to facilitate disabled passengers or older people who are using the train and who may find it difficult to cross the footbridge when trains are crossing at Dromod Station."

Councillor McGowan commended larnrod Eireann for the excellent work on the recent extension to the car park at Dromod Railway Station which has now provided an extra 30 parking spaces.

He explained to the meeting that if a person with a disability/mobility issue wishes to get off the train on the opposite side of the bridge they have to make arrangements in advance. Sometimes it is not possible to facilitate their requests. He said that larnrod Eireann currently have a programme for the installation of lifts in railway stations.

He called on the members to support him in his motion to request larnrod Eireann to include Dromod as one of the stations for the installation of a lift."
Councillor Stenson supported the motion and said that the footbridge can prove difficult for people with disabilities/mobility issues and even those who do not. Dromod station serves the Mohill area, which is an Age Active Friendly Area. It is vital that a lift is installed.

Councillor Mulligan also supported the motion and that it is difficult to bring the bridge up to today's standards as it was built in the 19th century.

Councillor Guckian strongly supported the motion adding that the station serves a very wide area.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire supported the motion and stated that times have changed and the bridge is not suitable. The lift would be a method of allowing people who have disabilities/mobility issues to be more independent.

She said a letter would be sent to Iarnród Eireann asking them to include Dromod railway station on their programme for installing lifts.

CMD 19/87 Pedestrian Crossing – Leitrim Road Junction, Carrick on Shannon
09/09/19

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

"That Leitrim County Council consider the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Leitrim Road, Carrick-on-Shannon. There have been a few near misses in this location some of which have been brought to the attention of the Gardaí."

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

"The new regeneration works, being carried out in the town of Carrick, will look at the possibility of creating table top junctions at the Leitrim road and Park Lane junctions. These junctions will cater for easier pedestrian movement.

Leitrim County Council will also look at the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at the fire station to allow easier access to the adjacent car park."

Councillor Farrell said that there is a lot of pedestrians crossing at these junctions and it is proving difficult for them to cross safely.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion.

Councillor Stenson also supported the motion, he commented that the new traffic layout is working very well. He raised concerns for pedestrians who are using the car park at the fire station and are trying to cross the road. He enquired would it be possible to put a pedestrian crossing in at this location.
Councillor Guckian supported the motion and asked Councillor Farrell where he thought the best location for the crossing would be on the Leitrim Road.

Councillor Farrell replied that he thought it would be suitable around the hardware store.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Armstrong McGuire also supported the motion. She outlined the difficulties for pedestrians who wished to go from Main Street in the direction of St Patrick's Hospital. It is not easy for them to access from Prior's side of the street, so they use the left hand side of the street. She said that pedestrian crossing have to happen to enable people to walk as easily and safely as possible around the town.

Councillor Stenson enquired if there will be any drawings of what the pedestrian crossing will look like before they are installed.

Mr O'Boyle informed the meeting that regeneration works were due to start soon. He said he has been liaising with the Capital Projects Office and the Gardaí in relation to pedestrian crossing issues. The new road layout system has proved difficult as pedestrian crossings have to be a set distance from a main junction. Table top crossings would be the most suitable.

The Capital Projects Office will be preparing detailed maps which will be going on public display shortly.

Mr Gilhooly stated that the drawings will be put on public display in the window of the old “Book Shop” on Main Street.

Councillor Mulligan supported the motion.

CMD 19/88           Speed Ramps – Leitrim County Council
09/09/19

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to consider two speed ramps in Leitrim Village as residents in the Village are very concerned about the speed of cars approaching the village. One on the Drumshanbo road and one on the Battlebridge road past the school. Current ramps at these locations are not working adequately."

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

"Leitrim Village has four pedestrian crossings. The speed limits have also been adjusted for the village in the last speed limit review and approved by the elected members. Continued speeding at this location should be brought to the attention of the Gardaí at the joint policing committee. "Gatso" vans can then be strategically positioned to penalise the inconsiderate drivers."
Councillor Farrell said that there were serious concerns with regard to speeding down by the school on the Battlebridge Road. A teacher had expressed their concerns to him.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion and stated that there were serious concerns for safety.

Councillor Farrell said that there has even been a Garda outside the school last week but it didn’t seem to have any effect.

Mr O’Boyle referred back to his reply. He suggested that if it continues to be an issue that it should be highlighted to the Gardai at the next Joint Policing Committee meeting.

Councillor Stenson enquired could a Gatso van be placed at this location.

Mr O’Boyle informed him that this was something that could be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee. He also reminded members that at the last review of speed limits approved by the members the speed limit on this Battlebridge stretch of road had been reduced to 60km. The 80km only starts at Beirne’s of Battlebridge.

Councillor Farrell enquired if a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee had taken place yet? Mr Gilhooly informed him that it had not.

Councillor Farrell asked would it be possible to put a ramp in at Earley’s house. Mr O’Boyle informed him that the council don’t put speed ramps on regional roads.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion said that this matter was discussed about 2 years ago. He said speeding near schools and crèches was unacceptable.

Mr Gilhooly said that the council has engagement with the traffic sergeant and when they meet again they will highlight this issue.

CMD 19/89 Upgrade of Street Networks to include St Mary’s Close
09/09/19

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

"I am proposing that St Marys Close Carrick on Shannon is included in an upgrade of street networks."

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

"The Public Realm Project is nearing completion of detailed design and we expect to go to tender within the next month. St Marys Close was not included in the original area of the project. Funding is not available to extend the project into areas like St Mary’s Close."
We are considering a Phase II for this project and St Mary’s Close will be considered if we decide to seek funding for a Phase II project."

Councillor Stenson said he believed that this area should be done. He wanted it included in Phase II of the works. He informed the meeting that at the back of the church was one of the busiest areas with removals/funerals/masses etc. Everything converges in this area. It is a lovely residential area and he believes there is a need for these works. It has been 23 years since anything has been done in this area.

Councillor’s Sean McGowan and Paddy Farrell supported the motion.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire commented that the area was very worn. She welcomed the addition of a second disabled parking bay in this area.

Mr O’Boyle stated that the issue of providing road markings could be looked at towards the end of the year.

Mr Gilhooly commented that with regard to Phase II of the regeneration works it could possibly be three years.

Councillor Stenson made reference to a discussion which had taken place years ago, suggesting a pedestrian walkway from the fire station to St Mary’s Close.

Mr O’Boyle informed the meeting that this would require land purchase.

CMD 19/90  
09/09/19  
Review of Stop/Yield signs missing at junctions

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

"I propose that we request our Roads Dept to immediately appoint someone to investigate where Stop/Yield signs are missing at junctions where minor roads connect on to more major roads. Can a structure be put in place to erect signs where there is a need to do so."

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

"Leitrim County Council does not have the engineering resources to carry out a county wide database for all its minor junctions. The district office will endeavour to place a stop sign or stop lines at minor junctions, with the stop sign being priority. All regional road and local primary roads have STOP signs. There are cases where they get damaged or removed. As custodians of the public realm, we carry out routine and non routine tasks and if we notice a junction where priority is unclear we will endeavour to erect STOP signs at the location. All elected members are welcome to contact me if they have concerns at any junctions and we will rectify the situation as soon as possible."
Councillor Stenson stated that in April/May while he canvassing he noticed that there was a lack of signs to say what local road you were on and a lack of STOP/YIELD signs. He said he understood that there was a lack of staffing resources but that this was something that needed to be looked at. A stranger using the roads would not be aware who has the right of way etc. Local people were the best to consult with as regards which of the local roads was the “main road” and who has the “right of way”. A lot of the signage seems to have disappeared, he had raised this issue with Joe Banks and he has set about putting some of them back, he thanked him for this.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion and said that a survey has to be done. Proper signs and lines have to be put in place.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion.

Councillor Mulligan supported the motion. He also enquired to the recent number of signs erected on the R201 and asked where did this funding come from?

Mr O’Boyle referred back to his reply.

Replying to question raised by Councillor Mulligan he said that this signage had come from Low Cost Safety funding. He also added that the Chief Executive has included local funding for the proper replacement of signs. It is proposed to do signage on two regional roads a year.

Mr O’Boyle concluded if there were any particular roads that Councillors wanted signage erected on they should forward him a list of the road numbers and he would look into it.

CMD 19/91 Proposed new builds of family homes in the Municipal District
09/09/19

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

"May I have an outline of the proposed new builds of family homes that will help us in our response to housing needs of young families in this Municipal district? What number do we propose to purchase and build in next 3 years. Rent in this area is higher than many families can afford and thus need for rentable stock with perhaps option to buy later in life is necessary now as much as ever before."

Report by Housing Department;

"The Municipal District of South 2 encompasses the area of Leitrim Village/Carrick-on-Shannon/ Jamestown/Drumsna/Annaduff. The current number of households within the South 2 District on Leitrim’s housing waiting list totals 75 with a further 89 households included on the housing transfer list, 83 of which are currently HAP accommodated.

Leitrim County Council’s housing build/acquisition/lease programme aims to deliver 156 units over the period 2018-2021, 37 of which were delivered in 2018 and 40 which will be delivered in 2019. This year a Housing Delivery Unit was set up to ensure the delivery of these housing outputs."
Leitrim County Council are acutely aware of the increasing social housing need in Carrick-on-Shannon and its surrounding environs and in response to this 27 social housing units (2 & 3 bed) will be constructed in the Summerhill area of Carrick-on-Shannon in 2020.

In addition to this build the Council is actively pursuing leasing and build & renew properties and engaging with property owners/landlords to secure leased property for social housing. Leitrim County Council also complete a number of acquisitions each year and of the 7 acquisitions for the County thus far during 2019, 3 are located in Carrick-on-Shannon with an increase envisaged for 2020 and 2021."

Councillor Armstrong McGuire said that this was the most common issue that members of the public have approached her about. She said that she has seen their needs and income first hand and it is impossible for people to access housing even when they were in receipt of HAP. They can't get accommodation suitable for their needs. She said it was mostly young couples or the elderly and she would love to see the council building as much as possible.

Mr Gilhooly informed her that the purpose of the reply was to outline the current position with regard to housing supply. He stated that a dedicated Housing Delivery Unit was currently being established. This unit will be led by Mr Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer plus a number of support staff. There role will be to actively pursue lands for purchasing, building, leasing & renewing properties and engaging with property owners/landlords to secure leased property for social housing.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire said that while all of this is to be welcomed it is absolutely needed. Particularly for elderly and retired people who choose to live in Carrick on Shannon. Carrick is seen as a very desirable town to retire to.

Councillor Guckian said that he was in agreement with the motion. The housing crisis in Leitrim is understated. It is time that the county council got involved in building new homes in the towns and countryside throughout the county.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion.

Councillor Stenson commented that all members would be in support of this.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire concluded that she was not stating that the house should be just for Carrick but for the entire county. People want a place where they can stay for a long time.

CMD 19/92 Safety – Speed Limits on Rural Roads
09/09/19

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

"Many of our minor roads have speed limits of 80km. These are country roads where people wish to walk or cycle to neighbouring houses. With speeds allowed of up to 80 km it is not safe for
cyclists or walkers. Are there any types of signage available to neighbourhoods particularly in rural areas. Older children should feel safe cycling to meet friends or as exercise but parents feel they are at risk because of lack of awareness."

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

"A speed limit is not a target. It is simply the maximum speed you are legally entitled to drive at on a stretch of road. You must drive at a speed appropriate to road and weather conditions, volumes of traffic present and likelihood of hazards. These are all vital ingredients which drivers must factor in every time they drive. When drivers ignore these factors, even travelling below a particular speed limit, they could be committing an offence. The Local Authority can erect signage advising the motorist of possible walkers/cyclists on the road and we have numerous signs erected along amenity areas."

Councillor Armstrong McGuire said that this motion replicated in certain ways issues already raised at today’s meeting. The background to her motion was that children cannot cycle or walk on these roads in safety, their parents have to bring them in their cars even if it is for a short distance. She remarked that she was looking for a sign that would stand out from the ordinary road signs, something quirky that would attract the driver’s attention. She felt that there is tendency for people to get used to road signage. She proposed that this sign would be something that would be erected primarily during the summer holiday period when there is the potential of children being out on the road. She enquired if any such sign was in existence?

Councillor Stenson enquired if a survey was ever carried out to see if signage was working/of any benefit?

Mr O’Boyle stated that it was a statutory obligation to put up signs and as Councillor Armstrong McGuire had alluded to, drivers get used to signage and don’t pass any heed on it.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion. He enquired as to whatever happened to signs which stated "Accident Black Spot".

Councillor McGowan supported the motion.

In response to Councillor Guckian’s questing Mr O’Boyle informed him that "Accident Black Spot" signs were erected in locations where fatalities had occurred. As money was invested in these areas to remove the hazard they were longer deemed "Black Spots" and the signage was removed.

**CMD 19/93 Provision in Estimates – Drainage Works on Eslin River (Killamaun)**

09/09/19

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Thomas Mulligan;

"That we make provision in our estimates for drainage works on the Eslin River in the townland of Killamaun."
Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation;

"Leitrim County Council provide 10K funding for the OPW drainage districts. The Eslin river is one of these districts. We have expended the 10k on Eslin river earlier this year. We are hoping that next year's 10K funding will be provided to the Rinn and Blackwater district."

Councillor Mulligan said he was referring to the area specifically between Killamaun and Gort, from the nursing home up to Cloonturk Lake. He said that it is in a terrible state when it floods. A couple of nights ago there was heavy rain which caused flooding at Frank Reynolc's property. There were 2 or 3 acres flooded. Another concern he raised was with regard to all the land that is being planted. He wanted to know if there was provision being made for access for diggers to get in to carry out drainage works in later years.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion. He informed the meeting that farmers who are in GLAS are obliged to fence off at waterways. Permission is then needed from the farmer if anyone wants to gain access to the waterway.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion. He said that the council did carry out work on the Rooskey to Cloonturk stretch last year. With regard to Cloonturk to Killamaun stretch he said that there were ongoing drainage problems there and they would require a lot of work. He also took this opportunity to welcome the work carried out on the River Shannon by Minister Kevin "Boxer" Moran's department. It has helped to relieve some of the pinch points of flooding.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion.

Councillor Farrell supported the motion and enquired who has responsibility for the rivers. Mr O'Boyle informed the meeting that the council provide €10,000 per year to the Carrick Municipal District Area. The works carried out are based on the OPW Drainage System Map. If an area is not on the map it does not get done. He informed the members that he will provide them all with a copy of the OPW Drainage System Map.

Councillor Farrell enquired to particular drain in Hartley and who would be responsible for it. Mr O'Boyle informed him that it may be under the remit of the OPW or the landowner.

Councillor McGowan enquired could we contact Minister Moran's Department seeking additional funding to assist with the once off cleaning of rivers in our area.

**CMD 19/94 Cleaning of river between bridges in Mohill**
09/09/19

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Thomas Mulligan;

"I will ask that the section of river between the bridges in Mohill be cleaned."

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

"We can look at carrying out this work under the 10K funding provided for the Rinn and Blackwater. The major issue along this section is access as the abutment wall needs attention at this location. We are seeking specific safety funding at this location. If successful we can carry out the river cleaning at that particular juncture."

Councillor Mulligan stated that the specific section was within the town. He said that it is a disgrace in the summer and looks terrible, especially in good weather. He commented that the only way to deal with this issue to is make a provision annually to clean up this section. He said that it would not take a huge amount of money and this is a nice amenity area in the town.

Councillor’s Stenson and McGowan supported the motion.

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

Mr O’Boyle reiterated the problem with the abutment wall. He said that the council have applied for a low cost safety grant for this location and if and when funding comes through he will get a digger in to clear out the drain in conjunction with these works.

Councillor Mulligan commented that there has been huge investment into the new library, which is near the amenity area. He felt that the state of the river would take away from the overall facility. He said the wall needed to be attended to.

On a separate issue Councillor Stenson raised the issue of Japanese Knotweed and how to best treat it.

Mr O’Boyle informed the meeting that the Chief Executive had made funding available for the treatment of the Japanese Knotweed on regional roads. The local authority is prohibited from using pesticides and can only treat the knotweed with herbicides.

Councillor Mulligan enquired to the name of the products which could be used to treat it.

Mr O’Boyle stated “Round Up” could be used.

Mr Gilhooly stated that Transport Infrastructure Ireland deal with Japanese Knotweed on national roads, local authorities deal with regional roads.

Councillor Stenson enquired as to the obligation on landowners to deal with it on their own land.

Mr Gilhooly said that this was outside the remit of the local authority.

CMD 19/95
09/09/19

Any Other Business
Vote of Sympathy

Councillor Guckian extended a vote of sympathy to James & Carmel Crowe, Leer, Mohill on the death of their son Alan (RIP).

Vote of Congratulations

Councillor Guckian extended a vote of congratulations to all involved in the recently opened “McGovern Aughavas Leitrim GAA Centre of Excellence”.

Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 21st October 2019 at 11.00 am in the Council Chamber.

- This concluded the business of the meeting at 12.35 pm

Signed: 

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Cathaoirleach

Mairead Shanley
Meetings Administrator

Date: 21st October 2019