Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
On Monday 8th April 2019 at 3.30 pm

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

Officials Present:
Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services,
Economic Development, Planning & Transportation
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Darragh O'Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Gerry Doyle, Meetings Administrator
Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning & Transportation
At the outset of the meeting two votes of sympathy were passed unanimously as follows:

Proposed by Cathaoirleach Cllr Enda Stenson and seconded by Cllr Sean McGowan. - **AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**
To pass a Vote of Sympathy to Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire and her family on the recent death of Cllr Armstrong Maguire’s mother, Lena Armstrong RIP and
Proposed by Cllr Sean McGowan and seconded by Cllr Sinead Guckian, **AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**
To pass a Vote of Sympathy to Cllr Des Guckian and his family on the death of his brother Padraig Guckian RIP.

Both Cllr Finola Armstrong Maguire and Cllr Des Guckian thanked the Members for the vote of sympathy on their own behalf and on behalf of their respective families.

It was agreed that a prayer be recited and that the meeting should be adjourned for ten minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

**Meeting adjourned at 3.35 pm.**

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

**Meeting resumed at 3.45 pm.**

**May Meeting**

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson informed the meeting that the other two Municipal Districts (Ballinamore and Manorhamilton) would not be holding a meeting in the month of May owing to the forthcoming elections. He asked the Members whether they wished to hold a meeting in May.

Councillor Sinead Guckian requested to know whether there would be any statutory business which would need to be dealt with in May.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services informed her that there was no statutory business to be conducted as all the statutory business was on today’s agenda.

Councillor Des Guckian said he did not oppose not holding a meeting in May as long as he could still write to Council officials with queries.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services informed him that queries would continue to be answered.
The Cathaoirleach stated that this therefore was the last meeting of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District for this term of office.

CMD 19/51 Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Monday 11th March 2019

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire 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 11th March 2019 be adopted.”

Matters arising from the Minutes:-

Councillor Des Guckian asked if the HSE had been written to as per his query on sheltered accommodation (CMD 19/37 – 11/03/19).

Mr Gerard Doyle Meetings Administrator informed him that the HSE had been written to but to date no response had been received.

CMD 19/52 Report on Estate Management Grant Scheme 08/04/19

A report from Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing and Corporate Services was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting (Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Mr Gilhooly Director of Services explained that grants were being allocated on the same basis as last year with active Resident Associations in estates of less than 30 houses getting €400 each and active Resident Associations in estates of greater than 30 houses getting €600 each.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Enda Stenson enquired if this Scheme was only for local authority estates and if there was similar funding available for private estates. Mr Gilhooly Director of Services informed him that the Scheme was only for Council estates.
CMD 19/53 Adoption of Tourism Festival and Events Grants Scheme 08/04/19

A report was circulated to the Members at the meeting. (Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Proposed by Cllr Sean McGowan, Seconded by Cllr Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Tourism, Festival and Events Grants Scheme as circulated to the meeting be adopted”

CMD 19/54 Tidy Town Allocations 08/04/19

A report from Terry McGovern, A/Senior Engineer, Roads, Transportation and Rural Water was circulated to the Members at the meeting. (Appendix 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

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

“That the Tidy Towns Allocations as circulated to the meeting be approved”

CMD 19/55 Adopt a Bring Bank Scheme 08/04/19

A report from Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance and Water Services was circulated to the Members at the meeting. (Appendix 4 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Proposed by Councillor Seadna Logan, Seconded by Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Adopt a Bring Bank Scheme as circulated to the meeting be approved.”

CMD 19/56 Correspondence 08/04/19

Item No. 1

Email dated 15th March 2019 from Roscommon County Council regarding the postponement of meeting scheduled for 20th March 2019 between the Department of Justice and Joint Municipal Districts of Boyle and Carrick on Shannon. (Appendix 5 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

"Following on from the October 2018 report to members, regarding the “Taking in Charge and Associated works for Housing Developments in Leitrim”, at the April meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the Director of Services Planning what is the up to date situation regarding the "taking in charge" of Cuan Eislinne" Estate, Dromod, and in particular when will the public lights be connected, for the residents."

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

“The Council is currently working on the preparation of the approximately 30 estates advertised for taking in charge by the end of April and Cuan Eislinne is one being considered that maybe included. Repairs to public lighting will proceed after the taking in charge process is complete."

Cllr Sean McGowan supported the motion and said he was disappointed with the reply received. He stated that the residents had sent in a letter requesting that the estate be taken in charge and that he would like to see this done as soon as possible.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported the motion and commented that the estate was very well kept by the residents and that it was about time that the estate should be taken in charge.

Mr Bernard Greene Senior Planner informed the meeting that arising from a court case taken against Cavan County Council recently local authorities are not in a position to do works in advance of a estate being taken in charge. He added that IPBMI Ltd have informed local authorities that if they go into estates that are not taken in charge, to carry out works then IPBMI Ltd. will not cover them for any liabilities that occur as a result.

Cllr Sinead Guckian thanked Mr Greene Senior Planner for the clarification in relation to the situation. She said that the judicial decision was as frustrating for local authorities as it was for residents.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

"That two green / white bollards be erected at Aghamore, Rooskey, where the L1001 meets the L1601. The L1001 serves about 60 houses in Quay Estate, The Locks, Osprey Park etc. This Junction is near the 50 km speed limit on the L1601, as it enters Rooskey from Longford."

Report by Roads – General;

“Green and White bollards are erected by the TII on roads that intersect with the National routes. Leitrim County Council do not erect bollards at minor road junctions. We can erect side road signage in accordance with the traffic signs manual.”

Cllr Des Guckian informed the meeting that this location was extremely dangerous and there is nothing to indicate to drivers that there are sixty or more houses along this stretch of road. He said people don’t know at what point to turn in to these houses. He added that if signage was going to be erected it would need to be quite large and also should have the name of the estate on it.

Cllr Sean McGowan supported the motion and said that the green and white bollards were necessary to indicate that there is a turn off.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer responded that green and white bollards are only erected by the TII on national roads. He added that the road in question is a regional road and therefore he would propose the erection of a regulatory sign indicating minor roads to the left and right. He said a L1601 sub plate could be erected at the junction. He added that in relation to the erection of a sign indicating the estate name a Section 254 Licence would need to be applied for by the residents of the estate.

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

"That suitable speed deterrents be placed on the L1601 road which is part of the Main Street, Dromod. These ramps or rumble strips to be placed near Tots Haven on the Rooskey side and also near the Brandywell Pub on the western exit. Local people have noticed an increase in dangerous speeding through the village and they feel there is not enough protection for children and others. Children at Play signs are necessary at Cox’s at the start of Harbour Road."

Report by Roads – General;

“Over the past number of years, Leitrim County Council has provided a number of traffic safety measures, such as pedestrian crossings, under the Low Cost Safety funding stream, in the village. Traffic Calming Gateways on the approaches to the village were also provided. As there are no
official records of any accidents since then, further funding, under the Low Cost Safety funding stream, would not be an option for further additional works, as these Low Cost Safety grants are based on the number of recorded accidents at a location.

However, the CLÁR 2019 Funding Program is now open for applications. Measure 1 of this program accepts applications from community groups for safety measures such as Child Safety signs, Digital Speed Safety signs etc. We would advise the local community to make an application through this scheme. Other communities have followed this process and have been successful.”

Cllr Des Guckian informed the meeting that the problem of cars speeding through Dromod village has increased. He said that people who don't live in the village are not aware of the dangers. He added that a number of people have expressed concerns about safety, particularly the safety of elderly people. He stated that these people were individuals who were not part of community groups and would not be able to access CLAR funding.

Cllr Sean McGowan supported the motion and commented that traffic calming signage is being ignored by drivers entering the village. He suggested the installation of speed cushions at the Brandywell and also the raising of the pedestrian crossing.

Cllr. Des Guckian said the obvious solution would be the raising of the pedestrian crossing. He stated that he would not be in favour of speed cushions unless it allowed for the safe crossing of pedestrians.

CMD 19/60 Programme of works to clear water tables along the Drumgrania Road in Gortletteragh (Road No. LP-1672-0) 08/04/19

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

"At the April Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District I will ask Mr Darragh O’Boyle area engineer Carrick-on-Shannon to put in place a programme of works to open up and clear the water tables along the Drumgrania Road in Gortletteragh,( Road No, LP-1672-0). All the water tables are closed over along the road with the result that after heavy rain fall the water isn't able to get into the roadside drains and as a result it flows towards an adjoining property owner's street and towards her front entrance and the side of her house."

Report by Roads – General;

“Leitrim County Council have just spent 3 weeks on the L5605 road re-opening watertables, providing water cuts, patching unit, and replacing broken down culvert on junction of L5606-0 and L5605-0 at Drumhirk and surrounding areas in most need of attention.”

Cllr Sean McGowan noted the reply.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan:

"At the April Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District I will ask Mr Darragh O Boyle, Area Engineer to immediately carry out surface repairs to the Rooskey end of the Cornagillagh (Wood) Road No. L-5623-0. The surface is ravelling in certain areas, and to include the remaining sections of the road, in next year’s roadwork’s programme."

Report by Roads - General;

We will dispatch our maintenance crew to carry our remedial working on this section of road. Unfortunately, it is difficult to assign maintenance grants for next year’s programme until we can do an analysis of the road network after winter weather damage. The improvement grants only are assigned as 3 year programmes."

Councillor Sean McGowan said that this road was submitted with the list of roads for consideration for the Roads Programme. He asked could repairs be carried out as a matter of urgency. He stated that this is a very busy stretch of road and that it requires a major grant.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer said that this road could be re-assessed next year under the Restoration Maintenance Grant Scheme.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported the motion. He said that he had written to Mr O’Boyle District Engineer in relation to this particular stretch of road. He informed the meeting that during the hot spell of weather last May the sides of the road contracted and fell away.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer said that he had met with local people in relation to the condition of this road. He advised that the locals could look for funding under a Community Involvement Scheme.

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

"The recent closing of Gannon’s Drapery, Main Street, Mohill, is a huge loss to the town, just at a time when great efforts are being made in Mohill to encourage further development, and business. May I ask is there any Mechanism or Group within the Local Authority that encourages some of the major retailers, to invest in our Local towns, that would encourage people to shop in towns such as Mohill. PEOPLE must support the Business people who support them."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation;
“The mechanism by which major retailers are encouraged to invest in Leitrim Towns and Villages is through the pro businesses actions of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and the Economic Development (ED) section that seek to create the correct environment for investment.

The Council also has in place two business incentives schemes to assist towards the cost of rates associated with bring vacant units back into use. In additional the Council supports the work of the town team on an ongoing basis which is instrumental in securing funding for the developments outlined above.

The LEO office applied for and recently secured funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to undertake a feasibility study for the Smart Green Mohill Project along with a previous town and village scheme which is currently being delivered in the town.

The ED section has secured assistance from the Irish Architectural Foundation under its reimagining programme to progress the development of accommodation for visitors to the areas and particularly the Rowing Centre which will be supported by a feasibility study to be commissioned by the Council.”

Cathaoirleach Cllr Enda Stenson commented that just at a time when great strides have been made in Mohill to encourage new business and investment, one of its longest established businesses had closed its doors. He said that the some of the reasons cited to him for the closure were that people were not shopping locally and that the Local Link bus picks people up in Mohill and brings them into Carrick-On-Shannon for their shopping. He said that people must support the business people in their local town or village. He enquired as to whether there was any mechanism from within the local authority that would help to encourage major retailers to invest in local towns such as Mohill.

Councillor Séadhna Logan supported the motion. He said that traditional retail is changing and that town centres are changing. He said that there were a number of quality real estate properties vacant in Mohill and Carrick on Shannon. and stated that this was a huge problem. He added that the incoming Council are going to have a significant amount of work to do to examine the changing face of retail in the county and how to get people into vacant premises.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion. He said he was disappointed to see the closure and praised the good work being done by the Tidy Towns in Mohill. He commented that people need to support their local businesses.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported the motion. He said that he was in favour of the local link bus service from Mohill to Carrick-On-Shannon continuing and he said that he did not believe it was taking too much business out of Mohill. He said that the reasons so many businesses are closing is because supplier companies are no longer supplying smaller drapery outlets and also because of the penal rates they are being faced with.

Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire said she also supported the motion. She informed the meeting that smaller shops needed to be niche shops selling something people have specifically come to the centre of town for. She added that people need to shop local and have to decide that they are not going to let 100% of their wages go out of their area.
Mr Gilhooly Director of Services stated that the face of retail has changed radically throughout the country. He reiterated that the Council has in place two business incentive schemes to assist towards the cost of rates associated with bringing vacant units back into use and said concrete steps are being taken for the redevelopment of our towns but that this will take time.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson thanked all the members for their support for this motion and asked that the Executive would do all they can to further encourage new businesses to set up in Mohill.

**CMD 19/63 Increase of littering of roadsides, beauty spots and bog lanes 08/04/19**

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

"We have so often in the past discussed the littering of our country side and education in our schools etc, has been encouraged. Our young people are wonderful on litter campaigns and getting the Anti litter message spread. Having said that Litter being dumped on rural roads, beauty spots, and bog lanes etc seems to be on the increase. Are we powerless to halt those acts of mindless vandalism?"

**Report by Head of Finance & Water Services;**

“Through regular litter patrols, inspections, responding to complaints, CCTV campaigns, Leitrim County Council issued 91 Litter Fines in 2018 and 20 No. €75 FPNs in relation to Leitrim County Council Household waste by-laws were also issued.

There were 5 prosecutions initiated in relation to litter and waste offences during 2018.

Leitrim County Council also carry out regular media awareness campaigns highlighting the problem of illegal dumping and the penalties that will be imposed on offenders.

In 2018 LCC purchased drone technology to enable Waste Enforcement personnel to target incidents of illegal dumping and ameliorate waste management.

Leitrim County Council also held a hazardous waste collection event in Mohill in October 2018 to cover South Leitrim and on Saturday 26th Jan 2019 held another in Manorhamilton to cover North Leitrim. Hazardous waste such as disused paint, Oil etc were collected which got a great response. Also LCC held a free Mattress Recycling event in Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon during 2018 and over 400 mattresses were collected and brought for recycling.

The Litter Management Plan, due to expire in 2019 and any new initiatives proposed, will be reviewed by the Council this year.

An additional Community Warden was also recruited during 2018 adding to the resources within the waste enforcement area.
A media campaign in association with JCDECAUX Ireland for the month of April to promote Spring Clean Week will feature on the billboard located at Lunney's filling station.

Greater responsibility by individual citizens is required and a behavioural change required by all citizens in the interest of protecting our natural beauty and countryside regards stamping out this ongoing littering.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson stated that littering appeared to be worse in rural areas and that it was more noticeable during the hedge cutting season. He said that he was at a loss to understand how it was happening on such a scale.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion. He said it was an ongoing issue year in, year out. He cited an example of a clean up held recently in the Bornacoola area where they came across 4 televisions, a number of tyres as well as household rubbish.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion. She said that there is no excuse for dumping televisions as they can be brought to any civic amenity site free of charge. She said that the courts should put persons prosecuted for minor offences on litter picking duties and that prisoners should be involved with recycling in prisons. She believes that anyone caught littering should be named and shamed.

Councillors Des Guckian supported the motion and stated that people employed under Community Employment Schemes should assist in clearing up litter black spots.

Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire supported the motion and said that people who litter should be prosecuted and stated that once a road is cleaned up it is often littered very soon afterwards.

Councillor Seadhna Logan also supported this motion and said that he is aware of people actually going in on private property and using other people’s bins to dispose of their rubbish.

Mr Gilhooly Director of Services informed the meeting that the Council have recently taken on an extra Community Warden to assist in dealing with the problem.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson called on the Leitrim Observer and other media outlets to continue their good work in highlighting areas where dumping is being carried out.

Councillor Sean McGowan asked Mr Gilhooly Director of Services what was his views on using drones to access areas where littering is a problem. Mr Gilhooly Director of Services responded that Leitrim County Council purchased a drone in 2018 and it is has been very successful in reaching places where access would otherwise be an issue.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire;

"Residents at Lisnagot just past the crèche have asked that the road be given attention in that its edge is rough and unmarked. Cement paving edges have been purchased and there has been a promise by LCC to put them in place. When can we expect this to be done? The appeal for cooperation in this regard was made over 5 years ago."

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

“This section of road is not in the Council’s charge and therefore cannot carry out works. The development of the first portion of the road in front of the houses was not part of the planning application for these houses and so does not qualify for taking in charge – this requires a permission to ‘include’ a road. Instead of ‘taking in charge’ the road fronting these houses will be considered for ‘declaration as a public road’ later this year provided there is sufficient income in the roads budget to complete works immediately thereafter – there is no bond in place for the remedial works which will have to be funded by Leitrim County Council own resources.

The rear element of the road, that formed part of the planning application under P.03/987, has not been completed and was the subject of enforcement action by the Council. As a consequence the Council does not have to take this section of the road in charge and the responsibility for the maintenance of this section will remain with the Owner of the road and/or the Developer.”

Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire noted the reply and informed the meeting that a letter exists which issued from Leitrim County Council stating that they would facilitate the work required.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion. He said that a resident had met with senior Council officials more than 5 years ago and it was agreed at the time that if the resident’s purchased the kerbing the Council would facilitate them with laying the kerbs.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer responded that no work can be carried out as this is a private road. Mr Greene Senior Planner informed the meeting that the Council is open to having the portion of road the houses open onto advertised for declaration as a public road provided funding is available to complete works required after the taking in charge process is completed. He added that the rear portion of the road remains the responsibility of the owner of the road and / or the developer
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire;

"HAP payments in Co Leitrim are lower than those in Co Roscommon. When are they reviewed? What figures are the current payments based on?"

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

“The maximum rent limits, payable under the Housing Assistance Payment for Co Leitrim are set at National Level. Reviews are carried out periodically at National level and in 2016 a review was carried out jointly by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. This took place following a comprehensive rent review process and took account of a number of data sources, namely the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) database, Daft.ie Rental Market Reports and the CSO Rental Indices. Consultation and engagement with those administering both schemes was also carried out. There is discretion available to local authorities to exceed the maximum rent limit by up to 20% but this is used only on a case by case basis."

Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire said that the whole area of HAP needs to be reviewed. She said that the cost of renting in Carrick is extremely high. She added that people are presenting to her on a regular basis who want to live in Carrick but are unable to do so because of the excessively high rental cost in the town.

Councillor Séadhna Logan supported the motion and stated that he had to table a similar motion a number of months ago. He said that there no houses in Leitrim under the HAP limits.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson stated that there would be a meeting of the Housing SPC in the coming days and that he would raise this matter at that meeting.

Councillor Séadhna Logan asked could consideration be given to making the 20% discretionary allowance mandatory in areas such as Carrick because of the high cost of rent. Mr Gilhooly Director of Services responded that as the scheme is designed to be discretionary it cannot be made mandatory.
CMD 19/66  Removal of tree from Mohill River
08/04/19

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

“That the Council remove the tree that is downed and the large volume of litter and waste gathered behind it from the Mohill river, between Ashgrove house and the old dump parallel to the Dump lane.”

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services;

“It is the responsibility of the land owner to maintain their property, which includes drains, trees, etc. We will advise the community wardens of the illegal dumping activity for their attention.”

CMD 19/67  Additional crash barrier on road side of Lough Rynn Avenue
08/04/19

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

“That the Council put an additional crash barrier on the road side on Lough Rynn Avenue. Recent flood levels have again highlighted the danger of deep exposed drains running along Rynn Avenue.”

Report by Roads – General;

“There are numerous situations within the county that possibly could justify safety barrier installation, but the prime source of funding for such works comes from the Low Cost Safety schemes and it is important to note that priority for such schemes is based on the number of recorded accidents at a location. This section of road will be examined to see if it will fall within the parameters for a Low Cost Safety Scheme, and if so an application will be made for funding.”

Cllr Logan noted the reply and stated that a crash barrier is in one place on one side of the road but not the other which is every bit as deep. Darragh O Boyle District Engineer stated that they had limited funding at the time and built a crash barrier to the side which appeared to cause the most hazard. Cllr Enda Stenson requested that the Council speak to the owners of Lough Rynn Castle on the issue and Mr. O Boyle District Engineer confirmed that he would.
Tributes - Councillor Sinead Guckian

Before the meeting concluded the Elected Members paid tribute to Councillor Sinead Guckian who is not seeking re-election for another term. Members acknowledged her hard work and diligence as an Elected Member and her helpfulness to them during her period in office as a Councillor.

Trial of New Traffic Flow Plan – Carrick on Shannon

Mr Gilhooly Director of Services informed the meeting that Leitrim County Council is to trial a new traffic flow plan in Carrick on Shannon for a period of month.

This is proposed to commence on 30th April 2019.

Details of the proposed trial plan will be advertised in the coming weeks.

- This concluded the business of the meeting at 5.00 pm.

Signed: ______________________  ______________________

Councillor Enda Stenson  Gerry Doyle
Cathaoirleach  Meetings Administrator

Date: ______________________