Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
On Monday 11th March 2019 at 3.30 pm

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

Officials Present:  Gerry Doyle, Meetings Administrator
                   Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning & Transportation
                   Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer, South Leitrim
                   Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
                   Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning & Transportation

Apologies:  Councillor Sean McGowan

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson conveyed apologies from Councillor Sean McGowan, who is on official business in New York.

He also welcomed a delegation of business people from Carrick on Shannon.
Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Monday 11th February 2019

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson 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 11th February 2019 be adopted.”

Matters arising from Minutes

No matters arising from Minutes.

To Adopt Allocation of Funding under the Arts Festival Support Scheme 2019

A report from the Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services was submitted to the Members in advance of the meeting (Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book). Mr Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services Economic Development, Planning & Transportation informed the members that there was only one application received in the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District area namely the Carrick Water Music Festival and it was proposed that an allocation of €5,500 be made to this Festival subject to approval by the Members and in accordance with the terms of the Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“To adopt the proposed allocation of funding under the Arts Festival Support Scheme 2019 as set out in the report circulated to the Meeting”.

Correspondence

Item No. 1

Letter dated 13th February 2019 from Group Customer Complaints, Bank of Ireland. in relation to ongoing issues with the ATM in Mohill town. (Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was not at all satisfied with the reply received from the Bank of Ireland. He said that it was not acceptable that a service engineer was not available to attend promptly when the ATM wasn’t working and that there had been number of breakdowns in recent weeks.

Councillor Séadhna Logan stated that he agreed with the comments made by Councillor Des Guckian and said that no town has suffered more than Mohill especially at key times such as Bank...
Holidays etc. with regular ATM breakdowns being experienced. He commented that Bank of Ireland need to reflect on the banking service they provide to the people of Mohill.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson agreed with comments made, stating that the people of Mohill had suffered considerably due to the regular problems being experienced with this ATM.

**Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, seconded by Councillor Seadna Logan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“To again write to the Bank of Ireland reiterating the concerns of the Elected Members regarding the poor level of service being received by their customers at the ATM in Mohill due to regular breakdowns in service and subsequent considerable delays in dealing with these breakdowns”.

**Item No. 2**

Email dated 22nd February 2019 from Ms. Eileen Callaghan, Meetings Administrator, Boyle Municipal District inviting Members of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District to jointly meet with the Members of the Boyle Municipal District and the Department of Justice on a date yet to be fixed to discuss the situation in relation to the Shannon Key West Hotel, Rooskey and the proposal by the Department to accommodate asylum seekers there. *(Appendix 3 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).*

**Item No. 3**

Letter dated 5th March 2019 from ESB Networks regarding frequency of ESB Network Power Outages in County Leitrim. *(Appendix 4 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).*

**Part 1 – Notices of Motion**

CMD 19/37 Provision of Sheltered Accommodation for Vulnerable People

11/03/19

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

"That Leitrim County Council, will provide a number of sheltered accommodations, in Carrick-on-Shannon, for vulnerable people and people who cannot cope on their own."

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

"Leitrim County Council is not in a position to provide sheltered accommodation, we do however work with the appropriate agencies as individual cases present. Leitrim County Council provides emergency accommodation for vulnerable people who present to our housing department in situations where they need social housing support and this accommodation is provided whilst an assessment is undertaken to ascertain if they qualify for social housing support."

Councillor Des Guckian queried why Leitrim County Council was not in a position to provide
sheltered accommodation for vulnerable people. He stated that the people he was particularly referring to in his motion were people who have mental illness and those with severe physical disabilities who are not being provided with suitable accommodation with easy access to services and supports which would assist them in living independently in the community.

Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services, informed the meeting that should there be sufficient need for such a facility, this proposal could be pursued with the assistance of voluntary bodies who have experience in providing such facilities and also in conjunction with the Health Services Executive who would assist in the provision of the necessary supports for tenants in any proposed sheltered accommodation.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire informed the meeting that it was her understanding that the HSE are currently re-housing residents from Cregg House in Sligo to a couple of properties in the county and that the people in these properties would be receiving a high level of support from the HSE.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson suggested that the HSE be written to see what their proposals are for such facilities in the county.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, seconded by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Health Services Executive be written to, to ascertain their proposals to provide sheltered housing to assist people with special needs who are currently in institutional care and also to find out the supports they propose to provide for residents of any proposed sheltered accommodation.”

CMD 19/38  Issues arising from Carrick on Shannon Public Realm Improvement Scheme 11/036/19

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

“That Leitrim County Council, in light of the widespread dissatisfaction with the “Public Realm Improvement Scheme” for Carrick-on-Shannon Town, get into immediate meaningful discussions with affected parties to iron out the difficulties. One of the two main concerns lies in the Summerhill end of Main St where parking spaces are being wiped out and there is a ripple effect into nearby streets. There has been a long-running appeal for a suitable loading bay in that vicinity which has been ignored. The second is the acquisition of Flynn’s Field. ”

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

“Leitrim County Council approved the Part VIII “Public Realm Improvement Scheme” for Carrick on Shannon at the February 11th 2019 Carrick on Shannon Municipal District meeting. This followed extensive public consultation and an extended period of public display than required by statute. The scheme has therefore been approved and is moving to the detailed design stage of the project. The provision of an additional loading bay / bus set down area was recommended and
approved by the Elected Members in front of the Tipsy Tailor public house. The detailed design cannot materially deviate from the approved scheme.

Leitrim County Council have advertised their intention on Wednesday 6th March 2019 to compulsorily acquire the lands at Flynn’s Field required to provide the public car park approved in the Part VIII Scheme."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that local business people some of whom were attending the meeting would be badly affected by the proposed works. He said that there was a strong level of opposition to this proposal particularly at the Summerhill end of the town. He said that the Part VIII proposal for this Scheme seems to have been passed at the last Municipal District Meeting but without him having supported it. He said that there were several issues that he had objected to at the previous meeting. He said that the Members were misled by the Executive and had not been provided with all of the facts. He called on the Council Executive to talk to the people concerned and to amend the Plan to deal with their concerns. He added that at the meeting on 11th February information that there were eight parties who had an interest in Flynn’s Field and that this was not given to the Members but this had now emerged as being the case.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that the response sent to each person who made submissions was very generic and did not give a personal response to the issues raised by each individual. She stated that she was fully supportive of the proposed car park in Flynn’s Field. She asked that the Council would re-examine the proposal for parking at the Summerhill end of the town.

Councillor Séadhna Logan said that he had a number of concerns. He felt that since the last meeting more information had come to light particularly in relation to Flynn’s Field and that the Members were not fully informed prior to making a decision on the Part VIII. He also raised concerns about the provision of off street car parking and gave the example of Mohill as a place where this had not worked. He stated that he believed that businesses on Main Street and Bridge Street in Carrick on Shannon will suffer as a result of the removal of car parking spaces.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson also agreed that there was a need for the Council to consult the local business people who considered they were badly affected by the loss of car parking spaces.

Councillor Sinead Guckian requested clarification from the officials present with regard to the fact that as the Elected Members had approved the Part VIII at their previous meeting, whether or not the suggested reconsideration of issues was actually possible or not.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services stated that the Council is very mindful of the loss of car parking spaces in the town. However, he said that the current car park at the Fire Station together with the proposed car park in Flynn’s Field will provide easy access to the town centre. He indicated that the Council had gone further than was required regarding public consultation in holding a well attended public information event in the Bush Hotel and extending the public display period of the project by a further 2 weeks. He did not accept that the consultation process had been rushed. He stated that the scheme had been approved and is moving to the detailed design stage and that this cannot materially deviate from the approved scheme. He explained that the Part VIII is the approval of the whole project from a planning perspective in accordance with the
Planning Acts and a separate legal process pertains to the Compulsory Purchase Order for Flynn’s Field.

Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner welcomed the delegation of traders and commented that it would have been more beneficial for them to attend last month’s meeting when the decision on the Part VIII was being taken. He reiterated that at the previous meeting despite the protestations now made by Councillors, that no Councillor had abstained from the vote, that no Councillor had recommended that modifications other than as suggested in the Chief Executives report be made and that no Councillor had recommended that the project not be proceeded with. He said that he was at a loss to understand how local business people had believed they were misled and he informed the meeting that there was no attempt by anyone involved to disguise the number of car parking spaces being proposed to be removed and their location was also clearly detailed on the Plans. He stated that the proposals were approved at the meeting held on 11th February without amendment. He outlined the requirements in respect of the submission of the Chief Executives Report as provided for under statute and that all requirements had been adhered to in detail. In relation to the flood risk issue, he confirmed that a robust flood risk assessment had been undertaken and that the level of the car park would be above the 1:100 year flood event. In relation to the issue of CPO, he indicated that until the Chief Executive signed the order, that it would have been inappropriate to inform a public meeting of our intentions and before the affected landowners had been notified. He clarified that all affected landowners had been informed of the Council’s intentions in advance of the public notice appearing in the newspaper and being erected on site.

Councillor Des Guckian again stated that the lack of consultation was totally unacceptable. He stated that with regard to car parking spaces the Members were working on the basis of inadequate information. He said that the Council’s decision should be reversed and that the Council should go back to the start of the process. He stated that he would provide support to the executive for such an approach and did not want to risk losing the financial support secured for the project.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that a lengthy discussion had taken place at the February meeting regarding issues such as loading bays, gradients, wheelchair accessibility, mobility issues and much more. She said that those in the public gallery today may have considered that they were at a meeting to adjust/amend something in relation to the plan but this was not correct. She stated that the Plan had already been adopted at the last meeting in February and could not be amended at this stage.

Councillor Enda Stenson thanked the members of the public who attended to hear the discussion on this item on the agenda.

CMD 19/39 Repair works on Derrybrack Road, Aughamore (L7464-0)
11/03/19

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

"At the March Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the District Engineer to carry out repair works on the Derrybrack Road, Aughamore (L7464-0) and if this road could be
considered for a full maintenance grant in the next programme of works."

Report by Roads – General;

"The Council will dispatch our maintenance crew to this public road. The inclusion of a full restoration maintenance grant is not possible until 2022 as the next 3 years Road Improvement Grant programme have been approved by the Elected Members."

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she welcomed that the patching unit will be in the area shortly. She also stated that she believed that major maintenance work on this road had been listed previously for completion in 2020 or 2021. Darragh O’Boyle District Engineer stated that he would review the matter with a view to considering the road for an earlier completion date than given in the Notice of Motion under the Roads Maintenance Grant (RMG) Scheme.

CMD 19/40 Proposed installation of additional Dog Foul Bins in vicinity of public park in Carrick on Shannon
11/03/19

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

"At the March Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the District Engineer to consider the installation of additional Dog Foul bins/stations, in the vicinity of the public park on the Circular road Carrick on Shannon."

Report by Roads – General;

"The Council has recently replaced the dog fouling bins due to bilingual signage issues. They are now in place in the park. The Council does not intend to install any further dog fouling bins as there is a resource issue attached to this service."

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she was disappointed with the reply in that it states that there will be no more installations of dog fouling bins. She said that she had been approached by members of the public who told her that the facilities being provided at Circular Road Carrick on Shannon were not sufficient and more were required. Mr O’Boyle District Engineer said that the roads department had erected the bins currently in place at the request of the local authority veterinary service. He added that it is up to dog owners to deal with dog waste and to dispose of same appropriately.

CMD 19/41 Position of Greenway from Carrick to Leitrim onto Kilclare
11/03/19

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

"May I ask, what is the present position with the Greenway from Carrick to Leitrim and on to Kilclare."
Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation;

"The Council working in partnership with Waterways Ireland initiated the development of a blueway/greenway from Carrick on Shannon to Lough Allen and also to Kilclare. Under previous projects the way was completed from Leitrim Village to Acres lake and works are currently ongoing to complete connection to Lough Allen. In regard to the Leitrim Village to Kilclare stretch detail design is ongoing in particular dealing with road safety design issues on regional road crossing and expected significant increased cost which is currently being discussed with the funding Government Department. In regard to the Carrick on Shannon to Leitrim Village stretch through a combination of matters such as increasing design standards in relation to shared surfaces, the announcement of the Hidden Heartlands brand and the development of a new Shannon Masterplan the Council is currently scoping out a potential alternative route that would enhance the overall experience significantly in order to establish a project of much greater significance along the upper Shannon region."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the reply and Members expressed their support for the proposed further development of the Blueway / Greenway as outlined in the reply.

CMD 19/42 Completion of Water Works on R299
11/03/19

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

"May I ask, when will water works be completed on the R299 because this regional road is in a very bad state of repair at the moment and who is responsible for the restoration of the road when water pipe laying is complete."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services;

"Irish Water has engaged a contractor (Farrans) to replace the 250mm diameter trunk main in the R299 from Lismoyle to Drumsna approx. 2.5 Km in length. The pipeline works were recently extended and will now be completed in the next week or so. The permanent reinstatement of these trenches will be undertaken before 1st week in April 2019. In the meantime the contractor will be instructed to maintain all temporary reinstatements."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson noted the reply and stated that the roads in question were in a very poor state. He enquired as when this road will be fully reinstated and whether it will be Leitrim County Council or Irish Water who will carry out these works.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported this motion and commented that the roads had been in a poor state for a very long time.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer informed the meeting that Irish Water have responsibility for the final reinstatement works on this stretch of road. He said that the roads department have a grant on the R299 for this year and if necessary they will carry out further works on this road when Irish
Water have completed their reinstatement works.

**CMD 19/43**  
**Provision of rumble strips on R280 at Cornaroy**  
**11/03/19**

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

"On Road R280 at Cornaroy nearby house Eircode N41XD66 motorists are driving at speed. The road has been widened and improved recently. However the tendency to increase speed is worrying as there are many children using the School bus in the area which has a set down spot nearby. Could a road examination be conducted to see if Rumble strips can be placed on road or signage improved. In recent weeks there has been a very serious near accident where a lady was lucky to escape without serious injury. Residents are concerned that blind spots may lead to accident."

**Report by Roads – General;**

"No road works have occurred on this stretch of road over 10 years. A full signage audit was carried out on the R280 last year and all signs have been upgraded or replaced. The Council would propose that the school should carry out an audit on the drop points for school children and whether the drop off points are considered to be a risk to the children. This speeding issue should be brought forward to the Joint Policing Committee."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire noted the reply and said that the residents have serious concerns regarding speeding on this road and regarding the bad bend at Joe McLoughlin’s.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer responded that this road was widened in 2005/2006 to make it safer and that he was not aware of any recorded incidents or accidents at this location. He made reference to the replacement signage scheme carried out on the R280 last year and said that he could look at the addition of road markings however he said he would have concerns as to have too many road markings could be an issue for motorcyclists and their safety.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported this motion.

**CMD 19/44**  
**Footpath repairs – St Patrick’s Park, Carrick on Shannon**  
**11/03/19**

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

"At St Patrick’s Park in Carrick footpaths are particularly broken and unsafe at section of houses no 1 to 26. One has to tread very carefully to avoid a fall and residents would appreciate improvement works as soon as possible. "
Report by Roads – General;

"The Council has no funding for footpath works. The Council can only carry out minor repairs to our current asset. The Council spent a discretionary grant on St. Patricks Park last year and intend to do the same in Shannon Lodge this year. The Council will be carrying out minor footpath repairs in Mohill also this year. That will be the full extent of our discretionary spend on footpaths for 2019."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire noted the response and commented that there was an elderly population in St. Patrick’s Park and they wanted works on the footpaths to be completed urgently. Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the Motion and added that it would be a massive undertaking for the community to seek funding themselves to undertake the works required.

Councillor Séadhna Logan also supported the Motion and said that in the last five years only a couple of footpaths have been improved in Carrick on Shannon Municipal District. He said that there is a need for more money to be invested in footpaths throughout the Municipal District.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer said that works could be looked at for next year. He informed the meeting that Irish Water are carrying out back yard connections in the St. Patrick’s Park area at the moment and this work will have to be completed before the Council will look at carrying out works on footpaths.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire asked Mr O’Boyle District Engineer about the possibility of having a large pothole filled at what was formerly Taylor’s shop, at the junction of Main Street and the road leading out to St Patrick’s Park.

Mr O’Boyle District Engineer confirmed that work to fill this pothole was underway.

CMD 19/45 Improvement Works – Gortletteragh Graveyard 11/03/19

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

"At the March Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Council I will ask Mr Darragh O’Boyle District Engineer Carrick-on-Shannon, to put in place a programme of works to carry out improvement works to the driveway and footpaths in the graveyard in Gortletteragh, as they have fallen into a state of disrepair."

Report by Roads – General;

"Council officials have met with the graveyard committee and carried out considerable work preparing tender documents and pricing documents on their behalf. The Committee now need to proceed with this and invite tenders. The local authority have graveyard grant funding for these committees in line with Council policy. The works that are mentioned in the motion are included in the tender documents. The Council await hearing from the committee."

Councillor Sinead Guckian moved the motion in the absence of Councillor Sean McGowan. She thanked officials for the response.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

"At the March Meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District Council I will ask Mr Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services Infrastructure, what is the status of the Lock Estate in Rooskey; has there been an application to have to have the estate taken in Charge? There is no public lighting in the estate and it is extremely dark for the residents who live there, is the cash deposit of €7,935 still available from the original Planning Application? if so this would go a long way to providing the necessary lighting in the estate?"

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

"The Council has not received any application to have this development taken in charge and, as a consequence, no consideration is being given to same at this time. At the time that the planning application was made the Developer did not propose to provide any street lighting and the permission was granted on that basis. Should the homeowners of these houses request the taking in charge of the development then the Council will give consideration to same. When the development is in charge the Council can consider the provision of street lighting as part of the normal street lighting programme subject to the identification of a suitable funding stream or alternatively assist the residents should they wish to provide the public lighting at their own cost."

Councillor Sinead Guckian moved the motion in the absence of Councillor Sean McGowan. She thanked officials for the response.

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

"That this council would put in place a plan for a painting programme of the existing council housing stock. Much of the councils housing stock is in bad need of external painting."

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

"The planned maintenance budget for 2019 has been committed involving works on the installation of smoke alarms and the removal of algae on a number of houses. A painting programme could be considered in future budgets should works of a more critical nature not have to take precedence."

Councillor Séadhna Logan noted the reply and requested that Council houses which had green algae removed would be painted. He stated that he was very concerned regarding the poor condition of the exterior of some Council houses and that he felt it did not create a very good
impression. He made reference to the recent success of the project carried out in Mohill town involving the painting of commercial premises which has had a very positive impact.

This Motion was supported by all of the Elected Members present.

CMD 19/48  
Re-introduction of Bins in Mohill and other small towns  
11/03/19

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

"That a number of public bins be re-introduced in Mohill and all our small towns, and that a number of bins for dog waste be introduced also."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services:

"It is not proposed to introduce additional public bins within the town. The Byelaws to prevent the creation of and control Litter within County Leitrim place a number of requirements on relevant retail and takeaway outlets which should be adhered to. In this regard the Community Wardens will be asked to monitor the situation. Leitrim County Council will consider the installation of a bin for dog waste in Mohill during 2019 subject to available funding."

Councillor Séadhna Logan noted the reply and said that it was similar to a Motion raised earlier by Councillor Sinead Guckian. He said that he wished to support her on that motion and cited two separate incidents where people had contacted him in relation to issues regarding littering/dog fouling. He commented that this was a significant issue and that if towns are meant to be accessible for everyone they need to be litter free. He informed the meeting that local restaurants/takeaways do clean up after they close and take in their own bins. He stated that he believed that the problem arises when the business owners have finished up and people are hanging around waiting for taxis and discard their rubbish on the streets which he believes clearly shows that there is a need for more bins.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that she believed that more bins need to be provided particularly in towns where large number of tourists visit. She also took the opportunity to highlight and commend the Ambassador Programme which she said is running very successfully in Carrick on Shannon.

Councillor Séadhna Logan also made reference to the Dog Fouling Bin at the new Blueway facility in Drumshanbo. He said he was at the facility a few days ago and the bin was full and that there were also excess bags of dog foul left under the bin. He commented that this proves there is a demand there and people need and are using these facilities when provided.
CMD 19/49          Any Other Business
11/03/19

- Date of next meeting scheduled for Monday 8th April 2019 at 3.30 pm
- This concluded the business of the meeting at 4.45 pm

Signed: ____________________________  ____________________________

Councilor Enda Stenson                Gerry Doyle
Cathaoirleach                          Meetings Administrator

Date: ____________________________