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

On Tuesday 10\textsuperscript{th} January 2017 at 3.35 pm

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

Officials Present:
Johanna Daly, Meetings Administrator
Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

CMD 17/01  Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
10/01/17    held on Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} December 2016

Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Carrick on Shannon Municipal meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} December 2016 be adopted.”

Matters arising from Minutes

Item CMD16/157 – omission of the word “not” – correct sentence should read “These notices have not been complied with and the matter has since been referred to the Council’s Legal Representative for relevant action through the Courts.”
Johanna Daly, Meetings Administrator informed the members that she had received two separate items of correspondence in advance of today’s meeting.

A copy of these items was circulated to the members.

**Item No. 1**

Copy of “Draft Appointed Stand (Taxis) Bye-laws 2017 – Carrick on Shannon Train Station” issued by Roscommon County Council (this appears as Appendix 1 to these Minutes).

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire informed the meeting that the public notice regarding same would be appearing in this week’s edition of the “Roscommon Herald” and would be going on public display from 10th January until 8th February 2017 inclusive.

She welcomed this move by Roscommon County Council commenting that this was one of the items brought up at the recent Joint Municipal Meeting between Carrick on Shannon and Boyle.

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the movement on the establishment of a Taxi Rank.

**Item No. 2**

Email from Éanna Rowe, Regional Manager, Waterways Ireland in response to letter issued by Carrick Municipal District dated 22nd December 2016 requesting a meeting to discuss harbours at Drumsna and Jamestown (as per CMD16/158 in the name of Councillor Sinead Guckian) (this appears as Appendix 1 to these Minutes).

Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed the opportunity for a meeting with Waterways Ireland to discuss items pertaining to Jamestown and Drumsna Harbours.

It was suggested that all the Carrick Municipal Members would attend this meeting and it would give them all an opportunity to highlight issues that they may wish to discuss.

Councillor Sinead Guckian made reference to a Notice of Motion which she had tabled on today’s agenda in relation to Drumsna Harbour and said she would like regard given to it even though it will be one of the issues she would be discussing at the forthcoming meeting.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said it was necessary to determine a date and time for this meeting.

After some discussion it was agreed to hold the meeting on Monday 13th February at 2.15 pm in the offices of Aras an Chontae.

Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services informed the members that if they wish to have any items included on the Agenda for this meeting they should submit them to Johanna Daly, Meetings Administrator by close of business on Friday 13th January 2017.

Mr Rowe to be contacted with date and time of proposed meeting.
Part 1 – Notices of Motion

It was agreed to take Item No. 2 in the name of Councillor Des Guckian together with Item No. 6 in the name of Councillor Sean McGowan

CMD 17/03 Road Signs – L1621-1
10/01/17

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

“That signs showing two elbow, bad turns on the road be placed on road L1621-1 about 300-400m approx from Dromod Stations Bridge.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“We will endeavour to erect two “Bends Ahead” signs at this location.”

10/01/17 Dangerous Bends – LP-1621-1 (Dromod to Clooneagh Cross)

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

“I will ask the Carrick Area Engineer to again enter into discussions with Mr Liam Nichol, landowner with a view to improving the view at the two dangerous bends on local road from Dromod to Clooneagh Cross, Road No. LP-1621-1 and in the meantime to provide warning signs indicating “Dangerous Bends Ahead” to alert motorists. This is a very busy local road.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“We currently have no funding for road realignment at this location within the current three year programme. We will assess the location and can erect “Bends Ahead” sign subject to investigation.”

Responding to his Notice of Motion Councillor Des Guckian said he was glad to note that two signs would be erected. He explained that the two turns in question are very sharp right angle turns. He said that this matter had been discussed before and he believed that all members would be in agreement that something needs to be done. He said that this was a very dangerous area.

Responding to his Notice of Motion Councillor Sean McGowan said that he was disappointed that there were no funds available for realignment works. He stated that this matter has been raised on numerous occasions and asked the staff of the Roads Department to keep the pressure on to seek funding. He welcomed the erection of the signs.

Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South said that he had visited the site and was in agreement with the Councillors that there was scope for realignment works and they would be looking for funding in the next phase of Road Restoration Grants in 2019.

Councillor Des Guckian enquired what the legal position would be as far as persuading a landowner to give up part of his land to allow for strengthening works.
Darragh O’Boyle responded that given such a situation the council would pursue a Land Agreement rather than a Compulsory Purchase Order.

CMD 17/04  
Patching on Derrywillow Lane L34681-0  
10/01/17

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

“That large patches be put on twelve locations on Derrywillow Lane L34681-0, because the edges of this lane are badly depressed by the weight of lorries and buses.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“We will dispatch our maintenance crew to this public road to carry out patching repairs to the existing road surface.”

Councillor Des Guckian noted the reply. He asked would it be possible to level out the lane as it was one of the busiest with fleets of buses and lorries using it on a daily basis. He commented that it is in a bad state of repair and on the Eastern side it has gone down and it resembles a channel in places. He said it needs to be brought up to standard and asked that a good job would be carried out.

He made reference to a recent visit to Effrinagh by the President Michael D. Higgins for the unveiling of a statue to commemorate Jimmy Gralton and to a letter of appreciation that he had received from the President regarding the visit. He said it was his hope to invite the President to his house during the summer to give him a tour of the local area.

Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim informed the meeting that he will send out the patching unit and endeavour to fix the potholes and will examine the structural damage. If it is necessary to carry out structural works he will look to secure funding under the Roads Restoration Improvement Grant.

Councillor Sinead Guckian, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion.

CMD 17/05  
Boat Slipway at Drumsna Harbour  
10/01/17

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

“I will ask the Director of Services to once again contact Waterways Ireland with regard to addressing safety concerns of the boat slipway at Drumsna Harbour. Since 2012, Drumsna Development Association has been seeking to have the dangerous design of the slipway jetty at Drumsna Harbour addressed. They were most recently directed to avail of IFI funding and do the work themselves, which they did and were told it didn’t qualify.”

In addressing the members Councillor Sinead Guckian said this Notice of Motion would be one of the items she would be discussing at the forthcoming meeting to be held with Waterways Ireland.
She gave the Members a background to the situation. She stated that this has been an issue for the Drumsna Development Association since 2012, the slipway in question is 100 years old. A lot of work has been carried out by the local Tidy Towns committee in the area around it but works need to be carried out on the slipway itself. There are difficulties for getting small crafts in and out of the water. Joseph Gilhooly’s predecessor Martin Dolan had been in discussions with Waterways Ireland in the past in relation to difficulties experienced by the Civil Defence in launching their crafts from this slipway. This facility is a busy hub for the community. Most recently at the Annual Charity Fundraising Swim in October it highlighted that problems were getting worse here.

She said they had contacted Joseph Gilhooly’s department seeking funding and it was recommended that they should contact Inland Fisheries Ireland for appropriate funding. An application was made, however no funding was available under National Strategy because their application included “in stream” works. She added that before an application could be made to Inland Fisheries Ireland they had to have the backing of Waterways and even with this they didn’t meet the criteria to secure funding.

Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire commented that she would like to know what projects from this area were accepted from what was applied for.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that to the best of her knowledge from what she had seen on social media it was angling projects, such as the erection of stands etc.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said she wanted to make members conscious of the background to this particular issue when they attend their meeting with Waterways Ireland.

**CMD 17/06  Realignment Works – Laheenamona (Junction on Carrick-Mohill Road) 10/01/17**

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

“I will again ask the District Engineer, Carrick on Shannon, what progress has been made with regard to carrying out realignment works to improve the view at the junction on the Carrick-Mohill road at Laheenamona, of local road from Rosdoowaun-Tamlaghtavally LS-7483-0. Has any design work been done in relation to re-locating the junction? Has the Council had any discussions with relevant landowner? It is extremely dangerous for the local community coming out onto the R201 with a limited view back towards Carrick on Shannon and they are rightly concerned and fearful for their safety.”

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;*

“As previously mentioned, we will look for a Low Cost Safety Grant at this location. We can contact the relevant land owners if we secure grant funding for the works.”

Councillor Sean McGowan noted reply. He enquired as to whether funding has already been sought. He informed the meeting that he has already passed the name of the landowner onto Darragh O’Boyle. He stated that this work needs to be done and in his estimation it is a distance of no more than 50 metres. He asked that this work be moved along as it has been ongoing for the last 10 years. He enquired could the council approach the landowner and then seek the relevant funding from the Department.
Councillor Enda Stenson supported this motion. He commented that the road is more dangerous now than ever with increased volumes of traffic using it. He enquired could traffic calming measures such as strips be put in place to slow the traffic down coming into the junctions.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported the motion and enquired as to what discussions have taken place with the landowner and have they been successful?

Darragh O’Boyle responded that he had visited the site and explained that an application for “Low Cost Safety” funding had been applied for, but turned down. An application will be resubmitted for same for 2018.

With regard to talking to landowners, he advised the members that it was unusual to meet with a landowner without having funding ring fenced.

In relation to traffic calming measures he said that rumble strips can be put in place. There are already warning signs and variable speed signs in place.

Councillor Enda Stenson enquired could the flashing speed indicator sign be moved further back from its current location. In response Darragh O’Boyle informed him that it would not be possible to do so as it would be outside the urban speed limit area.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that he was disappointed. He enquired was there any way that some money could be sourced with a view to approaching the landowner, and even have the works carried out in two phases. Secure the land this year, have fencing erected and carry out the digging works next year. He called again on the council to try and secure funding for this.

Shay O’Connor explained to the members that grants received from the Department are for maintenance works only, they do not include any improvement works. Land can be purchased under the Local Cost Safety Scheme which is funded by the Department. All other works in relation to roads come from the local authority’s own resources. The Department carry out audits to ensure we abide by the criteria laid down.

He informed the members that a design has already been prepared for this road. He said there is no problem meeting with the landowner to see what the situation is and show willingness to have discussions, however he advised the members again that nothing can be done until funding is secured.

Joseph Gilhooly again reiterated this point that even if discussions take place with landowners nothing can or will be done until funding has been secured.

CMD 17/07  
R280 Leitrim to Drumshanbo – Junction to L7387 not signposted.  
10/01/17

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

“As one drives on the R280 from Leitrim to Drumshanbo the junction to L7387 is not signposted to the right. There is a road number sign for the motorist going the opposite direction as well as junction approach signage back some metres. Both are also needed for traveller going from Leitrim village side.”
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“The local road network numbering signage system is in place as part of the regional road signage scheme. This allowed the local authority to place local road names at the regional road junction. Not all local roads have these signs unless they intersect with the regional road network. The L3387 at Kilmaghera, however, is missing one of these signs which will be replaced.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire enquired as to whether there was a central place where the public could go online and identify road numbers, as when she went looking for particular road numbers she found it particularly difficult.

Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer informed her that to his knowledge there was no central database to provide this information. He said that the Roads Department have maps with all the road numbers for the county on them and that he will provide her with a copy of same.

CMD 17/08  Extension of Public Lighting on R280 from Drumshanbo towards Carrick
10/01/17

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

“I ask that Public Lighting on the R280 from Drumshanbo towards Carrick is extended out as far as entrance to McGuire’s Cottages. Currently a pole knocked down some months ago has not been replaced and the area is very dark. The bend in the road Carrick side of the pool is very dark. I understand that most roads on town outskirts are lit out as far as speed signs. Cottage rentals are often to families and I feel it would be fitting that vehicle drivers are encouraged to slow down and be cautious in this area.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

“We currently have no funding for new public lighting. We will endeavour to carry out a design and replacement of public lighting at this location once funding is made available. We will, however, replace any damaged light standards as part of our public lighting maintenance programme.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed the reply. She added that the cottages were a great resource and felt that the lighting needs to be addressed. One resident told her that a pole had been knocked down and never replaced. She commented that the Marina area was well lit up and looked beautiful but that the area to the right as you exit the cottages was very dark.

CMD 17/09  Funding – Replacement of Hartley Bridge
10/01/17

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

“May I ask is there any update on funding for the replacement of Hartley Bridge.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;
“At present there is a 3T weight limit on Hartley Bridge. We will be carrying out further tests on the existing bridge at Hartley within the next two weeks. We have made an application to the Department of Transport for funding for a replacement bridge at Hartley. We will be working closely with the Department to secure funding.”

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the application for funding. He enquired as to what the likelihood was of funding being secured. He commented that Hartley Bridge is a vital connection, a lot of traffic from Cootehall/Boyle area use it as a link road. At the moment it is limited in its capacity and emergency vehicles such as Ambulances and Fire Brigades are unable to use it because of the barrier. He felt that between the two local authorities (Leitrim and Roscommon) this project needs to be moved forward and the bridge replaced.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported the motion and enquired how many applications have been made to the Department for works on bridges and where is Hartley Bridge on it?

Shay O’Connor stated that there is not specific funding available for projects like Hartley Bridge. The local authority has submitted one application for funding under the “Specific Improvement Grant”. He said the four bridges listed were Hartley, Rooskey, Lennox and Kilavoggy. Hartley was first on this list.

Councillor Des Guckian also supported the motion and enquired as to the cost involved.

Councillors Sean McGowan and Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire also supported the motion.

Shay O’Connor explained to the meeting that Stage 1 testing was carried out on the bridge last year and it confirmed that the weight limit is 3 tonne. However, there are concerns about certain structural elements of the bridge. A more detailed investigation is scheduled to be carried out. It was due to be done this week but because of an issue with insurance with the contractors these works were held up. He apologised to the people of the area who were affected by the traffic disruption on the bridge.

Councillor Enda Stenson enquired could the bridge be closed as a result of the findings of the structural investigation.

Shay O’Connor responded that this could be a possibility and that more invasive testing would be needed to determine this. He estimated the cost of a new bridge to be in the region of €4m or €5m. He highlighted the fact that this matter was discussed at a joint meeting with Boyle and Carrick Municipal Districts and that Roscommon County Council are fully supportive of the application made by Leitrim.

CMD 17/10  Tenders – Upgrade Water Treatment Plant – Mohill
10/01/17

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

“May I ask has a tender been accepted for the upgrade of the Water Treatment Plant in Mohill, as this is in need of being done?”

Report by A/Head of Finance & Water Services;

“The tender process for the upgrade of Mohill Wastewater Treatment Plant is on-going, with the closing date for receipt of tenders on the 11th January 2017. The appointment of a contractor by
Irish Water is anticipated by the end of February 2017 with commencement of works on site now likely in April 2017.”

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the response and informed the meeting that this matter had been discussed at the Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion.

CMD 17/11 Proposed cutbacks to Bus Eireann Expressway Service
10/01/17

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

“That we in Carrick on Shannon Municipal District would be opposed to the possibility of the proposed cutbacks to Expressway services across the country by Bus Eireann especially to the Sligo to Dublin Airport route which services the town. That we would write to Minister Shane Ross and his Department raising our concerns and our strong objections to any reduction of services in the North West.”

Councillor Séadhna Logan informed the meeting about the concerns nationally regarding the proposed cutbacks to the Expressway services. He said that this is a vital service particularly here in the town of Carrick. He called on his municipal colleagues to support his motion requesting that a letter would be sent Minister Shane Ross and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport raising their concerns.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Department.

CMD 17/12 Rezoning of Site under the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan
10/01/17

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

“Given the surprise objection to the Lidl planning permission and the strong indications by An Board Pleanala that the proposed site would not be granted permissions for retail development into the future and given that there is not a large quantity of green/community space around Carrick maybe the site should be rezoned or declassified as not for development. As the site in totality is currently zoned for Commercial Town Expansion under the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan.”

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

“The Planning Authority were notified by An Bord Pleanala of the reasons for refusal for the proposed licensed foodstore (register ref. PL 12.246575 refers). The land use zoning objective which applies to this site in the Local Area Plan (2010 – 2019) is Commercial Town Expansion. The majority of the site was identified for general development in the preceding Local Area Plan (2004-2010). There are a range of uses which are acceptable in principle on Commercial Town Expansion outside of retail including office development similar to the existing Carrick Business Campus opposite. There are no uses identified through the Land Use Zoning matrix on Open Space and Amenity zoned lands which cannot be considered on Commercial Town Expansion lands. The Planning Department is not satisfied that there are not sufficient lands identified in the Local Area Plan for open space or community facilities. A defined need for such a variation is not
established other than to prevent a further similar application for a licenced foodstore being made in isolation to the other uses possible. Furthermore, the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2015 do not protect the Planning Authority with regard to the potential payment of compensation where permission is refused only on the basis of materially contravening the land use zoning objective which applies to a site where the zoning of the site in question has been changed as a result of a variation.”

Councillor Séadhna Logan stated that he understood the crux of the response. He said that a lot of people had mixed views in relation to this particular site, quite a majority felt that it would be better used as a green field site as there are very few in and around the town of Carrick. He hoped that certain areas would be kept as green areas.

Councillor Des Guckian seconded this sentiment.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported this as well and enquired as to when the issue of zoning/rezoning could be revisited.

Joseph Gilhooly informed the meeting that the current Carrick Local Area Plan runs from 2010 until 2019. Before a new plan is implemented it will go through the public consultation process. This process will be looked at in 2018.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire commented that a lot of people did not know about zoning of lands and that maybe they will be more aware of it when the new plan comes up for review.

Councillor Séadhna Logan commented that there was a general lack of public awareness around such things.

Joseph Gilhooly responded that the current plan and all previous plans would have gone through the public consultation process and would have been put on public display.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that she believed that there was a general misconception among the public in relation to this particular site. It was widely believed that it was in the control of the local authority and as such was going to be kept as a Green Space.

Councillor Enda Stenson remarked that it would be hoped by all to fill the MBNA building and bring employment to the area.

CMD 17/13 Any Other Business 10/01/17

No items were raised.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire Johanna Daly
Cathaoirleach Meetings Administrator

Date: 13th February, 2017