Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District

Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co Leitrim

On Monday 14th September 2015 @ 3.35 pm

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

Officials Present: Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
Vincent Dwyer, Meetings Administrator
Michael Flynn, District Engineer South Leitrim
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

CMD15/120

Minutes of 13th July 2015 Carrick on Shannon Municipal District

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor Séadhna Logan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday 13th July 2015 be adopted.”

Cathaoirleach Councillor Sinead Guckian made reference to CMD15/110 in which she sought details on burial grounds in the council’s charge and also schedule of cartetakers duties and procedures regarding the operation of burial grounds. It was stated that the information was circulated but she informed the meeting that she did not receive these reports.
Minutes of Annual Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal held on 8th June 2015

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor Séadhna Logan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Annual Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co Leitrim on Monday 8th June 2015 be adopted”.

To consider the Leitrim Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 in relation to consistency with the Core Strategy and objectives of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021.

The Members were asked to consider the Leitrim Local Economic & Community Plan 2015 – 2021 in relation to consistency with the Core Strategy and objectives of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021. Following its consideration, to adopt a statement in that regard to be submitted to Leitrim County Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 66C (2)(b) and 66C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The members were given a comprehensive presentation by Mr Mark Conway from Venutre i Network. Documentation in relation to the above was circulated to Members prior to the meeting. A number of Councillors also attended a Workshop held by Mr Conway on the morning on 14th September 2015 in the Council Chamber.

In addition the Members were also circulated with a copy of report by Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner, for consideration, this appears as Appendix I to these Minutes.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Sinead Guckian thanked Mr Conway for his presentation.

A lengthy discussion took place after the presentation between the Members, the Executive and Mr Conway.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor Séadhna Logan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“Carrick on Shannon Municipal District having reviewed the Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 as drafted, is satisfied that the plan is consistent with the core strategy and objectives of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 and therefore recommend its adoption to Leitrim County Council”.
Report dated 3rd September 2015 from Mr Shay O’Connor, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix II to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

It was agreed that items (i) to (iv) would be taken together.

Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowen AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the declaration as a public road of the following roads, under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, Article 5 of the Roads Regulations 1994 and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2010, be approved:

(i) Road off Local Road LP-3555-1 serving Ros na hInse Housing Estate in the townland of Attirory Td., (Carrick on Shannon) for a distance of 503 metres.

(ii) Road off Local Road LP-3655-0 serving Caldragh Crescent Housing Estate in the townland of Attirory Td. (Carrick on Shannon) for a distance of 133 metres.

(iii) Road off Local Road LP-3655-0 serving Dun Rí Housing Estate in the townlands of Attirory Td. (Carrick on Shannon) for a distance of 891 metres.

(iv) Road off Local Road LP-1486-0 serving Drum Cala Housing Estate in the townland of Drumod More Td. (Dromod) for a distance of 181 metres.

Councillor Enda Stenson made reference to the non inclusion of the Rockingham Estate in Attiry, Carrick on Shannon. Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services informed him that it is anticipated that it will come before next month’s meeting of the Municipal District, as it needs one final review to complete the taking in charge stage. He informed the meeting that this was a procedural assessment.

Ms Camilla Kelly gave a detailed and informed presentation to the Members. A copy of this appears Appendix III to these Minutes.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Sinead Guckian thanked Ms. Kelly for her presentation. A number of questions were put to Ms Kelly by the Members regarding the current operation and future plans for the Leitrim Local Link.
Part 1 – Notices of Motion

CMD15/125
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by
14/09/15
Councillor Sinead Guckian

“I will ask for the support of members in calling on Waterways Ireland to prioritise the upgrading of facilities at the harbours in Drumsna and in Jamestown. There are no service areas at either harbour for boating tourists and over the past number of years we have called for development proposals to be put in place.”

Report by Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation

“Waterways Ireland is working actively on the delivery of the Shannon Blueway which involves a multi dimension trail from Lough Allen south along the Shannon and from Leitrim Village east along the Shannon Erne System. During the coming year the water based element of the trail will be extending south through Jamestown, Drumsna, Dromod, Rooskey and on to County Longford. The matter of the facilities set out in this notice of motion can be brought to Waterways Ireland attention.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that she had never seen any concrete proposals to upgrade the facilities at the harbours in Drumsna and Jamestown.

Notice of Motion No. 2 in the name of Councillor Sinead Guckian and Notice of Motion No. 15 in the name of Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire were taken together.

CMD15/126
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by
14/09/15
Councillor Sinead Guckian

“I will ask the Director of Services what actions are currently taking place to address the on-going traffic congestion and traffic delays in Carrick on Shannon and on the N4 for vehicles travelling from the Sligo direction. On Friday evenings, in particularly, there have been many longs delays.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

“The situation is being monitored. Gardaí routinely attend during times of congestion to assist traffic flows. The Carrick on Shannon bypass scheme, which will remove the majority of through traffic, is currently suspended by the National Roads Authority. We regularly seek to have this scheme re-opened but have been advised by the NRA that this will not happen in the short term.”

CMD15/127
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by
14/09/15
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire

“Pedestrian crossing of streets in Carrick has been an ongoing problem. I ask that the area engineer who has responsibility for this furnish us with a short report of (a) surveys and findings over the last few years, (b) proposals for safe crossings for all
throughout the town (c) any outline of identified "Black spots" and the intention of Leitrim County Council to improve crossing access in these areas.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"An access audit of the town was undertaken some years back. Pedestrian crossing points were provided in accordance with the recommendations contained in this report."

A discussion took place between the Members and the Executive regarding the current problems arising and the proposed Carrick on Shannon Bypass, which has been currently suspended.

Councillor Des Guckian suggested the need for a second bridge in lieu of the bypass.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire suggested signage to indicate the location of the pedestrian crossing.

Mr Michael Flynn agreed to look at the issue of parking signage. He informed the members that pedestrian safety was of paramount importance at all times and that Garda assistance was available when needed.

CMD15/128 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by 14/09/15 Councillor Des Guckian

“That the public lighting throughout Cois Abhainn Estate, Leitrim Village, be immediately switched on again. This is in the interests of health and safety and security for all the house owners there.”

Report by Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
"This estate is not in the charge of the Local Authority and remains a private development. The Planning Department are working with the developer of Cois Abhainn with a view to taking the estate in charge. The developer has indicated that it is his intention to complete all outstanding works to enable the process to advance. As part of these discussions, the developer was advised that the street lights were no longer operational in the estate and he was requested to address the matter. The developer has acknowledged that the lights have been disconnected but advises that as the house owners did not submit payment of the yearly maintenance charge, he had no option but to discontinue payment of the account. As the developer of this estate is still active, the reactivation of the street lights is a matter for him and the house owners to resolve in accordance with the terms of the contracts which the parties entered into.

The Planning Authority has informed the developer that it is a requirement of the taking in charge process that the lights be operational prior to the estate being taken into charge.”
Councillor Des Guckian said that he was not happy with this reply and that he believed there were two developers involved here. He said that there is no obligation on the residents to pay a yearly maintenance charge.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly reiterated that the estate is private property and that this is a matter between the developer and residents.

Councillor Des Guckian then asked Mr Gilhooly when the Council was going to tackle the two developers and put pressure on them, to which Mr Gilhooly replied that discussions are ongoing.

CMD15/129  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by
14/09/15  Councillor Des Guckian

“That the large arrow road sign which was flattened and removed, in a violent crash, on Tuesday 14 July, at the junction of The Dromod-Rooskey Bypass and the old L1601 road to Dromod (in townland of Fearnaught), be repaired and reinstated.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Signage on national routes is maintained by contractors appointed by the National Roads Authority. The relevant NRA office has been notified of the need to replace the sign in question and we await their action in this regard."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was not happy with this reply and wanted the matter followed up the National Roads Authority as a matter of urgency.

CMD15/130  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by
14/09/15  Councillor Sean McGowan

“I will ask the Senior Engineer Leitrim County Council what is the delay in carrying out improvement works with the removal of the 10cm high kerb stone and provision of a hard shoulder on the N4 at Fearnaught, Aughamore from the Council yard for 300 metres to the road leading into Newton’s, Faughnans & Mc Weeneys houses. The local people are concerned with the lack of progress what with the NRA Inspector having been out in early June and acknowledging that the section of road was dangerous and they are anxious that the necessary works would commence as soon as possible.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"As discussed at the June Municipal District meeting we have discussed the matter with the NRA Safety Inspector and the preferred solution is to close this junction. This proposal has been submitted to the NRA and we are awaiting their approval. We will take the matter up again with the NRA."

Councillor Sean McGowan asked that this matter would be followed up with the National Roads Authority, as a matter of urgency.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan

"I will again ask Senior Executive Engineer, Carrick-on-Shannon, when is it planned to carry out the promised works in the village of Rooskey, as was committed to me, in a letter dated the 8th May 2014. Almost 18 months later, the works in question have still to start. The people of the village have suffered greatly, what with the Bypass of the village, the closure of the Meat plant, closure of the hotel, shop & filling station and they rightly feel that they have been left behind."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The agreed works will be carried out over the next few months subject to the funding available to us."

Councillor Sean McGowan said that it is not a major amount of money to carry out the necessary works and that he would like to see it done before the winter.

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

"May I ask, will it be possible to trim back hedges on each school bus run in the interest of safety?"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Maintenance of hedges along public roads are the responsibility of the landowner. If there are routes requiring attention, necessary notices will be served on the landowners in question."

Councillor Enda Stenson said that he was happy with this reply.

Mr Michael Flynn again reiterated that the maintenance of hedgerows are the responsibility of the landowner.

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

"At the moment, there seems to be a scarcity of good family type homes for sale or rent in this area. This could pose a major problem going forward. Do we in the Local Authority have plans to deal with this, before it becomes a serious issue?"

Report by Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation
"Leitrim County Council are acutely aware of the lack of activity in the multiple house building construction sector generally in the county with one active development in Rooskey being the exception. The role of the Local Authority in house building other than in the provision of social housing is that of facilitation. The Core Strategy of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 has allocated 262 residential units to
Carrick-on-Shannon to achieve an anticipated population of 4,100 persons by 2021. These lands have been identified in an amendment to the Local Area Plan along with a substantial Housing Reserve. There are no constraints from a piped water perspective which restrict the development of these lands. Whilst analysis carried out as part of “The National Statement of Housing Supply and Demand 2014 and Outlook for 2015-17” indicated that Leitrim along with Roscommon, Cavan, and Longford were seen as the most affordable locations in Ireland for residential properties, access to finance and land for development, affordable construction and reasonable development profits are key drivers in unlocking future supply. It is also noted that of the total recorded number of 2,736 households in Carrick-on-Shannon at the 2011 Census of Population, 757 households (27.7%) were unoccupied compared to a national average of 14.5%. This in part is reflective of the number of holiday homes / self catering units which are available in the town and environs for short term letting. The Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan review and Development Contributions Scheme review both which are underway will seek to identify areas where Leitrim County Council can assist in kick starting multiple home developments in this area.”

Councillor Enda Stenson said that he was happy with this reply and commented that there is a very real need for good family type homes. He asked for a plan to be put in place going forward, to address this issue.

CMD15/134 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by 14/09/15 Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire

“The committee of St. Marys Cemetery, Carrick on Shannon anticipate the need for more spaces to be provided in the cemetery. Currently there are 80 plots available. I ask that Leitrim County Council engage with this committee to see where available lands may be open for purchase.”

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"It will be necessary to identify suitable lands for any extension of the cemetery. Funding will have to be sourced to provide for associated land acquisition costs and development costs. The local committee will be consulted in this regard as requested."

Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire noted the reply. Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Sean McGowan supported this motion.

Mr Michael Flynn informed the meeting that the Council is in regular contact with the cemetery committee.

CMD15/135 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by 14/09/15 Councillor Séadhna Logan

“I call on this municipal district to demand the NRA address the following issue on the N4 immediately as a matter of priority. The pooling and strong flow of water onto the main N4 off the slip road up to the flyover approaching Drumsna, from the
Carrick on Shannon side, during heavy rainfall.

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The matter will be notified to the NRA and funding will be sought to address the issue at this location."

Councillor Séadhna Logan said he was happy with this response. He asked Mr Michael Flynn could the NRA also look at the problem of pooling of water at the Dromod roundabout as well.

CMD15/136  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Séadhna Logan
14/09/15

"I am calling on the housing office to contact all council tenants in the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District and to notify them of their responsibilities for the proper disposal of waste, as there has been reports of illegal dumping at vacant council properties as well as burning of rubbish in gardens in a number of areas."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"A new tenant handbook will be circulated to all tenants in November 2015 outlining clearly their responsibilities with regards to waste disposal and registration with an authorised waste collector. The Council is also proactive in waste enforcement and investigating reported and observed illegal dumping and waste disposal up to and including legal proceedings."

Councillor Séadhna Logan stated that he was happy with this response.

CMD15/137  Any Other Business
14/09/15

Closure of Beds at St Patrick’s Hospital, Carrick on Shannon

Councillor Enda Stenson sought permission through to Cathaoirleach to have an item considered under Any Other Business as he felt it was an urgent matter. The Cathaoirleach agreed to this.

Councillor Enda Stenson informed the Members that he had become aware of the proposed plans to close 20 beds in St Patrick’s Hospital, Carrick on Shannon.

Councillor Finola Armstrong Maguire informed the members that she had attended a meeting the previous Friday in relation to this matter and to her understanding the situation is as follows, HIQA are seeking to reduce the number of patients by 20 in order for St Patrick’s Hospital to get certification. It is proposed to move these 20 patients to the new purpose built facility in Ballinamore, it was suggested that they would look at moving patients who had an address in or near the Ballinamore Area, depending first of all on the level of illness that they had.
The Members all raised their concerns regarding the above and said they would monitor the situation.

CMD15/138 Minutes of Meeting held on 13th July 2015
14/09/15

Cathaoirleach Councillor Sinead Guckian afforded an opportunity to Councillor Des Guckian to comment on the Minutes of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Monday 13th July 2015.

Arising from this Councillor Des Guckian highlighted two items which Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner said he would forward to the Members.

These were background information on Unfinished Estates and information regarding the capacity of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (CMD15/106).

Mr Bernard Greene apologised to the Members and informed them that he would have the relevant information forwarded to them before the end of the week.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: ______________________  ______________________
Cllr Sinead Guckian                      Vincent Dwyer
Cathaoirleach Carrick on Shannon Municipal District  Meeting Administrator

Date: 12th October 2015