Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District

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

On Monday 7th December 2015 @ 3.30 pm

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

Officials Present: Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
Michael Flynn, District Engineer
Mr Shay O’ Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads
Joan Lowe, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

CMD15/164
07/12/15
Severe Weather – December 2015

Before dealing with the items on the Agenda it was agreed that discussions take place on the flooding issues.

Councillor Sinead Guckian acknowledged the work done by Council staff who had remained on call all week end and also the active role played by members of the public. She noted that areas along the Shannon in particular Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim Village had been badly affected with waters continuing to rise.

Councillor Enda Stenson thanked the staff for their good work. He said that the county is in the same position as it was in 2009. He stated that he realised that the Council were doing their best but where do we go from here. He referred especially to the Main N4 in Carrick on Shannon being blocked with nothing having been done since 2009. He stated that this is not the fault of the Council but it would seem that the lessons of 2009 have not been learned by the people in authority.

Councillor Seadhna Logan agreed with Councillor Enda Stenson. He congratulated the staff on work done and stated that we would have to appeal to a national forum requesting that drainage be made a priority.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was quite annoyed by what he had learned during recent CFRAM consultations in the county. In proposals to alleviate the problem there is no intention ultimately of ever draining or dredging the Shannon. He also stated that he had calls over the weekend from people in difficulty as a result of the flooding but was critical of the fact that there was no dedicated number set up for county councillors to call to pass on queries. Councillor Des Guckian indicated that he had been informed of flooding on the R106 near Rooskey and had to contact the emergency services. He stated that he visited the flooded road soon afterwards and noted that a small sign had been put in place but had blown over as it needed something to anchor it. He stated that signage should be put up well in advance of flooded area, be anchored, large and noticeable.
Councillor Sean McGowan thanked the Engineering staff for trojan work done over the weekend and praised Shay O’Connor and Michael Flynn for doing the best possible with resources available. He stated that this is a National problem and an issue which has to be addressed. He stated that he had thought that a body to control water levels on the Shannon was to be set up after 2009 and he wondered what had happened in this regard.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire thanked the staff for their work and in particular for providing the pedestrian walkway on Park Lane.

Joseph Gilhooly paid tribute to work done by staff over the weekend and for giving the best response possible with resources available. He gave an overview of issues dealt with over the weekend and those which would need to be monitored over the next few days. With regard to CFRAMS he stated that work is ongoing and recommendations are expected to be available in 2016.

Shay O’ Connor also detailed works being done to alleviate the situation but stated that waters were rising quicker than anticipated.

Councillor Sean McGowan asked if ESB were calling the shots. It was noted that the issue falls between different bodies including ESB, OPW, etc. Shay O’ Connor stated that the priority list emerging from the CFRAMS leaves County Leitrim with its smaller population in a difficult position as it would certainly focus on projects which would impact the largest population.

Councillor Des Guckian asked that a motion be put forward for the continuous dredging of the Shannon from now on. He stated that dredging of rivers takes place on the Continent and couldn’t see why it doesn’t happen here in Ireland.

Councillor Sinead Guckian indicated that similar motions had been proposed before over the last number of years but nothing had happened as the CFRAM study was still ongoing.

Following further discussion it was agreed that the following proposal be put forward.

**Proposed by Councillor Des Guckian, Seconded by Councillor Enda Stenson AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“That this Municipal Council write to the Board of Works, The Minister for Finance and to all County Councils along the River Shannon demanding that there be continuous dredging of the River Shannon to remove mud banks and bog silt, so that the river can be kept flowing freely and that further major flooding will become a thing of the past”.

Councillor Seadhna Logan requested that Flooding get special reference in the Carrick Area Plan.

**CMD15/165**  
**Minutes of 9th November 2015 Carrick on Shannon Municipal District 07/12/15 Meeting**

Councillor Des Guckian stated that the draft minutes did not reflect what he stated in relation to the motion on funding for Lough Rynn Rowing Facility. He requested that “new owners” replace “others” in the final sentence of Minute CMD 15/158.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda Stenson, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan 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 9th November 2015 be adopted as amended”.

CMD15/166
07/12/15. Land along the Council Houses and Health Centre in Dromod

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

"I will ask the District Engineer to have immediate talks with representatives of the Goodman Group who own the land that runs along the Council houses and Health Centre in Dromod, with a view to putting in place a programme of works to cut back the overgrown hedge and clean the drain between the properties."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The area will be examined with a view to resolving issues of concern."

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that he was happy with the reply provided works are done.

CMD15/167
07/12/15. Improvement works at the Junction on the Carrick-Mohill road at Laheenamona

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

"I will again ask the District Engineer, Carrick-on-Shannon, that when preparing the roadwork’s programme for 2016 to include improvement works 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 concerned and fearful for their safety."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The junction in question can be considered for inclusion under the low cost accident scheme. No design work or discussions have been undertaken to date."

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that he was happy with the reply provided works are done.

CMD15/168
07/12/15. Low cost Safety Works at Crowhill, Drumsna

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

"I will ask the Director of Services, Planning & Infrastructure, when will works be completed on Crowhill, Drumsna. These works, which are being carried out under a “low cost Safety measure”, are to include a pedestrian footpath and additional public lighting from Quay Street to the top of Crowhill and are extremely important for pedestrian safety within the village."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The low cost safety works at Crow Hill are substantially complete. We await contractors attendance on site to complete lighting and surfacing works. These works are scheduled to be complete by year end."

Councillor Guckian stated that she was okay with the reply once works are done as soon as
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

"That the streets of Carrick-on-Shannon be surveyed with the intention of identifying all places where there is great difficulty of access/usage for people with physical disabilities and that a programme be drawn up, in conjunction with people with disabilities, to address these access difficulties."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"A detailed Access audit was undertaken some years ago and a detailed schedule of improvement works were prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Improvement works have been on-going over the past years and it is expected will continue in future years, subject to the availability of funding."

Councillor Des Guckian stated that he was not satisfied that all requirements are covered and informed the meeting that he is to forward a copy of report to the Leitrim People with Disabilities to see how they feel about it. Councillor Sinead Guckian asked if Councillor Des Guckian wanted a copy of the report but he stated that he didn’t. Councillor Sinead Guckian recommended that all members of the Council should read the report. Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed the new footpath on Bridge Street and asked if there were any plans to provide a crossing at the Town Clock. Michael Flynn gave a brief outline of improvement works going on at present and proposed around the Town Clock junction.

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

"That we write to Eircom (Eir) and urge them to immediately provide a proper and much faster broadband service, at a reasonable price, throughout this region."

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion but suggested that perhaps a representative of Eir should be invited to give details of plans to the members. Councillor Des Guckian stated that a talk had been given by Eircom previously and he didn’t see any merit in extending a further invitation.

Joseph Gilhooly provided an update on the implementation of the National Broadband Plan.

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

"Can I have an update on the progress made in communicating with those responsible for having a Taxi Rank installed at our Railway Station? Provision of such will be warmly welcomed by all."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Roscommon County Council have secured approval in principle from Irish Rail to proceed with the development. Roscommon County Council have confirmed their intention to commence the
statutory byelaw process which is required to establish a Taxi Rank at this location. It is expected that said process will be complete by April 2016."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that this was good news.

Councillor Sinead Guckian asked that a letter issue to Roscommon County Council requesting them to complete the byelaw process as quickly as possible.

CMD15/172 07/12/15. 2 Hour Free Parking over Christmas

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

"On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, I ask that 2 Hours Free Parking be provided for all our customers in the Town Centre. Areas must continue to be monitored so that the "2 HOUR RULE" will be adhered to. Parking in spaces designated as for those with special permits i.e. less ability still stands as always."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Leitrim County Council will provide 2 hours free parking over the Christmas period until the 18th January 2016."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire stated that motorists should not park in disabled bays, gateways or no parking areas as it only causes annoyance for others. Councillor Des Guckian also seconded this.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire requested that advance signage in relation to the 2 hour free parking is placed on the approach roads to the town. Shay O’ Connor confirmed that signage was being erected.

CMD15/173 07/12/15. Crash barrier at the top of the Rynn Avenue Road

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

"I am calling for funding to be sought for a crash barrier at the top of the Rynn Avenue road on both sides of the road. There is quite a fall off the road and a tendency for large pools of water to gather at this point."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Funding will be sought for this measure as requested. In the meantime delineator posts will be erected to highlight the road edge."

Councillor Seadhna Logan stated that he was happy with the response. Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

CMD15/174 07/12/15. Remedial measures at junction of the Lurga to Trean Road

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

"Could an engineer examine the junction of the Lurga to Trean road. The surface on the road is quite dangerous and a number of cars have crashed and had near misses while slowing off the
minor road and coming onto the larger Gortletteragh/Mohill road. Locals are repeatedly raising this problem as the junction brings very hazardous problems."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**
"The junction will be examined to determine appropriate remedial measures as necessary."

Councillor Seadhna Logan stated that he was happy with the response.

**CMD15/175 07/12/15. Road surface on R201 from McLoughra to Drumdoo**

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

"The surface of the R201 is very fine and slippy particularly from McLoughra to Drumdoo. May I ask the District Engineer to look at this as I have received a number of complaints about the surface of this road."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**
"The surface will be assessed and any necessary measures implemented."

Councillor Enda Stenson stated he was happy with reply.

**CMD15/176 07/12/15. Walkway from Carrick on Shannon to Sheemore**

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

"May I ask is it possible to look at the possibility of creating a walk-way from Carrick on Shannon to Sheemore? There is already part of a walk-way in place here."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**
"The feasibility of such a walking route can be examined. Sheemore Cross is located on private property so landowners would need to be consulted in any such process."

Councillor Enda Stenson stated that there was already a natural walking route to Sheemore that could be developed and farmers would be supportive. He considered that it would be a huge tourist attraction.

Councillor Sinead Guckian wished all a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

Councillor Sinead Guckian  
Cathaoirleach, Carrick on Shannon Municipal District  
Vincent Dwyer  
Meetings Administrator

**Date:** 12th January 2016