Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Áras an Chontae on Monday 21st October at 2.30pm

Members Present: Councillor Frank Dolan
Councillor Justin Warnock
Councillor Sean McDermott
Councillor Felim Gurn

Councillor Mary Bohan, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

Apologies: Councillor Padraig Fallon

Officials Present: Mr. Lar Power, Chief Executive
Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance & Director of Water Services,.environemnet & Emergency Services
Ms. Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.
Mr. Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Mr. Kieran Brett, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

MD 19/97
21/10/2019

Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Councillor Justin Warnock, on the death of his father in-law, Colm Harley RIP.

MD 19/98
21/10/2019

Deimhniu Miontairisci

Proposed by Councillor Felim Gurn, seconded by Councillor Justin Warnock and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 16th September 2019 be adopted.”

MMD 19/99
21/10/2019

To consider the General Municipal Allocation for the Manorhamilton Municipal District in accordance with the provisions of Section 102(4A)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014’ (report enclosed).
Mr. Vincent Dwyer provided an over-view of the 2020 Budgetary process and the proposed General Municipal Allocation for the Manorhamilton Municipal District. The allocation proposes a 25% increase in funding to support the work of Tidy Town Committees throughout the Municipal District. The report as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. Dwyer outlined that the Budget process in on-going and that what is presented at this meeting are proposed estimates and the overall Budget for the Local Authority will be considered by all the elected members the Budget Meeting, scheduled for November 11th 2019.

Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed the increase in funding to support Tidy Towns Committees.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the General Municipal Allocation for the Manorhamilton Municipal District in accordance with the provisions of Section 102(4A)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 be adopted”

MMD 19/100 21/10/2019 Meeting Correspondence

Councillor Felim Gurn expressed his disappointment with the response from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport that no extra funding is available for hedge cutting.

Councillor Sean McDermot: stated that action needs to be taken with regard to overgrown hedges and that a solution needed to be found to resolve this issue.

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that the solution is within the remit of the Local Authority.

Ms. Marie Mulligan advised that locations where overgrown hedges are causing an issue on roads should be notified to the local Area Office. The Local Authority in the first instance will write to the relevant landowners advising them to cut their hedges. If no subsequent action is taken by the landowner, the Local Authority can then implement the Roads Act by serving a hedge cutting notice to the landowners.

MD 19/101 21/10/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"The issue of people with disabilities trying to access footpaths and variety of different services in Dromhaire and Manorhamilton needs to be looked at it."

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

"The conducting of a walkability audit in Manorhamilton is included the Age Friendly Action Programme 2019."
This audit will review accessibility issues along the main pedestrian routes in Manorhamilton. The priority is for walkability audits to be completed in the three Tier 1 towns by mid 2020. Other areas can be considered subject to availability of resources.

Councillor Felim Gurn highlighted a number of issues with footpaths in Manorhamilton and Dromahaire that pose a problem for people with disabilities.

Ms Marie Mulligan stated that the issues in Manorhamilton will be considered and addressed as part of the planned Public Realm Works. The issues in Dromahire that were highlighted by Councillor Gurn will be investigated.

Councillor Frank Dolan supported the motion.

**MD 19/102**

21/10/2019    To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"With cars entering The Commons from the N16, drivers are unsure who has the right way from Teapot Lane junction and the entrance to The Commons on the brae to the R280. With speed of cars coming in both directions this junction needs to be looked at before an accident happens."

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

"There is a Stop sign at the junction of Tea Pot Lane onto The Commons, so traffic on The Commons has the right of way. At the junction to The Commons on to the R280 there is a Stop sign at The Commons giving traffic on the R280 the right of way."

**MD 19/103**

21/10/2019    To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"Due to the increased likelihood of extreme weather events, flooding etc; that this Municipal and Local Authority make representations seeking funds for works programmes for the cleaning and maintainence of waterways."

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

"Currently there is no funding available for cleaning and maintenance of waterways. The Council funds the cleaning of Drainage Districts in the county while the OPW carries out cleaning on Arterial Drainage Schemes on the Bonet, Duff and Kilcoo.

All Members supported the motion.
"When the UK leaves the EU, the EU will also lose 15 National Parks and having proposed previously that North Leitrim because of its outstanding natural beauty should be developed as a National Park and such a development which may include North Sligo as proposed by the NWRA under the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy, I will ask that Leitrim County Council seek funding to employ the expertise necessary to fully investigate for the people of North Leitrim the pros and cons of such a venture."

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

"Leitrim County Council is aware of the proposal under the Material Amendments to the draft Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly to include a new Regional Policy Objective (ref. MA 15) which states “The Assembly supports the advancement of the zone of North Sligo / North Leitrim (Ben Bulben & its hinterland) and the area surrounding, and including Lough Arrow / Lough Key as potential National Parks/National Recreation Areas. It also supports collaboration in this regard with stakeholders including NPWS, Local Authorities, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”.

Leitrim County Council would have concerns in regard to potential unintended consequences of such designation. The response to the Regional Assembly arising from the consultation in regard to the referred to draft material amendment stated the following:

This objective would affect an undefined area of North Leitrim. The basis for the inclusion of this new Regional Policy Objective is not apparent as there was no submission lodged with respect to the draft RSES which requested such a designation? This Authority would express concern of the limitations which such a designation could give rise to on privately owned lands, similar to the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area under Section 204 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2019. This Authority has not been consulted on this matter prior to its inclusion in the Director’s Report and the designation of an area as a National Park is not provided for under the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2019.

This Authority would suggest that the objective be tempered in its wording as follows:

“The Assembly supports the consideration of the zone of North Sligo / North Leitrim (Ben Bulben & its hinterland) and the area surrounding, and including Lough Arrow / Lough Key as potential National Parks/National Recreation Areas. It also supports collaboration in this regard with stakeholders including NPWS, Local Authorities, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”.

Leitrim County Council now awaits the outcome of our submission to the proposed Material Amendments of the RSES. This matter will be given further consideration following the adoption of the final RSES and in the context of the review of the County Development Plan early next year.

The Council is unaware of what source of funding the Notice of Motion is referring to or the extent of expertise referred in order to consider the socio-economic or planning implications for such a designation."

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion in seeking funding to investigate if there is potential in creating a National Park in the area.
Mr. Bernard Greene stated that the Local Authority needs to be considerate of the unintended consequences that a possible designation would have, such as the removal of exemptions for agricultural or domestic developments.

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that a National Park model similar to those in Scotland would be ideal for this county, as it would continue to allow development to take place.

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that the motion merits further investigation.

Councillor Frank Dolan also supported investigating the matter further as long as it does not result in the imposition of any development restrictions.

Ms. Mary Quinn stated that for now the Local Authority will await the adoption of the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy.

**MD 19/105**

**21/10/2019**  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock:

"Is this Council aware that the majority of the lands of this county are considered to be of High Nature Value and that these lands are being actively targeted for afforestation. It must be noted that the forestry companies consider these HNV lands with contempt and good for nothing else. The Forest Service recognise HNV lands should not to be planted, yet their inspectors are approving these lands for forestry. We are in a biodiversity crisis and as the Council is the primary protector of the Environment, I ask that Leitrim County Council get legal definition and genuine protection for our HNV lands."

**Report by Planning**

"The High Nature Value project was a collaborative research between Teagasc and IT Sligo and was funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2007-2013, by the Research Stimulus Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). The Council would only have an awareness of the existence of the project. High Nature Value (HNV) farmland is extensively managed farmland that has high biodiversity. This farmland is important for the conservation of semi-natural habitats and the plants and animals linked with them. Supporting this type of farmland will ensure high levels of farmland biodiversity, vibrant rural communities, high water, air and soil quality and resistance to flooding among other things.

The Planning Authority will make contact with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to enquire of the significance of this designation in general, but more pertinently, in the assessment of applications for planting and felling"

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that other Local Authorities are employing Biodiversity Officers and that this should be considered by Leitrim.

Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Sean McDermott supported the motion
MD 19/106
21/10/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask if the Council Staff could check out the Manorhamilton to Kiltyclogher Regional Road in the townland of Straduffy, Kiltyclogher. This road has sunken a lot and it is very dangerous. The location is on a turn and may also need a safety barrier."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation. "The road will be inspected and any necessary works will be undertaken"

This motion was supported by Councillor Justin Warnock

MD 19/107
21/10/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I ask the Council if action can be taken to alleviate future flooding in the Rossinver/Glenaniff area, where recent rainfall caused flood damage to one home and threatened others."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation. "The Council will look at the possibility of sourcing funding under the OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme to alleviate future flooding."

This motion was supported by Councillor Justin Warnock

MD 19/108
21/10/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Mary Bohan;

"I propose that the Council carry out repairs on road no. L8255."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation. "The road L8255 has been inspected and routine maintenance will be undertaken on the road."

MD 19/109
21/10/2019 To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cllr Mary Bohan;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on Tusla and Leitrim County Childcare to take urgent action to support the reopening of the Manorhamilton Childcare facility."

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that funding is now available from Pobal to support the crèche but that Tusla had withdrawn the crèche’s registration. Consultants have been put in place to investigate if the crèche is a viable business.

Councillor Felim Gurn stated that he had received correspondence from Deputy Eamonn Scanlon T.D to say
that Tusla had not withdrawn the creche’s registration following through enforcement proceedings.

All Members supported the motion.

**MD 19/110**
**21/10/2019**  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan

"I ask what the situation is regarding "The Iron Bridge" Killavoggy; work was expected to start there in September but no works have been carried out there to date."

**Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.**
"Works on the Killavoggy Bridge will commence on Monday 29th October 2019. Road Closure will be in place from the 29th of October to the 23rd of December 2019."

**MD 19/111**
**21/10/2019**  To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I ask that a sign be erected on the N16 at the ball alley junction, Manorhamilton, indicating Ben View estate."

**Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.**
"This Council cannot erect directional signs on National Routes without the approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Additionally, the Council do not erect directional sign to residential areas and such signage requires planning approval."

Councillor Frank Dolan stated that the Ben View estate is some distance from the town and there is no signage at all for the estate in Manorhamilton.

Ms. Marie Mulligan stated that the Local Authority do not erect directional signage for housing estates. Signage at the entrance to estates is generally provided by the developer at the time of construction.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:**

![Signature](image)
Councillor Mary Bohan  
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton  
Municipal District

**SIGNED:**

![Signature](image)
Mr Kieran Brett  
Administrative Officer

Date: 18th November 2019