Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Meeting Room 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton on Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} February, 2016

\textbf{Members Present:} Councillor Mary Bohan  
Councillor Frank Dolan  
Councillor Padraig Fallon  
Councillor Felim Gurn  
Councillor Justin Warnock  
And Councillor Sean McDermott, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

\textbf{Officials Present:} Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services  
Mr. Padraic MacShead, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office  
Mr. Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

\textbf{MMD 16/18}

\textbf{Deimhniu Miontuairisci}

\textbf{Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:}

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in Meeting Room 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 18\textsuperscript{th} January, 2016 be adopted.”

\textbf{MMD 16/19}

\textbf{15/02/16}

\textbf{Schedule of Municipal District Works}

Ms. Mary Quinn provided an over-view of the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016. The report as circulated to the Members appears as \textbf{Appendix 1} of the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book.

The following items were raised by the Members in relation to the SMDW:

- Councillor Mary Bohan queried if the funding for 2016 for the Tidy Town’s Groups was the same as the allocation for 2015. Ms. Mary Quinn confirmed that there has been no change in the level of funding available to Tidy Town’s Groups – funding for the scheme has been maintained at the 2015 level.

- Councillor Mary Bohan also queried the funding available for the refurbishment of local authority housing stock. Ms. Quinn outlined that the budget for Housing Maintenance for 2016 is €1.6 million which includes staff costs. She advised that a funding submission will be made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to seek additional funding under the Voids Programme and the Energy Efficiency Programme to upgrade a number of vacant local authority dwellings which require works over and beyond the standard works that are completed to vacant dwellings under the Casual Vacancy Programme.
• Councillor Felim Gurn requested clarification in relation to the time taken to return vacant local authority dwellings to have them ready for re-allocation to households on the Housing Waiting List. Ms. Quinn outlined that the figure is dependent on a number of factors including the condition of the property when it is returned to the property, the year of construction of the dwelling, the location of the dwelling. Ms. Quinn further outlined that properties in low-demand areas can be left vacant for longer periods as there is no demand for social housing in that location, however, such situations impact negatively on the average letting time indicator for re-allocation of vacant dwellings. Ms. Quinn also informed the Members that the Housing Department will be proceeding with the introduction of the Choice Based Letting Scheme to allocate properties in low-demand areas.

• Councillor Justin Warnock queried if Leitrim County Council were building any new social housing dwellings in North Leitrim. Ms. Quinn confirmed that 7 new dwellings will be constructed as part of the 2016 Housing Programme in Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.

• Councillor Warnock also requested clarification in relation to the Council’s proposals to meet social housing need in Kinlough/Tullaghan. Ms. Quinn advised that social housing need in those locations will be addressed by the filling of any casual vacancies arising and by the allocation of tenancies under the Rental Accommodation (RAS) and Long-term Leasing Scheme (LTLS). Councillor Warnock acknowledged the reply to his questions, however, he stated that applicants on the Housing Waiting List for Social Housing Support were weary of the RAS & Leasing Models of Social Housing Support as these housing supports do not provide the same level of tenure security as the allocation of a standard local authority tenancy.

• Councillor Sean McDermott welcomed the details in relation to the upgrading of existing Social Housing Stock and queried if there are any proposals to progress the Rural Housing Programme for single instance dwellings for persons that have a site available to them to build on. Ms. Quinn stated that there are no proposals to provide single instance rural dwellings other than circumstances where there are extenuating circumstances to meet the special housing needs of the applicants on medical grounds.

• Councillor Padraig Fallon requested information in relation to how property owners could participate in the Rental Accommodation Scheme or the Long-term Leasing Scheme. Councillor Fallon referred to an advertising campaign that the Housing Department had advertised in the summer of 2015. Ms. Sinead Flynn advised that landlords can provide details in relation to any properties that they wish to have considered for RAS or LTLS by contacting the Housing Department and completing an Expression of Interest Form with the details of the property they have available. Ms. Flynn outlined that if the property is in a low-demand area that the Housing Department may not accept the property for the schemes as there would be a difficulty letting the property.

• Councillor Mary Bohan queried if the Housing Maintenance Staff is adequately resourced to manage the maintenance of the Social Housing Stock. Ms. Quinn advised that the Housing Maintenance function is resourced by Council staff and the engagement of Contractors to carry out works under the various housing improvement programmes.
Councillor Felim Gurn requested confirmation of the commencement date for construction of the 7 new dwellings at Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton. He also requested confirmation that one of the dwellings would specifically meet the needs of a person(s) with a disability. Ms. Quinn confirmed that the appointment of the Architects for the scheme is currently in progress and that it is anticipated that construction will commence on site in Quarter 3, 2016. Ms. Quinn also confirmed that discussions with the HSE in relation to the design of one dwelling to meet the housing need of a person(s) with a disability had taken place.

Councillor Frank Dolan queried if responsibility and funding for the maintenance of roads fell under the remit of the Housing Department or the Roads Department. Ms. Mary Quinn advised that there is no specific allocation for the maintenance of footpaths. Mr. Shay O’Connor also advised that the Roads Department carry out the maintenance works of footpaths as necessary with limited funding available. Mr. O’Connor outlined that the Roads Department work with the Housing Department where possible to identify sources for additional funding.

Councillor Dolan referred to the condition of the footpaths in the Drumlease Estate, Dromahaire. He outlined that the footpaths in the estate are in a very poor state and that the Residents use the road to walk on rather than the footpath. Mr. Shay O’Connor acknowledged that the maintenance of the footpath in this estate is the responsibility of Leitrim County Council. Mr. MacSheara estimated the cost of the works to be in the region of €50,000.

Councillor Mary Bohan requested clarification in relation to the Local Property Tax liability for Leitrim County Council. Ms. Quinn advised that the Council pay approximately €80,000 per annum to the Revenue Department for the Local Property Tax for the local authority housing stock. Councillor Bohan expressed her dis-satisfaction with the cost of the LPT to the local authority which impacts on the Housing Maintenance Budget with less funding available for essential maintenance works. Councillor Bohan proposed that the matter be reviewed with the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

The update on the Schedule of Municipal District Works as presented was agreed by the Members.

**MMD 16/20**

*15/02/16  Annual Area Programme 2016*

Mr. Shay O’Connor provided a detailed report in relation to the Roads Annual Area Programme for 2016. The report as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** of the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr. O’Connor outlined that the Members had discussed the 2016 Road Works Programme in detail at a Workshop on 1st February, 2016. He outlined that the Council must work within the Roads Allocation of €7,424,644 and that the Restoration Allocation was reduced by 14% in 2016 compared with 2015. Mr. O’Connor advised that an additional allocation was received in 2015 late in the year, however, he advised that no additional allocations will be available in 2016.

The Members thanked Mr. O’Connor for his presentation and they unanimously expressed their disappointment with the level of funding available to the Roads Department in 2016. The Members
stated that the lack of funding for the repair and maintenance of roads in the North Leitrim Area was having a devastating impact on rural communities at a time when households now have to pay additional charges e.g. the local property tax.

Councillor Justin Warnock raised the matter of the Four Masters Bridge. He queried which local authority had surveyed the bridge. Mr. Shay O’Connor confirmed that Donegal County Council conducted the survey and that Leitrim County Council have not yet been updated with the results of the survey. Mr. Padraig MacShera also stated that the bridge may not have been surveyed in significant detail as it is not located on a regional road.

The Members agreed that they would again raise the issue of the lack of funding for the 2016 Roads Programme in Leitrim at the March Council Meeting and seek the support of the other Members to write to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to make a special case for Leitrim particularly in relation to funding to be provided for the Local Improvement Schemes.

MMD 16/21
15/02/16

Peace IV Steering Committee

It was unanimously resolved that the Manorhamilton Municipal District nominate Councillor Justin Warnock to the Peace IV Steering Committee.

MMD 16/22
15/02/16

Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:


Ms. Mary Quinn advised that she would review the matter with the Environment Department and revert to Councillor Warnock.

Part 1 – Notice of Motions

MMD 16/23
15/02/16

Flood Relief Works

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that measures are put in place for flood relief works at The Orchard, Duncarbry, Tullaghan."
Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
The Orchard estate in Duncarbry is a private estate and not currently in charge of the Council. Whilst it appears that the stream traversing the estate has burst its banks in recent extreme flooding events (2009 and 2015), the area is not considered a flood risk. Nonetheless the Council is assessing the location to determine the primary cause of the flooding and what, if any, measures are required to address the situation and who would have responsibility for same. This assessment has not yet been concluded.

MMD 16/24 15/02/16 Flood Mitigation Works

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;

"I propose that this Municipal District seek funding for Flood Mitigation works around Belhavel Lake and in particular Flood Mitigation works to the Diffagher, Creevelea, Tullynamoyle and Lemascally/Drumderg Rivers. Works are also required around Mahangh Lake and in particular around Canbeg."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Leitrim County Council have submitted an application to the OPW under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Schemes in relation to flood migration works on the Diffagher river between Greyfield bridge and Lisacogill bridge and are awaiting a response on funding approval. Works were carried out under this scheme in the Canbeg area in 2014 which involved clearing of the river channel to the Owennayle River. The purpose of the scheme is to provide funding to Local Authorities to undertake minor flood mitigation works or studies to address localised flooding problems within their administrative areas. The scheme generally applies where a solution can be readily identified and achieved in a short time frame. Funding under this scheme is based on a cost/benefit analysis. Benefits are assessed on the following basis:
- €25,000 per existing home that has been flooded,
- €10,000 per existing home at risk of flooding
- €30,000 per commercial premises flooded,
- €400 per hectare of land continuously flooded for at least one month,
- €20 per journey where a diversion greater than 30 minutes is caused by flooding
- €160 per day for each home cut off by flooding. Engineering staff are available to discuss further potential funding applications"

MMD 16/25 15/02/16 Road Works Programme 2016

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"I propose that (a) the road from Tullynaskreena School to Killavoggy be included for re-surfacing in this year's programme and (b) that repairs be carried out on the bridge at Tullynaskreena immediately as it is in a dangerous condition"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Road number LS8277 has been included in the 2016 - 2018 Road Restoration programme for consideration at the Manorhamilton Municipal District meeting. Repair to the damaged bridge at Tullynaskreena will be carried out when labour resources are available."
MMD 16/26  
15/02/16  
Road Works Programme 2016

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"I propose that the Tents/Ardlougher road be included for grant aid in this year's programme."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Road number LS8284 at Tents/Ardlougher has been included in the 2016 - 2018 Road Restoration programme for consideration at the Manorhamilton Municipal District meeting."

MMD 16/27  
15/02/16  
Road Works Programme 2016

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will propose that the road at Killaleen Dromahaire be included in this years Road Works Programme. There are a number of families living on this road and it is in very poor condition. (No Road Number)"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Road number LS8260 at Killeen has been included in the 2016 - 2018 Road Restoration programme for consideration at the Manorhamilton Municipal District meeting."

MMD 16/28  
15/02/16  
Drainage and Verge Trimming

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask that some road side works ie - Drainage and Verge Trimming - Be carried out on the stretch of road on the R286 at Cornalaughta. This road is narrow by any standards but is almost closed with overgrowth."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The road in question will be assessed and we will try and establish the names of the landowners with hedges that are a hazard to road users where upon we will write to the land owner under the Roads Act instructing them to cut/maintain the hedges/trees. We will be grateful with any assistance in relation to the establishment of the name of the land owners in question Drainage works will be carried out when labour resources allow"
Planning applications - single instance rural dwellings

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I ask the Chief Planner, what sewage options are there now for the rural areas of this county, as the Zero Discharge Pilot Scheme is closed. Has the EPA yet to find a workable and feasible solution for the 90% of sites in Leitrim which would fail their tests. Will our exiles who want to return and our young people who work and reside here, be afforded the opportunity to build a house on the family farm or in the townlands of County Leitrim which have been depopulated unabated for the last 100 years."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"The policy in regard to siting of waste water treatment systems on sites of T value > 90 is unchanged. However, the surface water discharge to an acceptable water course remains on option. A number of sites have commenced construction under the pilot scheme. The capacity of the scheme to accommodate a small further number of sites is currently being reviewed."

Councillor Warnock outlined his dis-satisfaction with the reply to his Notice of Motion and he called for an innovative solution to the issue to be progressed by the Planning Department to address the matter. Councillor Warnock stated that the problem with site suitability was very serious as it was preventing local people from building on family owned lands thus contributing to rural depopulation with all of its consequential effects on the rural community.

Smarter Travel Project

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to seek funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for a Smarter Travel Project, for a walkway and cycle lanes which would link Kinlough and Bundoran in Co.Donegal. This project would enable the people of Kinlough to walk or cycle to school or to work in the hotels and restaurants of Bundoran in a safe environment. It would also attract some of the tens of thousands of tourists who holiday in Bundoran during the summer to walk or cycle the 3km to Kinlough. Presently walking or cycling is not an option, because of a 600 metres section of narrow road with the most dangerous bends and with the greatest volume of traffic of any regional road in this county."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"Currently there is no funding available in this regard. However, with the opportunities arising through programs such as Leader if a community group wished to pursue the development of such a proposal Leitrim County Council would be happy to work with such a group with regard to funding applications."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply to his Notice of Motion. He stated that there was no funding available in Leader to fund any projects and he stressed the importance of providing facilities to attract tourists to Kinlough from the large numbers of visitors that visit Bundoran on an annual basis.
Private Estates ‘Taking in Charge’

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"Can the executive confirm, that further to previous requests, that the Glendara and Skreeney Manor Estates at Manorhamilton will be taken under the Council's control and that all the attendant services e.g. public lighting will be included within this remit."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The Council is now in receipt of taking in charge requests for both Skreeney Manor and Glendara. We are currently considering those requests and surveys of the estates will shortly be undertaken to assess the condition of the estates. Should the estates be considered to be in a satisfactory condition then the Council will commence the taking in charge process. However, should any problems be identified then these will have to be addressed before taking in charge can commence. Once an estate is taken in charge the Council becomes responsible for maintenance of the roads, including the street lighting and Irish Water becomes responsible for water services infrastructure."

Road Works Programme 2016

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;

"Further to a recent submission I made to have the L4221 road (between Steve Feeney's and Packie McGeoy's) included in this year's Road Works Programme Allocation, can the executive examine same, as a matter of urgency, due to further subsidence occurring as a result of the recent flooding?"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The subsidence along local road L4221 is currently been assessed with a view to installing suitable support to the road edge at an early date."

Bridge Repairs

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

"Can I ask when repairs will be carried out on the bridge just off the N16 on road No L2208 in Glenfarne. This bridge has a weight restriction for many years."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"This bridge will be assessed and an estimate of the costs involved to carry out repairs to the structure and the parapet walls will be prepared. No provision has been made in the 2016 road works programme for work of this nature, A scheme will be considered in the 2017 programme subject to funding priorities."
MMD 16/34
15/02/16

Request for footpath

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

"I am asking for an update on a piece of road way that has no footpaths between St Clare's National School and Millhill Lawns Housing estate in Manorhamilton. It is very dangerous."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development

"The provision of a footpath at this location is desirable and the Council has had negotiations with the relevant landowners in relation to acquiring the necessary lands to accommodate the footpath and a tentative agreement has been concluded in this regard. At this time the matter cannot be advanced until a source of funding is identified."

Other Business

Ms. Mary Quinn informed the Members that the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 21st March, 2016 in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim at 2.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 15.45pm.

SIGNED:

Councillor Sean McDermott
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District

SIGNED:

Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

DATE: 21st March, 2016