Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Boardroom, HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 16th January, 2017.

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Frank Dolan
Councillor Padraig Fallon
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Sean McDermott

And Councillor Justin Warnock, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

Officials Present: Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services
Mr. Paul Kirkpatrick, Community Development Team
Mr. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. Paula Farrell, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services

MMD 17/1
16/01/17

Deimhniu Miontuairisci
Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in Meeting Room No. 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on 12th December, 2016 be adopted.”

MMD 17/2
16/01/17

Presentation from Comhairle na nÓg

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed students Mr. Darragh Fallon from Lough Allen College, Drumkeerin and Ms. Aoibhinn Callaghan, Carrick-on-Shannon Community College to the meeting. He also welcomed Ms. Fiona Taylor (Comhairle na nOg Co-Ordinator).

Mr. Fallon and Ms. Callaghan delivered their presentation which included a DVD “Youth Perceptions on Homelessness” which was produced by the Leitrim Branch of Comhairle na nÓg.

The Members paid tribute to the students for their presentation and to Comhairle na nOg for raising awareness of homelessness. Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her concern that the young people in the DVD were unaware that the local authority have a role in relation to the provision of emergency accommodation for homeless households.

Ms. Fiona Taylor advised that the age profile of the youth surveyed for the project was between 12-13 years of age and that this may account for the lack of knowledge of the supports available from the local authority.
Councillor Mary Bohan also outlined that there may be multiple factors that are responsible for households becoming homeless e.g. mental health, legal issues etc. She advised that the other service providers e.g. the HSE also have a role in preventing homelessness and that in many cases a multi-agency approach is required.

**MMD 17/3**  
**16/01/17**  
Presentation on ‘To the Waters and the Wild – A Plan for the Manorhamilton Rural Economic Development Zone’.

Ms. Nollaig White, Economic Development Officer, presented ‘To the Waters and the Wild – A Plan for the Manorhamilton Rural Economic Development Zone’ to the Members. A copy of the presentation appears as Appendix 1 of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Ms. Whyte concluded her presentation and invited any questions from the Members.

The Members thanked Ms. Whyte for her presentation and welcomed main of the initiatives proposed for Manorhamilton and they raised the following items:

- The non-inclusion of Dromahaire and Kinlough in the REDZ Areas for Leitrim.
- The short-time frames for the submission of a project under the REDZ Programme

Ms. Whyte outlined that in advance of rolling out the REDZ Programme that the CEDRA Programme had conducted 18-24 months of research which was used to identify the REDZ Areas. She advised that the REDZ Areas are functional rather than administrative i.e. the boundaries reflect patterns of economic activity (travel-to-work) rather than administrative areas. Ms. Whyte also referred to a letter from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs which is included in the meeting correspondence which states that the Department is unable to change the specified REDZ Areas. Ms. Whyte encouraged the Members to approach the REDZ Team in Donegal and Sligo County Council to identify possible projects for communities in Dromhaire and Kinlough under the REDZ Programme.

The Members unanimously expressed their concern that communities in Dromhaire and Kinlough will lose out on REDZ funding. They requested that the Council engage directly with Donegal County Council and Sligo County Council to ensure that Kinlough and Dromhaire can be considered for future REDZ Projects.

Ms. Whyte agreed that the matter could be raised by the Director of Services or the Chief Executive.

In response to the concerns raised in relation to the short-time frame for the submission of applications under the REDZ Programme Ms. Whyte acknowledged that the time-frames set by the Department were short. She outlined that projects need to be ‘ready-to-go’ once a call for proposals is issued by the Department and that the Town Teams will have a role in this regard.
The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Email received 10th January, 2017 from Mr. Donal Herraghty, ESB in relation to provision of an electric vehicle charger in Manorhamilton.

Councillor Padraig Fallon requested that the Council follow up with the ESB in March to ensure replacement of the unit.

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

"At a meeting with representatives of Taobh Tire Housing Estate prior to the Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting on Monday 15th June, 2015 a number of issues and concerns were raised in relation to Traffic Calming and Signage. I understand that in November, 2015 costings for the traffic calming measures/road signage for Taobh Tire was established by Leitrim County Council. Has there been further correspondence with the HSE Estates Department regarding this issue?"

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

"In November, 2015 Leitrim County Council presented the HSE Manorhamilton with a comprehensive upgrade project proposal for this road, including traffic calming measures, public lighting and upgrades to footpaths for pedestrian access to the Taobh Tire council estate which is accessed from this road. The Council has since then made a number of requests to the HSE to confirm agreement and commit the funding required for these works but to date the HSE’s position locally is that they have not received funding approval centrally. In early January 2017 the HSE have outlined to the Council that the proposal comes under a funding application that has been submitted to the HSE’s National Office. The decision on whether or not funding is forthcoming is expected by end of February 2017 and nothing can be progressed locally until this decision is reached by the HSE."

Councillor Padraig Fallon outlined the concern of local residents and he queried if traffic calming measures have been considered in the plans to provide seven additional social housing units at this location.

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that the Council are continuing to engage with the HSE in relation to this matter and that she will review the position at the end of February.

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

"I propose that resurfacing works be carried out on the L-42461-0. Sections of this road are in need of
significant repairs."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"Local road L42461 will be assessed and the necessary routine maintenance works carried out within the confines of our maintenance budget. It can also be considered for inclusion in the road works programme for surfacing works subject to priority and availability of funding."

This Notice of Motion was also supported by Councillor Mary Bohan.

**MMD 17/7**

16/01/17  **New Bridge on R280**

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

"With the uncertainty of Brexit and the possibility of a hard border or custom controls, I ask our Chief Executive Mr. Frank Curran to immediately seek a meeting with his counterpart in Donegal, Mr. Seamus Neely, NWRA Director Mr. David Minton and the 9 TD's for these constituencies to discuss the urgency of a new bridge on the R280 linking Leitrim and Donegal. The R280 from the N16 in Manorhamilton will become a major artery for goods and services to and from Donegal to Leitrim, Cavan, and Monaghan. It is imperative that funding for a new bridge and related works are sought now."

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that the issue had been raised with the NRA on a number of occasions. She advised that the proposal cannot proceed until such time as funding is available for the project.

**MMD 17/8**

16/01/17  **North Leitrim Designated as a National Park**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council if the Members of Manorhamilton Municipal District can be provided with an update on the investigation of a proposal to have North Leitrim designated as a National Park."

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

"There are six National Parks in Ireland - Wicklow Mountains National Park, The Burren National Park, Killarney National Park, Glenveagh National Park, Connemara National Park, Ballycroy National Park. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has set the following criteria and standards for national parks:-

The term "national park" to be reserved for a relatively large area:-

* where one or several ecosystems are not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation, where plant and animal species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of special scientific, educational and recreational interest or which contain a natural landscape of great beauty
* Where the highest competent authority of the country has taken steps to prevent or eliminate as soon as possible exploitation or occupation in the whole area and to enforce effectively the respect of ecological, geomorphological or aesthetic features which have led to its establishment
* Where visitors are allowed to enter under special conditions, for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes

The National parks and Wildlife Service operate the 6 national parks and the overseeing Department
is the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with the reply to his Notice of Motion. He stated that North Leitrim is an area of outstanding natural beauty and he compared it to the Lakelands District in the UK. Councillor Warnock outlined the major benefit that the proposal could have to increase the number of visitors/tourists to North Leitrim and he requested that the matter be re-examined by the Council.

Ms. Mary Quinn stated that the Minister has specific criteria in relation to designating an area as a ‘National Park’ as determined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that she supported the Notice of Motion, however, she outlined that she has some reservations in relation to designating North Leitrim as a National Park as it may have other implications e.g. restriction on planning applications.

**MMD 17/9**
**16/01/17**

**Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Greenway**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;**
"In order to advance the considerable efforts of the Local Authority and the SLNCR Steering Committee in relation to the Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Greenway can the Executive:
(a) Provide an update in relation to this particular application for funding under the Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme for large tourism projects 2016
(b) Provide an update on the joint application for planning for the Greenway under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2015.
(c) Has the Council the necessary landowners’ consent to proceed in terms of permissive access?. It is imperative that the Council is “shovel ready” when submissions for the scheme are invited."

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

"In regard to the application for the Sligo to Manorhamilton stretch of the SLNCR the assessment of such greenway applications has been deferred pending the completion by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport of a Greenway Strategy. During 2016 considerable resources were dedicated to the application for funding to the Interreg Program for the Manorhamilton to Enniskillen stretch. It is the Councils intention to continue to work with the partners with a view to progressing both the planning permission and land access arrangements."

This Notice of Motion was unanimously supported by all Members.

**MMD 17/10**
**16/01/17**

**R287 Dromahaire/Ballintogher**

**To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;**
"I will ask to have road no R287 Dromahaire/Ballintogher included in the 2017 Roads Programme."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**
"The R287 Dromahair to Ballintogher Road will be assessed and considered for inclusion for
surfacing works in the 2017 Road Works programme subject to priority and available funding."

Mr. Padraig MacShera confirmed that this road is included in the 2018 Roads Programme. He advised that this road could be completed in 2017, however, the inclusion in this road would require deferring another road for inclusion in the 2018 Roads Programme. Mr. MacShera advised that the road is 2km in length and that the grant would provide for 50% completion.

MMD 17/11
16/01/17

**Dillon Court, Manorhamilton**

*To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;*
"It has been brought to my attention that at least one of the modules at the Dillon Court complex at Church Lane, Manorhamilton may not be compliant with the fire regulations covering such buildings. In the interests of the Occupiers’ safety can the Executive advise if the recommendations following on from an inspection which I understand was carried out by the Council’s Fire Safety Department a number of years ago, have been implemented?"

*Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services*
"Leitrim County Council carried out a number of inspections at Dillon Court in recent years. We have been following up on fire safety deficiencies observed with the managing agent of Dillon Court apartments. Work on these deficiencies is being finalised at present. A further inspection will be carried out in Dillon Court in the coming weeks. Responsibility for compliance with fire safety regulations under the Fire Services Act 1981 clearly rests with the owners/managers of the premises."

This Notice of Motion was unanimously supported by all Members.

MMD 17/12
16/01/17

**Cranny Road**

*To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;*
"I will ask to have the Cranny Road (road linking the Lurganboy road to the N16) included in the 2017 Roads Programme as this road is in poor condition."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads*
"This local road L21361 in the town land of Milltown will be assessed and considered for inclusion for surfacing works in the 2017 Road Works Programme subject to priority and available funding."

MMD 17/13
16/01/17

**Millrace Housing Estate**

*To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;*
"Can I ask if Leitrim County Council would engage with The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government under the Taking in Charge Initiative, to get the Millrace Housing Estate in Manorhamilton included in this programme. Is there any update on the pedestrian walk-way on the Millrace estate side of the bridge?"
Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"The National Taking in Charge Initiative is a once-off scheme funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Applications for the initiative are closed and the successful estates in Leitrim are currently being completed to enable their taking in charge. As the Millrace housing development does not have a direct link to a public road, being reliant on access over third party lands, it is not possible to take the estate in charge. Due to the fact that the estate cannot be taken in charge it was not considered for inclusion in the National Taking in Charge Initiative. Notwithstanding that the estate cannot be taken in charge the Planning Authority is in discussions with the relevant Bond's Company in relation to securing a settlement of the bond to enable completion of works within the estate.

In relation to the provision of a footbridge at Castle street, it is necessary to receive consent from the owners of the lands at Mill Bank Housing Estate where it is proposed to erect this walk way. This development is currently in receivership and it is proving extremely difficult to establish ownership at this point. Our Solicitor will continue to work with the Receiver and the Land Registry Office to establish ownership here"

- Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his concern in relation to the Mill Road Housing Estate and the reply which stated that the estate was not taken in charge under the Taking in Charge Initiative.

- Councillor Padraig Fallon stated that it is reported that a number of bonds relating to estates in Leitrim have been purchased by Vulture Funds.

The Members requested that a report on the number of estates that have been taken-in-charge by the Council be prepared and discussed at a Workshop with the Members or at the March Council Meeting. Ms. Mary Quinn agreed to discuss this request with the Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

MMD 17/14
16/01/17
Regional Road Aghavanny, Kiltyclogher

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;
"I ask once again to make safe the regional road between Glenfarne and Kiltyclogher in the townland of Aghavanny, Kiltyclogher. The side of the road is in need of repair as it is on a bend and it is very dangerous. This road was damaged when the large flow of traffic was diverted on to it when the N16 was closed."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Work is under way at present to carry out repairs to the margin along the R281 at this location."
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;
"I propose that Leitrim County Council provide a new Civic Amenity/Bring Centre in Drumkeerin. The existing Centre is too small and is located on the side of a narrow road with no safe parking spaces provided for users."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"There is no funding available to provide a “Civic Amenity Site”. The current bring bank is located on the road down to the football pitch and to date we have not received any complaints in this regard. The current location has adequate street lighting, a litter bin and an area for cars to pull in and also to facilitate servicing. There are no overhead power-lines in the vicinity of the bring banks which are normally emptied by a crane on the truck. However, should a more suitable location be identified and agreed by all concerned, Leitrim County Council must then make a cert of registration application to the EPA for a new site. Once this is granted we can immediately move the bring banks."

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her dis-satisfaction with the reply to her Notice of Motion. She stated that the current parking facilities at the existing Bring Centre in Drumkeerin are not adequate. Councillor Bohan proposed that the Council provide a new Civic Amenity/Bring Centre in Drumkeerin. This proposal was supported by Councillor Padraig Fallon.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and RESOLVED: ‘That Leitrim County Council provides a new Civic Amenity/Bring Centre in Drumkeerin. The existing Centre is too small and is located on the side of a narrow road with no safe parking spaces provided for users’.

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;
"What is the position regarding sending out Hedge Cutting Notices to landowners this year."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Leitrim County Council has taken a pro-active approach with hedge cutting as notices were published in the local newspapers at the start of hedge cutting season reminding landowners of their responsibility to have their hedges cut back. In the North Leitrim District to date 36 warning letters have been issued to landowners since the start of the 2016/2017 hedge cutting season last September."

Councillor Mary Bohan requested that the Council pursue any landowners that had failed to comply with the hedge-cutting notice. She advised that it was unfair to motorists who pay road tax if their cars are damaged by over-hanging hedges where landowners have failed to carry out the necessary works.

Mr. Padraig MacShera advised that the majority of land-owners that had been issued with a formal notice have complied with the notice. He agreed to follow up with land-owners that had failed to comply with a notice.
**Other Business**

- Councillor Mary Bohan proposed a Vote of Sympathy to the family of the late Mr. Dermot Gallagher, Harlockstown, Ashbourne, Co. Meath. Councillor Bohan stated that Mr. Gallagher was originally from Carrick-on-Shannon and that he had a distinguished career as a public servant. Councillor Bohan paid particular tribute to Mr. Gallagher’s role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

- Ms. Mary Quinn informed the Members that the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 20th February, 2017 in Meeting Room No. 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim at 2.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 4pm.

**SIGNED:**

Councillor Justin Warnock  
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District  

Sinead Flynn  
Meetings Administrator

Date: 20th February, 2017.