Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Meeting Room No. 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton on Monday 16th May, 2016

**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

**Officials Present:**
- Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
- Mr. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.
- Mr. Sean Rynn, Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.
- Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer
- Ms. Sinead Mc Dermott, Tourism Officer
- Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
- Ms. Paula Farrell, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services

MMD 16/65
16/05/16

**Deimhniu Miontuairisci**

**Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan and seconded by Councillor Mary Bohan 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 Monday 18th April, 2016 be adopted.”

MMD 16/66
16/05/16

**Presentation by Ms. Sinead Mc Dermott, Tourism Officer**

Ms. Sinead Mc Dermott, Tourism Officer provided an over-view of Tourism Development and Promotion in Leitrim. A copy of the presentation appears as **Appendix 1** of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Ms. McDermott concluded her presentation by playing a short promotional video featuring a number of tourist attractions in North Leitrim. She advised that the video will be played in the new Tea Rooms at Glencar Waterfall in order to encourage tourists to visit other tourist attractions in North Leitrim.

The update on Tourism Development and Promotion was noted by the Members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Padraig Fallon expressed their disappointment that the promotional video does not feature Drumkeerin or Dromahaire as a location for tourists to visit.
Mr. Jose Gilhooly outlined that the current focus is to encourage the existing 80,000 tourists that visit Glencar Waterfall on an annual basis to visit other tourist attractions in North Leitrim.

- Councillor Justin Warnock proposed that the Council arrange that promotional material on tourist attractions in Leitrim be distributed to hotels in Bundoran, Co. Donegal.

Mr. Jose Gilhooly outlined that the primary focus is on “Destination Marketing” to reach people before they travel to Leitrim. He also outlined that the tourism website www.enjoyleitrim.com has been updated and will be re-launched at a future date. Ms. Sinead McDermott also advised that there is significant cost associated with the printing of promotional materials and that in many instances hotels will also charge a fee for displaying the material or refuse to display it.

Mr. Gilhooly also advised that the Wild Atlantic Way is being actively promoted by Bord Fáilte to attract visitors to Ireland and that plans to market attractions off the Wild Atlantic Way may have a positive impact in increasing visitor numbers to Leitrim.

Ms. Sinead McDermott informed the Members that a new app ‘Off the Beaten Track North West’ is also being developed to assist tourists in route-planning etc.

- Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed the emphasis on promoting tourism initiatives in North Leitrim, however, he outlined that the lack of tourist accommodation is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

Ms. McDermott acknowledged Councillor Dolan’s concerns and she outlined that it is anticipated that the accommodation sector will expand over time to meet increased demand for accommodation resulting from new tourism initiatives/activities e.g. the SLOW Adventure Tourism Project.

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly concluded by stating that the primary focus of tourism promotion of the county presently is to encourage people to visit Leitrim for day-trips. He advised that as that market grows other initiatives to assist with accommodation provision may be progressed.

**MMD 16/67**

16/05/16

**Tidy Town Allocations under the General Municipal Allocations, 2016**

Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer provided an over-view of the proposed Tidy Town Allocations, under the General Municipal Allocations, 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 a provisional allocation is being provided for Tullaghan and Kiltyclogher Tidy Towns notwithstanding that a submission from both groups is awaited.
Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that the Council make contact with two Groups and request that they submit their funding application for 2016. Councillor Sean McDermott supported Councillor Bohan’s proposal.

Councillor Bohan also paid tribute to the ongoing voluntary efforts of the Tidy Town’s Associations for their work throughout the county and she also made an appeal to the public to refrain from dumping rubbish. Councillor Bohan queried if there was any funding available to provide a camera to be rotated between the bring-centres to stop people from dumping rubbish there.

Councillor Sean McDermott also supported this proposal.

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

‘That the Tidy Town Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation, 2016 be adopted by Manorhamilton Municipal District’.

MMD 16/68
16/05/16

Allocation of Adopt a Bring Bank Support from the General Municipal Allocation

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly provided an over-view of the proposed allocation of the Adopt a Bring Bank Support from the General Municipal Allocations, 2016. He outlined that there are thirty-eight Bring Bank Centres in Leitrim and that a number of them have been adopted by local Community Groups under the Adopt a Bring Bank Support Scheme.

Mr. Gilhooly outlined that it is proposed to provide funding to groups (up to a maximum of €500) for carrying out enhancement works around the Bring Bank Centres. He advised that the Adopt a Bring Bank Programme is in place to encourage local groups to assist with maintenance and enhancement of the Bring Centres to keep them tidy and litter free and to notify the Council if the area needs attention.

Mr. Gilhooly informed the Members that an additional nine locations have been selected for funding in 2016, three of which are located in the Manorhamilton Municipal District: Kiltyclogher, Newtownmanor and Glenade.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

‘That the Adopt a Bring Bank Support from the General Municipal Allocation, 2016 be adopted by Manorhamilton Municipal District’.

MMD 16/69
16/05/16

Result of Plebiscite to change the street name of Lower Main Street to Sráid Sheain Mhic Dhiarmada.

Councillor Sean McDermott updated the Members on the proposed change of the street name of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton to Sráid Sheain Mhic Dhiarmada. He advised that at a meeting on
the 11\textsuperscript{th} January, 2016 the members of Leitrim County Council passed a resolution proposing that a Plebiscite be taken to ascertain if the majority of qualified electors consent to a change in the name of Lower Main Street to Sráid Sheáin Mhic Dhiarmada. Councillor McDermott, in his capacity as Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District, informed the members that the Plebiscite was conducted on Thursday 21\textsuperscript{st} April, 2016 and that the proposal was carried by the necessary majority. He advised that the name of Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim is re-named to Sráid Sheáin Mhic Dhiarmada with immediate effect. Councillor McDermott also outlined that the formal re-dedication ceremony and the un-veiling of the new street name signage will take place on Sunday 29\textsuperscript{th} May, 2016 as part of the 2016 Commerative Events in Manorhamilton.

This update was noted by the Members.

\textbf{MMD 16/70}
16/05/16
\textbf{Date of Annual Meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District}
It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will be held on Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} June at 2.00pm in Meeting Room 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton with the main meeting to proceed directly after the annual meeting at 2.30pm.

\textbf{Part 1 – Notice of Motions}

\textbf{MMD 16/71}
16/05/16
\textbf{Mageramore Road, Glenade, Co. Leitrim}

\textit{To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;}
"I propose that this Municipal District call on Leitrim County Council to take in charge the Mageramore Road, Glenade, Co. Leitrim. This road is an important link road between two other public roads the L-21251 and the L-6101."

\textbf{Report by Senior Engineer, Roads}
"The private road in question requires extensive repairs and re surfacing works and is not to a suitable standard to be taken in charge at this time. Leitrim County Council’s current Roads Budget is stretched to deal with the extent of the existing public road network and it is not considered appropriate at this time to extend the public road network."

Councillor Padraig Fallon acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he queried if the residents could consider restricting access to the road, if the road cannot be taken in charge by the Council. Mr. Shay O’Connor confirmed that the Residents Association could consider restricting access to the road as it is a private road. He advised that the only roads to be taken in charge in 2016 are in housing estates.

Councillor Mary Bohan again raised the lack of funding for Local Improvement Schemes which, if available, could provide a mechanism for the Residents to upgrade this road.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon:

"What if any, number of local authority family type dwellings (3 bedroom or more) are currently vacant in North Leitrim and in what areas are they located?"

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Corporate Services

"Leitrim County Council have 5 No. Family Type Properties currently vacant in North Leitrim. Details as follows:- Manorhamilton (3 Properties):
Property 1 - Especially Adapted House and Leitrim County Council are in consultations with the HSE in relation to the future use/allocation of this Specially Adapted House
Property 2- Works need to be completed on this Property in order to enable its allocation
Property 3 - Only recently vacated at end of February, 2016. When the necessary pre-letting repairs are completed to this property, the property will be allocated.

Green, Glencar (1 Property) - this Property is virtually ready for immediate occupancy. Two offers issued recently (in March & April) for this House to applicants on our Housing Waiting List but both were refused. This house will be again offered to another suitable applicant on our list.

Loughross Glenfarne (Rural House) - Only recently vacated (March 2016). House needs to be surveyed in order to determine pre-letting repairs required."

Councillor Padraig Fallon acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion and he outlined that he considered that there is not sufficient local authority accommodation available in Manorhamilton Municipal District to cater for the existing demand for social housing support. He proposed that Leitrim County Council should construct additional family-type accommodation in North Leitrim to meet the demand for social housing support.

Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer outlined that the Notice of Motion and the reply issued relate to the Council’s own supply of vacant local authority accommodation. She advised that the Council sought approval for a number of new social housing projects under the Social Housing Strategy 2015-2020. Ms. Flynn advised that the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government only approved one capital project at Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim for the provision of seven social housing units.

Ms. Flynn further advised that the provision of social housing support has expanded in recent years to include alternative social housing delivery options including the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and the Long-Term Leasing Scheme. She outlined that the Council is addressing housing need by the allocation of tenancies in vacant local authority dwellings, in RAS and Long-Term Leasing Scheme accommodation. Ms. Flynn stated that it is anticipated that the new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) will be rolled out in Leitrim in 2016 and will provide an additional mechanism to meet social housing demand in the county.

Councillor Fallon responded by stating that tenants accommodated in RAS or Long-Term Leasing Scheme accommodation do not have the option of purchasing their dwellings. Ms. Flynn responded
by stating that the national housing policy is no longer focused on promoting home ownership for social housing tenants.

Councillor Fallon responded by stating that he considered that additional family-type accommodation should be provided directly by the local authority in North Leitrim to meet existing social housing demand. He outlined that it is becoming increasingly difficult to source family-type accommodation in the private rented sector.

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**MMD 16/73**

16/05/16 **Parking at Park Road, Manorhamilton**

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

"I will ask the Area Engineer to have a look at the parking arrangements that presently exist on Park Road, Manorhamilton. People living on this road find themselves very often blocked in or find it difficult to exit from their homes even though boxes have been provided at their entrances."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"Following a review of access from homes along Park Road and some discussion with local residents, it has been recommended to extend the yellow hatched boxes located at the entrances to restrict parking at these locations. This will improve site distance from these homes onto Park Road. These road markings will be installed when a road marking crew are in the area. If parked cars are infringing on these yellow hatched boxed areas, contact should be made with the local Gardaí on this matter."

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**MMD 16/74**

16/05/16 **Abbey Manor Hotel, Dromahaire**

*It was agreed that Motion No. 10 in the name of Councillor Frank Dolan and Motion No. 16 in the name of Councillor Mary Bohan would be heard concurrently as they relate to the same subject.*

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

"I will ask has any progress been made by Leitrim County Council in it's efforts to address the problems at the Abbey Manor Hotel in Dromahaire. Could the bollards on the forecourt be removed to facilitate parking there? Can Leitrim County Council try to establish who owns what was formally know as Loughlin's House beside the Abbey Manor. This building is an eyesore and a problem for the Tidy Towns Committee."

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

"What progress has been made by the Council in relation to the Abbey Manor Hotel in Dromahaire (a) establishing ownership (b) the derelict state of the building"

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

"The Council is continuing in its efforts to have the Abbey Hotel in Dromahaire repaired and cleaned up, however, the registered owners are not currently engaging with us. The Council has recently had consultations with its legal representatives with a view to progressing matters and it is expected that this issue may require the Council having to initiate legal proceedings in the Courts. In light of the
potential legal action the Council is not in a position to comment any further at this time.

In relation to the question regarding the removal of the bollards in front of the Abbey Hotel to facilitate parking, this area forms part of the hotel lands and the Council cannot undertake works, nor provide parking facilities, on private property.

The Council will contact the owner of the neighbouring property and request that the area be cleaned up."

Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Frank Dolan acknowledged the reply to their Notice’s of Motion. They outlined that they are anxious to have the matter concluded through the appropriate legal channels available to the local authority.

MMD 16/75

16/05/16  Lough Melvin Forest Park Housing Estate, Kinlough
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;
"I ask Leitrim County Council’s Senior Planner is there any proposal from the developer, banks or any other bodies to commence works at Lough Melvin Forest Park. This ghost housing development is continuing to have a negative impact on Kinlough in many ways. Firstly, the people have been deprived of a modern Primary Care Centre which was part of the planning of this development, secondly a footpath to the lake which was to be constructed and also the continued closure of a public right of way through this development."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The planning permissions for this development have expired so it will be necessary that any party looking to complete this development will first have to obtain a grant of planning permission to enable any works to commence. Further, the Council understands that this entire property is to be subject to an auction on 19th May, 2016."

Mr. Joseph Gilhooly also confirmed that public safety works were carried out at this location. He outlined that the Council did not get approval to open the right of way, however, he advised that as far as he was aware the right of way has not been extinguished.

MMD 16/76

16/05/16  Request for toilet facilities to be provided as the Homestead of Sean Mac Diarmada, Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;
"I ask Leitrim County Council in conjunction with the OPW to have public toilets constructed and a multipurpose unit for employees at the home of Sean Mac Diarmada. In the interim would Leitrim County Council supply a secure cabin with a toilet."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Discussions have been held with the OPW and it is agreed that a temporary solution will be put in place and co-funded for this year. A counter system will be also put in place to assist in consideration of the situation in the New Year."
MMD 16/77
16/05/16 St. Clare’s Graveyard, Manorhamilton
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;
"Can the Executive advise what amount of funding is available to carry out urgent remedial repair works at St. Clare's Graveyard Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Leitrim County Council is currently reviewing a submission received from St. Clare's Parish Building Committee and should be in a position to discuss further with the Committee in the short term."

MMD 16/78
16/05/16 Pedestrian Crossing Gaelscoil Chluainín, Manorhamilton
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;
"Further to an issue I raised at a meeting of this forum in June last year can the Executive advise the current situation regarding the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Gaelscoil Chluainín, Castle Street, Manorhamilton."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The Council has had discussions with agents for the Receiver appointed to the Gaelscoil property with a view to expediting the installation of the pedestrian crossing at this location and a design has been agreed. The Council is now awaiting a submission from the Receiver confirming that they will undertake the works. Failure to carry out the works will result in the Council having to instigate enforcement proceedings. Contact has also been made with the Department of Education and Skills to keep them informed of the situation."

MMD 16/79
16/05/16 Windmill Park Housing Estate Drumkeerin
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"What is the current position regarding the takeover by the Council of the Windmill Park Housing Estate in Drumkeerin. Residents are experiencing severe difficulties here particularly with the dangerous condition of the road."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Whilst the Council has taken in charge the northern portion of this estate, no request for taking in charge of the southern section has been received nor is this section of the development is completed to a standard suitable for taking in charge. The Council will assess the development to determine whether enforcement action is warranted at this time."

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council take enforcement action immediately and to provide an updated report on the matter to the Members at the upcoming Workshops on Unfinished Estates.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott:

"I ask Leitrim County Council to consider upgrading road no L2198/0 to regional road status. This road comes off the R283, which is the Kiltyclogher, Manorhamilton road and it joins up with the N16 at Cornacloy, Glenfarne. This is quite a busy road."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"Regional Roads are by definition links in the national road network. They link towns and villages to the national network. This road does not provide these links and therefore it would not meet the definition of a Regional Road."

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

"I am asking Leitrim County Council to improve the surface of the local road in the townland Aughnaha, Glenaniff."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"Road re-surfacing works for the coming two years 2017/2018 has been agreed as part of the 2016/2018 3 year programme. There is a short section of local road L2108-1 at Aughnaha, Glenaniff planned for works in 2017. Routine maintenance works will continue to be carried out on the remaining part of this road until further funding becomes available."

Other Business

Mr. Shay O'Connor requested the consent of the Cathaoirleach to provide an update to the Members in relation to a number of items relating to the Manorhamilton Municipal District as follows:

Traffic Lights on the N16 Junction, Manorhamilton.

Mr. O'Connor informed the Members that the NRA has approved a proposal to install traffic lights at the N16 Junction at Lower Main Street, Manorhamilton and he advised that the time-scale for the completion of the works is to have the works completed and funding drawn down by November, 2016.

This update was welcomed by the Members.

New walking/cycling route in Manorhamilton and a new footpath in Dromahaire.

Mr. O'Connor also referred to two public notices that will be published in this week’s edition of the Leitrim Observer:

- Provision of a new walking/cycling route to extend for a distance of approximately 4.5km from Manorhamilton town centre as far as the new Glencar Manorhamilton GAA grounds at Boggaun, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.
• The construction of a footpath along the R288 outbound from Dromahair, extending for a distance of approximately 200m from the existing footpath as far as the entrance to the GAA grounds.

This update was noted by the Members.

**Proposed temporary closure of N16 - July, 2016.**
Mr. O’Connor also informed the Members that the Contractor currently engaged on the N16 Upgrade has had discussions with the Council in relation to a possible road-closure of the N16 for five days at the beginning of July, 2016. He outlined that the proposed road closure is necessary to accommodate works to fit four culverts across the road. The Members agreed to the road closure subject to public notice of the road closure being communicated to the public. Councillor Sean Mc Dermott requested that the Council agree an alternative diversion route for Lorries rather than diverting them through Kiltyclogher village.

**Date and time of the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting.**
Ms. Sinead Flynn informed the Members that the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 20th June in Meeting Room 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim at 2.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 4pm.

**SIGNED:**
Councillor Sean McDermott
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District

**SIGNED:**
Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

**DATE:** 20th June, 2016.