Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Meeting Room No. 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton on Monday 18th April, 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: Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services  
Mr. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.  
Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation  
Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

MMD 16/50  
18/03/16

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

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

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in Kiltyclogher Community Centre, Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim on Monday 21st March, 2016 be adopted.”

MMD 16/51  
18/03/16

Allocation of funding under the Community Tourism and Arts Grants Scheme 2016

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation provided an over-view on the allocation of funding approved under the Community Tourism and Arts Grants Scheme, 2016. The report as circulated to the Members appears as Appendix 1 of the Minutes of the Meeting in the Minute Book.

This update was noted by the Members.

MMD 16/52  
18/03/16

Presentation by Ms. Mary Quinn on Peace IV Programme

Ms. Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services provided an over-view of the Peace IV Programme in the absence of Mr. Paul Kirkpatrick who had been scheduled to attend the meeting. A copy of the presentation appears as Appendix 2 of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.
The update on the Peace IV Programme was noted by the Members.

Part 1 – Notice of Motions

MMD 16/53  
18/03/16  
**Taobh Tire Housing Estate**

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. Can this Municipal confirm 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? Has the HSE agreed a contribution to works? Is there any more progress in relation to this?"

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing

"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 and are pursuing same. They have confirmed to the Council as of this week that they cannot enter an agreement with regard to the works until this approval is confirmed and this is being actively sought internally in the HSE."

Councillor Padraig Fallon acknowledged the reply to his notice of motion, however, he indicated that he considered that the reply appeared to be contradicting a report published in the Leitrim Observer and details recently broadcast on Shannonside radio on behalf of the Residents Association.

Ms. Mary Quinn outlined that the approval of funding by the HSE has not been sanctioned and that the local HSE representatives are in discussions with the HSE nationally seeking to have the matter progressed.

Councillor Fallon requested that Leitrim County Council continue to exert pressure on the HSE in order to have the matter resolved.

MMD 16/54  
18/03/16  
**Traffic Calming Measures Kinlough and Drumkeeran**

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

"Further to previous motions I am seeking an update on progress regarding the installation of traffic calming measures in the village of Kinlough and on either side of Drumkeeran on the R 280."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"Funding was granted for the completion of the traffic calming scheme for the southern approach to Kinlough along the R280. This work will be completed as a part of our annual works programme in
2016. Applications for two other traffic calming schemes on the R281 Rossinver road approach to Kinlough and the R280 Manorhamilton approach to Drumkerran had been included in the list of schemes for Low Cost Safety Funding for Department Inspector consideration in the 2016 programme but these were not granted on this occasion. They will be re submitted for approval in 2017."

Councillor Padraig Fallon referred to a recent accident in Drumkeerin village at the junction of Priest’s Hill, Drumkeerin. He outlined that traffic on the approach road from Leitrim Village to Drumkeerin travel at excessive speed and he requested that additional measures be put in place to address the problem.

Mr. Padraig MacSheara advised that driver behaviour is an issue and that the provision of increased signage may not necessarily resolve the problem. He advised that consideration could be given to providing portable VRA signage in Drumkeerin on a temporary basis and to monitor the situation thereafter.

**MMD 16/55**

**18/03/16 Millrace Estate, Manorhamilton**

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

"What is the current position regarding the following issues in the Millrace Estate, Manorhamilton?

(a) The current bond and the proposals if any to use this money

(b) The Residents request for the taking in charge of the estate

(c) Completion of road surfacing and provision of adequate street lighting"

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

"A. A bond is in place to the amount of €49,500. Leitrim County Council has ‘called in’ this bond. The bond covers all works to the common areas and services required to ensure satisfactory completion of the development in accordance with the planning permission – works to individual properties are not covered. It cannot be used for works not required as part of the planning permission or for works outside of the application site boundaries. A Site Resolution Plan has been prepared by the Bond’s Company which outlines the extent of works required to be carried out and this Site Resolution Plan has been agreed with the Local Authority. At present, the extent of works indicated in the Site Resolution Plan are being costed. There are then two likely options, either the bank will appoint a contractor to carry out the works or they will make a cash settlement with the Local Authority and it will be the Local Authority’s responsibility to carry out the works. There is at present no timeframe in relation to when the works will be undertaken.

B. It is not possible to consider taking Millrace in charge as it does not link directly to a public road but is accessed via a private road. The private access road through which Mill Race is accessed is not a public road and the Local Authority has previously advised that the roadway is sub standard. Until such time as it is considered of acceptable design and construction this Authority would not be willing to consider the declaration of same as a public road. Furthermore, the Local Authority will not expend monies to bring the private road to the required standard as it would set an unacceptable precedent for other Developers to negate their responsibilities.

C. Until such time as a multiple unit residential development is taken in charge of by the Local Authority, it remains a private development. Consequently, until such time as the development has
been taken in charge, Leitrim County Council has no responsibility with respect to this development and no legal entitlement to undertake any works therein. The Contractor used by Leitrim County Council (Electric Skyline) has previously advised that they will offer the same rate to Owners Management Companies to remedy defects as to Leitrim County Council; the Council is amenable to passing on the contact details of the residents representative to the Contractor should they wish to avail of this service. The issue of the street lighting and final wearing course being provided will form part of the works required pursuant to the Site Resolution Plan but subject to the adequacy of the available funding covering all works."

Councillor Mary Bohan acknowledged the reply to her Notice of Motion and she outlined that a meeting with the Residents Association and a number of the Elected Members of Manorhamilton Municipal District had taken place earlier today. Councillor Bohan advised that the Residents have concerns regarding their estate, particularly in relation to the value of the bond in place, having regard to the scale of works required to finish the estate. She requested that Officials from the Planning Department agree to facilitate a meeting with the Residents Association. This proposal was unanimously supported by all Members.

Ms. Mary Quinn confirmed that Officials from the Planning Department have committed to facilitating a meeting with the Residents Association.

**MMD 16/56**

**18/03/16  Coillte and Private Forestry Companies**

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

"What is the current position regarding the recoupment of monies from Coillte and private forestry companies for severe damage caused to roads in the Municipal District."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"A meeting between Coillte Representatives and Council Area staff took place last month in relation to proposed Coillte sites where felling of timber is proposed in 2016. There are over 40 Coillte sites alone in the Manorhamilton Municipal District. Council staff are reviewing haulage routes proposed for this timber and for carrying stone and other materials for constructing and repairing Coillte internal roads. A further meeting will take place in the coming weeks to try and agree haulage routes to and from these sites and the mode of transport for haulage. A monetary contribution will also be sought for a number of these sites to go towards the cost of the upkeep of the road network. Leitrim County Council has requested that Coillte supply a five year programme of their proposed activity in the District. Better communication has been established with some of the private forestry operators but this is always not the case. Regular site meetings take place with Coillte staff and private operators when difficulties arise in relation to damage to the public road to try and agree a solution to the problem. The difficulty is that planting and felling licences and funding for the construction of forest roads are granted by the Department of Agricultural, Food and the Marine without any input from Local Authorities road sections in relation to the suitability of the haul route along local roads to these sites. Most of these local roads are not capable of withstanding the excessive haulage that will result in relation to the grant of licence or funding for forest road construction. Agreement in relation to timber haul routes needs to be a condition of any felling licence or planting approval or grant of any funding for forest roads or the current situation will continue in relation to the damaging of local roads as a result of forestry activity. As discussed recently at the SPC meeting we have been advised that the law will be changed to ensure that haulage routes are included in felling licences. The sooner this
happens the better for all concerned."

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council draft a policy document and forward it to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide for input by the local authority in the regulation of the forestry industry. This proposal was also supported by Councillor Padraig Fallon who stated that he had submitted a previous Notice of Motion which had been referred to the Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee. He outlined that he was disappointed that the SPC had not developed any specific policy to address the matter. Councillor Justin Warnock advised that he is a member of that SPC and that there is a requirement to develop a national policy in this area.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that the Members intend to raise this item at the May Council Meeting and will also be seeking a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to discuss the issue. This proposal was unanimously supported by all Members.

MMD 16/57
18/03/16 Road Sweeper Dromahaire

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council is there any possibility of getting the road sweeper to service the village of Dromahaire on a Friday morning rather than afternoon. The Tidy Towns Committee is anxious that this could be made possible."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"A road sweeper is generally on hire for 2 days per week in the Manorhamilton Municipal District covering mainly the town of Manorhamilton on a Monday and other towns, villages and amenity car parks etc in the District on the second day. During the autumn period with falling leaves an increase of hire takes place. The cost of dealing with litter and road sweeping in the area for 2015 was approx €70,000. Based on the budget available in 2016 no consideration can be given to increasing this service been provided in this area. There are a number of considerations involved in relation to the timing of when road sweeping can be done at any location on any given day. Every effort will be made to try and service Dromahair Village in the morning period."

Councillor Frank Dolan acknowledged the continuous efforts of the local Tidy Town’s Committee in Dromahaire and he requested that the road sweeper be deployed to Dromahaire on Friday mornings given that the village has larger traffic volumes in the afternoons. Councillor Dolan also outlined that Dromahaire missed out on receiving an award under the Tidy Towns Scheme in 2015 by six points.

Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Felim Gurn also supported this Notice of Motion.

Mr. Padraig MacSheara advised that every effort will be made to facilitate the request.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan;

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to carry out some repair work on road no. L-81621, just around P. Feehilly's house. There are a number of severe dips in the road that if allowed to become any worse will be dangerous."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"This section of local road L81621 at Boihy is built on poor ground, which has resulted in the road surface becoming uneven going slightly out of shape. The road will continue to be monitored to ensure it doesn't continue to deteriorate any further. In the short term appropriate hazard warning signs will be erected to warn road users."

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to protect the traditional seaweed harvesting rites and seaweed harvesting techniques of Leitrim's coastline for the people of Tullaghan and surrounding areas and prohibit any form of offshore mechanical seaweed harvesting along our 4km of coastline."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"In the Republic of Ireland a licence is required from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine for the collection or removal of seaweed for anything other than small amounts for personal use. It is recommended that any issues in this regard should be forwarded to the Government Department."

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined his dis-satisfaction and disappointment that Leitrim County Council has not taken action to protect the 4km of coastline in Leitrim having regard to its tourism potential to attract more visitors to the county. He outlined that there is concern in the local community that a licence maybe issued to a company to permit offshore mechanical seaweed harvesting. He also requested that a permanent right of way be provided in order to facilitate access to this section of the coastline.

Ms. Mary Quinn agreed to follow up on this item with the Planning Department.

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council, who carries out fire hydrant testing and maintenance and how often do inspections take place."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"The responsibility for fire hydrant testing and maintenance rests with Irish Water. In 2015, a detailed
survey and remedial works programme was undertaken in South Leitrim. A similar project is being rolled out in North Leitrim. In addition, a familiarisation exercise in relation to fire hydrants is undertaken by Leitrim Fire Service."

Councillor Warnock outlined that in response to a recent fire incident a fire hydrant could not be used by the Fire Service as it was full of sediment. He outlined that on this occasion the Fire Service were able to access an alternative water supply, however, he requested that regular maintenance of the fire hydrants be carried out. Councillor Warnock also proposed that the fire hydrants be clearly identified with yellow lids and plaques.

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that a detailed survey and remedial works programme will be carried out on the fire hydrants in North Leitrim in the next two months.

MMD 16/61
18/03/16  L-6184 between Cherrybrook and the N16

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

"In June 2015, I raised the poor condition of the L6184 road between Cherrybrook and the N16 at Manorhamilton Municipal District. Local residents have requested that I bring the matter to the Executive's attention. The residents believe that this is due to heavy vehicular traffic using the road. If funding cannot be made available by the Council could the Executive liaise with the owners of the heavy goods vehicles using the road with a view to them making a contribution towards its repair? It is also worth noting that this route forms part of a proposed cycleway currently under consideration."

Report by Director of Service, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"The condition of the road has deteriorated primarily due to the increased volume of heavy goods vehicles accessing a property at Cherrybrook. It is a condition of the permission relating to the property that the HGV's are accessing, that the operator widen and strengthen the road and upgrade the junction onto the N16. Certain issues associated with land acquisition have arisen in respect of the upgrading of the junction, however, recent discussions between Council Officials and the operator were productive and a revised design is currently being prepared by engineers acting for the operator. Whilst it is hoped that the new design should resolve the land acquisition issue and enable the upgrade to commence, the timeframe for these works starting will be dependent on obtaining the landowner's agreement. Routine maintenance and patching will be undertaken where required until such time as the full improvement of this road is completed."

MMD 16/62
18/03/16  Traffic Lights and Traffic Management at Junction on Main Street, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.

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

"Further to previous motions and requests, could the Executive update members on the latest response from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly the NRA), regarding the provision of traffic lights and traffic management on the N16 R280 junction on Manorhamilton's Main Street."
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"We have submitted all reports and information required by the TII for them to consider the provision of traffic lights at this junction. They have advised us that they expect to decide on the matter in the coming weeks."

MMD 16/63
18/03/16 Tourism Signage Glencar Waterfall Carpark

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to increase tourism signage at the car-park at Glencar Waterfall. Tourism numbers are steadily increasing at the Waterfall and we should be highlighting the other tourism attractions in North Leitrim."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Leitrim County Council engaged with the Café Service Providers to provide a Tourist Information Point at the entrance to this new building and we have already seen a large take up of promotional material such as brochures etc by visitors."

Councillor Sean McDermott stated that not all visitors will access the Tourist Information Site at the entrance to the new coffee shop at Glencar Waterfall and he requested that consideration be given to erecting a notice board in the car park in order to promote other tourism attractions in Leitrim. This proposal was also supported by Councillor Felim Gurn.

Ms. Mary Quinn agreed to list the matter for discussion by the Management Team.

MMD 16/64
18/03/16 Public Sewerage North Leitrim

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

"I will ask for an update on the progression of Public Sewerage for Glenfarne and Rossinver, also can I ask what villages in North Leitrim have no Public Sewerage."

Report by Senior Executive Officer, Planning, Community and Economic Development
"Glenfarne East has a new waste Water Treatment Plant and a small public sewer network. Glenfarne West does not have any such infrastructure.

In relation to Rossinver, the situation is similar to Glenfarne East i.e. a small limited network and Waste Water Treatment Plant. There are a total of 10 in number of these very small Plants in the County, that we had expected Irish Water to take over, in addition to all the other Water and Waste infrastructure but as yet this has not happened.

Hence we have not been able to progress the issue of extensions of these networks or improvement of the Plants.

All other towns and villages in North Leitrim have sewer networks and treatment Plants."
Councillor Sean McDermott acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion.

Councillor Mary Bohan requested an update in relation to her Notice of Motion considered at the April meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District on the sewerage treatment plant at the Local Authority Houses at Gublaun, Rossinver.

Ms. Mary Quinn outlined that the matter is being progressed and she agreed to update Councillor Bohan of progress in this regard.

**Other Business**

Ms. Mary Quinn informed the Members that the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 16th May, 2016 in Meeting Room 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim at 2.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 4pm.

SIGNED: ___________________________  SIGNED: ___________________________
Councillor Sean McDermott  Sinead Flynn
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton  Meetings Administrator
Municipal District

DATE: 16th May, 2016