Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Meeting Room No. 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton on Monday 19th September, 2016.

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. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.
                  Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

MMD 16/111
19/09/16

Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan, seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn 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 July, 2016 be adopted.”

MMD 16/112
19/09/16

Correspondence

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 14th July, 2016 from AIB with regard to ATM services in Manorhamilton.
2. Letter dated 14th July, 2016 from Bank of Ireland with regard to the Bank of Ireland ATM in Manorhamilton.
   • Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the response from AIB and Bank of Ireland with regard to ATM facilities in Manorhamilton, however, he outlined that he did not agree that the matter has been addressed as outlined in the correspondence.
   • Councillor Gurn stated that at busy periods e.g. weekends the machines frequently go out of service and that he has also raised this issue with a number of Deputies and Senators in Sligo/Leitrim in an effort to enhance the ATM services in Manorhamilton.
3. Letter dated 26th July, 2016 from Inland Fisheries Ireland with regard to the development of angling facilities at Kinlough Pier, Kinlough, Co. Leitrim.
   • Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with regard to the response from Inland Fisheries with regard to a request to consider the provision of angling facilities at Kinlough Pier.
5. Letter dated 15th August, 2016 from Mr. Brian Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Sligo County Council with regard to a request to examine the possibility of a walk along the shores of Lough Gill.

**Part 1 – Notice of Motions**

It was agreed that Notice of Motion No. 3 in the name of Councillor Felim Gurn and Motion No. 7 in the name of Councillor Justin Warnock would be heard concurrently.

**MMD 16/113  Road Improvement Works**  
19/09/16  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Felim Gurn;  

"I would request that the Council give urgent consideration to examining the condition of two roads: the L2063 Tullaghan to Kinlough road and the R282 Manorhamilton to Kiltyclogher Road. As a minimum, will the Road’s Department ensure that the roadside verges are properly maintained. I have been made aware of vehicles, within the past few weeks, incurring considerable damage as a result of motorists losing control when they were forced onto the verges to avoid oncoming traffic. In the case of Kiltyclogher, there are no roadside markings to indicate that there are edge drop-off segments running along the roadside."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**  
"These roads will be assessed with a view to installing road edge markings where deemed necessary"

**MMD 16/114  Low Cost Safety Scheme**  
19/09/16  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;  

"I ask the Director of Services for Roads and Infrastructure to immediately seek funding for a Low Cost Safety Scheme for the L2063 Kinlough to Tullaghan road at Doobally as an interim measure. These bends have been the scene of many accidents recently over the years. The Council must seek funding for the realignment of this section of road."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**  
"This road can be considered for a Low Cost Safety Scheme for 2017."

Councillor Felim Gurn and Councillor Justin Warnock outlined their concerns relating to their respective Notice of Motions.

Mr. Padraig MacShera advised that there is over 900km of road in North Leitrim and that the Council regularly assess the surface condition of the roads. In response to Councillor Gurn’s Notice of Motion, Mr. MacShera outlined that he is familiar with this section of road. He advised that drivers should not be driving on the margins of the roads and that the Roads Department have responsibility for ensuring that road surfaces are maintained to a good standard. Mr. MacShera requested that if there are other locations with stones protruding from the road margins that the details should be forwarded to the Area Office. Mr. MacShera also advised that edge markings will be put in place on the R283 in the coming weeks.
In response to Councillor Warnock’s Notice of Motion, Mr. MacShera outlined that the road L2063 Kinlough to Tullaghan can be considered for a Low Cost Safety Scheme for 2017.

MMD 16/115  Traffic Calming Measures  
19/09/16  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;  

"Further to a previous Notice of Motions regarding the installation of traffic calming measures at various locations throughout North Leitrim may I ask, what, if any progress has been made and if any traffic surveys have been carried out in residential locations and built up areas in North Leitrim pertaining to speeding."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads  
"This Council has carried out traffic calming schemes at Kinlough and Drumkeeran recently. With regard to residential locations, traffic surveys can be carried out where speeding is identified as an issue."

Councillor Padraig Fallon welcomed the update on recent traffic calming measures for Kinlough and Drumkeerin, however, he requested additional traffic calming measures on both sides of the village of Drumkeerin. Councillor Fallon stated that the speed of traffic travelling through the village is very concerning, particularly in the morning when people are travelling to work and students are travelling to school.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the Notice of Motion and outlined previous traffic calming measures that were put in place in Drumkeerin a number of years ago. She outlined that a number of drivers fail to stop before they cross the junction to travel up to Sheena and that there is not enough enforcement of the speed limits in the village.

Councillor Padraig Fallon suggested that the installation of a ramp would force motorists to slow down as they drive through the village.

Mr. Padraig MacShera outlined that ramps are not permitted on regional roads. He proposed that the issue of drivers not obeying the speed limit in the village be reported to the Gardai and that the matter can also be considered for a Low-Cost Safety Scheme in 2017.

MMD 16/116  Safety/crash barrier in Killargue, Co. Leitrim.  
19/09/16  
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Padraig Fallon;  

"I propose that an examination take place in Killargue as to the need for a safety/crash barrier on the northern side of the Village R-280-38 between the Village and the Hall Community Centre."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads  
"Safety measures currently in place along this section of the R280 include road edge markings and advance warning signs indicating no road verge. There is not ample room available in the road verge to install a restraint barrier. The widening and realignment of this section of road is desirable, however a source of funding would need to be sourced in order for these works to proceed."
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I ask the Chief Executive to appoint a full time Tourism Development Officer to the Manorhamilton Municipal Area. A person who would have responsibility for the development of a Strategic Tourism Action Plan for North Leitrim. A person who would connect and work with the handful of B&B and other accommodation and activity providers and to provide support to those wishing to develop tourism based enterprises from Tullaghan to Tarmon."

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

"Through the Councils resources a full time Tourism Officer role is in place along with a full time support role. These roles are applicable to all tourism developments across the whole county. Through these positions and other functional units of the Council significant investment opportunities have been secured for the Manorhamilton Municipal District area including the Glenade Lake amenity, Glencar Waterfall, numerous angling infrastructure improvements, driving routes etc. In addition, a Tourism Strategy has been prepared and is currently being implemented which is applicable to the full county. The Council was also successful in securing a REDZ project for the Manorhamilton Rural Economic Development Zone through which a comprehensive action plan has been put in place of which tourism is a significant element. A REDZ Team has also been established. This team will be pursuing the implementation of the plan on an ongoing basis. Practical advice and assistance is available through the relevant Council Departments for those wishing to develop tourism based enterprises. In addition, anybody interested should also make contact with Leitrim Development Company with regard to the supports available through the Leader Program which is due to commence in the coming weeks."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment at the response to his Notice of Motion. He outlined that there is a population of over 10,000 people in North Leitrim and no Tourism Strategy. He called for the appointment of a Tourism Development Office for North Leitrim. Councillor Warnock circulated a copy of Roscommon County Council's information leaflet on tourist attractions for Roscommon and he highlighted that the brochure contained details of accommodation providers in the County.

Councillor Felim Gurn supported the Notice of Motion and he also outlined that he is a member of the Tourism Alliance. He advised that the Leitrim Tourism Network had carried out invaluable work to attract tourists to Leitrim. Councillor Gurn stated that Leitrim as a tourist destination is not being promoted enough e.g. tourists that travel into Ireland via Knock Airport. Councillor Gurn also suggested that additional accommodation facilities e.g. the building of a hotel in North Leitrim needs to be prioritised in order to attract more visitors to North Leitrim.

The Members unanimously supported Councillor Warnock’s Notice of Motion.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment with the recent decision not to approve Leitrim County Council’s Greenway Project which would have had a very positive impact for tourism in North Leitrim. She advised that the Chief Executive Mr. Frank Curran and the Director of Services Mr. Joseph Gilhooly intend to appeal the decision.

The Members commended the staff involved in preparing the project brief for the Greenway Project.
They also expressed concern in relation to the impact that Brexit may have in relation to future funding proposals. Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that at the meeting with the Oireachtas Members held in Carrick-on-Shannon that morning that it was proposed that a new Cross-Border Group be established with representatives from the various local authorities to examine the possible impact of Brexit on the region.

Ms. Mary Quinn outlined that the Council had provided significant funding to progress a number of tourism initiatives in North Leitrim.

Councillor Felim Gurn again raised the issue of the Council not availing of the opportunity to showcase Leitrim at major events e.g. the Ploughing Championships and the Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann.

**MMD 16/118  Works on the Bridge at Shanvaus Cross**

19/09/16

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

"I ask can Leitrim County Council try to establish what sort of time scale is planned by the NTA for the completion of works on the bridge at Shanvaus Cross on the N16. I notice recently that people are no longer abiding by the traffic system which could be very dangerous. I believe this is a result of the length of time the disruption has continued and the very slow progress of the works involved."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads*

"This project is managed by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). We have been advised by the TII that it will be a number of weeks before works are complete at this bridge."

Councillor Dolan acknowledged that this project is being managed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, but he expressed his concern in relation to the time-frame for the completion of the works.

**MMD 16/119  Market Street, Dromahaire**

19/09/16

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

"I will ask the Area Engineer to take a look at Market Street in Dromahaire with a view to carrying out some work there as the surface is in poor condition."

*Report by Senior Engineer, Roads*

"This road has been assessed and it is proposed to carry out surfacing repair work in the coming weeks."

**MMD 16/120  Safety Barrier**

19/09/16

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

"I will ask if a safety barrier can be provided along the side of road number LP2198/0. This is the link road off the N16 leading on to St Michael's school, Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim. The problem is on the Glenfarne side of the school, where there is a dangerous drop down into the river, located very close to the road's edge. This road is a busy road."
"Report by Senior Engineer, Roads"
"This location will be examined with regard to the provision of a safety barrier"

MMD 16/121
Hedge-cutting
19/09/16
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McDermott;

"I would like to know if hedge cutting in the North Leitrim will continue, the works done so far have made the roads much safer."

"Leitrim County Council has spent over €70,000 on hedge cutting operations in the north Leitrim District in 2016 which is a substantial portion of our road maintenance budget. Roads which receive hedge cutting include the N16, N15, Site visibility improvements on all junctions on our Regional road network, R283, sections of the R281 and roads which were included on our restoration and maintenance programme. It is not proposed to carry out any further hedge cutting in 2016.

The Hedge Cutting season is from the 1st September 2016 to the 28th February 2017. The Roads Act 1993, Section 70 states that all landowners and occupiers of lands are responsible for the maintenance of all roadside hedges. Leitrim County Council will be publishing notices in the local newspapers reminding landowners of their responsibilities to cut their hedges."

Mr. MacShera also outlined that there is approximately 4 days work remaining to complete the Hedge-Cutting Programme for 2016.

MMD 16/122
Bottle Banks
19/09/16
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Bohan;

"What is the current situation in the Manorhamilton Municipal District regarding the collections from the bottle banks. Does the Council contract specify how often collections take place?"

"Leitrim County Council currently has a contract with ReHab Glasco to empty the bottle banks throughout the county. The agreement is that they are serviced every 21 days on a rolling contract. However, they will carry out additional collections if requested to do so. Due to the increased usage of the bottle banks it is our intention to review this contract in the coming period."

Councillor Bohan outlined that there are times when the bottle banks are full and she suggested that it would be useful if contact details were displayed at the bottle banks for members of the public to report if the banks are full to capacity. Councillor Bohan also proposed that temporary CCTV cameras be rotated between the Bottle Banks to deter illegal dumping which can occur at these locations.

Councillor Padraig Fallon also supported the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Justin Warnock sought an update in relation to the Bring Bank in Rossinver. Mr. MacShera advised that the bring banks were delivered to the site last week.
"What arrangement are put in place by Leitrim County Council with Coillte and private forestry developers prior to (a) tree planting (b) making roads to forests (c) tree felling"

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"Initial afforestation is exempted development under the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001-2015 (Article 8 (a)). No planning permission is therefore required. Whilst most forestry operations are exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission, some forestry activities require, by law, a license or approval (consent) from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It is an offence to undertake the following forestry activities unless you first obtain a license or approval from the Department:

Tree felling - Under the Forestry Act 1946, a Felling License is required to uproot any tree over ten years old or to cut down any tree (subject to certain exemptions).

Afforestation - Under the European Communities (Forest Consent and Assessment) Regulations 2010, the approval of the Minister is required for all forestation projects where the area involved is greater than 0.10 hectares (approximately 0.25 acres).

Construction of an entrance onto a roadway less than 4 metres in width is also exempted development. It is only if the width of the roadway exceeds 4 metres in width is planning permission required. The construction of a forestry road internal to a forested area is also exempted development.

Other than an involvement as a referee from the Department regarding applications to plant, to fell or to construct internal roads within forests, the Planning Authority have no engagement with Coillte or private forestry developments as the developments are exempted development.

A meeting between Coillte Representatives and Council Area staff took place earlier this year 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 scheduled for forestry activity in 2016. Council staff reviewed haulage routes proposed for this timber and for carrying stone and other materials for constructing and repairing Coillte internal roads. A further meeting took place in early June where haulage routes to all 40 sites and the mode of transport for haulage were agreed. A monetary contribution was sought for a number of these sites to go towards the cost of the upkeep of the road network.

Leitrim County Council have requested that Coillte supply a five year programme of their proposed activity in this District and this will be useful when preparing multi annual road works programmes

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."

Councillor Mary Bohan re-iterated her concern in relation to the forestry industry and the impact that the vehicles used are having on the local roads network. She proposed that a Working Group with representation from each Municipal District and the Executive be established in order to examine the issues. This proposal was supported by all Members.

Mr. Padraig MacShera outlined that in the past the local authority had established a good working relationship with Coillte, however, he advised that there are more private operators working independently and not readily engaging with the Council.

Ms. Mary Quinn agreed to refer Councillor Bohan’s proposal to the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

Other Business
Date and time of the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District
Ms. Mary Quinn informed the Members that the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 17th October, 2016 in the Council Chamber, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim at 2.30pm. The change in location is due to the Members attendance at a Workshop on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme on 17th October, 2016 in the Council Chamber at 11.00am.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 4pm.

SIGNED: SIGNED:
Councillor Justin Warnock Sinead Flynn
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Meetings Administrator
Municipal District

17th October, 2016