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. Shane Tiernan, A/Meetings Administrator
Mr. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office
Ms. Annette Lee, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services

MMD 15/113
21/09/15 Deimhniú 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 1, HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 20th July, 2015 be adopted.”

MMD 15/114
21/09/15 New Traffic Control System for the N16/Main Street

The Members were previously circulated with a report recommending a number of possible options for the New Traffic Control System for the N16/Main Street Junction. The report as circulated appears as Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer outlined that following a meeting onsite with the Manorhamilton Municipal District Members that the Members had unanimously agreed that option five was the preferred option and he advised that he would forward the recommendation to the NRA (Transport Infrastructural Ireland) to seek funding for the works.

Councillor Frank Dolan recommended that the selected option agreed by the Members be discussed with the business forum in Manorhamilton. Councillor Felim Gurn informed the Members that he is a member of the business forum and he agreed to present the recommendation to the forum.

MMD 15/115
21/09/15 To consider the Leitrim Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 in relation to consistency with the Core Strategy and objectives of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021.
Ms. Mary Quinn referred to the Leitrim Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 and to the report previously circulated to the Members. The report as circulated appears as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book. Ms. Quinn outlined that the Members were now being requested to consider the Leitrim Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 in relation to its consistency with the Core Strategy and objectives of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021. She also outlined that following consideration, the Members subject to their agreement, were required to adopt a statement in that regard to be submitted to Leitrim County Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 66C (2)(b) and 66C (3)(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Ms. Quinn introduced Mr. Mark Conway who provided a detailed over-view of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2021. Mr. Conway outlined the process that has been involved to date in the preparation of the LECP and he also outlined the vision and objectives of the plan. He referred to a workshop with the Elected Members held on 14th September, 2015 and outlined that following the assessment prepared of the LECP in relation to its consistency with the core strategy of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 –2021 that the draft plan is being amended to take account of the two items that the report draws attention to:

1. The target of seeking particular status for Carrick on Shannon within the National Spatial Strategy (or similar) and
2. References to the Draft County Development Plan

Cathaoirleach Sean McDermott thanked Mr. Mark Conway for his presentation and a lengthy discussion took place after the presentation.

**Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, Seconded by Councillor Felim Gurn AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;**

“Manorhamilton Municipal District having reviewed the Local Economic & Community Plan 2015-2021 as drafted, is satisfied that the plan is consistent with the core strategy and objectives of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 and therefore recommend its adoption to Leitrim County Council”.

**MMD 15/116**
**21/09/15**

*Rural Link Transport Presentation*

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean McDermott, introduced Ms. Camilla Kelly, Rural Link Transport Manager to the meeting and invited Ms. Kelly to give her presentation to the Members. A copy of the presentation appears as Appendix 3 of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Ms. Kelly thanked the Members for the opportunity to meet with them. She outlined that there was three parts to this presentation 1) The Transport Co-Ordination Unit-TCU 2) Leitrim Transport in Context and 3) Leitrim Transport Planning.

Ms. Kelly provided an over-view of the key points of the presentation as outlined hereunder:
The Transport Co-Ordination Unit-TCU
Ms. Kelly advised the members that the Transport Co-Ordination Unit is one of 17 established by the National Transport Authority in January, 2015 following the restructuring of the Rural Transport Programme in 2014. She stated that the role of the voluntary board supporting the TCU is to act as a link within each local area to the TCU in the identification of transport needs through community and key stakeholder groups in county Leitrim e.g. the Health Service Executive, Municipal Districts, the Older Peoples Council, Men’s Shed’s, the Glens Centre and Active Age Groups.

Ms. Kelly outlined that the transport service provides house to house collections enabling cross connectivity between isolated rural areas to local villages/towns and to designated schedule transport routes which enables passengers to link to mainline routes within Leitrim and onwards by train and bus services to other locations.

Leitrim Transport in Context
Ms. Kelly advised that there is an average of 363 services per month with 90 services per week. She outlined that the National Transport Authority contracted 8 private transport operators, they integrated hackney and taxi services and they have one community owned bus in Drumshanbo and one volunteer community car in Manorhamilton.

Leitrim Transport Planning
Ms. Kelly informed the members that the key issues for Leitrim are as follows:
- The demographic profile of Leitrim: both population size and density, town lands with 1 and 3 to 4 people who need transport, towns and villages are isolated from main centres of health and employment education and health in Sligo, Galway and Dublin.
- Leitrim is divided into north and south and the distance of the county is 72 km or 45 miles.
- There is a significant number of people with mobility difficulties requiring assistance (60.38%) with their transport needs.

Ms. Kelly advised the members that the National Transport Authority will be tendering all rural transport services and are calling for an expression of interest to tender on e-tenders.ie in September/October 2015. She stated that there will be a 40 day pre-qualification period.

Councillor Sean McDermott thanked Ms. Kelly for her informative presentation and welcomed any questions or comments from the Members.

- Councillor Sean McDermott commended Ms. Kelly and her team for the excellent service that they provide to the public and referred to the importance of providing transport to persons residing in rural areas of the county.

- Councillor Mary Bohan also thanked Ms. Kelly for her presentation and she raised an issue in relation to public procurement and the difficulty for local providers to tender competitively for services. She queried if price was the determining factor in awarding contracts. Ms. Kelly outlined that the Transport Unit must comply with public procurement and that the price is only one aspect of the assessment.

- Councillor Padraig Fallon queried why there is a limit of only one car given that two cars were previously available. Ms. Kelly outlined that the Rural Transport Link commenced the operation of their service on 13th July, 2015 and she acknowledged that there is a requirement for a minimum of two vehicles in both locations.
• Councillor Felim Gurn expressed his concern about villages that have seven/eight houses vacant and people will not live in those houses because there is no public transport available to access essential services.

• Councillor Justin Warnock stated that there is approximately five/six thousand people living in the Kinlough and surrounding area of Leitrim with no access to a bus service. He stated that it was disgraceful that the transport needs of this community have been and continue to be ignored.

• Ms. Kelly responded by requesting Councillor Warnock to submit additional information in relation to the transport needs of persons residing in Kinlough, Co. Leitrim to the Transport Co-Ordination Unit.

Councillor Warnock also referred to a previous request to Bus Eireann seeking the provision of a public bus service for Kinlough. He outlined that the response issued by Bus Eireann was that such a service could not be provided.

• Councillor Frank Dolan advised that CIE provides a bus service from Manorhamilton to Sligo via Leckaun operating 2/3 days per week. He outlined that there is a very low uptake of this service by the public but that a smaller bus service is much more appropriate for rural areas and he supported the ongoing development and expansion of the Rural Link Transport Service.

Ms. Kelly acknowledged the Members concerns and concluded by stating that she and her team would continue to work hard to improve the rural transport links within the county.

Part 1 – Notice of Motions

**MMD 15/117**
**21/09/15**

**Resurfacing Works**

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

"I propose that resurfacing works are carried out from Iron Bridge, Killavoggy to Tullynascreena. Sections of this road are in need of major works."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

Killavoggy Bridge to Tullynascreena has been assessed and will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Area Programme subject to priority. Routine Maintenance will continue to be carried out on this road."

Councillor Padraig Fallon welcomed the response outlining that the resurfacing works will be considered as part of the 2016 Area Programme.

Mr. Padraic MacShera, advised that only a small section of this road will be resurfaced at a particular time given the costs associated and having regard to the relatively small population living in the area. He also advised that the cost of re-surfacing one kilometre of road is in the region of €30,000 with
approximately 800km of road in the Manorhamilton Municipal District Area.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported Councillor Fallon’s Notice of Motion. She stated that the condition of this road has been regularly raised at Council meetings and she also expressed her disappointment that there is no funding available for the Local Improvement Schemes. Councillor Bohan also stated that additional funding under the 2016 Roads Allocation will need to be provided to the Manorhamilton Municipal District.

**MMD 15/118**  
21/09/15    **Resurfacing Works on the Edenville road, Kinlough**

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

"I propose that resurfacing works takes place on the Edenville Road, Kinlough. There is a 200 metre stretch in poor condition from William Kerrs."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"Road number L6080 at Edenville, Kinlough has been assessed and will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Area Programme subject to priority. Routine Maintenance will continue to be carried out on this road."

**MMD 15/119**  
21/09/15    **New Bridge on the R280 Kinlough to Bundoran road**

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to seek funding with Donegal County Council for the construction of a new bridge between Leitrim and Donegal on the R280 Kinlough to Bundoran road. Lennox’s Bridge is no longer fit for purpose and is a hindrance to the development of Kinlough, Leitrim’s third largest urban center."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"This Council has had a number of discussions with Donegal County Council over the years regarding Lennox’s Bridge. There is a design for the new bridge completed. There is a desire on both Councils to complete this project but funding is a major obstacle. Provision of new bridges on non-national roads used to be funded by the Department of Transport under the Specific Improvement Grants. This grant scheme has been suspended for a number of years and all indications are that it will not be reintroduced in the short term. Leitrim County Council does not have the ability to finance such a project from their own resources. We will discuss the matter with Donegal County Council as requested to see if it is possible to advance this project."

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that he was disappointed with the response to his Notice of Motion. He expressed his concern regarding the structural state of the bridge and he also referred to the high number of accidents at this location which is a cause for concern unless the bridge is upgraded.

Mr. O’Connor as outlined in the reply to the Notice of Motion confirmed that the design of a new bridge at this location is complete, however, he also outlined there is no funding available to finance the works.
Councillor Warnock queried if the refurbishment of the stone structure of the bridge could be carried out. Mr. O’Connor confirmed that the bridge could be widened, however, he outlined that the costs of these works are significant and that Leitrim County Council do not have the financial resources to finance these works. Mr. O’Connor advised that he would raise the matter with Donegal County Council and establish if the works could be funded on a joint basis between both local authorities.

MMD 15/120
21/09/15

St. Clare’s New Cemetery, Manorhamilton

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council in the interest of public safety and the families of the deceased to work with the Graves Committee in Manorhamilton and provide immediate funding for paths/walkways at St. Clare's New Cemetery."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Engineering staff have met with the St. Clare’s Graveyard Committee in Manorhamilton earlier this year in relation to new and improvements works required in the Graveyard. We await a proposal from the Committee on this matter before a commitment on funding can be given"

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that this is a very sensitive matter and funding needs to be provided for paths and walkways for this 300/400 metre section. He requested clarification in relation to the revenue generated from the fees for burial plots. Mr. Mr. MacShera advised that the income is utilised to fund the allowance costs for the Caretakers and towards maintenance works in the graveyards.

This Notice of Motion was also supported by Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Felim Gurn.

MMD 15/121
21/09/15

Repairs in Tullaghan and Lisanerris Townlands

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

"I propose that repairs be carried out as a matter of urgency on the road from Newbridge through the townlands of Tullaghan and Lisanerris. Severe damage has been caused by Coillte in this area."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Discussions are currently taking place with Coillte to contribute to the repair of local road LS 8244 as a result of the haulage of stone for a forest road in this area. It is anticipated that repairs will be carried out on roads in this area in the near future"

Councillor Mary Bohan requested clarification in relation to the timescale for the completion of the works. She suggested that an agreement should be put in place between the Council and Coillte regarding the restoration of road.

Mr. MacShera outlined that Coillte constructed forest roads and that as a result there was damage to the road in question, however, he stated that the road was in poor condition prior to this. Mr. O’Connor advised that discussions are ongoing between the Council and Coillte in relation to putting new agreements in place which will require Coillte to outline their proposals to the Council in advance of proceeding with works in advance of the approval of a New Forest Road or Felling
Licence.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her disappointment that Coillte cannot be held responsible for the damage to this road and stated that it was most unfair to the local road users. She called upon the Government to ensure that legislation is put in place to ensure that Coillte will be held responsible for re-instating any sections of road that they have damaged.

This Notice of Motion was supported by Councillor Padraig Fallon.

MMD 15/122
21/09/15

Footpath in Dromahair

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

"What progress has been made to date regarding the provision of a footpath to the football pitch and play area in Dromahair."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The design is near completion for this project to bring it forward for planning permission. We hope to be in a position to advertise for planning approval in the next few weeks."

Councillor Mary Bohan acknowledged the reply to her Notice of Motion and she queried if the Council need to acquire land to proceed with the works. Mr. O'Connor advised that the Council have acquired the land and that the Council will be proceeding with the planning process.

MMD 15/123
21/09/15

Turning Off Lane on the N16

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to convince the NRA to provide a turning off lane on the N16 at the turnoff for St Michael's Church and school in Glenfarne. It's a busy junction with a school and church. It would make sense to have this work done when the realignment works start on N16."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"The provision of a right turning lane at this location was discussed with the NRA during the design of the realignment scheme. Permission was refused at that time. We will take the matter up with the NRA again as requested."

Councillor Sean McDermott expressed his concern in relation to this junction given that motorists need to turn right to access the local school and church. He stated that he considered that the works should be incorporated into the proposed Realignment Works on the N16.

Councillor Frank Dolan supported this Notice of Motion.

Mr. Shay O'Connor acknowledged Councillor McDermott’s concerns and outlined that it may be possible to widen this section of road which would enable cars to pass others that are turning right. He agreed to raise the matter with Transport Infrastructural Ireland (TII) and he also informed the Members that the NRA is no longer then NRA but operating under Transport Infrastructural Ireland.
Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting in Kiltyclogher

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

"Can I propose that we have a Municipal District meeting for the Manorhamilton area held in Kiltyclogher between January and May of next year. It would be appropriate with the Centenary Celebrations coming up next year."

Councillor Sean McDermott suggested that March 2016 would be a suitable month to hold the Manorhamilton Municipal District meeting in Kiltyclogher.

This proposal was unanimously agreed by the Members.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott and unanimously supported by all of the Members that:

"The March, 2016 Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District be held in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim to mark the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of the 1916 Rising'.

Overgrown Hedges at Glencar Waterfall

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

"On a recent visit to Glencar Waterfall, I met a number of visitors enjoying its beauty. However, there was some criticism regarding the overgrown hedges at the site's surrounds which are impeding the visitor experience. I propose that notwithstanding budgetary constraints, hedges should be cut earlier in the year in light of the visitor comments and the importance of the waterfall amenity to the local economy."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"Hedges on the Leitrim approach Road LP 4145 to the amenity were cut back in June earlier this year, due to further growth over the summer period these hedges will be cut back again."

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the response to his Notice of Motion and queried if hedge-cutting could be carried out earlier in the year.

This Notice of Motion was also supported by Councillor Frank Dolan.

Mr. MacShera outlined that the hedge-cutting on the Leitrim side of the Glencar Waterfall was completed in June, 2015, however, he further outlined that Sligo County Council had only recently completed the works on the Sligo side which now makes the Leitrim side appear overgrown.

Councillor Gurn outlined that there the issue of hedge-cutting is becoming a very contentious issue for the public and that action needs to be taken against landowners that are failing to maintain hedges on their lands.
Mr. O’Connor stated that the Hedge-Cutting Season has commenced and that non-compliant landowners will be pursued if they fail to comply. He outlined that public advertisements will be placed in the Leitrim Observer informing landowners of their responsibilities in this regard. He also advised that there is provision to report non-compliant landowners directly to the local authority.

MMD 15/126
21/09/15
Upgrading and Maintenance of Roads Affected by Development

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

"When any future applications for the erection of wind farms are approved, I propose that the associated development charges should be ring fenced for the upgrading and maintenance of the roads affected by the development."

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

"The existing Development Contributions Scheme (2010) was reviewed last in 2014 following the establishment of Irish Water. Table 2 of the revised scheme indicated that for wind farm developments, a standard contribution of €8,666.40 per turbine shall be applied. The contributions arising from the general development scheme are for county at large investment and cannot be directly linked to specific development. In addition, it is the norm to also apply a Special Development Contribution in relation to the upgrade and maintenance works which will be required to the local road network to transport the turbines and other materials to the site. This amount is calculated by the District Engineer on the basis of the haul route identified in the planning application drawings and the necessary upgrade required to facilitate the abnormal loads in question. These costs are considered specific exceptional costs not covered by the general Development Contributions Scheme which will be incurred by the Local Authority in respect of public infrastructure which directly benefit the proposed wind farm development. It is therefore respectfully considered that the necessary development charges which are required to upgrade and maintain roads affected by the development are already ring fenced by the application of Special Development Contributions."

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he restated that he considered that the associated development charges should be ring-fenced for restoring the road used to access the site after the works to construct a wind farm are complete.

MMD 15/127
21/09/15
Road Sweeper in Dromahair

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to provide a better service to the village of Dromahair with the road sweeper especially at this time of year."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads

"A road sweeper is generally on hire for 2 days per week covering mainly the town of Manorhamilton on a Monday and other towns, villages and amenity carparks etc in the District on the second day. During the autumn period an increase in hire takes place to deal with falling leaves."
Councillor Frank Dolan stated that the sweeper is not in the Dromahair area long enough and that fallen leaves are an issue. He advised that the Active Tidy Towns do their best at keeping the town looking well. Councillor Dolan queried if the Road Sweeper could be allocated to Dromahair for one week as a once-off measure to attend to the fallen leaves?

Mr. MacShera advised that the road sweeper is allocated two days a week at present and gullies are cleaned on a Friday. He outlined that if there are a lot of leaves fallen then he would consider allocating a road sweeper to Dromahair for extra hours.

MMD 15/128
21/09/15 Speed Ramp

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

"That a speed ramp be put in place on the road serving Drumlease Housing Estate and the estate known as Speers/Wood Green. A number of accidents have taken place where both roads meet and a serious one is waiting to happen."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"Following an assessment of the road network in the Drumlease area it has been concluded that a number of stop signs and stop lines need to be put in place to give advance warning to road users. This should clarify to road user’s rights of way at the junctions in question. These housing estates will have a speed limit of 30 km/hr introduced later this year if our current bye laws are adopted. As agreed with the SPC Committee, following the introduction of this reduced speed limit we will consider traffic calming measures if following speed measurements this speed limit is not being adhered to."

Councillor Frank Dolan acknowledged the response to his Notice of Motion, however, he stated that he considered that notwithstanding the introduction of the new speed limits that the provision of speed ramps at this location is necessary in order to slow down the traffic and prevent a serious accident.

Mr. Shay O’Connor outlined that the Council will continue to review the matter after the introduction of the new speed limits within housing estates and that if this does not address then the request for the provision of speed ramps can be reviewed.

Ms. Mary Quinn informed the Members that the next meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 19th October, 2015 at 2.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 16.40pm.

SIGNED:
Councillor Sean McDermott
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District

DATE: 19th October, 2015

SIGNED:
Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator