Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in Boardroom, HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 20th February, 2017.

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

And Councillor Justin Warnock, Cathaoirleach of Manorhamilton Municipal District presiding

Officials Present: Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services  
Mr. Padraic MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, North Leitrim Area Office.  
Mr. Shay O’Connor,  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services  
Ms. Michelle McNulty, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services

MMD 17/17  
20/02/17

Deimhniú Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Padraig Fallon, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan 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 20th January, 2017 be adopted.”

MMD 17/18  
20/02/17

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 & the Area Programme 2017

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services provided an over-view of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 and the Area Programme. The report as circulated appears as Appendix No. 1 to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book. Ms. Quinn invited any questions from the Members and the following items were raised in relation to the Housing Programme:

- Councillor Mary Bohan queried if the allocation for Disabled Persons Grants on local authority Housing stock is sufficient to meet the demand for disability works.

Ms. Quinn confirmed that the allocation remains at the 2016 level and that the allocation is Considered adequate to meet the demand for the scheme.

- Councillor Mary Bohan also queried if additional resources are available to respond to repair requests from the Tenants. Councillor Bohan acknowledged that the Council engage Contractors to carry out some repair works and she outlined her concern in relation to the time-frame for the completion of repairs in a number of cases.

Ms. Quinn advised that the Council respond to repair requests directly with the Housing Maintenance
Staff and that Contractors e.g. Plumbers and Electricians are also engaged as required. She advised that the resources in place are adequate to respond to the repair requests.

- Councillor Frank Dolan referred to the recently updated Tenant Handbook and he queried if the Implementation of the new Tenant Handbook was presenting problems e.g. where works were carried out by the local authority in the past and are now deemed to be tenant responsibility.

Ms. Quinn advised that the revised Tenant Handbook clearly defines the responsibility of the tenant and the local authority. She advised that the Housing Department will consider the personal circumstances of tenants e.g. elderly tenants on a case-by-case basis if the repair request is tenant responsibility and a request to complete the works is made to the local authority.

Ms. Quinn also outlined that all newly appointed tenants completed mandatory pre-tenancy training to make them familiar with the terms and conditions of their tenancy agreements.

- Councillor Justin Warnock queried who has responsibility for the replacing of roof-tiles.

Ms. Quinn advised that the matter should be reported to the Housing Department for investigation.

- Councillor Felim Gurn queried how many dwellings are included in the Voids Programme.

Ms. Quinn outlined that a number of units were upgraded under the 2016 Voids Programme and that additional units will be upgraded in 2017 under this programme.

The following items were raised in relation to Tourism Development and Promotion:

- Councillor Justin Warnock requested a breakdown of funding that is spent in the Manorhamilton Municipal District in relation to tourism promotion. Ms. Mary Quinn agreed to clarify if this figure is available as the details within the report reflect staff costs and tourism promotion events for the entire county.

- Councillor Warnock also referred to a tourism brochure which features a number of counties in the region. He expressed serious concern that the information on Leitrim had no reference to any accommodation providers in the county.

- Councillor Padraig Fallon queried if there is any funding available for new works at Corry Strand. Mr. Shay O’Connor advised that the budget will not provide for any additional works but meets existing commitments e.g. payments to Tidy Town’s Groups etc.

- Councillor Felim Gurn called for additional funding to be provided to assist with the removal of chewing gum as it is becoming a major issue.

- The Members unanimously voiced their concern in relation to the issue with dog-fouling and they called for greater enforcement by the Litter Wardens to issue fines for offending dog owners. It was also proposed that the Litter Warden make a presentation to the Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting. Ms. Quinn outlined that the matter will be reviewed having regard to the schedule of presentations planned for the Municipal District Meetings.
Mr. Shay O’Connor presented the Annual Area Programme in detail to the Members. He outlined the funding proposals for the county and also provided a summary of the 2017 Area Works Programme for the Manorhamilton Municipal District. Mr. O’Connor also outlined the funding allocations under the Town & Village Renewal Enhancements, Clar Scheme, Recreational Trails and REDZ Projects. The report as circulated appears as Appendix No. 2 of the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

A detailed discussion in relation to the lack of funding provided to local authorities to maintain the road Infrastructure in the county ensued and the Members expressed their serious concern in relation to the funding provided which has been reduced in recent years from €14.2 million to the current level of €7.2 million.

Councillor Mary Bohan queried if there was any proposal to carry out additional works at Kilavoggy Bridge.

Mr. Shay O’Connor outlined that the Council made a submission for a capital project to upgrade four bridges in the county and that a response in this regard is awaited.

It was agreed that the Notice of Motion No. 5 in the name of Councillor Mary Bohan would be considered under this item.

"How many L.I.S's are currently on the Council list in the Manorhamilton Municipal District, what is the estimated cost of completing same?"

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"There are 71 applications for LIS grants on our current list from the Manorhamilton Municipal District Area. It is not possible to give an accurate cost for all these roads unless a site visit is carried out. However previous experience with LIS Schemes indicates that the average cost of a LIS scheme is €25,000. Therefore the estimated cost of the LIS scheme from Manorhamilton MD is approximately €1,775,000"

- Councillor Mary Bohan queried how many Local Improvement Schemes will be completed in 2017.

Mr. O’Connor outlined that the Council estimate that they will complete nine Local Improvement Schemes in 2017.

The Members expressed their concern that the funding is not adequate to fund additional LIS’s. The Members agreed to seek the support of the local Oireachtas Members to seek additional funding for the Local Improvement Schemes.

The Members also noted that the Area Scheme makes no provision for upgrading or extending footpaths. Mr. O’Connor advised that alternative funding streams may need to be explored for these works as the Roads Allocation cannot fund them.

Councillor Padraig Fallon also raised the issue of no specific allocation for public lighting. He referred to previous discussions he had at the Budget meeting where he had sought assurances that a level of funding would be provided for public lighting. Councillor Fallon expressed his disappointment that this was not reflected in the Area Programme.
The Members requested that a Workshop on Unfinished Estates be arranged in order to discuss the taking in charge process and in particular public lighting issues.

Mr. O’Connor outlined that the Council had sought legal advice and were advised that they had no Authority to enter private estates until they have been taken in charge. He also advised that the Contractor that the Council engage to replace public lighting will complete works in the a private Estate for the same cost if the Residents Association are prepared to pay for the works.

Councillor Padraig Fallon acknowledged the reply, however, he requested that the Council seek further legal advice on the issue particularly in relation to estates that have applied to be taken in charge.

**Proposed by Councillor Frank Dolan seconded by Councillor Sean McDermott and unanimously approved** ‘That the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2017 & the Area Programme 2017 be adopted by the Manorhamilton Municipal District’.

**MMD 17/19 Correspondence**

20/02/17

The following items were considered under Meeting Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 16th January, 2017 from Mr. David Farrell, Hydro Manager, ESB in relation to proposed reduction of water levels in Lough Allen.
2. Letter dated 24th January, 2017 from Mr. Donal Fox, CEO Leitrim Development Company, Drumshanbo in reply to Cllr. Padraig Fallon’s notice of motion confirming there will be no reduction of Leitrim Development company services in the Drumkeeran Area.

**MMD 17/20 Request for Drainage Works**

20/02/17

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

"Urgent drainage is needed in the townland of Carrigeens, Dromahair to deal with the flooding of two homes. Will it be possible to carry out these works this year under the drainage programme?"

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**

"An application for funding for a Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme has been prepared to reduce the potential for flooding at this location. It will be now be submitted to the OPW for assessment."

**MMD 17/21 Taking in Charge of Estates**

20/02/17

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council the number of estates throughout the county and North Leitrim where the taking in charge process is held or will be held up due to bonds having being sold."
Report by Director of Service, Community Development
"Where the Planning Authority are advised of the sale of bonds with regard to security held contact is made with the new company with a view to resolving outstanding matters. Furthermore, we don’t necessarily have this information unless the Insurance Bond's Companies choose to inform us in advance. The Planning Authority cannot therefore confirm at this stage the number of such sales associated with housing developments in Leitrim."

MMD 17/22  Traffic Calming
20/02/17

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

"I propose the installation of traffic calming measures on the R280 either side of Drumkeeran."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads
"In 2013 a traffic calming scheme was installed on the R280 on the Southern approach to Drumkeeran Village. This scheme included a footpath to the amenity area, large gateway signage and a build out before the L8249 junction. There is a proposal to site a controlled pedestrian crossing on this approach under An Clar Scheme in 2017.

An application for a traffic calming scheme on the Northern approach was submitted to the Department under proposals for Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2017. However this application did not receive approval for funding. Another application will be made later this year for funding in 2018."

MMD 17/23  Sean Mac Diarmada's Cottage
20/02/17

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council what is their plan/schedule and that of the office of Public Works to have the Heritage Centre and Sean Mac Diarmada's cottage in Kiltyclogher open to the public this year."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"The Heritage Centre is on operational licence to a local Community Group. The Council will contact the Group to ascertain the position for 2017. Likewise the Council will make contact with the OPW in regard to Sean MacDiarmada's homestead."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with the reply to his Notice of Motion. He outlined that the Homestead of Sean MacDiarmada is an iconic building and that it is not promoted enough. He also suggested that the OPW should have audio-guides available for visitors to the dwelling.

Ms. Mary Quinn advised that the Council will make immediate contact with the OPW and the Community Group that operate the Heritage Centre to establish the proposals for the opening times of both facilities for 2017. Ms. Quinn stated that she would update the Members on the outcome of the discussions as soon as possible.
**MMD 17/24  Bundoran By-Pass**
**20/02/17**

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

"I ask the Senior Engineer in the Roads Department to contact the TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) and Donegal County Council's Roads Department as a matter of urgency and road safety for the motorists of North Leitrim, to have the exits lanes extended on the N15 (Bundoran bypass) at the junction of the R280, Kinlough to Bundoran road."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**
"Contact will be made with the TII and Donegal County Councils Roads Department on this matter"

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**MMD 17/25  Car Parking Spaces in Manorhamilton**
**20/02/17**

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

"Could the Executive advise what, if any, progress has been made in providing additional car parking spaces in Manorhamilton."

**Report by Senior Engineer, Roads**
"A commitment was given to bring a report to this Municipal District meeting regarding traffic and car parking in Manorhamilton. Unfortunately we were unable, due to our current workload, to achieve this. We will however have a report for the March meeting."

This Notice of Motion was unanimously supported by all Members.

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**MMD 17/26  Cleaning of Main Street, Manorhamilton**
**20/02/17**

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

"The recent refurbishment of the Main Street in Manorhamilton by the Council is very welcome. Unfortunately and despite the best voluntary efforts of the local Tidy Towns Committee chewing gum and dog litter on the pavements is proving difficult to remove and is detracting from the appearance of the street. In addition to appealing to the public to properly dispose of such waste, has the Council any additional resources available to it for the removal of same?"

**Report by Director of Service, Community Development**
"The removal of chewing gum from footpaths is extremely difficult and can be led to a very expensive solution. The annual Gum Litter Awareness campaign for Leitrim was previously held in Manorhamilton in conjunction with the Tidy Towns Group and the Bee Park Resource Centre in order to raise awareness. As part of this campaign, Gum wraps were distributed and stencils provided by Leitrim County Council to the Tidy Towns Group to place on the pavements to remind people to dispose of their gum properly. Further boxes of Gum Wraps have been forward now for distribution to shops in Manorhamilton by the Community Warden. Arrangements are being made also to have the
stencils delivered to Manorhamilton next week for further awareness raising.

The issue of Dog Fouling has been raised as a problem if the problem is serious on Main Street the Council could consider arranging the installation of motion sensory audio message devices placed on Main Street for a short time.”

Councillor Felim Gurn outlined that the issue of chewing gum and dog fouling are a matter of serious concern in Manorhamilton.

**MMD 17/27**  
**Public Sewerage System, Glenfarne Village**  
20/02/17

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

"Can I ask what progress is been made on the public sewerage system for Glenfarne Village. I am aware there is a state of the art sewerage system in place at Brockage Lower, Glenfarne which is capable of providing a sewerage system to Glenfarne Village."

*Report by Head of Finance, Finance*
"The Irish Waste Water Treatment Plant at Brockagh Lower, near the County Boundary, was taken over by Irish Water. To extend this network back to the village it-self would involve a new pump station at the village and new network there and then pump the effluent to Brockagh Lower. We have raised the issue of sewer extensions at various locations in the County with Irish Water and the reply is that they are not financing this kind of work, except in special circumstances, mainly to do with short pay-back times for commercial developments. We will raise this case with them again. ""

**MMD 17/28**  
**Request for Public Toilets, Manorhamilton**  
20/02/17

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

"I will ask if Public Toilets could be provided in the town of Manorhamilton."

*Report by Director of Service, Community Development*
"The Council has no proposal or funding available to provide public toilets in Manorhamilton at this time."

**MMD 17/29**  
**Social Housing Provision in Manorhamilton**  
20/02/17

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

"I will ask Leitrim County Council to lead the way in engaging with the HSE and the Voluntary Housing Organisations in an effort to provide a suitable house for some of the participants in the National Learning Network (NLNW) in Manorhamilton."

*Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing*
"Under the Council's Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability, the delivery of"
accommodation for people with disabilities using all appropriate housing supply mechanisms will be promoted and supported. The Council is committed to working with the HSE and approved housing bodies to address the housing needs identified for participants in the National Learning Network (NLNW) in Manorhamilton."

MMD 17/30 Housing Waiting List, Dromahaire, Co. Leitrim
20/02/17

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

"I ask for a breakdown of the number of family houses available in Dromahair and how this compares with the waiting list for such houses in Dromahair."

Report by Director of Service, Corporate Services & Housing
"There is currently one vacant Local Authority 3 bedroom family type dwelling in Dromahair village. Fourteen households, who have nominated Mid 1 (incorporating Dromahair) as an area of choice on their application for social housing support, are included on the Council’s Housing Waiting List to be considered for this vacant unit, and any other suitable vacancy arising in the Mid 1 area."

Other Business

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

This concluded the business of the meeting at 4pm.

SIGNED:  
Councillor Justin Warnock
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District

SIGNED:  
Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

Date: 20th March, 2017.