Minutes of Manorhamilton Municipal District Meeting held in the HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Monday 15th May, 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.  
Ms. Sinead Flynn, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services  
Ms. Stephanie McCabe, Clerical Officer, Corporate Services  
Ms. Sinead McDermott, Tourism Officer  
Mr. Eanna Rowe, Waterways Ireland  
Mr. Eamoon McMorrow, Waterways Ireland

MMD 17/62  
15/05/2017  
Deimhniu Miontuairisci

Proposed by Councillor Sean McDermott, seconded by Councillor Frank Dolan and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

“That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Manorhamilton Municipal District held in HSE Headquarters, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim on Tuesday 18th April, 2017 be adopted.”

MMD 17/63  
Presentation from Waterways Ireland  
15/05/2017  

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed Mr. Eanna Rowe and Mr. Eamoon McMorrow, Waterways Ireland to the meeting.

Mr. Rowe outlined that Waterways Ireland was established in 1999 and has responsibility to manage, maintain, develop and promote over 250km of inland navigable waterways, 250 facilities and 8,000 metres of jetties. Mr. Rowe referred to the severe weather events of December, 2015/January 2016 which resulted in extensive flooding along the Shannon. He outlined that all of the Waterways Ireland facilities were affected by the flooding, however, he advised that Waterways Ireland repaired and restored the navigation system in time for the tourist season.

Mr. Rowe outlined that 2016 was the best tourist season in 12 years, with Carrick-on-Shannon playing a very important role in this market with two large Cruise Operators based there. He advised that 70% of cruise hire customers are from Germany and in 2016 approximately 8,500 boats navigated the Shannon generating an estimated €8 million for the local economy.
Mr. Rowe stated that Leitrim is well served with facilities and attractions and that Waterways Ireland work in partnership with Leitrim County Council and Ms. Sinead McDermott, Tourism Officer to progress projects in the county. He advised that the development of the Blueway has been a phenomenal success and attracted 100,000 visitors to date and generated revenue of approximately €4.2 million. Mr. Rowe advised that funding was also approved for the development of a board walk at Acres Lake, Drumshanbo and to develop a physical link around Lough Allen and Teach Ceoil, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

Mr. Rowe advised that with regard to the water levels on Lough Allen the OPW and the ESB contacted them regarding lowering the levels in Lough Allen to 7m outside the tourist season which will be run on a pilot basis for three years. He outlined that lowering the water level has the potential to reduce the risk of flooding.

Mr. Rowe concluded his presentation by acknowledging the excellent working relationship between Leitrim County Council and Waterways Ireland. He advised that projects like the Blueway would not be possible without the engagement of all stakeholders.

- Councillor Justin Warnock thanked Mr. Eanna Rowe for his presentation particularly in relation to the Blueway. He advised that he would welcome the development of a similar facility at Lough Melvin in North Leitrim.

- Councillor Mary Bohan thanked Mr. Eanna Rowe for his presentation and also thanked Mr. Eamonn McMorrow for always being available to respond to queries. Councillor Bohan welcomed the lowering of the water levels at Lough Allen. She advised that this will have a positive impact at Corry Strand for the public using this facility for swimming lessons etc.

  Mr. McMorrow outlined that Corry Strand is impacted by the rise and fall of water levels. He advised that water levels recorded this year have been very low at this location.

- Councillor Bohan enquired about the development of a slip way at Corry Strand. Mr. McMorrow confirmed that drawings are currently being prepared for the development of a slipway at Corry Strand.

- Councillor Bohan also enquired about a development at Dowra, Co. Leitrim.

  Mr. McMorrow advised that planning permission was granted for a facility at Dowra, however, the decision was successfully appealed to An Bord Pleanala and therefore the development could not proceed.

- Councillor Bohan also enquired about the provision of changing facilities at Spencer Harbour. She also referred to an issue with dog fouling and queried if additional signage could be provided.

  Mr. McMorrow advised that there is a significant cost involved in the provision of changing rooms and that there would need to be a significant increase in the numbers using the facility in order to justify the cost involved.

- Councillor Padraig Fallon supported Councillor Bohan’s call for the provision of showering/changing facilities at Corry Strand. He queried if Waterways Ireland could examine
the possibility of a joint venture with Leitrim County Council to provide the facilities at Corry Strand. Councillor Fallon stated that North Leitrim needs to attract some of the 100,000 visitors that travel to Leitrim to use the Blueway.

- Councillor Sean McDermott referred to the potential to get boats to travel as far as Dowra and he also supported the development of facilities at Lough MacNean which borders three counties.

- Councillor Felim Gurn welcomed the success of the Blueway, however, he also called for the development of facilities at Spenser Harbour. Councillor Gurn also outlined that additional water based facilities should be provided at Glencar for the 100,000 visitors that visit the facility on an annual basis in order to generate additional revenue for the local area e.g. development of a promenade and water based activities.

**MMD 17/64**

**Presentation on Leitrim Tourism**

15/05/2017

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock welcomed Ms. Sinead McDermott, Tourism Officer to the meeting. Ms. McDermott outlined that her remit as Tourism Officer is to carry out the role of Tourism Marketing and Development for County Leitrim. She gave a detailed presentation on the role of the Tourism Office in 2016 to actively promote Leitrim as a destination of choice for tourists. Ms. McDermott provided an overview of the various marketing activities, including product advertising, the 2016 Centenary Events, the driving app developed for North Leitrim and the SAINT Project (Slow Adventure in Northern Territory). The presentation appears as Appendix No. 1 to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

Councillor Justin Warnock thanked Ms. McDermott for her presentation and he welcomed that a Tourist Information Leaflet at Ireland West Airport which provides information on Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon has been updated to provide information about accommodation options in Leitrim.

Councillor Warnock then invited any questions/comments from the members and the following items were raised:

- Councillor Felim Gurn welcomed that the Tourism Office will have a stand to promote Leitrim as a tourist destination at the National Ploughing Championships. He also proposed that the Council should promote Leitrim at the Fleadh in Ennis later this year. Councillor Gurn also noted that there is not enough promotional material at Ireland West Airport, Knock to attract visitors to Leitrim. He queried the name of the app developed for the driving routes in North Leitrim and he suggested that Glencar could benefit if a boardwalk or other water based activities e.g. paddle boarding were developed at this location.

Ms. McDermott clarified that the mobile phone app is called ‘Off the Beaten track’.

- Councillor Sean McDermott paid tribute to the 2016 Centenary Celebrations that had taken place throughout the county in 2016. He stated that the 2016 Events were very successful and actively promoted the county. Councillor McDermott also referred to the promotional DVD at Glencar Waterfall which showcases other tourist attractions in County Leitrim.
Councillor Frank Dolan welcomed the update provided on tourism in Leitrim and he also supported the proposal to develop water based activities at Glencar. Councillor Dolan called for additional measures to be put in place to attract visitors at Glencar to other tourist destinations in Leitrim.

Councillor Padraig Fallon noted that the increased marketing and promotion of Leitrim as a tourist destination is very welcome. He also requested that consideration be given to advertising Leitrim at Cuilcagh Way which is a very popular tourist attraction.

Councillor Mary Bohan acknowledged that great strides have been made over the years especially with Community/Voluntary Sectors getting involved and also the benefit of Blueway etc. She said that there should be more of a link up of amenities Glencar, Parkes Castle, Marble Arch Caves etc.

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that he was very proud of all the work done last year for the 2016 Centenary Events. He stated that Manorhamilton would benefit from having an annual event or festival to attract visitors to the town.

**MMD 17/65 To note the allocation of funding under the Tidy Towns Allocation under the General Municipal Allocations, 2017**

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services provided an overview of the report on the proposed allocation of funding under the Tidy Towns Allocation. The report was circulated to the Members and appears as Appendix No. 2 to the Minutes of the meeting in the Minute Book.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Bohan, seconded by Councillor Padraig Fallon and unanimously resolved:

‘That Manorhamilton Municipal District approve the Tidy Towns Allocation under the General Municipal Allocations, 2017’.

**MMD 17/66 Date for Annual Meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District**

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 19th June, 2017 at 2.00pm at the Darty Centre, Kinlough followed by the main meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District at 2.30pm.

**MMD 17/67**

2. Letter dated 26th April, 2017 from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the National Reserve and Young Farmers Scheme.
The members expressed concern that arrangements to employ a new the CE Scheme Worker for Sean MacDiarmada’s Cottage is not yet in place. It was agreed to write to the Office of Public Works to request a meeting with the Elected Members of Manorhamilton Municipal District to discuss Parke’s Castle and Sean MacDiarmada’s cottage.

Part 1 - Notice of Motions

MMD 17/68
15/05/2017

Remedial Works at Geaglom Road, Drumkeerin

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

"I propose that resurfacing and remedial works be carried out on the Geaglom Road Drumkeerin."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"Routine repairs can be carried out on this road when resources allow, any surfacing works would need to be considered for inclusion in future road works programmes."

Councillor Fallon outlined that the road is in poor condition and requires attention. Mr. Padraig MacShera stated the road is not included in the 2017 Roads Work Programme and that routine repairs can only be carried out in 2017.

MMD 17/69
15/05/2017

Mageramore Road Glenade.

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

"I propose that this Municipal District call on Leitrim County Council to take in charge the Mageramore Road Glenade. This road is an important link road between two other public roads the L21251 and L6101."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"Due to the limited funding available for our local road network it is not our policy to take in charge any further roads that would need extensive surfacing and repair works"

Councillor Fallon stated acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion, however, he stated that the road is a very important link road between two public roads and that he will continue to lobby for the road to be taken in charge by the Council.

Councillor Justin Warnock also supported this Notice of Motion.

Mr. Padraig MacShera there are a number of similar roads in the county and that the Council would be setting a precedent by taking this road in charge.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Justin Warnock;

"I ask Leitrim County Council has its Environmental Section carried out any studies on the impact of afforestation on water quality and the aquatic life of the rivers and lakes of this county. If they have, what are the results for the Manorhamilton Municipal area?"

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"Water quality in Ireland is analysed and monitored through the River Basin Management Plan process. Detailed assessments have been carried out across 4,882 water bodies in Ireland as part of the preparation of the recently published draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021. The river bodies in Leitrim have been predominantly classified as high, good or moderate quality. Forestry is included in one of nine items of pressure used in the analysis. Within these pressures agriculture has been assessed as the highest (approximately three times that of the next pressure) followed by urban wastewater, hydromorphology (physical characteristics of the shape, boundaries and content of a water body) followed by forestry. Public consultation meetings on the draft plan were held throughout Leitrim in the last number of weeks."

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointed with the response and he also queried if Leitrim County Council (Environment Staff etc) are actively monitoring the levels. Councillor Warnock refuted the reference as detailed in the response to his Notice of Motion that agriculture has the highest pressure on water quality. Councillor Warnock stated that fish are no longer spawning due to the acidity of the water which he attributed to the impact of the forestry industry.

Councillor Mary Bohan also sought clarification on the role of the local authority in relation to the monitoring of water quality.

Ms. Mary Quinn referred to the reply to the Notice of Motion and outlined that work is ongoing in this regard. Ms. Quinn advised that she can review the matter further and revert back to the members.

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council, can they update the Elected Members of the Manorhamilton Municipal District, on the progress being made to provide them with a meeting room?"

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"Expressions of interest for the provision of office accommodation space in Manorhamilton which would include a meeting room for members are currently being sought."

Ms. Mary Quinn, Director of Services confirmed “Expressions of Interest” for the provision of office
accommodation will be concluded next month and that a further update can be provided to the members.

It was agreed that Notice of Motion No. 11 in the name of Councillor Felim Gurn and Notice of Motion No. 14 in the name of Councillor Frank Dolan would be held concurrently as they relate to the same item.

MMD 17/72
15/05/2017

Vacant Local Authority Dwellings

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

"Could the Executive advise the number of vacant council owned dwelling units currently available for immediate occupancy within the Manorhamilton Electoral Area. How many other units are awaiting remedial work under the Voids Programme within the area."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"There are currently 5 houses ready but vacant for which offers have been accepted.

There are 19 houses vacant which are the subject of works/survey and the breakdown is as follows:

• 7 - works to be complete end of May
• 3 - works to be complete end of June
• 5 - contract to commence in early June
• 2 - the subject of procurement
• 2 - keys recently returned and awaiting survey"

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

"I will ask for a breakdown of the number of voids (in the Council's housing stock) that we have in the Manorhamilton Municipal District."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"There are currently 5 houses ready but vacant for which offers have been accepted.

There are 19 houses vacant which are the subject of works/survey and the breakdown is as follows:

• 7 - works to be complete end of May
• 3 - works to be complete end of June
• 5 - contract to commence in early June
• 2 - the subject of procurement
• 2 - keys recently returned and awaiting survey"

Ms. Mary Quinn provided an over-view of the status of the nineteen vacant dwellings. She advised that works to return the dwellings to habitable use are progressing and that a number of frameworks are being put in place in order to speed up the process and reduce the time that dwellings are vacant pending the completion of works to have them available for re-letting.
Councillor Frank Dolan stated that there is no availability of local authority family type accommodation in Dromahair. He queried what proposals are in place by the Council to address the housing need in Dromahair.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services advised that the Council will address the housing need in Dromhair by the use of alternative supply mechanisms e.g. the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Leasing, RAS or by purchase/acquisitions.

Councillor Felim Gurn requested a breakdown of the vacant local authority dwellings in Manorhamilton. Ms. Mary Quinn advised that there are two vacant local authority dwellings in Manorhamilton one (two-bedroom) dwelling and one (three-bedroom) dwelling.

MMD 17/73  
15/05/2017  **Bus Service between Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon**

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

"I propose that the Executive give consideration to subsidising a bus service between Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon. Bus Eireann currently links the two towns via Sligo with journey times varying between two and six hours."

Report by Director of Services, Housing and Community, Corporate Services, Cultural and Emergency Services

"Local Link Sligo Leitrim Roscommon is the Transport co-ordination Unit (TCU) for counties Sligo and Leitrim and Roscommon. The matter has been raised with the TCU and a report detailing services available will be circulated to members."

Ms. Mary Quinn, confirmed that a service between Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton will commence on 1st July, 2017 and will run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Ms. Quinn advised that Ms. Camilla Kelly, Manager of Local Link would welcome any feedback from the members on the service and is available to meet the members if they wish to do so.

Councillor Gurn and all the members welcomed the new bus service between Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Warnock stated that the Local Link Service between Kinlough and Ballyshannon has been a great success.

MMD 17/74  
15/05/2017  **Iron Bridge, Killavoggy, Co. Leitrim.**

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

"I will ask for an update on the proposed works to be carried out on the Iron Bridge in Killavoggy, Co. Leitrim."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and
Transportation.
"This Council has made a submission to the Department of Transport seeking funding for upgrading of four bridges in the County of which Killavoggy is one. The Department has requested that the Council provide additional information in regard to this bridge which is at present being prepared."

Councillor Frank Dolan acknowledged the reply to his Notice of Motion but stated that the works cannot progress without the Department allocating the necessary funding. Councillor Mary Bohan also supported the Notice of Motion.

Mr. Padraig MacShera advised that the bridge is structurally sound, however, he advised that the estimated cost of the works is approximately €150,000 to repair the barriers, to carry out sandblasting and to paint the bridge.

MMD 17/75
15/05/2017  Local Road Surface Dressing

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

"At the May Municipal District Meeting I will ask where local roads are being surface dressed with tarmacdam with the grant scheme for this year, that consideration be given to back fill the sides of these roads where there is a considerable drop off which leaves it dangerous for drivers who have to pull in to pass one another."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.

"Roads surfaced with macadam overlays generally increase the height of the road edge on average by 70mm, where deeper layers are installed, and the edge of the road in the margin is normally filled out with unbound stone where the margin allows to make them safe."

Councillor Sean McDermott referred to a number of locations and requested that consideration be given to back filling the edges with low grade stones to be used as a safety measure for motorists. This Notice of Motion was unanimously supported by all members.

Mr. Padraig MacShera stated that in general overlays increase the road by 60-75mm. He advised that the priority is to utilise the funding to improve the road surface rather than the edge of the road. Mr. MacShera also advised that the intention is to fill deep edges although this is not always possible because there is nowhere for the material to hold.

MMD 17/76
15/05/2017  Remedial Works to Local Road L6213

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

"I will ask if work could be done on local road L6213 that leads off the N16 in Glenfarne Village. The problem area is at the crosswords that leads up to Cornaman's closed National School. This road has got very bumpy and uneven at this location."
Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"Routine repairs can be carried out on this road when resources allow, any surfacing works would need to be considered for inclusion in future road works programmes."

Councillor Sean McDermott advised that the area is question is not a large area but that it requires attention as the surface has become very uneven.

Mr. Padraig MacShera stated that in order to deal with the unevenness of the road that a grant would be required, however, he advised that routine repairs can be examined in the short term.

MMD 17/77
15/05/2017
Carrowcrin Cemetery

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

"When will the Council provide the funding requested for improvement works at Carrowcrin Cemetery. Detailed plans were submitted sometime ago."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"Applications for cemetery works are assessed in accordance with the Council adopted policy in this regard. Applications on hand are currently being assessed and will be responded to shortly."

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that the Community Group have submitted a proposal and that they are anxious to get a positive response on their application.

This proposal was also supported by Councillor Padraig Fallon and Councillor Frank Dolan.

Mr. Padraig MacShera advised that the Council is currently reviewing the submission received from the Community Group and that they will be notified on of a decision in due course.

MMD 17/78
15/05/2017
Speed Limit, Killargue, Co. Leitrim

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

"What is the current position regarding the extension of the speed limit in Killargue. This was agreed by the Council at a previous meeting."

Report by Director of Services for Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation.
"There is a general review of speed limits ongoing which includes an extension to the Well in Killargue. The Council is currently awaiting feedback from the TII in regard to proposed alternations to limits on the National Roads. Once this matter is concluded the byelaws will be published for consultation."

Councillor Mary Bohan understands that a general review is ongoing but enquired how long this will
take. Mr Padraig MacShera confirmed that he will clarify this.

MMD 17/79
15/05/2017

Any Other Business

- The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock advised that the next meeting of Manorhamilton Municipal District will take place on Monday 19th June, 2017 in the Dartry Centre, Kinlough, Co. Leitrim commencing with the Annual Meeting at 2 pm to be followed by the main meeting at 2.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 4.30pm

Signed: ____________________________  Signed: ____________________________

Councillor Justin Warnock
Cathaoirleach, Manorhamilton Municipal District

Sinead Flynn
Meetings Administrator

Date: 19th June, 2017