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Minutes of Leitrim County Council meeting held via MS Teams on Monday, 11 January 2021

Members Present: Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Enda McGloin
Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Brendan Barry
Councillor Frank Dolan
Councillor Gerry Dolan
Councillor Caillian Ellis
Councillor Pdraig Fallon
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Sean McDermott
Councillor Thomas Mulligan
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Councillor Enda Stenson
Councillor Justin Warnock

Councillor Mary Bohan (Cathaoirleach) presiding

Apologies: Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn

Officials Present: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services
Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services
Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services
Samantha Healy, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services and Housing
Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Kathleen Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer
Johanna Daly, Senior Executive Officer Economic Development
Sinead Flynn, Meetings Administrator Ballinamore Municipal District
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Terry McGovern, Senior Engineer
Shay O`Connor, Senior Engineer
Una Wynne, Financial Management Accountant

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach, Cllr Mary Bohan welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

MM.2.21 Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the Late Francis Rooney Downey, Dromahair Post Office, Co Leitrim.

MM.3.21 Adoption of Minutes

MM.3.21a Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 2nd November 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke
SECONDED by Cllr. Pdraig Fallon

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of Meeting of 2nd November 2020.

MM.3.21b Minutes of Meeting held 4th November 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Des Guckian
SECONDED by Cllr. Paddy Farrell

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of Meeting of 4th November 2020.

MM.3.21c Minutes of Budget Meeting held Monday, 30th November 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Frank Dolan
SECONDED by Cllr. Felim Gurn

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of Budget Meeting of 30th November 2020.

MM.3.21d Minutes of Meeting held 7th December 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Cllr. Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of Meeting of 7th December 2020

MM.4.21 Disposals under Section 183(1) of the Local Government Act

MM.4.21a Consider for disposal Rural Cottage at Aghagrania, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Enda McGloin
SECONDED by Cllr. Gerry Dolan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council consent to the disposal of Rural cottage pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the property to which County Council proposes to dispose:

The Property: Rural Cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.17 Acres in the townland of Aghagrania, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim

The Person(s) to whom the property is to be disposed of: Margaret Wilford as sole owner

The Consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: €30,000. The Purchaser will be responsible for all Legal Fees associated with the disposal of this property

MM.4.21b Consider for disposal by means of a 10 year lease building known as the Courthouse in Drumshanbo Co. Leitrim

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Enda McGloin
SECONDED by Cllr. Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council consent to continue to dispose of County Council Building known as Courthouse in Drumshanbo pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the property to which County Council proposes to dispose:

The Property: Building known as Courthouse in Drumshanbo and extend plot, Co Leitrim

The Person(s) to whom the property is to be disposed of: North Connaught Youth & Community Services Ltd

The Consideration proposed in respect of the disposal:

- (I) Rent to be a nominal figure of €1 per annum
- (II) No works to be carried out to the building without the prior approval of Leitrim County Council, and
- (III) The property shall be used only for the purposes of providing a Youth Café and Youth Resource Centre and ancillary services.

MM.5.21 Receive report on Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming three years in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services presented a report on the Programme of Capital Projects for the forthcoming 3 years.

The following matters were raised by Members:

Cllr Felim Gurn queried if the site on Commons Lane in Manorhamilton has been acquired.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services confirmed the Turnkey agreement for the property at this site has been reached and will be delivered.

Councillor Des Guckian queried as to who is going to pay for all the loans as set out in the programme. Cllr Guckian outlined his dissatisfaction with the allocation for flooding relief and agriculture. Mr Vincent Dwyer outlined that through the CFRAM programme €1.4 million will be spent on Land Drainage in 2021, €3 million in 2024, €5.3 million in 2025 and €2 million in the period 2024-2026. Mr Dwyer said agriculture does not have a role in this programme.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan said the issue of drainage has been raised regularly and Leitrim County Council will continue to liaise with the Minister to stress the need for more funding to be allocated for drainage in this county. This was supported by Cllr Padraig Fallon, and Cllr Thomas Mulligan

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed and supported the plan and supported Councillor Des Guckian on the issue of drainage. Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that a meeting with the OPW take place as a matter of urgency in this regard.

Councillor Caillian Ellis outlined he had raised a motion previously seeking a pilot drainage scheme for agricultural land for 5 years and that the Council has on various occasions sought additional funding for drainage.

Councillor Brendan Barry outlined that it is very difficult to get a drainage grant as this Government is in favour of wetting land.

It was agreed that a follow up would be undertaken with the Department in relation to previous motions in this regard.

The capital programme was noted by the Members.

MM.6.21 Approve the raising of a loan of €1,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency (HFA) in accordance with Section 6 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the purposes of financing housing loans

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services presented a report on the raising of a loan of €1,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to finance loans approved under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme for 2021/2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Padraig Fallon
SECONDED by Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke

It was **AGREED** that raising of a loan of €1,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency in accordance with Section 6 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the purposes of financing

housing loans be approved.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification on the raising of the loan.

Mr Vincent Dwyer outlined that the loan is administered by Housing Finance Agency and no costs are incurred by the Local Authority. This loan is used to finance mortgages to first time homeowners under Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme. These mortgages are given to citizens that would not qualify for finance through other financial institutions. 8 applications were approved to the value of over €400,000 in 2020.

Mr Dwyer agreed to forward to Cllr Guckian details of the scheme if required.

Councillor Justin Warnock stated the rates are competitive and welcomed the scheme, but he expressed his concerns in relation to some of the eligibility criteria.

Councillor Padraig Fallon outlined that the scheme needs tweaking at a national level and he welcomed the competitive interest rates for first time homeowners.

MM.7.21 Adopt the Leitrim County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021

The Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2021 as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sean McDermott
SECONDED by Cllr. Enda McGloin

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021 be adopted.

Cllr Guckian viewed the plan as an extension of the monthly management reports and expressed his disappointment with the plan. Councillor Guckian sought clarification on how the strategic objectives tie in with the current issues in Carrick-on-Shannon. Councillor Guckian queried the membership of Town Teams and who elected them.

Councillor Mary Bohan stated that issues referred to, are not up for discussion at this meeting.

Ms Mary Quinn outlined that the plan sets out the principal services objectives and priorities in line with the Strategic Objectives contained in the 5-year Corporate Plan that was adopted by the elected members in 2019. The document forms the same format as that of the past number of years.

MM.8.21 Receive progress report on the Corporate Plan

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive presented a progress report on the Corporate Plan as circulated to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The report was noted by the Members.

MM.9.21 Receive Annual Report from the Audit Committee for 2020

The Annual Report, 2020 from the Audit Committee to Leitrim County Council, submitted in accordance with the provisions of Section 122 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 5 of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006, as circulated to each Member appears as **Appendix 3** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

This report was noted by the Members.

MM.10.21 Approve the appointment of external members to the Audit Committee in accordance with Article 7 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) regulations 2014

Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services outlined that following the establishment of the Audit Committee after the 2019 Local Elections, two of the external members appointed at that time indicated that they would be stepping down from the committee at the end of 2020.

The configuration of the membership of the committee is set out in the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 i.e. the audit committee shall consist of five members and include not less than three external members, not more than two serving or retired elected members and two or more persons having knowledge or experience in finance, audit or accounting.

Ms Quinn confirmed that the following two external members are nominated to be appointed to the Audit Committee for the duration of the Council term of office:

- Ms. Teresa Gibbons, Board member of Carrick-on-Shannon Credit Union
- Mr. Terry Casey, Accountant, Casey Accountants, Carrick-on-Shannon

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Enda McGloin

SECONDED by Cllr. Finola Armstrong McGuire

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council appoint Ms. Teresa Gibbons, Board member of Carrick-on-Shannon Credit Union and Mr. Terry Casey, Accountant, Casey Accountants, Carrick-on-Shannon to the Audit Committee for the duration of the Council term of office in accordance with Article 7 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.

Councillor Enda McGloin paid tribute to the outgoing members of the Audit Committee for their strong contribution, expertise, service, and dedication to the job and proposed that a letter be sent to both outgoing members in this regard and wished them both well in their future endeavours.

Councillor Des Guckian queried if the committee can be trusted and sought clarification on the nomination process.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan called on Cllr Guckian to withdraw his remark as it was an outrageous comment to make.

Councillor Des Guckian said he would not withdraw his remark stating he was not satisfied personally and sought clarification on the following:

- who chose the two nominees from Carrick on Shannon for the Audit Committee,
- who chose the Internal Auditors, Gilroy Gannon,
- who appointed them and on what basis?

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that he is one of the Elected Members who sits on the Audit Committee, and he assured the Members that the Audit Committee are a very strong Committee who review all reports from Internal Auditors, Gilroy and Gannon. He outlined the level of co-operation and expertise from the Executive is exemplary and he has every confidence in his fellow members on the committee.

Cllr Paddy O' Rourke stated this is not the first time the issue of trust has been raised by Cllr Guckian and outlined his view that Cllr Guckian is looking for a scandal. He rebutted Cllr Guckians remarks and advised him not to accuse him or anyone else with the question of "can they be trusted".

Ms Mary Quinn outlined that nominees were considered by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting of 8th January 2021 and are recommended for approval. Ms Quinn stated that the executive has no doubt regarding their professionalism and competencies to serve as members of the Audit Committee. She confirmed that Chartered Accountants Gilroy and Gannon are contracted to carry out the internal audit service and are very professional.

Mr Vincent Dwyer confirmed that Gilroy Gannon, Internal Auditors, were selected through the national procurement process, via eTenders, for 3 years. They carry out Internal Audits determined by the Audit Committee. The External Local Government Auditor carries out their audit in collaboration with the Internal Auditors and the Audit Committee.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan said that this is the process that is carried out by other National Organisations.

Councillor Des Guckian stated the number of meetings of the Committee that were due to take place, did not take place.

Ms Mary Quinn outlined this was incorrect and confirmed the Audit Committee meet quarterly and met on 4 times in 2020.

MM.11.21 Management Reports - November & December 2020

The Management Reports for October and November 2020 was circulated to Members in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

The monthly management reports were noted by Members.

MM.12.21 Report from Corporate Policy Group

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services outlined that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the following at their meeting on the 8th January 2021.

- Audit Committee Nominations
- Update from the SPC's
- Considered items for Council Meeting 11th January 2021

This update was noted by Members.

MM.13.21 Attendance at conferences/training

Ms Mary Quinn confirmed that all training was taking place virtually.

MM.14.21 Meeting Correspondence

1. Letter from County Leitrim Society of New York.
2. Resolution from Sligo County Council dated 6th November 2020 in relation to the implementation of the Grant Thornton Report on future of the Post Office Network.
3. Email dated 9th November 2020 from the Office of the Minister for Justice on foot of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on passports requirements.
4. Resolution from Kerry County Council dated 16th October 2020 in regard erecting notices at uncontrolled crossings.
5. Letter dated 10th November 2020 from the Department of Health regarding the response to COVID 19.
6. Email received 10th November 2020 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection on foot of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding CE and Tus Schemes.
7. Resolution from Carlow County Council to An Taoiseach dated 12th November 2020 in regard to the Mother and Baby Homes.
8. Resolution from Carlow County Council to Minister for Children, Disability, Equality, and Integration dated 12th November 2020 regarding Mother and Baby Homes.
9. Email received 17th November 2020 from the Office of the Minister of Justice acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on passports requirements.

10. Email received 18th November 2020 from the Office of the Minister for Health acknowledging receipt of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on passport requirements.
11. Letter dated 24th November 2020 from the Office of the Director of the National Ambulance Service on foot of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding Ambulance base in South Leitrim.
12. Letter dated 1st December 2020 from the Primary Care Reimbursement Services regarding Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council on awarding medical cards to persons who receive a cancer diagnosis.

Councillor Des Guckian welcomed this response.

13. Resolution dated 30th November 2020 from Galway County Council regarding Mother and Baby Homes.
14. Email received 22nd November 2020 from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on foot of resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding carrying out a new review of the cost of providing quality early learning and childcare in Ireland.
15. Letter dated 11TH December 2020 from the County Leitrim Society of New York.
16. Resolution dated 11th December 2020 from Waterford City & County Council regarding support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer.
17. Resolution dated 17th December 2020 from Galway County Council regarding the review of the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence.
18. Final Update on the North West Regional Enterprise Plan 2020.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the North Western Regional Plan.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire referred to the works on Carrick-on-Shannon Main Street. She expressed her disappointment in relation to how Main Street is currently left impassable because of the cessation of works due to current Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions. Councillor Armstrong McGuire asked if this can be changed to allow traffic to travel up Main Street.

All members of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District supported this proposal and reiterated that this is not fair on businesses and residents living on Main Street.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that under Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions and instructions from

the Department to the CCMA, public realm works not deemed essential and therefore had to cease. Mr Gilhooly shared the sentiments of the Elected Members to see the works complete. An element of work started last week and remains unfinished. Completion of that element is deemed as essential and will take a number of days to complete and once the work is complete Main Street will be opened up.

Mr Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer outlined that a concrete slab was laid last week, and it will be 7-10 days before this is set and then the Main Street will be opened to traffic.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire paid tribute to the supreme and fantastic job carried out on the development of the new town centre car park and said that this will contribute greatly to the economy of Carrick-on-Shannon and it was warmly welcomed. Councillor Armstrong McGuire welcomed the report regarding the reopening of Main Street.

Councillor Enda Stenson concurred with Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire's remarks regarding the new car park.

MM.15.21 Update on Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region, 2021-2027 strategic document

Councillor Des Guckian queried what is the Central Border Region.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly outlined that a cross border partnership was identified by local authorities within the Central Border Region in the early 1990s which led to the formal establishment of the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) in 1995. ICBAN was founded to promote cross-border co-operation and communication at a Local Government level on common regional development concerns. This provided a forum to respond to the unique economic and social needs of the Central Border Region.

The eight Member Councils areas of the Central Border Region includes Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; Fermanagh and Omagh; Mid Ulster and the counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan and Sligo. Many of these areas share similar geographical, economic, social, administrative, and political characteristics.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan welcomed to the meeting ICBAN Chair, Cllr Eamon Mc Neill, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, ICBAN Co-Treasurer, Cllr Sam Nicholson, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Mr Shane Campbell, CEO ICBAN.

Cllr Eamon McNeill thanked the Members for affording him, Cllr Nicholson and Mr Shane Campbell the opportunity to attend the meeting and to make a presentation to the Members of Leitrim County Council on the Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border Region for the period 2021-2027.

A copy of the presentation delivered by Mr Shane Campbell, CEO ICBAN to the members appears as **Appendix 4** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan invited any questions/comments from the Members.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke welcomed Cllr Eamon Mc Neill, Cllr Sam Nicholson and Mr Shane Campbell to the meeting and thanked them for their presentation and asked what support Northern Ireland Local Authorities are giving to the development of the programme.

Councillor Sean McDermott paid tribute to large amount of funding that is coming to Leitrim and acknowledged the role ICBAN played in the development of The Hive in Carrick-on-Shannon. Councillor Sean McDermott welcomed that greenways have been included in the programme and asked what input can ICBAN have on greenway projects such as the SLNCR, to bring them to fruition.

Cllr Sam Nicholson confirmed that Northern Local Authorities fully endorse the SLNCR project and they have shared issues and there is a lot of commonality. As Chair of the Mid-South Western Border Region, he acknowledged that cross border funding projects are coming through this region. He acknowledged that Brexit will not be easy, but all parties must work together to find solutions to the problems it presents. The provision of broadband is essential especially during the current climate that we are in.

Mr Shane Campbell said ICBAN provides opportunities for 8 Councils with a common approach and response. Northern Ireland Authorities have always supported this programme. The plan ensures projects cover the wider region, it promotes and creates opportunities for projects and provides support for them over the next 5 to 7 years despite Brexit and the pandemic. Input from key stakeholders and member councils is very important to ensure there is good communication.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the concept of new greenways linking up with existing greenways. Cllr Barry asked if ICBAN can have an input in connecting the Ulster Way with the Beara-Breifni Way and Leitrim/Sligo way.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon welcomed the Farm to Fork concept and outlined that agriculture is important to Leitrim and surrounding counties. Cllr Fallon said a number of marts have concerns about how the livestock trade between Leitrim and Fermanagh and other counties in Northern Ireland will be impacted he asked what ICBAN can do in policy terms to limit the impact of any restriction to the movement of livestock.

Councillor Justin Warnock acknowledged that Farm to Fork is one of the top concepts in the plan which is very important for Agriculture and he queried if this relates to specialised farming and what initiatives would be included for Agri Tourism.

Mr Shane Campbell said ICBAN can assist in greenways happening.

Cllr Sam Nicholson outlined that Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council have been very proactive in the development of 4 greenways which are now ready for funding. Cllr Nicholson said that greenway projects should not stop at the border. Any greenway project that comes to the border, can be linked to existing greenways in Northern Ireland.

Cllr Nicholson said it is very important for all counties along the border to develop Agri Tourism.

Mr Shane Campbell said the issue raised by Cllr Fallon in relation to marts and restrictions regarding livestock, needs to be raised by the Elected Representatives/Officers with the Board of ICBAN for consideration and support.

Cllr Eamon McNeill thanked all Members for their input and acknowledged that it is great to work with other local authorities across the island.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan thanked Cllr Eamon McNeill Cllr Sam Nicholas, and Mr Shane Campbell for attending the meeting and looked forward to ICBAN working with Leitrim County Council's two representatives and hoped to see fruition on projects in the future.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sean McDermott
SECONDED by Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council adopt the 5 project concepts outlined in the Framework Plan.

MM.16.21 Notices of Motions

Councillor Enda McGloin sought clarification on Standing Orders in relation to Section 23 which outlines that a motion or amendment to a motion that is not seconded is dropped. Section 32 of the Standing Order outlines that a motion should be seconded before the proposer is permitted to speak on their motion.

Ms Mary Quinn confirmed the provisions of Standing Orders.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Mary Bohan asked that each Member review the Standing Orders and make their views known to the Director of Services in this regard. All issues raised will be brought back to the Corporate Policy Group for discussion.

Councillor Brendan Barry said he would not agree with having the motion seconded before the proposer is invited to speak, as he would like to hear what case is being put forward for the motion. Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported Cllr Barry and said he was not aware that this has been practised in the past. Councillor Des Guckian agreed with Councillor Barry and Councillor Fallon in this regard.

MM.17.21 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian - Archaeological Finds

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

"I'm asking senior Council officials if it is now Leitrim Council policy to ignore the importance of and to cover over areas of our County where significant archaeological finds have been

made or where the history suggests important archaeological remains exist? Does an actual policy exist which conforms to the law of reporting such finds to the Dept of Heritage together with putting in place further research and, if necessary, having geophysical surveys and possibly excavation work done in the vicinity of such finds?"

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

"The policy framework for all development proposals, be they proposals submitted by individuals through planning applications to the Planning Authority or proposals by the Council communicated to the public via the Part 8 public consultation process, is contained in the County Development Plan.

Section 4.9.8 deals with Archaeological Assessment.

Policy 106 states:

It is the policy of the Council to secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in particular circumstances where the Council is satisfied that this is not possible, preservation by record as a minimum) of all archaeological remains and sites of importance such as National Monuments, Recorded Monuments, their setting and context.

The Council will protect all such sites and monuments and their settings from inappropriate development. All planning applications, including Council own proposals, likely to interfere with such a recorded site, monument or zone of archaeological interest are referred to the Development Applications Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Regard is given to the advice and recommendations of the Development Applications Unit in respect of whether or not planning permission should be granted and the nature of conditions to be attached to any grant of planning permission. This equally applies to Part 8 proposals.

The Planning Authority is unaware of any development proposal advertised through the Part 8 Public Consultation process where the express advice and recommendation of the Development Applications Unit has not been adhered to.

The council also adheres to all required notification processes in line with National Monuments or Historical Monuments legislation".

Councillor Des Guckian gave the background to his motion and stated that Leitrim County Council have failed in their duties to check and survey significant archaeological finds.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said the policy framework for all development proposals, whether proposals submitted by individuals through planning applications to the Planning Authority, or proposals by the Council communicated to the public via the Part 8 public consultation process, is contained in the County Development Plan and Section 4.9.8 deals with Archaeological Assessment. Leitrim County Council adheres to all the required notification processes in line with the National Monuments or Historical Monuments legislation.

Bernard Greene, Senior Planner outlined that the archaeological find at the Mohill Library development was carried out in accordance with Section 4.9.8 which deals with Archaeological Assessment.

Councillor Des Guckian said Council officials were skirting around on this issue.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan stated the Council have done what they were required to do and stated that any concerns Councillor Guckian has should be taken up with the National Monuments Service. Cllr Guckian stated it will come up in another forum.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly stated he did not accept the comment that Officials of Leitrim County Council are skirting around the issue and the facts are as those outlined in the reply.

Councillor Enda Stenson paid tribute to the new Library development in Mohill and to the committee involved in this project.

MM.18.21 Motion from Councillor Pdraig Fallon - Debate on CETA

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

"Sinn Féin have been calling on the Government for four years to have a full, substantive Dáil debate on CETA, which has been ignored. During the Christmas rush and Brexit uncertainty, the Government attempted to railroad this legislation through the Dáil. This caused grave concern. I propose that we call on Government to have a full and substantive debate on this deal, and its consequences. Unlike traditional trade deals that focus on tariffs, it focuses on non-tariff barriers to trade, issues like standards, protections, environmental impacts, and the very worrying investor state dispute settlement mechanism. All need to be debated thoroughly."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Pdraig Fallon
SECONDED by Cllr. Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on Government to have a full and substantive debate on this deal, and its consequences. Unlike traditional trade deals that focus on tariffs, it focuses on non-tariff barriers to trade, issues like standards, protections, environmental impacts, and the very worrying investor state dispute settlement mechanism. All need to be debated thoroughly. Sinn Féin have been calling on the Government for four years to have a full, substantive Dáil debate on CETA, which has been ignored. During the Christmas rush and Brexit uncertainty, the Government attempted to railroad this legislation through the Dáil. This caused grave concern.

Councillor Enda McGloin said he would not be as supportive of the motion. He outlined that the Business Committee of the Dáil had 55 minutes to discuss same and got 2 hours before it was withdrawn.

MM.19.21 Motion from Councillor Frank Dolan - Upgrading and Maintenance

Programme

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

"I propose that Leitrim County Council seek funding to allow for an upgrading and maintenance programme to be carried out on all signage throughout the county. Much of the signage along our roads is old and dilapidated and in some cases is not visible at all."

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

"A regional road signage upgrading programme was funded by the Department previously but has since been discontinued. The Council continues to renew and repair road signage as part of the ongoing roads maintenance programme. In addition, the Council will continue to carry out replacement of signs and cleaning of road signs as part of these routine works. Where funding streams can be identified to further support these works the Council will pursue additional funding."

Councillor Frank Dolan said any funding that can be sourced would be welcomed. He outlined that a lot of the road signage has got very dilapidated and this gives a bad impression. Cllr Dolan referred to a presentation delivered by the Chief Executive that first impressions are very important, and good quality signage is important for our county.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Mary Bohan supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said that during 2020 this element of the roads works programme did not get much time and resources due to the impact of the pandemic. The replacement and cleaning of road signs will continue to be carried out as part of routine works in the coming year.

MM.20.21 Motion from Councillor Felim Gurn - Ambassador Programme to promote Leitrim

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

"Can the executive of Leitrim County Council consider renewing the Ambassador program to promote Leitrim as a tourist destination? This, I believe would have a huge boost on tourism and other sectors within the county post COVID-19."

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

"The Council continues to promote the County as a visitor destination in accordance with current restrictive requirements. As part of the 2021 work programme and when circumstances allow, working with relevant partners, significant tourism marketing programmes will be delivered. Wherever appropriate opportunities arise such as use of Ambassadors for the County these will be developed and availed of."

Councillor Felim Gurn stated this programme would have significant benefits for the County.

Councillor Mary Bohan supported the motion to promote the county.

Councillor Justin Warnock said he fully supported the motion and outlined that there is a lot of Leitrim people abroad that would be delighted to be Ambassadors for Leitrim.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly outlined that as part of the 2021 work programme, and when circumstances allow, working with relevant partners, significant tourism marketing programmes will be delivered.

MM.21.21 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan - Bio Kube" Wastewater Treatment System

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

"I call on the Director of Services Joseph Gilhooly to examine the potential use the "Bio Kube" Wastewater Treatment System. This treatment system can be installed for as little as €6,000 and where/if there was a need for the provision of a willow bed to be installed in addition to the "Bio Kube" cost would be in the region of € 10-15,000.

This system can be sourced here in Leitrim, where Rooskey based company "Waterteck" are agents for this treatment system."

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

"The design of On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OSWWTS) for individual house sites rests solely with the designer of any proposed system submitted to the Council through the planning application process. Any proposed OSWWTS is required to comply with the requirements of Part H2 of the Building Regulations, 2010 and each individual system must be designed and installed in accordance with said regulations in conjunction with the EPA Code of Practice 2009 for Wastewater Treatment Systems Serving Single houses.

In addition to the requirements of the Building Regulations and Code of Practice, any OSWWTS proposed to be used must also be approved for use in the Irish market in accordance with the requirements of the European Union Construction Products Directive. Provided that the referenced system satisfies the above-mentioned requirements then there should be no reason preventing its use in Leitrim. The Council cannot, however, endorse any particular proprietary wastewater treatment system.

In regard to the system mention, the Council is aware of its existence and its functionality. However, as the system does have an effluent discharge then, in accordance with the current requirements, it will not assist on sites that have failed the T-Test. However, its output characteristics are duly noted as an example of a system that in time could be of a type that may assist in exploring other alternatives."

Councillor Sean McGowan gave a detailed background to his motion and proposed that Leitrim County Council examine the potential use of the "Bio Kube" Wastewater Treatment

System on pilot basis. Councillor McGowan stated the biological and oxygen levels given off are higher than what the EPA require. Councillor McGowan outlined this might be a lifeline for rural housing applications.

Councillor Sean McDermott and Cllr Ellis supported the motion.

Councillor Enda Stenson outlined that something needs to be done in this regard. He paid tribute to Planners and Directors who have worked tirelessly in this regard. Councillor Stenson proposed that a survey be carried out to determine how many people in the county wants to build a house on their farm and cannot get Planning Permission to do so.

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke expressed his disappointment in the reply given in response to the motion and agreed the initiative should be explored and it could serve this county well if given a chance. Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined that there are no other counties in the same situation as Leitrim, where 87% of the land mass is not suitable for the conventional septic tank.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that it is over a decade ago since this issue arose, and no solution has been found to date and it is now time that a solution was sought. Cllr Warnock outlined that brownfield sites must not be forgotten as possible solutions.

Councillor Enda McGloin paid tribute to Councillor Sean McGowan for raising this and said he was slightly disappointed in the last paragraph of the reply issued in response to the motion. He queried if there was any up-to-date report from the Department in this regard.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Mary Bohan referred to Cllr Stenson's proposal to carry out a survey on the number of people who want to get planning permission on their family farms and outlined that a lot of people are not applying for Planning Permission because of the difficulty in passing the T-Test and therefore it will be difficult to get accurate figures. Councillor Bohan noted that this system is already installed in a neighbouring county and it is important for Leitrim that a solution is found for this planning issue as soon as possible.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that he is aware of the system and its functionality and would be happy to see it used like other on-site Wastewater Treatment Systems. Mr Gilhooly outlined that the system in question does have an effluent discharge, and, in accordance with the current requirements, it will not assist on sites that have failed the T-Test.

Councillor Sean McGowan said he would like to see this system piloted and outlined that it could work in this county.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that an on-site wastewater treatment system must comply with the requirements of Part H2 of the Building Regulations, 2010 and each individual system must be designed and installed in accordance with said regulations in conjunction with the EPA Code of Practice 2009 for Wastewater Treatment Systems Serving Single houses, and if it does not comply it will not be acceptable.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Mary Bohan said that where there is a will there is a way and there

doesn't appear to be a will at national level and she proposed that the Minister be contacted in this regard.

Councillor Sean McGowan proposed that a meeting be held with the Minister remotely on this issue.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan asked Mr Joseph Gilhooly if he would attend a meeting with the Minister virtually and he agreed to this request.

Councillor Padraig Fallon proposed that Oireachtas Members for this Consistency also be invited to this meeting with the Minister.

Cllr Enda McGloin agreed to speak to the Minister's Private Secretary to arrange a virtual meeting.

MM.22.21 Motion from Councillor Sean McDermott - Heritage and Cultural Village

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

"I refer to the joint motion in 2016 by the six north Leitrim councillors proposing Kiltyclogher to be designated as a Heritage and Cultural Village. The motion also got widespread support at a Full Council meeting. This project could be a game changer for Kiltyclogher; a community that has suffered greatly from depopulation, emigration, and The Troubles in Northern Ireland. Can the Council examine all funding opportunities for this project and also make contact with The Department of Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht on the issue?"

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

"The Heritage Town Programme was an initiative promoted by Fáilte Ireland in the 1990s and is no longer running. From previous enquiries to Fáilte Ireland, they have confirmed that there are no plans at present to re-establish the programme.

In the absence of a National programme, an in-county Heritage Town / Village initiative, which recognizes and promotes built and cultural heritage assets, could be explored during the year."

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined he would like to see a feasibility study being put together and funding opportunities explored with the Community of Kiltyclogher to be designated as a Heritage and Cultural Village.

Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Mary Bohan and Councillor Felim Gurn supported the motion. Councillor Felim Gurn said this project should be explored especially with Sean MacDiarmada's connection with the village.

Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that Cllr Sean McDermott speak with the Community in Kiltyclogher to discuss a potential project that could be eligible under a Heritage Town/Village initiative.

MM.23.21 Motion from Councillor Justin Warnock - Assessment/Report on the cumulative impacts of Forestry in Co Leitrim

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

"I ask the CEO Lar Power to have an assessment / report carried out for our County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 on the cumulative impacts of forestry on the social, community, environment, and economy of County Leitrim."

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

"The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Mr. Andrew Doyle, T.D., commissioned an independent report entitled 'The Socio-Economic Impact of Forestry in Co. Leitrim' led by Dr. Áine Ní Dhubháin of U.C.D. in 2019

The terms of reference of the study were:

1. to assess the social impacts of forestry in County Leitrim including the attitudes to forestry of people living there.
2. to assess the economic impact of forestry for County Leitrim including total employment supported by the sector;
3. to assess the impact of forestry on farm incomes relative to other types of farming;
4. to consider the non-timber outputs of forestry in County Leitrim;
5. to assess the current state of environmental regulation of forestry in County Leitrim.

It is respectfully considered that the assessment / report suggested has already been conducted.

Furthermore, the PPN representatives on the Strategic Policy Committee undertook an extensive public consultation exercise during late 2018 / early 2019 on the topic of forestry in Co. Leitrim. A significant document was prepared which presented the findings and recommendations from this exercise along with all of the responses received to their questionnaire. The purpose of the document was to inform policy in a way that reflects better the public's view on forestry activities in Co. Leitrim and that contributes to community well-being. The secondary purpose of the document was to create a social record or commentary of the public's experience of forestry in Co. Leitrim in 2019. This report has been forwarded to the Department for their comments and observations.

The Planning Authority is satisfied that there is a sufficient evidential basis already existing to inform the forestry policy framework which will be contained in the forthcoming County Development Plan."

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that the report led by Dr. Áine Ní Dhubháin of U.C.D. in 2019 did not address the social, community, environmental, and economic issues that forestry has caused in County Leitrim.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that a study must be carried out, as the County Development Plan needs to consider the views of the entire farming community, which is greatly impacted by forestry. Leitrim County Council have an opportunity through the County Development Plan to address the impact of forestry. Forestry is having a detrimental effect on County Leitrim and there is an obligation on Leitrim County Council to have an assessment/report carried out for County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

Councillor Justin Warnock expressed his disappointment with the reply received in this regard.

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the motion and said a study will have to be carried out on Leitrim because of the damage being caused by Forestry.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly said that it is respectfully considered that the assessment / report suggested has already been conducted. The PPN representatives on the Strategic Policy Committee undertook an extensive public consultation exercise in late 2018 / early 2019 on the topic of forestry in Co. Leitrim. A significant document was prepared, which presented the findings and recommendations from this exercise along with the responses received to their questionnaire. Mr Gilhooly advised that this report has been forwarded to the Department for their comments and observations.

Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner outlined that the Planning Authority is satisfied that there is a sufficient evidential basis already existing to inform the forestry policy framework which will be contained in the forthcoming County Development Plan and he outlined that the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine decide on Forestry Applications.

Councillor Brendan Barry said the County Development Plan has little or no power with regard to forestry as plantations do not require planning permission. Councillor Barry referred to the Bill that was brought before the Dáil by Deputy Kenny which would make forestry development over five hectares subject to Planning Permission but sadly this was refused.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan said that this is a political decision and she proposed that this issue also be raised with the Minister when the virtually meeting is scheduled in relation to the wastewater treatment systems.

Councillor Justin Warnock said that a forestry license application must be greater than 50 hectares before an Environment Impact Assessment is required. Councillor Warnock said there are now 32,000 hectares planted in County Leitrim, without an EIA ever having been required. He stated that Leitrim County Council cannot have a County Development Plan that will facilitate any further increase in forestry.

Councillor Enda McGloin said Minister Pippa Hackett has the responsibility for forestry and has introduced a €20.00 fee for submissions on forestry applications and €200 fee for appeals to the Forestry Appeals Committee.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly confirmed that Leitrim County Council as the Planning Authority are very

aware of the views of the Elected Members on the issue of forestry. He informed the Members that carrying out such a survey will have little impact on national policy. Forestry license applications are granted by the Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine in accordance with current national policy.

Councillor Enda McGloin said that such a survey would cost an extremely large amount of money.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan said if the motion is passed, it is up to the Executive to source the funding.

Councillor Enda McGloin proposed that an amendment be made to the motion to include the words "subject to funding", as the cost of the survey was not considered when adopting the 2021 Budget.

Councillor Justin Warnock stated that if the funding for the report was needed, it could be found.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan stated that the Executive will have to make a call on whether it is feasible to produce such a study/report.

MM.24.21 Motion from Councillor Paddy O'Rourke - Text Alert Initiative

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy O'Rourke;

"I ask that this Council make whatever arrangements are necessary in conjunction with the Joint Policing Committee to extend the text alert initiative which many communities operate in Leitrim to cover adjoining counties and Garda Districts to assist in the fight against crime which many rural communities have been subjected over a number of years with a particular surge in recent weeks. The extension of the text alert scheme has the obvious advantage of being able to monitor the movements of criminals as they exit one area and enter another."

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

"As agreed at the JPC meeting Leitrim County Council will explore options in this regard and identify possible funding options."

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined he was disappointed with the reply he received regarding his motion. He had previously raised a similar motion on this a year ago and no progress seems to have been made.

Ms Mary Quinn advised Members this issue was discussed at the most recent Joint Policing Committee. Ms Quinn confirmed that Leitrim County Council do not have a budget for this initiative and options are being explored to source funding and a letter has issued to the Minister for Justice on the request of the Chief Superintendent at the last Joint Policing Committee meeting.

Councillor Paddy Farrell and Councillor Padraig Fallon supported the motion.

Councillor Enda McGloin stated that as Chair of the Joint Policing committee he will prioritise the implementation of such as system through the JPC work programme in 2021.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported the motion and outlined that the fee for text alert groups has increased greatly. Councillor Barry asked if Leitrim County Council could consider one system in Leitrim which would serve across all the groups in county thereby reducing costs to groups.

MM.25.21 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell - Breast Check screening

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paddy Farrell;

"I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly to put more resources and staff into breast check screening as this service has dropped 70 % in 2020."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Paddy Farrell
SECONDED by Cllr. Mary Bohan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly to put more resources and staff into breast check screening as this service has dropped 70 % in 2020.

MM.26.21 Motion from Councillor Brendan Barry - Winter Gritting Programme

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brendan Barry;

"I ask Leitrim County Council to provide detailed driver guidance instructions and maps for each route on the Winter maintenance plan, also the statistical documents for each route detailing the lengths total, treated and untreated, average spread width, kg required for 10g/m², 20g/m² and 40g/m² spread rate on each section and totals for each route. Full details of each lorry and gritters, which route each lorry is on, capacity of each m³ and kg and any other information deemed necessary to explain the lack of capacity to add additional routes to the winter maintenance plan."

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

"The Winter Gritting Programme is strictly an operational matter and executive function, pertaining to the rate of spread and the timing of application. The programme is delivered each year through the assigned staff and plant and within the financial resources available. The Members are advised annually of the programme and maps of the routes are made available publicly. Matters queried within the notice of motion are variable depending on the prevailing weather conditions and as determined by the duty engineer. The programme as designed must be deemed to be deliverable and sustainable throughout the season and

across all weather conditions. In addition, the Council also endeavours to have some retained capacity to deal with exceptional weather conditions. The 2020/21 programme consists of the same scope and scale as previous years and will be delivered within the same budgetary provision as previous years. A key element of this service is consistency of application from the road user perspective. As was explained when the current programme was presented, given that the resources remain unchanged, the service provided also remains unchanged."

Councillor Brendan Barry said he was very disappointed with the reply received and he gave a very detailed background to his motion. Councillor Barry said he had raised this issue at various Plenary and Municipal District meetings. He expressed his dissatisfaction that he has been unable to obtain the information from Leitrim County Council regarding the capacity of lorries and the spread rate of grit/salt, with a view to having additional routes included in the Winter Maintenance Plan. Cllr Barry stated that there was an overall increase in the capacity of the plant in the 2020/2021 Winter Maintenance plan compared to the previous year and this extra capacity could be used to extend the gritting route in the Keshcarrigan area.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that the Winter Gritting Programme is strictly an operational matter and it an executive function to determine the rate of spread and the time of application in accordance with weather conditions. The Winter Gritting Programme must be deliverable and sustainable throughout the season and across all weather conditions. Mr Gilhooly advised that a new gritter will be available towards the end of March. Plant and resources are aligned for each winter gritting season within the budgetary provision as in previous years.

Mr Terry McGovern, A/Senior Engineer updated the members on the plant used to deliver the gritting service. Mr McGovern said it would cost approximately €75,000 to €80,000 based on previous year's figures to deploy an additional lorry with a gritter and full-time driver.

Councillor Barry considered that there is capacity within the existing resources to grit an additional 2.4 kms of road that serves a large number of houses. No town should be left with untreated roads in winter conditions.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan acknowledged that all areas have roads that need treatment during the winter season and requested the matter be reviewed by the Executive.

Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Pdraig Fallon supported the motion.

MM.27.21 Motion from Councillor Mary Bohan - Local Improvement Schemes

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

"I propose that Leitrim Co Council call on the Minister for the Environment once again to provide a special allocation of funds to deal with the long waiting list for LIS schemes in the

county."

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Cllr. Enda Stenson

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment once again to provide a special allocation of funds to deal with the long waiting list for LIS schemes in the county.

MM.28.21 **Motion from Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn - High Dependency Accommodation**

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn;

"I call on the HSE to fast track the provision of high dependency accommodation in Ballinamore. I also call on LCC to support and collaborate with the HSE to procure a suitable location in this regard."

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

"The provision of high dependency accommodation is a matter for the HSE. Leitrim County Council will raise the matter again through our interagency disability forum."

As Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn was not in attendance at the meeting, the motion was moved on her behalf by Cllr Enda McGloin.

MM.29.21 **Motion from Councillor Enda McGloin - Tourism Plan**

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda McGloin;

"I ask that Leitrim Co Council consider a Tourism Plan for our County (post Covid 19) from May to October 2021 to include all stakeholders including representative organisations, festival committees alongside hotels and restaurants to ensure we capitalise on the anticipated reduction in Covid restrictions at that time & hopefully the opening of our local economy."

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

"The annual tourism plan will be prepared in January to include all marketing activity for 2021. The Council working with relevant partners will be delivering significant marketing programmes in 2021 when appropriate. Consultations with representatives from the various sectors will be carried out, possibly through a subgroup, in the preparation of these specific programmes. We will continue to work with Fáilte Ireland and the various agencies in supporting the tourism trade providers to reopen and recover in 2021."

Councillor Enda McGloin welcomed the reply received. Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion.

MM.30.21 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson - Jobs in Leitrim

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

"At the start of another new year have we any further prospects for industrial jobs in Leitrim?

Leitrim has proved to be an excellent base to work from throughout 2020. We need to promote ourselves more, and encourage further investment in Leitrim to keep some of our young, educated people living here."

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

"Leitrim has the most comprehensive offering of hubs suitable for remote working within the North West and Midlands to capitalize on the current trend and needs of remote working. Kinlough, Manorhamilton, Ballinamore, Mohill, Drumshanbo and Carrick – all boast a remote working, fast broadband facility. 2021 will see a marketing campaign to promote these, along the enterprise hubs in the AEC and the implementation of an online booking system. Planning was completed for Advanced Technology Building in the IDA Business Park in 2019 and will be jointly promoted by IDA Ireland and LCC. Border Stimulus Funding awarded to W8 in Manorhamilton in 2020 will be a stimulus for industrial employment and R&D. Plus, Vistamed was selected as potential site for a shared laboratory (DigiLab) regional hub under the AEC project. The Council is delighted to see the planned further development of the Food Hub in Drumshanbo in 2021. Numerous regeneration projects in Manorhamilton, Carrick and Ballinamore will further enhance the attractiveness of these towns to relocate too. IDA continue to market the Carrick Business Campus where Avant Card operate and continues to grow its employment."

Councillor Enda Stenson highlighted jobs are needed in Leitrim, younger people are moving away at an alarming rate, quality broadband is not being delivered quickly enough throughout the county, but the delivery of jobs is imperative.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that Leitrim has the most comprehensive offering of hubs suitable for remote working within the North West and Midlands to capitalize on the current trend and needs of remote working. 2021 will see a marketing campaign to promote these, along the enterprise hubs in the Atlantic Economic Corridor and the implementation of an online booking system. Leitrim is lacking in success in attracting large stakeholders but will continue to engage in attracting such enterprises.

MM.31.21 Motion from Councillor Gerry Dolan - Forestry

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to publish monies sought and received from Coillte and private forestry companies for the years 2019 & 2020 for the repair of roads and bridges in the county."

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

"Leitrim County Council have received the following amounts in respect of repair of roads and bridges in the county from forestry operators:

2019 - €37,880

2020 – €99,115

In addition, during 2019 & 2020 the Council received refundable Planning deposits in respect forestry related applications to the value of €30,935."

Councillor Gerry Dolan highlighted the damage that is being caused by forestry contractors in County Leitrim to the roads and bridges and he said that a small amount of money is being received from forestry contractors to repair these damaged roads. Councillor Gerry Dolan said there should be a price put on each load.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly advised that approximately €160,000 was received from forestry companies during 2019 and 2020 towards the repair of roads and bridges in the County. Leitrim County Council do not have the legal basis to apply a charge per load. Mr. Gilhooly said that Leitrim County Council will continue to maximise our engagement with the forestry industry, who are only required to engage with us on a voluntary basis.

Councillor Justin Warnock said the amount being received would not cover 2 kms of a Local Improvement Scheme.

Councillor Gerry Dolan said the amount of money that is received from forestry operators compared to what costs to repair roads damaged by forestry operators is disgraceful.

MM.32.21 Any Other Business

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mary Bohan made an appeal to the public to abide by the current COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 3.20 pm

Signed:

Councillor Mary Bohan
Cathaoirleach

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Dated: Monday, 1 March 2021

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