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Minutes of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Meeting held Online via Zoom on Monday, 14 December 2020 at 10.00 am

Members Present: Councillor Paddy Farrell (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Thomas Mulligan
Councillor Enda Stenson

Officials Present: Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services
Mairead Shanley, Meetings Administrator Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District
Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer
Pamela Moran, Clerical Officer
Vivienne Egan, Senior Executive Planner
Joe Lowe, Local Enterprise Officer
Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Martin Donnelly, Executive Technician, Planning Department

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Farrell welcomed all those to the meeting, especially the members of the public attending online.

CMD.144.20 Adoption of minutes of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District meeting held Thursday, 26th November 2020 via Zoom

Matters arising from Minutes:

No matters arising from minutes.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of the Meetings of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Thursday 26th November 2020 be adopted”.

CMD.145.20 To consider the Chief Executive Report and Recommendations pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001(as amended) in respect of the following proposed development

Chief Executive's Report issued to members in advance of the November 2020

meeting (**Appendix 1 to the Minutes of this meeting book**).

Cathaoirleach Councillor Farrell read out the description of the Part 8 Proposal:

To consider the Chief Executive report and Recommendations pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the following proposed development (Pages 17-54).

- **To undertake a Public Realm Improvement Scheme in Mohill.**
- **To modify the cartilage/front boundary of St. Mary's Church Wall.**

Councillor Mulligan then addressed the meeting. He started by saying that a considerable amount of time had been spent on this project in many ways, but he would have liked to have had more time to have the opportunity to discuss this proposal better with the public.

Today the Members of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District are presented with three options namely:

- To adopt Chief Executive's Report without amendment.
- Reject Chief Executive's Report
- To adopt Chief Executive's Report with amendments.

He outlined that he intended now to propose amendments which he said were as a result of speaking with members the public and listening to their views.

He wished to make the amendments under specific headings, namely:-

- 1. Achieving Better Traffic Flow.**
- 2. Businesses – Carrying out Day to Day Business.**
- 3. Disabled Parking.**
- 4. Maintaining proper access to Gateways, Archways and Laneways.**
- 5. Measures to accommodate Festivals, Fairs etc.**
- 6. Enhancement Works**

Cllr Mulligan then proceeded to outline the proposed amendments as follows:

Achieving Better Traffic Flow

1. That the junction from Castle Street onto Lower Main Street be altered to accommodate two lanes of one way traffic in order to avoid tailbacks and give better turning room for large goods vehicles.
2. That step outs at the junction of Green lane and Water Street be removed to

allow turning room for heavy vehicles. Tight corner at best of times, especially for HGV's. Proposed step out would result in difficulties with HGV's navigating turn.

3. That turning room for cattle trucks entering and exiting the mart at Upper Main Street and Green lane not be impeded in anyway. Free access to Enter and Exit.

Businesses - Carrying out day to day business

1. That three set down areas be provided outside former National Irish Bank and Paul's. There is already a Disabled Parking Bay here, proposing that it be moved up the street a little towards the Bank of Ireland.
2. That detailed design would ensure the provision of three car park spaces on Glebe Street extending from Killraines to O'Brien's Bed and Breakfast. This is vitally important to a number of businesses in this area.
3. That the step out at Greens be removed. That the first step out on Lower Main Street be omitted and replaced with a car parking space.
4. That the step out at Fitzpatrick's (Business Premises) be omitted and two car park spaces be introduced starting at end of existing double yellow line.
5. That the raised dual purpose area at the corner be reduced in line with existing Double Lines at Hyde Street and Lower Main Street. This needs to be done from a safety point of view.
6. That the step out at Crossans on Glebe Street be omitted and replaced with a car parking space. This is unnecessary and a car parking space in this location is more desirable.

Disabled parking

The town of Mohill is well served with a number of Disabled Parking Bays. With that in mind, and ensuring compliance with any legal minimum provision, proposing the following 2 amendments:-

1. That the disabled car parking space presently located outside Gannons be removed. (This may have to be considered under legislation. This is something that can be looked again at the "Detailed Design Stage".
2. That the disabled parking space outside the former National Irish Bank be moved slightly towards the bank link machine. (This proposal has already

been highlighted under Businesses - Carrying out day to day business – Point No. 1 above).

Maintaining proper access to gateways and archways and laneways

1. Step outs be provided at all existing gateways and alleyways.

Measures to accommodate Festivals, Fairs etc

1. That all metal pillars in the area of the O'Carolan Monument and Castle Street be of a removable type. (This would facilitate the space being opened up for use for a variety of purposes).
2. That the Northern End of the Plaza surrounding the O'Carolan Monument be of sufficient strength to accommodate light vehicles and casual trading type stalls. This would allow for the facilitation of festival stages, stalls etc. Should be located near the Hunt School end of Plaza.

Enhancement Works

The following are some proposals for enhancement works providing that they do not impinge on people carrying out their day to day business.

1. The straightening off the pier at entrance to St Marys Church. Piers and Gates at this location very old, going back to early 1800s. The 2 piers are in excellent condition, however one of the piers has become slightly tilted in an outwardly direction. Propose to have this straightened as part of the Public Realm Works.
2. Repair and straightening of the very old wrought iron gate. As a result of the tilting pier (as mentioned above) the gates have become bent. Propose that these gates be repaired by specialist blacksmith.
3. Significant improvement works be carried out to the river and the covering of the river in the area of Arus Carolan and the footbridge. Would ask that this would be something that could be looked at during the "Detailed Design Stage". This work would not interfere with the old bridge as it would finish around the start of the footbridge.
4. That the Garden of Remembrance retained and modified to accommodate four marked parking spaces which could double as a casual trading area. The Garden of Remembrance is located at Baxter's old shop across the road in front of Casey's Bar. Close to the O'Carolan monument. It is triangular in shape and is surrounded by walls, it is a very nice feature. Proposing that it would be redesigned and shortened. This would make provision for 4 additional car parking spaces, which would also be used for Casual Trading.

This would be a good use of the area. A smaller Garden of Remembrance would be retained. This is something that could be look at during the “Detailed Design Stage”.

5. That entrance to Mc Gowan’s family farmyard be maintained. It is important that this entrance is not impeded in any way.

That a walkway connection between Glebe Street car park and Lower Main Street be acquired. During the various discussions with the public, quite a few people raised the possibility of connecting the Car Park on Glebe Street to the lane up towards O’Malley’s/Fitzpatrick’s on Lower Main Street. There is real possibility here. It would greatly enhance the town if there were a short footpath. It would require the acquisition of 1 – 2 metres to make it wider. There would be 2 properties involved at this location. He believed it would add to the Public Realm Works and contribute to the convenience of everyone in the town.

After putting forward his proposals to the meeting Councillor Mulligan reiterated that the proposed amendments were a result of discussions with locals. The proposals were “sensible”, “well thought out” and “within reason”.

Councillor McGowan seconded Councillor Mulligan’s proposals. He complimented Councillor Mulligan on the amount of work and time he had put in. He commented that initially most of the concerns regarding the Part 8 were due to loss of car parking spaces, with some modifications he now believes that this has been largely resolved.

He said that this is a great chance for Mohill town. It was once a thriving market town. Out of town shopping and other locations have changed shopping habits. This Public Realm will enhance the town. It will reinvigorate the town and going forward has the potential to attract more businesses into it.

Councillor Guckian welcomed the members of the public from Mohill town who had joined the meeting online. He said he believed that the members should have been circulated with a copy of these new proposals in advance of today’s meeting. This is the first time some of the Councillors have been made aware of the changes. He said it was not fair to ask them to vote on something to which they had no prior knowledge.

He informed the meeting that the proposal is flawed and he did not accept the diversion from the main plan. He said that he represented the majority of those who would be affected by the plans and commented that the new plan put forward is still very vague. He said that the officials of Leitrim County Council have hidden behind Covid and they have failed to communicate properly with people of Mohill.

He alluded to a photograph which circulated on social media over the weekend, which showed the car of an elected member parked in a disabled parking space.

Councillor Guckian remarked that this is the very same car parking space that the councillor is now proposing to be relocated.

He commented that Sheridan Woods Consultants based in Dublin know very little about Mohill. He said the proposed plan to widen footpaths and narrow roads makes no sense. The street layout and parking in Mohill town are adequate at the moment.

The first thing that this needed for Mohill is a proper economic plan. The proposed plan is so shallow and will be the final nail in the coffin for Mohill. History and Archaeology are central to what we are talking about.

Referring to proposals to rebuild wall at St Mary's Church, he commented that Archaeological Assessment means nothing. What is totally missing in all of this is trust. The ordinary people do not trust the officials of Leitrim County Council. He said that his own distrust with the council was based on recent events with the regard to similar Public Realm Works in Carrick on Shannon. He remarked that the council had illegally knocked down a wall in Carrick on Shannon, which was a protected structure. This is now a matter of a High Court review and he asked the media to make note of this matter.

He said that the Public Realm Plan would be used to create a speculators paradise, referring specifically to the Backlands of Mohill, he said that speculators would make a killing. He said that rights of Mohill people have been abused. All of this process has been very rushed on both Councillors and the people of Mohill alike.

He urged all Councillors to reject this proposal and called on the council to go back and start the whole thing from scratch.

He said he would love to support a new, reasonable plan. However, he was totally opposed to the plan presented to members today.

Councillor Enda Stenson thanked the Chief Executive, Ms Egan and Mr O'Connor for all their time given to meeting with him and other elected members. He said that he trusts the council totally. This is a good job going forward and he supported all the amendments which have been proposed. He referred to the newly opened car park in Carrick on Shannon, which he said was wonderful to see. He hoped that someday Mohill can be held up as an example, like Carrick on Shannon to get people back into the town and encourage them to set up businesses.

Mr Gilhooly then addressed the meeting and went through the amendments as proposed by Councillor Mulligan.

He said that he believed the majority of amendments were feasible, however some "would cause headaches for the engineers at design" such as the addition parking on Glebe Street.

Referring to the section on “Enhancement Works” he said that the council will look at the issue of the piers and gates at St Mary’s Church. He said that he was supportive of the proposal and understood the need for it. However, he advised as this was a protected structure it will have to be assessed in the context of same.

He also informed the Members that proposals in regard to works outside of the scope (red line) of the Part 8 i.e. covering of the river or walkway connection could not become part of the approved proposal but could receive attention going forward into the future as separate matters.

Councillor Armstrong McGuire wished to be associated with positive comments made. She wished to express her gratitude to her fellow councillors who met with the people of Mohill over the weekend to discuss the plan. She said that she fully agreed and supported the amendments put forward by Councillor Mulligan and congratulated him on same. She commented that this was a good and positive thing to do.

Councillor Guckian asked Mr Gilhooly “what is the exact status of the new proposals brought before us today, without prior notice?”

Mr Gilhooly responded that the amendments put forward, subject to the scope of the Part 8, and adopted today are part of the approved proposal in accordance with the relevant legislation where Members can modify proposals. The approved project will then move to detailed design stage.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Farrell addressed the meeting. He said that he would like to see investment in Mohill town. He was delighted to be part of the proposal for the sports grant for the town recently and had put forward motions seeking more industry in Mohill. He said that when the plan was first introduced, it looked fantastic on paper. While listening to Councillor Mulligan today, it was clear to him that this proposal is not exactly what the people of Mohill want. He said that when the people of Mohill were happy with the plan, he would be happy. He said that under these circumstances he could not vote in favour of such a plan. He concluded remarking that it was a pity that there wasn’t more consultation on the proposed project.

Councillor Guckian congratulated Councillor Farrell on his stand. He commented that all the talk is about receiving investment. He asked “who is going to magic it up?” He said that this plan will not make it, the only beneficiaries would be the architects and contractors involved in the project. There will be “sweet little for any business or person in Mohill.” He again urged the council to “get rid of this idea.”

Mr Lowe, Local Enterprise Officer informed the members that 5 years of planning had gone into this project. There was a lot of engagement with town teams regarding the renaming and rebranding of towns. This was a unique opportunity for Mohill. He explained that there was a very comprehensive process for funding. He said there had been a lot of engagement with community groups.

Councillor Guckian called for a vote on the amendments.

He was informed that it was not necessary to hold a vote as the counter proposal had not been seconded.

Councillor Guckian said that he then wanted it noted that both himself and Councillor Farrell had voiced their objection to the Part 8.

He was again informed that there needed to be a formal counter proposal, which needed to be proposed and seconded in order for it to be put to a vote.

As no counter proposal was put forward the Part 8 with proposed amendments was deemed adopted.

Councillor Mulligan sought clarity that the Part 8 had indeed been adopted with the proposed amendments.

Mr Gilhooly clarified that the Chief Executive's Report including the amendments contained therein as modified by the subsequent amendments proposed by Councillor Mulligan had been adopted.

Councillor Mulligan then went on to thank the Chief Executive and staff of Leitrim County Council who had given considerable time and commitment to this project.

He thanked all his fellow councillors "whether they were for or against this project".

He said people in general fear change, everyone has reservations, but change has to happen.

He paid tribute to Councillor's McGowan and Stenson who assisted him in meeting with the public in Mohill over the last weekend.

This scheme will only come about if funding is granted to Leitrim County Council.

There is a long road ahead. Before he concluded he wished to clarify a couple of statements made by Councillor Guckian.

Firstly he said he wished to address the comment that the people of Mohill were not consulted properly. Councillor Mulligan refuted this and said that he took issue with Councillor Guckian's statement.

He also advised that the he had parked in a disabled parking bay that Councillor Guckian had referred to and the reason for this was that he was in

the office on Saturday morning and no members of the public were there. He went to another location to do some work and received a phone call telling him that there were 12 people waiting outside the premises to speak to him. He rushed back to Mohill in order to meet these people and parked in the spot outside the premises which was a disabled parking bay. He said that he "apologised whole heartedly" for his actions.

Notices of Motions

As Councillor's Guckian and McGowan had tabled similar motions, Councillor McGowan asked the Cathaoirleach if it were permissible for his motion to be taken alongside Councillor Guckians. The Cathaoirleach agreed to this request.

CMD.146.20 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian

"That where good jobs have been done in raising the level of road surfaces, there must be a follow on of putting support verges in place to stop traffic going completely off the road. Also, on narrow roads, suitably large lay-bys must be provided to allow vehicles to meet and pass. Along the L7465-0, near Lough Boderg, and the L7661-0 at Crow Hill, Drumsna, are but two examples. Walkers along the latter are finding stepping in off the road quite dangerous."

Report by Roads - General

"The construction works along the flooded area at Mullagh are now complete. It will be spring/summer before we can get to verge works in this area due to the high level of the Shannon and the nature of earthworks. The new road surface is wider than the previous road surface and the lay-bys will be repaired when the conditions allow."

CMD.147.20 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan:

"I ask District Engineer Darragh O'Boyle to immediately provide banking and some additional passing bays on both sides of Local Road No. L-7465-0 serving the townlands of Gortinee, Mullagh onto Derrybrack in Annaduff. There is a severe drop on both sides of the road, as much as 4ft in some areas, which leaves it very dangerous. This is a very busy local road with traffic but with a lot of people using this for walking. With no verge to stand in, there is genuine concern in the neighbourhood that someone could get hurt while out walking or that a vehicle could slip down the side of the road."

Report by Roads - General

"It will be spring/summer before the district office can get to verge works in this area due to the high level of the Shannon and the nature of earthworks. The new road surface is wider than the previous road surface and the lay-byes will be repaired when the conditions allow."

Councillor Guckian noted the reply and remarked that his biggest quibble with it was the time lag to deal with this grave situation. He said that people are afraid on this stretch of road. He expressed a real fear that someone would go off the road. He also raised concerns regarding two cars which may have to pass at this location. One of them would have to back up to a crossing to allow the other one to pass. Passing Bays in this location are not wide enough or long enough to facilitate two cars passing safely at the moment. This is very dangerous as it is a bog area and has deep drains on either side. He suggested a number of things for this area which could alleviate the problems;

- Proposed cutaway to allow cars pass safely.
- Erection of Warning Notices.
- More Reflectors – not enough in situ.
- Bollards.
- Maybe a one-way system on the road.
- Any lay-bys need to be large enough to accommodate trucks as they use this road on occasion.

Councillor McGowan praised the great work done of this stretch of road. He also reiterated Councillor Guckian's concerns that locals were very fearful of the drop off on each side of the road. He said that this road is a very popular road for walking and is proving unsafe. He commented that it was a pity that this work was not carried out first before the road was raised. Concluding, he asked Mr O'Boyle would it be possible for the passing bays to be extended to make them a bit longer.

Mr O'Boyle responded that this work was carried out as part of funding under a Climate Change. The funding was received in September and had to be spent in November. The main aim of the work was to raise the road out of the River Shannon, this involved adding a foot onto the height of the road and this has created the issue with verges. As a result of ground conditions in the area at present, this work can only be carried out during drier weather i.e. summer work. Landowners in the area are aware of this. He also said that 100's of reflectors have been installed along this stretch of road, it is mostly local traffic using this road and they are familiar with the road situation. He said that the new road is now 1 to 1.5 foot wider and when the weather and river levels permit work would commence on building up the verges.

Both Councillors were agreeable to this.

CMD.148.20 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian:

"That Council officials explain how they have dealt with the seepage of sewerage into the marsh near the block of flats and offices that lie behind the old Leitrim Observer office, just off the Leitrim Road in Carrick-on-Shannon. There seems to be a widespread threat to public health in that general area."

Report by Head of Finance & Water Services

"The Council has not been informed of any current problems with pollution at this location. This overall development is in private ownership. However the Environment Department will now investigate this complaint to establish the facts and take whatever subsequent action is deemed necessary."

Councillor Guckian said he was not happy with the reply he had received. He read out the reply to the members and said that he could not accept that the Council had not been made aware of this situation. He said that this problem had been going on for a number of years now. There is a bad odour in this area and raw sewerage is leaking into the marsh. The pipes are broken in places due to the boggy nature of the ground. He informed the meeting that there is an infestation of rats in this area affecting a number of neighbouring properties and housing estates, this is a serious threat to public health. He cited an incident witnessed by a member of the public recently, whereby a large rat jumped out from the ditch near the HSE offices on the Leitrim Road.

Mr Gilhooly reiterated the second part of the reply given.

Mr O'Boyle responded that there had been many incidences of drainage works in storm drains carried out in Carrick on Shannon. The road into this particular development is in private ownership as is the pumping station. He commented that it was not unusual for vermin to live in drains.

Councillor Guckian responded that it was good that storm drains were cleared out but questioned why there was such a rat infestation in such a long stretch of drainage.

Councillor Guckian enquired if this motion has now been passed and were the Council giving an undertaking to look at it.

Mr Gilhooly replied yes, as confirmed in the reply issued.

CMD.149.20 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan:

"I ask Mr Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services to provide an update on the status of Oak Meadow Housing Estate in Drumsna, have the Council taken this estate in charge or has there been an application lodged to take the estate in Charge?"

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

"The Council does not have a request to take this estate in charge. As has previously been advised to the Members at the Meeting of 3 December 2018, whilst the Council remains amenable to taking this estate in charge, this is dependent on the street lights being made operational by the Developer or, as an alternative, by the Developer lodging sufficient monies with the Council to cover the costs that would be incurred by the Council in having them connected up. To date the issue of connecting the street lights has not been resolved. Also, as previously advised the Council did issue the Developer with an enforcement notice seeking to compel the commissioning of the lights. The Developer has not complied with the requirements of the enforcement notice issued. Notwithstanding our wish to take charge of this estate should the outstanding issues be resolved, it should be noted that the Council does not have to give consideration to taking in charge any estate where enforcement proceedings have commenced. The Council will not consider this estate for taking in charge until such time as the issue of the street lighting is resolved."

Mr Donnelly reiterated that there has been no form request for Taking in Charge but that there was an informal agreement with the bank at the time to finish out the houses and roads. An Enforcement Notice was issued to developer.

Councillor McGowan enquired as to the name of the developer?

Mr Donnelly responded that they were a limited company named Rivendell Ltd.

Councillor McGowan enquired as to the cost for finishing out the works.

Mr Donnelly said that an estimate had been provided a number of years ago and at that time the cost would have been €7,500 excluding VAT. An estimate would have to be redone. There is damage to one of the lights. He estimated that it could be in the region of over €10,000 now excluding VAT.

Councillor McGowan said that this situation was not fair on the residents. He enquired if there were any resolution funds available. He recalled some type of fund a number of years back, administered by the Department to facilitate the finishing out of a number of estates. The lighting fixtures are already in place, it is only a matter of getting power to them.

Mr Donnelly responded that there was some funding provided by the Department a number of years back, there is no further source of funding available. The only option would be for the council to fund it themselves.

Councillor McGowan enquired if the council had such money available to them. Mr Donnelly said no.

Councillor McGowan proposed contacting the department to seeking funding for this estate.

Mr Donnelly said that the council could get an estimate for the cost of getting works done. We could write to the department and seek if there is any source of funding they could offer us.

Councillor Farrell seconded the motion. He said he also had received a number of representations in relation to this and would like to see a speedy outcome.

Councillor Guckian also supported the motion.

Mr Donnelly said that this is a civil issue between the developer and residents. The only issue at the moment for the council to consider is whether to take estate in charge versus the costs of outstanding works.

CMD.150.20 Motion from Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire:

"Update on opening for public use toilets in our towns and villages. Any response from Waterways Ireland."

Report by Roads - General

"The public toilets in the town of Carrick on Shannon are provided in conjunction with Waterways Ireland who operate and manage them as part of their service block at the quayside. The Council has been in contact with Waterways Ireland who are currently developing their management regime for reopening in the current environment. Public toilets in the country would have been closed down during the lockdown period. The cafes, restaurants and hotel facilities are now re-opened and their customers can now, once again, avail of services provided. Waterways Ireland have advised that their policy in relation to service blocks is to have 1 at every 12 miles stretch of water unless there are extenuating circumstances. There are currently service blocks in both Carrick on Shannon and Dromod which is approx. 12 miles apart so the inclusion of a further service block at Drumsna is not envisaged by Waterways Ireland at this stage in light of their restricted Capital and Operational resources."

Councillor Armstrong McGuire noted the reply. She said that it is more important now than ever that such facilities were opened to the public and maintained to the highest standards in light of Covid 19. This is something that should be pursued with Waterways Ireland.

She felt that it was not right that hotels, restaurants and coffee shops should be obliged to provide toilet facilities to casual callers to their premises. This is something that she said needs to be made clear to the public that these businesses are under no obligation to facilitate same. She said she did not agree with toilet facilities being locked up when we are encouraging people to get healthy and go outdoors.

Councillor Farrell seconded the motion and said he would like to see all the facilities reopened.

Councillor McGowan also supported the motion adding that he hoped Waterways Ireland would play ball and open up all the toilets.

Councillor's Stenson and Mulligan also supported the motion.

Councillor Guckian supported the motion and said that the facilities should be open and available to all. He referred to a previous notice of motion he had submitted with regard to toilet facilities at Rooskey playground. He requested an update on this.

Mr Gilhooly informed the meeting that Waterways Ireland provide the toilet facilities in conjunction with Leitrim County Council. The various Covid 19 restriction levels have impacted on the facilities. During Level 5 there was no throughput of tourists/visitors to the area. It is hoped that Waterways Ireland will be returning to their normal Winter Opening programme soon.

CMD.151.20 Motion from Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire:

"Update on opening of New Car Park in Flynn's Field Carrick."

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

"The car park is now open. The contractor has to finish lane marking, landscaping and some other minor works which will happen over the next few weeks."

Councillor Armstrong McGuire noted the reply and said she had submitted her motion 8 to 10 days in advance of today's meeting. She thanked and congratulated all involved in finally getting a car park in the town. She commented that it had been a very long road, the idea for such a car park was first suggested about 30 years ago. She said it was an excellent facility and that the accessibility onto Main Street was great and commented on the excellent public lighting in this area.

She enquired if this public lighting could be replicated at the laneway between Keaney's and Heslins. She called on the public to avail of this car park when coming to town, adding that at the moment it was free of charge.

She also raised an issue with regard to a disabled parking space on Main Street which had been removed from outside St Mary's Church during the public realm works. She said she had been contacted by a number of people who have mobility

issues who are having difficulty in locating a disabled parking space in the town. She asked if it was even possible for a temporary one to be installed along Main Street for the Christmas period.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion adding that it was a wonderful development to have in any town. He said it was badly needed and praised all concerned. He said it will change the face of Carrick town and hopefully some day they will see something similar in Mohill town.

Councillor Farrell supported the motion and welcomed the opening of the car park. He added that he had received a number of calls regarding signage for the car park.

Councillor McGowan and Mulligan also wished to be associated with the foregoing comments.

In response to the issues raised by Councillor's Armstrong McGuire and Farrell, Mr O'Connor responded as follows:

The council have no involvement with public lighting at laneway at Keaney's. This is a private lane, the council have made a temporary agreement that while the public realm works are ongoing this lane can be used for pedestrian access onto Bridge Street.

Regarding the removal of the disabled parking space outside the church he said that one will be facilitated on the opposite side of the road when the scheme has been completed. The installation of a temporary one to facilitate Christmas shopping was an oversight and a temporary arrangement will be put in place.

Signage will be erected in the coming days for new car park.

CMD.152.20 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell:

"I call on Leitrim County Council to clarify if there are any developments in acquiring property at the INTREO office on the Leitrim Road. I have had a lot of enquiries about this junction."

Report by Roads - General

"We have acquired a piece of land at this location to enable us to set back the boundary wall and improve the sight distance for drivers at this junction. These works will be carried out when the main contractor for the Public Realm Works is working in this location next year."

Councillor Farrell welcomed the reply. He said a number of people have been onto him about this particular junction. He thanked all who were involved in the land acquisition proceedings. He enquired as to when this work would be carried out.

Mr O'Connor responded that this work was included for the current programme of the Public Realm works and would be carried towards next summer.

Councillor Guckian stated that there are difficulties at this area. He said that he had serious concerns when the traffic flow changed and he called on the council engineers to look at reversing the traffic flow. He also enquired who the council had purchased the land from?

Mr O'Connor responded to Councillor Guckian's queries. Firstly, at the time of the traffic review the council looked at the traffic flow in both a clockwise and anticlockwise direction. It was felt that the current flow was the best as the alternative would introduce conflicts on Main Street/Junction with Park Lane. Secondly, the land was purchased from the Department of Social Welfare.

Councillor Stenson supported the motion and commented that the traffic flow is very good and the new system is working well.

CMD.153.20 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell:

"I ask District Engineer Darragh O'Boyle if there could be a pedestrian crossing installed on the Keadue Rd on the Leitrim village side of the national school nearer to the main street."

Report by Roads - General

"There will be no further pedestrian crossing in Leitrim Village. Since the newly completed crossing at the Keadue Road, the village has 5 pedestrian crossing."

Councillor Farrell noted the reply however he said he did not welcome it. He said the area in question is very busy with children coming out from the school and trying to cross the road.

Mr O'Boyle responded that there was an incredible amount of pedestrian crossings for a small village like Leitrim. He said he was unsure of where another one could be physically placed. He informed the meeting that in an area where a pedestrian crossing is placed an area of 15 metres each side of it becomes sterilised and cannot be used. He said that at the moment there is a lot of money being spent on footpaths in the village and this is down to the hard work of the various local committees who have been applying for various funding streams.

CMD.154.20 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson:

"May I ask for the footpath, from old Treamore Mohill to Main Street , be brought up to a proper standard for wheelchair users and pedestrians . Also I believe that

better signage is needed as we approach the pedestrian crossing at Treanmore."

Report by Roads – General

"The footpath from St Patricks View to Main Street Mohill is in good condition. The footpath from speed limit on the Regional Road to the pedestrian crossing will require a new surface, however, we cannot widen the footpath unless we access a specific grant for these works. Regarding the signage, there is adequate signage on both approaches to the new ramped crossing. Drivers need to slow down in urban pedestrianised areas."

Councillor Mulligan informed the meeting that he had since discussed this matter with Mr. O'Boyle. He explained that the surface of the footpath is in a terrible state and expressed the need for something urgent to be done.

Councillor McGowan supported the motion adding that there were a number of wheelchair users who use this particular path. He said that he could not imagine that the costs involved would be very high.

Councillor Mulligan also supported the motion commenting that the paths badly needs work done and indeed suggested that a replacement would be better. He also requested the erection of better signage at this location.

Councillor Farrell said that all Councillors would be in support of this motion.

Mr O'Boyle addressed the issues raised. With regard to the resurfacing he agreed that the surface was in poor condition due to wear and tear. He said he was fully aware of the fact that people with mobility issues use it on a regular basis. It would be a very expensive job to replace the footpath. The council do not have that sort of funding however, he did say he would look at the possibility of smoothing out the surface and providing grip, if the money was available from the Council's own budget. Regarding the matter of signage he referred back to response given.

Councillor Stenson thanked Mr O'Boyle for his reply. He commented that this footpath was a lifesaver for those with mobility issues, who use it regularly. He said that the main issue with the signage is that it is on a curve and is not clearly visible to someone who would not be familiar with the road.

CMD.155.20 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson:

"Recently I've come across a number of old stone built road crossing, that have now collapsed and are no longer serving a purpose, can those be replaced with pipes, if brought to the attention of our Engineers"

Report by Roads - General

"The district office will endeavour to maintain our built heritage as much as possible, however, in some cases these old stone drainage systems cannot be salvaged. Old Stone Arch Bridges will be maintained and re-established but require specific grants. The district office has been fortunate in recent times that most of our specific improvement grant allocations are for our bridge network. In extreme circumstances where the structure or building is listed, i.e. a structure that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. If you are the owner or occupier of a protected structure, you are legally obliged to prevent it becoming endangered, whether through damage or neglect. This document describes the protection given to these structures under Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000."

Councillor Stenson enquired from Mr O'Boyle if it would be possible to get funding to carry out such work and if so could it be possible to carry out this work every now and again.

CMD.156.20 Any Other Business

Proposed Amendments to Part 8 – Mohill Public Realm

Councillor Mulligan informed Ms Shanley that he would send on the comprehensive proposed amendments which he had alluded to earlier in the meeting.

Date for January Meeting

Ms Shanley said that the next date for the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District was due to take place on Monday 11th January 2021, however, Mr Gilhooly informed the meeting that the full council meeting would be taking place on that date. It was suggested that the meeting would then be held on **Monday 18th January 2021 at 10.00 am.**

All members were agreeable to this.

Before the meeting concluded Cathaoirleach Councillor Farrell wished to address comments made by Councillor Stenson on a number of occasions during today's meeting, regarding certain Members of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District being against investment for Mohill town.

Councillor Farrell clarified, for the record, that he was not opposed to any investment for Mohill town but he was not prepared to vote for something that he believed the people of Mohill were not happy with.

Councillor Farrell concluded the meeting by wishing every a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 12.00 pm

SIGNED: _____
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Cathaoirleach, Carrick on
Shannon Municipal District

SIGNED: _____
Mairead Shanley
Meetings Administrator

Date: Monday, 18 January 2021

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