



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA
Leitrim County Council



**Áras an Chontae
Carrick on Shannon**

Wednesday, 27 April 2021

***Cathaoirleach agus Gach Ball,
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA.***

A Chara,

A meeting of Leitrim County Council will be held **Via Ms Teams on Tuesday, 4 May 2021 at 11.00 am** for the purpose of considering the business set out on the Agenda hereunder.

You are hereby invited to attend.

In accordance with Statutory Provisions, the Register of Chief Executive's Orders will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator
Email: kbrett@leitrimcoco.ie

Agenda

1. Adoption of Minutes 1st March 2021 (Pages 1 - 30)
2. Disposals under Section 183(1) of the Local Government Act
 - I. Consider for approval disposal of Freehold Interest in Property in the townland of Wardhouse, Tullaghan, Co. Leitrim F91 Y935 (Pages 31 - 32)
3. Approve additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions during 2020 (Pages 33 - 34)
4. Consider the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020 (Pages 35 - 74)
5. Consider the Draft Annual Report 2020 (To Follow)

6. Management Reports - February & March 2021 (Pages 75 - 120)
7. Report from Corporate Policy Group
8. To note date and time of Annual Meeting 2021
9. Attendance at conferences/training
10. Meeting Correspondence (Pages 121 - 202)
11. Presentation from National Broadband Ireland (Pages 203 - 206)

Notice of Motions

12. Motion from Councillor Enda McGloin

Members will have received a letter from the Ballinaglera GAA Club in April regarding the current difficulties faced by young people from their parish who wish to build a home on their own landholding. I ask that the Chief Executive provide a detailed reply to this letter at the May meeting of Leitrim County Council so that we, the members, can consider and debate thoroughly the genuine concerns as expressed in this letter, understand the current challenges we face in addressing planning issues in this county, and what work is underway by this Local Authority in finding a long term solution to this issue.

13. Motion from Councillor Des Guckian:

That, as representatives of a very rural County, we discuss the very great disadvantages being suffered by our rural areas, put forward solutions and seek to have them implemented ASAP.

14. Motion from Councillor Sean McDermott:

In light of the recent revelations from Ballinaglera GAA Club on the subject of depopulation and how it is "Sucking the life blood out of it's community" and which is repeated in rural parishes around the county, their press release indicates the need for solutions with substances to be enshrined in the next County Development Plan. Can we as a Council and Councillors address this issue of depopulation in our rural parishes in the next County Development Plan. When the Council are making decisions on planning in rural areas, special considerations should be given to rural areas that has sustained population loss.

15. Motion from Councillor Padraig Fallon:

I propose that this Local Authority ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the report into the tenant purchase scheme will be published, and if the issues relating to income from social welfare, and persons over the age of seventy, being allowed to purchase a Local Authority house will be addressed?

16. Motion from Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire:

I ask that consideration be given for presentations from both internal departments and external bodies/agencies to be made available to elected members through online meetings. For example, I suggest that a representative from GrowRemote.ie is invited to update councillors on the current opportunities open to all living in County Leitrim.

17. Motion from Councillor Felim Gurn:

That this council calls on the Minister for Community and Rural Development Heather Humphreys TD and the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD to consider a funding scheme through local authorities for active and experienced community groups with a proven track record in enterprise and community development to provide funding opportunities to negotiate with Bank of Ireland (and possible other Banks) to purchase and develop bank branches due to close in September 2021 into rural working office hubs and also maintain ATM services in our towns.

18. Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan:

That Leitrim County Council call on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister Mr. Darragh O'Brien, TD, to review the terms and conditions of the Housing Grant Scheme to allow Local Authorities to use discretion in awarding house repair grants for older people. Where an applicant has transferred ownership of their home over to one of their children, and they continue to live in their home for the rest of their days, that they would be entitled to apply for and receive grant approval for works on the merits of their own income.

19. Motion from Councillor Justin Warnock:

The Covid pandemic has shown how vulnerable we are as a society, so therefore I will ask the elected members to support this motion to call on the Leaders of every political party and grouping in the Oireachtas to open the debate around Civic Engagement and National Service for our young adults, which would encompass a wide range of activities including community service, environmental service, training programmes including Civil Defence and Reserve Defence Forces.

20. Motion from Councillor Caillian Ellis:

I propose that Leitrim County Council would look at the possibility of buying sites outside our Towns and Villages and put in the essential services and then sell sites to people from that area who are not able to get planning permission elsewhere due to the stringent EPA guidelines, and thereby enable people to build a house of their choice.

21. Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell

I call on Leitrim County Council to write to Minister for Agriculture, Charlie McConalogue TD,

to put more resources into the new REAP scheme, as a lot of farmers are coming out of GLAS and the AEOS. Without additional resources allocated, these applicants will be left in limbo with no support.

22. Motion from Councillor Frank Dolan:

I propose that we as a Council seriously consider in the new development plan what is acceptable in relation to wind farms. The latest proposals coming forward for wind turbines is that of enormous height and proximity to family homes is also of concern to the general public. While wind energy may be necessary going forward how it is done must be considered.

23. Motion from Councillor Brendan Barry:

I request Leitrim County Council do what it can within its control to help people get planning permission. It would be very helpful if the Council facilitated pre-planning meetings at the site of proposed developments. By having the Planner, Architect, and applicant onsite, everyone should have a clearer understanding of the outcome each person wants to achieve at the end of the meeting. This could help streamline planning applications, make the process less costly on the applicant and improve the success rate of planning applications. We need to change the perception that people can't get planning permission in County Leitrim.

24. Motion from Councillor Mary Bohan:

I propose that Leitrim County Council call on the Government to introduce a scheme of home improvement grants for town and rural houses. This would revitalise our towns and villages and assist those in the rural areas.

25. Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson:

With 4 months of our Road works schedule lost to COVID19, will Leitrim County Council be allowed employ extra staff to try and complete the works program for 2021, or will outside contractors be employed to do this work?

26. Motion from Councillor Gerry Dolan:

As Leitrim has over 32,000 hectares of conifer plantations and the fact that there have been 8 substantial forest fires in the last 10 years, I ask Leitrim County Council to write to the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue to make it compulsory that fire breaks are installed when granting afforestation and felling licences, to protect people, property and the fire service employees.

27. Motion from Councillor Paddy O'Rourke:

I propose that Leitrim County Council ask the Minister for Community and Rural Development what plans are there, if any, at Governmental level to investigate opportunities to Decentralise Government Departments to provincial towns. If the pandemic has done anything for us, it has proven that a great number of jobs are doable from towns in Rural Ireland. For this reason, along with the benefits of reducing road traffic and congestion, surely the Government must consider a Decentralisation Programme at this time.