

Minutes of Leitrim County Council meeting held in the Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday, 1 November 2021

Members Present: Councillor Mary Bohan
Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Enda McGloin
Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Brendan Barry
Councillor Gerry Dolan
Councillor Caillian Ellis
Councillor Pádraig Fallon
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Sean McDermott
Councillor Thomas Mulligan
Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn
Councillor Enda Stenson
Councillor Justin Warnock

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach) presiding

Apologies: Councillor Frank Dolan

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
Shay O'Connor, Senior Engineer
Terry McGovern, Senior Engineer
Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke welcomed Lola Gonzalez Farrell, representatives from Treasure Leitrim and the media to the meeting.

MM.145.21 Votes of Sympathy

Councillor Caillian Ellis paid tribute to the late Francis Gilmartin former Elected Member of Leitrim County Council. Councillor Mary Bohan and the Members commended the late

Francis Gilmartin for his contribution to public office as an Elected Member of Leitrim County Council and extended their sympathy to his wife Bridie and family.

The Chief Executive on his own behalf, and on behalf of the staff, also extended his sympathy to the Gilmartin Family.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Caillian Ellis
SECONDED by Councillor Mary Bohan

It was **AGREED** Leitrim County Council adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Francis Gilmartin, recently deceased, former elected member of Leitrim County Council.

MM.146.21 Adoption of 6th September 2021 Minutes

Councillor Des Guckian referred to discussion at previous meeting in relation to homelessness and proposed that money be set aside for a homeless hostel in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined that the matter under consideration was the adoption of the minutes and that the matter could not be addressed under this item. Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that the matter be dealt with at the Budget meeting. Councillor Des Guckian outlined his agreement to the proposal.

Councillor Brendan Barry requested an amendment to the minutes in relation to the item – Litter Bye Laws. He requested that his comments as reflected in the draft minutes in relation to this matter make reference to points raised by him that more emphasis should be put on the polluter.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Caillian Ellis
SECONDED by Cllr. Sean McDermott

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of 6th September 2021 with amendment as proposed by Cllr Barry.

MM.147.21 Disposals under Section 183(1) of the Local Government Act, 2001

MM.147.21a Consider for approval disposal of interest in Vacant Rural House at Breanross, Mohill, Co. Leitrim (LM8810F).

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Cllr Enda Stenson

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council consent to the disposal of interest in Vacant Rural house 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 6 room house with adjoining site comprising circa 0.35 hectare in Breanross, Mohill Co Leitrim as contained in Folio LM8810F

The Person(s) to whom the property is to be disposed of: Mrs Mary Rogan

The Consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: The purchase price for the Disposal of the Council's interest is €20.

MM.147.21b Consider for approval disposal of Plot of land at Aghameeny and Keenaghan Tds, Carrick on Shannon.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Enda Stenson

SECONDED by Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council consent to the disposal of plot of land 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: Transfer of plot of land comprising 2.257Ha or thereabouts in the townlands of Aghameeny and Keenaghan, Carrick on Shannon comprised in Folio 3941F of the Register of Freeholders County Leitrim

The Person(s) to whom the property is to be disposed of: Castlecarra Healthcare Partnership, 11 Old Quarry Campus, Northwest Logistics Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15

The Consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: €450,000

Councillor Des Guckian supported the proposal and queried the valuation on the property. stating he would be reluctant in disposing of land unless the purchasers are paying the full price for this type of land.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly clarified the position in relation to the valuation on the land as set out in the report to the Members.

MM.148.21 To approve overdraft accommodation for the twelve month ending 31st December 2022

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mary Bohan

SECONDED by Cllr. Pdraig Fallon

It was **AGREED** that the overdraft accommodation in the sum of €1.5 million for the twelve-month period ending 31st December 2022, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, in accordance with Section 106 (2) of the

Local Government Act, 2001 as amended be approved”

MM.149.21 Consider the report of the Audit Committee on the audited Financial Statement 2020 and the LG Auditors Report

Mr Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services outlined that the Audit Committee had reviewed the Audited Financial Statement and the Local Government Auditors report at its meeting on 20th October 2021 in accordance with Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and were satisfied with the content of the Audit Report.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification on the reference to doubtful debts in the report and also reference to an error highlighted as part of the 2019 audit not being corrected in the 2020 AFS.

Mr Vincent Dwyer outlined that doubtful debts refer to the provision made where projected income has not materialised, and a debt is deemed uncollectable.

Mr Vincent Dwyer clarified that the error highlighted is a correction in relation to the Fixed Assets Register. This was an oversight in the initial preparation of the 2020 AFS and is now corrected.

The report was noted by the Members.

MM.150.21 To note Leitrim County Council Winter Maintenance Service Plan 2021-2022

The Leitrim County Council Winter Maintenance Service Plan 2021 -2022 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 1** to the minutes of the meeting.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O’Rourke referred to the workshop held with members on the Winter Maintenance Service Plan 2021-2022 stating it had been very useful.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the inclusion of the R209 and R204 regional roads and the added capacity in the Winter Maintenance Plan.

Councillor Sean McDermott sought clarification if the R283 was included for gritting in the plan.

Councillor Enda McGloin thanked the Executive for taking on board the issues raised by Members into account in the Winter Maintenance Service Plan.

Councillor Des Guckian commended the detailed Winter Maintenance Plan as presented and queried the amount of the nominal fee for salt bins. Cllr Guckian said this may act as a disincentive for community/voluntary groups if they have to raise money for salt bins.

Mr Terry McGovern, Senior Engineer responded to the issues raised as follows:-

- R283 is part of the Winter Maintenance Plan
- €170 is the price for a full bin of salt for private areas and a refill is €35. The actual cost of the bins are much higher and only a nominal fee is being charged.
- €120 is the price of the bin if a group provides their own salt

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his dissatisfaction with the charge of €170 for the full bin of salt.

The Winter Maintenance Plan as circulated was noted by the Members.

MM.151.21 To approve the Leitrim Playground Strategy

The Playground Strategy 2021 -2026 as circulated to the members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of the meeting.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Pdraig Fallon
SECONDED by Cllr. Finola Armstrong McGuire

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Playground Strategy 2021 -2026.

Councillor Sean McDermott asked that a safety review be carried out at the playground in Glenfarne.

Councillor Enda Stenson raised an issue in relation to Gortletteragh Community Group who have been awarded funding for a playground, however the cost of insurance is prohibitive. He queried if playgrounds developed by community groups could be insured under Leitrim County Council's insurance policy.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn outlined that the Community Group in Gortletteragh have received funding of €62,000 towards their playground development project and are finding it difficult to insure it.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan said he was familiar with the situation in Gortletteragh, and he believed that it would be appropriate for the Council to adopt a policy regarding the provision of insurance for community playgrounds.

Councillor Sean McGowan said that the difficulties Gortletteragh were also being faced by other community groups seeking insurance.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification as to who will be funding this 5-year Playground Strategy and he acknowledged that insurance cover could be prohibitive. Councillor Guckian raised the issue of oversights of all playgrounds.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services outlined that issue in relation to Glenfarne Playgournd had been raised at the SPC meeting and it will be reviewed. She clarified that oversight and

maintenance of Council owned playgrounds is budgeted for by the Council and weekly inspections are carried out on playgrounds and where equipment upgrades are required or further development required, applications are made under national funding streams.

In relation to Gortletteragh Playground proposal and issues regarding insurance, she stated that she was aware of the issues and that a meeting has been arranged with the community group. She clarified that the Council's insurance is generally available for property owned by Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Felim Gurn outlined his view that there needs to be an umbrella type insurance cover set up under the Council's policy to address similar situations throughout the county. Councillor Enda McGloin queried if there has been any discussion at a national level in this regard.

Mr Vincent Dwyer outlined that IPB insure Local Authority owned infrastructure. He stated he would discuss the issue in relation to community playgrounds with IPB.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire outlined that playgrounds have become very important in communities and the issue of insurance cover needs to be reviewed. She welcomed the Playground Strategy and in particular the public consultation process which included children.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said outdoor projects are well funded and requested every effort be made to avoid a situation where a project might have to be abandoned.

MM.152.21 Management Reports - August 2021 & September 2021

The Management Reports for August 2021 and September 2021 were 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.

Councillor Des Guckian referred to the historic landfills referenced in the August report and noted that there is no mention of Mohill landfill and requested that this be addressed.

Councillor Des Guckian referred to a new bridge being built at Hartley which is not included in the reports, and he queried if this is part of the proposed N4 bypass.

Mr Dwyer outlined that historic landfills refer to old smaller landfills and environmental risk assessments have to be carried out on these. Mr Francis Gaffney, A/Senior Engineer stated that these historic landfills are small town dumps that are not licenced. The EPA has requested an assessment on their current status and this work is only starting out under the direction of the EPA. He further outlined that Mohill Landfill is maintained under an EPA Licence and rehabilitation works have been carried out on Mohill Landfill.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly clarified that the old Hartley Bridge is being replaced and this is separate from the proposed N4 bypass. He outlined that a planning application for the project has

been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarity on the cost of the project. In response Mr Joseph Gilhooly outlined that the Hartley Bridge project will cost in the region of €3 to 4 million and will be funded by the Department

The monthly management reports were noted by Members.

MM.153.21 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 items at their online meeting held on the 27th October 2021.

- Draft Budget for Leitrim County Council for the financial year ending 31st December 2022
- Update from the Planning, Economic Development & Infrastructure SPC meeting held 29th September 2021.
- Update from the Housing Policy, Social & Cultural Development SPC meeting held 6th October 2021.
- Update from the Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC meeting held 22nd September 2021.
- Update on LCDC membership

Report from the Chief Officer of the LCDC identified that committee member Aedin McLoughlin, PPN Environment Representative, had served a full 6-year term on the LCDC and therefore her term of office has come to an end. To fill the resulting vacancy, and in accordance with section 4.6 of Leitrim Local Community Development Committee's Standing Orders, Blaithín Gallagher was nominated to represent PPN Environment sector on the LCDC Committee.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Sean McDermott
SECONDED by Cllr Felim Gurn

It was **AGREED** that in accordance with Section 128c(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2014, that Blaithín Gallagher be appointed to represent PPN Environment sector on the LCDC Committee be approved.

- Items for Council Meeting 1st November 2021

This update was noted by Members.

MM.154.21 Attendance at conferences/training

It was noted that training is taking place online and all notifications of training/conferences are circulated to members.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Cllr Enda Stenson

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Paddy Farrell, Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke, Councillor Padraig Fallon and Councillor Felim Gurn at the LAMA Seminar in Sligo Park Hotel on the 3rd to 5th November 2021 be approved".

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Enda McGloin, Councillor Frank Dolan and Councillor Thomas Mulligan at the AILG Training on the 6th November 2021 in Clayton Hotel, Galway on "Mental Health & Wellbeing and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention" be approved.

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the AILG Training on the 10th November 2021 in Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny on "Mental Health & Wellbeing and Briefing on the National office for Suicide Prevention" be approved.

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn and Councillor Enda McGloin at the Annual Planning Conference 2021 on "Delivering Plan LED Development" in Clayton Whites Hotel in Wexford from the 17th November 2021 to 19th November 2021 be approved.

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

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Paddy Farrell, Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Councillor Padraig Fallon and Councillor Gerry Dolan at the Conference on "Mental Health & Wellbeing" in Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth on the 3rd to 5th December 2021 be approved.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Cllr Sean McGowan

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the Inland Waterways Tourism Launch at White Bridge Jetties, Grace Road, Athlone on the 29th November 2021 be approved.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Brendan Barry
SECONDED by Cllr Felim Gurn

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Padraig Fallon and Councillor Paddy Farrell at AILG Training programme Module 1 on “Government Decision on the Reform on Remuneration and Allowances Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill 2021” in Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe on the 7th October 2021 be retrospectively approved.

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

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Caillian Ellis, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn, Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the Conference on “Health & Safety in the Workplace” in O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork on the 24th to 26th September 2021 be retrospectively approved.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Cllr Sean McGowan

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the An Gardai Siochana Awarding Scott Medals Ceremony on the 24th September 2021 in Dublin Castle be retrospectively approved.

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

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn at the conference on a “Practical Guide to Budget 2022” on the 15th to 17th October 2021 in O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork be retrospectively approved.

MM.155.21 Meeting Correspondence

1. Resolution dated 10th September 2021 from Sligo County Council requesting that the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach without delay that the work of Frontline workers be remunerated.
2. Newsletter dated 7th September 2021 from the County Leitrim Society of New York.
3. Acknowledgement dated 15th September 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Health in regard to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard Health Care.
4. Acknowledgement dated 15th September 2021 from An Taoiseach in regard to

resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Housing Grants.

5. Acknowledgement dated 15th September 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in regard to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to Housing Grants.
6. Acknowledgement dated 15th September 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Education in relation to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to school transport.
7. Acknowledgement dated 16th September 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development regarding resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to LIS funding for rural roads in County Leitrim.
8. Resolution dated 16th September 2021 from Meath County Council calling on the Department of Agriculture to put in place a policy to control Japanese Knot Weed on agricultural land and private property and to take responsibility for the eradication of this invasive species.
9. Acknowledgement dated 20th September 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledging resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to changes in suckler farms and more carbon efficient.
10. Acknowledgement dated 20th September 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to River Drainage Boards.
11. Acknowledgement dated 15th September 2021 from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to hospital care.
12. Acknowledgement dated 15th September 2021 from the Office of the Taoiseach in regard to resolution passed by Leitrim County Council in regard to land drainage.
13. Newsletter dated 11th September 2021 from the County Leitrim Society of New York.
14. Resolution dated 20th September 2021 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in regard to its continued opposition to the illegal and inhumane blockage of Cuba by the USA and to bring it to an end. It calls on both Minister of Health on the island to request that they explore ways in which assistance could be provided to assist in medical supply provision to Cuba and both Ministers advocate for the inclusion of any successful medications and treatments, including those developed in Cuba, in the fight against COVID 19.
15. Email of the 14th October 2021 from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community development in regard to LIS.

16. Letter dated 14th October 2021 from An Garda Siochana in regard to Garda Stations.
17. Resolution from South Dublin County Council dated 14th October 2021 calling on the Department of the Taoiseach and all other Local Authorities in the state and Retail Ireland calling on the Irish and International Supermarkets operating here to join the Boycott of all Israeli Goods as a response to the current and never-ending Murderous Campaign against the Palestinian people including thousands of innocent men, women and children.
18. Newsletter dated 13th October 2021 from the County Leitrim Society of New York.
19. Resolution dated 20th October 2021 from Donegal County Council calling on the Taoiseach to establish a dedicated Government "Task Force" to initiate, coordinate, fund and promote a north west housing, health and family welfare response to tackle the many societal ills resulting from Mica, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite that is prevalent in many family homes and adversely affecting many farming buildings, educational and community facilities in the region.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Des Guckian
SECONDED by Cllr Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on An Taoiseach to establish a dedicated Government "Task Force" to initiate, coordinate, fund and promote a north west housing, health and family welfare response to tackle the many societal ills resulting from Mica, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite that is prevalent in many family homes and adversely affecting many farming buildings, educational and community facilities in the region.

20. Resolution dated 19th October 2021 from Kerry County Council calling on Local Authorities throughout the Country and all Government Services to fly the Palestine Flag on November 29th which is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

MM.156.21 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian - Management of the Shannon

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

"That we write to Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the OPW itself, asking that the successful Shannon Management flood control scheme operated by Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran be reinstated. This involved keeping the Shannon waters moving fast. If heavy rain was forecast, then the weirs were opened up, one after another, starting from the southern lower end. In this way the floods were anticipated and were not as severe all along the Shannon."

Councillor Des Guckian gave the background to his motion and outlined his dissatisfaction

with the delays in building the flood defence in Carrick-on-Shannon. Councillor Des Guckian proposed that a letter issue to Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the OPW asking that the Shannon Management Flood control scheme be reinstated.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported the motion and asked if the motion could also include an update on addressing various pinch points on the Shannon. In this regard, Councillor Barry referred to the weir in Jamestown as an example of a pinch point.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and said pinch points to the south of Athlone have been cleaned.

Councillor Enda McGloin said he understood the Shannon flood management control scheme operated under a previous Minister did not change when a new Minister was appointed. He advised he has been in contact with Deputy Feighan in this regard and has extended an invitation to Minister O'Donovan to come to Leitrim and see the problems first hand.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly, Director of Services outlined that he is not aware of any changes in the approach to the management of the Shannon and that ongoing maintenance continues. He advised he will seek an update on the pinch points, and that the Council will liaise with Waterways Ireland in relation to the Jamestown Weir.

Councillor Des Guckian thanked the Members for their support in this regard and accepted the inclusion of reference to cleaning and opening up of pinch points in Leitrim. Cllr Guckian stated that the Minister is in charge and the OPW must take the decision, and both should be involved in addressing the matter.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Des Guckian
SECONDED by Cllr Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the OPW itself, asking that the successful Shannon Management flood control scheme operated by Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran be reinstated. This involved keeping the Shannon waters moving fast. If heavy rain was forecast, then the weirs were opened up, one after another, starting from the southern lower end. In this way the floods were anticipated and were not as severe all along the Shannon. The Council also call on Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the OPW to ensure that pinch points on the Shannon in Leitrim are cleaned and opened up.

MM.157.21 **Motion from Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Councillor Sean McDermott, Councillor Justin Warnock, Councillor Felim Gurn - Prospecting Licence**

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Cllr Sean McDermott, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Felim Gurn;

"We the undersigned members of Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the

Environment, Eamon Ryan TD not to proceed with the Notice of Intention to grant a prospecting Licence pursuant to section (1) of the Minerals Directive Act 1940 in the following townlands in the Dromahaire Barony:

Townlands in Drumahaire Barony: Brackary Beg, Brackary More, Carrickleitrim, Cartrongibbagh, Cornastauk, Curraghfore, Curraghfore, Faughary, Gortnaskeagh, Killenna Glebe, Kinnara Glebe, Pollboy, Skreeny, Skreeny, Skreeny Little, Srabrick, Tawnyfeacle, Townlands in Rosclogher Barony: Amorset, Ballyglass, Barracashlaun, Barrackpark, Cartronatemple, Castletown, Clooneen, Cornaneane, Deerpark, Drumdillure, Drummans (E.D. Glenade), Drumnacross, Fivepoundland, Gortinar, Killymeehin, Kilroosk, Largentemple, Lisnabrack, Milltown, Mountainthird, Mullanyduffy, Mullies, Nure, Poundhill, Shancurragh, Shancurragh Barr of, Shanvaus, Tawnymoyle, Tullynasharragh, Twigspark.

Signed:

Cllr Frank Dolan

Cllr Mary Bohan

Cllr Padraig Fallon

Cllr Sean Mc Dermott

Cllrs Justin Warnock

Cllr Felim Gurn"

Councillor Mary Bohan outlined that this issue was discussed at the Manorhamilton Municipal District meeting recently and it was fully supported by all 6 members, who all felt so strongly about the issue that they decided to forgo individual motions in favour of a joint motion at the Council meeting. Councillor Mary Bohan paid tribute to the Treasure Leitrim group for their work in this regard.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed concerns regarding the environmental and visual impact this proposal will have on the townlands in the Dromahaire Barony. She stated it was frustrating to have to fight this new threat to the area following 6 years of campaigning against fracking. She outlined the view that the proposed mining license and subsequent prospecting activity will generate no benefit to the local communities. This is one of the most scenic areas of Leitrim which has been promoted for tourism, with walks, trails and greenways being developed and Mining could not be accepted as it would destroy the area. Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her concerns with the wording of the licence, which indicated that it would be non-invasive and have minimal environmental impact. Councillor Mary Bohan proposed that this motion also be sent to the Taoiseach and the Oireachtas Members.

Councillor Padraig Fallon outlined his view that there is little doubt that this will not have any benefit for this community, county or country. Cllr Fallon said it is ironic that the Minister and Department of the Environment are saying this will have minimal impact to the environment when it should be ensuring that there is no negative impact on the environment.

Councillor Warnock said it must be acknowledged that people in Leitrim have the right to object to this type of development. Councillor Warnock said he has promoted developing a National Park in Leitrim and if this mining licence is granted there will be no National Park.

Councillor Felim Gurn outlined the closing date for submissions on this proposal is the 7th November. He stated that Members are trying to promote North Leitrim as a tourism destination and people who wish to return to the area and build family homes cannot do so, and yet mining is being proposed in the area.

Councillor Sean McDermott said he was horrified after having seen a video showing the effect gold mining was having on the landscape near Omagh in Co. Tyrone. Councillor Sean McDermott said fracking, forestry and wind turbines are put Leitrim's way, but one-off rural housing is not happening.

Councillor Enda Stenson outlined that this is a Leitrim issue and not just a north Leitrim issue.

Councillor Des Guckian stated that this is an all-Leitrim issue and outlined he was glad all the north Leitrim councillors had stood together on this issue. He noted how all the members had stood together to oppose fracking and he hoped they all will stand together on this issue also.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and said all members must stand together on this issue.

Councillor Gerry Dolan supported the motion and proposed that this motion be forwarded to Cavan County Council.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllrs Mary Bohan, Cllr Frank Dolan, Cllr Pdraig Fallon, Cllr Sean McDermott, Cllrs Justin Warnock, Cllr Felim Gurn

SECONDED Cllr Enda Stenson

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Eamon Ryan TD not to proceed with the Notice of Intention to grant a prospecting Licence pursuant to section (1) of the Minerals Directive Act 1940 in the following townlands in the Dromahaire Barony:

Townlands in Drumahaire Barony: Brackary Beg, Brackary More, Carrickleitrim, Cartrongibbagh, Cornastauk, Curraghfore, Curraghfore, Faughary, Gortnaskeagh, Killenna Glebe, Kinnara Glebe, Pollboy, Skreeny, Skreeny, Skreeny Little, Srabrick, Tawnyfeacle, Townlands in Rosclogher Barony: Amorset, Ballyglass, Barracashlaun, Barrackpark, Cartronatemple, Castletown, Clooneen, Cornaneane, Deerpark, Drumdillure, Drummans (E.D. Glenade), Drumnacross, Fivepoundland, Gortinar, Killymeehin, Kilroosk, Largentemple, Lisnabrack, Milltown, Mountainthird, Mullanyduffy, Mullies, Nure, Poundhill, Shancurragh, Shancurragh Barr of, Shanvaus, Tawnymoyle, Tullynasharragh, Twigspark.

MM.158.21 Motion from Councillor Enda McGloin and Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan - One Off Rural Houses

The members agreed that Motion No 13 in the name of Cllr Enda McGloin and Motion No 14 in the name of Cllr Sean McGowan be taken concurrently as they relate to the same issue.

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

"I call on the Director of Services for Planning to brief the members regarding Leitrim County Council's application to the EPA for funding to trial test a wastewater treatment and disposal facility for one off houses in the County and if he could provide any further news around progress on this initiative."

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

"Leitrim County Council is working with Trinity College Dublin in regard to this matter with TCD as lead applicant to the EPA Research Programme and the Council as co-applicant. The application is submitted under the Proposal Title of; Willow evapotranspiration systems as nature-based solutions for on-site wastewater treatment in low permeability areas.

The Council has been recently informed by that EPA that following the evaluation of the proposal, the application has been selected for funding subject to the successful resolution of some matters identified through the evaluation phase. The lead applicant is currently assessing these matters which has just recently been received and will be responding shortly.

Once formal approval is received the partners will commence the planning for the rollout of the project. This project is centred on the upgrading of existing systems on a number of selected local authority housing sites as against greenfield locations in order to shorten the timescale of the project to have the ability to provide meaningful outcome within the parameters of the research programme regarding timescale and to maintain the project within additional provisions of the relevant Code of Practice."

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

"I ask Mr Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure, what is the update from discussions with the Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the EPA to finding a viable, workable solution regarding the problems we have here in Leitrim with Zero Discharge in relation to obtaining planning permission for single one-off rural housing?"

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

"The Council continues to pursue two options being potential for a revised process for surface water discharges in domestic settings and also the testing of willow evapotranspiration systems as nature-based solutions for on-site wastewater treatment in low permeability areas.

In regard to the former the Council has secured the establishment of a working group under the auspices of the CCMA Committee structure and which consists of membership from a number of local authorities and the Departments Water Advisory Unit. The working groups terms of reference has been agreed and initial scoping meetings held.

In regard to the latter option Leitrim County Council is working with Trinity College Dublin as lead applicant to the EPA Research Programme and the Council as co-applicant and have submitted an application for funding under the Proposal Title of; Willow evapotranspiration systems as nature-based solutions for on-site wastewater treatment in low permeability areas.

The Council has been recently informed by that EPA that following the evaluation of the proposal, the application has been selected for funding subject to the successful resolution of some matters identified through the evaluation phase. The lead applicant is currently assessing these matters which has just recently been received and will be responding shortly.

Once formal approval is received the partners will commence the planning for the rollout of the project. This project is centred on the upgrading of existing systems on a number of selected local authority housing sites as against greenfield locations in order to shorten the timescale of the project to have the ability to provide meaningful outcome within the parameters of the research programme regarding timescale and to maintain the project within additional provisions of the relevant Code of Practice."

Councillor Enda McGloin welcomed the reply from the Executive and said it was a good "news day" and he paid tribute to the Director of Services and his team for all their work in this regard.

Councillor Sean McGowan said it is important to try and safeguard rural Ireland and provide homes to sustain our schools and communities. Cllr McGowan said he has been in contact with Minister O'Brien in this regard and he acknowledged this has been going on a long time.

Councillor Sean McDermott welcomed the update referring to population decreases in North Leitrim. He outlined his hopes that the scheme is successful, as young people are needed to make communities sustainable

Councillor Justin Warnock asked if we can be confident that this is going to work as this research programme has a duration of another 3 years.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed the update and sought clarification on the following

- How many houses will be in research programme?
- How long will it take to put infrastructure in place at the pilot sites?
- How much will it cost per house?
- What percentage of the installation is covered by funding?
- How long will the research programme take?

Councillor Barry paid tribute to the Director of Services and his team for all their work over the years and acknowledged that the zerowaste target is very hard to achieve.

Councillor Guckian expressed his dissatisfaction with the 3 year timeframe and the concept of zero discharge.

Mr Gilhooly outlined that the timescale for the EPA is 3 years. To meet this timescale and to have a meaningful outcome within the parameters of the research programme, he outlined that the pilot scheme will focus on upgrading existing wastewater systems in a small number of local authority houses where improvement to existing systems is required. He clarified that the installation cost will be borne by the Local Authority, with the research element being funding by the EPA and Trinity College.

Councillor Enda Stenson paid tribute to the Planning Department and said it is possible to build in Leitrim if the infrastructure is right.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon acknowledged the importance of collaborating with the EPA on this scheme and queried if any element of the research take place in a thoroughly rural site in the countryside.

Mr Joseph Gilhooly outlined that all sites will be dependent on a stand-alone based water treatment site with a maximum of 2 houses in any one pod. He advised the cost will be dependent on the design, but it is expected to be in the region of €20,000 to €25,000 based on current designs, but that it hoped that this will be less.

Councillor Enda McGloin said this has been the most positive news regarding one-off housing since 2010, and he acknowledged that the research programme is for three years.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said that we must ensure that when site works are to be carried out that any competent contractor can carry out the work.

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the progress made.

MM.159.21 Motion from Councillor Brendan Barry - Increase HAP Rent Limits

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien to increase HAP rent limits to a level that reflects what is actually been paid for rental properties. The rent limits for Leitrim have not changed since 2016. €370 is rent limit for a

couple, yet one-bedroom apartments are advertised on a well-known website for €500 to €600. The rent limit for couple with 3 children is only €500, yet there are two & three bed houses advertised in the county for €850 and €900 per month."

Councillor Brendan Barry said the HAP rent limits are totally outdated. Over the last 12 months there has been a 17% rent increase in Leitrim the highest increase in any county in the country. Councillor Barry said the Sinn Fein Party proposed a rent freeze and this was voted against by the Government. People are paying a lot of money in rent and will not be able to cover a mortgage.

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services outlined that the HAP limits are set by the Department and the Local Authority has a 20% discretionary top up which can be applied and is done on a case-by-case basis.

Councillor Padraig Fallon, Councillor Justin Warnock and Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Brendan Barry
SECONDED by Cllr Padraig Fallon

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien to increase HAP rent limits to a level that reflects what is actually been paid for rental properties. The rent limits for Leitrim have not changed since 2016. €370 is rent limit for a couple, yet one-bedroom apartments are advertised on a well-known website for €500 to €600. The rent limit for couple with 3 children is only €500, yet there are two & three bed houses advertised in the county for €850 and €900 per month

MM.160.21 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell - Day Care Services in Leitrim

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to contact and appeal to Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, to reverse a HSE decision to close and downgrade day care services in County Leitrim."

Councillor Paddy Farrell gave the background to his motion and called on the HSE to reverse their decision to close these facilities as it is a lot cheaper to deliver services locally for people especially during winter time.

Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Councillor Des Guckian, Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn and Councillor Felim Gurn supported the motion.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said whatever issues exist with the HSE facilities in Mohill need to be resolved, which will enable the Ballinamore facility reach the potential and provide all the services that were intended to be delivered there.

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator confirmed that correspondence has been received from the HSE confirming they are not in a position to attend the Carrick on Shannon MD meeting on the 15th November 2021.

Cathaoirelach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that the Carrick-on-Shannon and Ballinamore MD members hold a face-to-face meeting with the HSE in this regard.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan proposed that the Media be invited to the meeting.

Councillor Paddy Farrell proposed the meeting should take place with the full Council.

Cathoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that any reply received from the HSE regarding this invite be forwarded to all members upon receipt.

Councillor Des Guckian outlined he would be in favour of an online meeting with the HSE.

Councillor Sean McGowan said it is important that we all meet face to face with HSE in this regard.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Paddy Farrell
SECONDED by Cllr Sean McGowan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council contact and appeal to Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, to reverse a HSE decision to close and downgrade day care services in County Leitrim.

MM.161.21 Motion from Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn - Earlier morning commuter service

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

"With County Leitrim experiencing large numbers of people looking to return or relocate so they can work remotely and commute to their workplace as the need arises, I call on Leitrim County Council to engage with Iarnród Éireann to provide an early morning commuter service to Sligo from Carrick-on-Shannon and Dromod railway stations.

With a number of recent job announcements in Sligo and major developments also taking place at IT Sligo and St Angela's College such a rail service would greatly benefit people that wish to live in Leitrim but work and study in Sligo."

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn gave the background to her motion stating an early morning commuter train service to Sligo from Carrick-on-Shannon and Dromod stations would benefit people who want to live in Leitrim but work and study in Sligo.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and proposed that Iarnród Éireann be asked to start the service from Longford.

Councillors Des Guckian and Councillor Thomas Mulligan also supported the motion.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn
SECONDED by Cllr Sean McGowan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council engage with Iarnród Éireann to provide an early morning commuter service to Sligo from Carrick-on-Shannon and Dromod railway stations. With a number of recent job announcements in Sligo and major developments also taking place at IT Sligo and St Angela's College such a rail service would greatly benefit people that wish to live in Leitrim but work and study in Sligo. With County Leitrim experiencing large numbers of people looking to return or relocate so they can work remotely and commute to their workplace as the need arises.

MM.162.21 Motion from Councillor Paddy O'Rourke - Quality Assurance Scheme

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

"I ask Leitrim County Council to contact Bord Bia and ask them to implement a more user-friendly method when conducting online audits under the Quality Assurance Scheme. In particular, when dealing with a considerable number of herd owners who have limited experience using online services and have inferior broadband connectivity through which to participate in the audit. The Quality Assurance Scheme is critical to Farmers securing maximum price for their livestock and every effort must be made to make it easier to be compliant and remain in the scheme."

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke outlined that Bord Bia is making no provision for herd owners who have limited experience using online services and those who have poor broadband connectivity and wish to participate in the Bord Bia Quality Assurance Scheme.

All Members supported the motion

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Paddy O'Rourke
SECONDED by Cllr Paddy Farrell

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council contact Bord Bia and ask them to implement a more user-friendly method when conducting online audits under the Quality Assurance Scheme. In particular, when dealing with a considerable number of herd owners who have limited experience using online services and have inferior broadband connectivity through which to participate in the audit. The Quality Assurance Scheme is critical to Farmers securing maximum price for their livestock and every effort must be made to make it easier to be compliant and remain in the scheme."

MM.163.21 Motion from Councillor Thomas Mulligan - Insurance

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Thomas Mulligan;

"That Leitrim County Council write to An Tánaiste and ask him to intervene on the crisis facing our community sector in relation to insurance."

Councillor Thomas Mulligan outlined that community groups organising festivals are experiencing lots of difficulties when trying to obtain insurance. Two groups have advised that they are unable to get insurance cover for this year and next year and he said it is important for the local economy that these small festivals are able to take place.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Thomas Mulligan
SECONDED by Cllr Enda Stenson

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council write to An Tánaiste and ask him to intervene on the crisis facing our community sector in relation to insurance.

MM.164.21 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson - MBNA Office Block

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

"With the former MBNA office block now for sale, may I ask our CEO, have discussions taken place with any other stakeholders with a view to further uses of this building?"

As the Local Authority we cannot allow this building to be purchased and not put into use for the good of our County."

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

"The Council continues to engage with the IDA in regard to the securing of an investment for this site and also notes that it is now on the property market. The need for the future use of this building for job creation is a key priority."

Councillor Enda Stenson noted the reply and said he was surprised when he saw the property for sale. He queried what can be done and what the consequences of the sale could be. He stated that this is a flagship building and it is essential that it is put to good use for the future of Carrick-on-Shannon and for Leitrim. Councillor Stenson also expressed his disappointment with the IDA that more had not been done to find an occupant for this building.

Councillor Justin Warnock said this building is one of our top priorities and this has been raised at the North West Regional Assembly.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive said the building in question is in private ownership and Leitrim County Council continues to engage with IDA to secure an investment for this site and it is a key priority for the future that this building is used for job creation.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke proposed that our concerns be put to all relevant agencies and that this building be maintained for employment purposes.

MM.165.21 Any other business

Councillor Enda Stenson sought the permission of the Cathaoirleach to raise a matter of importance. He referred to a number of break-ins in the Eslin and Kilnagross areas and asked everyone to safeguard their homes as we enter the winter months.

Councillor Enda McGloin outlined that this matter will be discussed at the Public Joint Policing Committee Meeting on Wednesday, evening 3rd November 2021 in Drumshanbo.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke asked members to encourage people who have not got a COVID-19 vaccine to do so and to encourage people to continue to work within the COVID-19 public health advice.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 1.40 pm

Signed:

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
Cathaoirleach

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Dated: Monday, 10th January 2022