

Minutes of Leitrim County Council meeting held in the Function Room, Kilbracken Arms Hotel, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim on Monday, 9 May 2022

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

Councillor Paddy O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach) presiding

Apologies: Councillor Gerry Dolan

Officials Present: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services
Mary Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Corporate Services, Community and Cultural Services
Shay O'Connor, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructural Services
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner
Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer
Gillian Tilson, Financial Management Accountant
Brenda Hegarty, SEO Corporate & Community Services
Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator
Kathleen Ellis, Assistant Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke welcomed all to the meeting.

MM.46.22 Votes of Sympathy

The Members extended a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Tommy Heron, Cormongan, Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim on the death of Delia Heron,

RIP

- J.J. Dowdican, Tullaghan, Co Leitrim on the death of Michael & Margaret Dowdican RIP
- Mrs Marian Quinn, Ardrum, Ballinamore on the death of Austin Quinn, RIP
- Thomas Tierney, Tully South, Carrigallen on the death of Rose Tierney, RIP

MM.47.22 Adoption of Minutes of 7th March 2022

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of 7th March 2022

Councillor Des Guckian sought an update on the invitation to National Broadband Ireland to attend a Council meeting. Mr Kieran Brett advised that National Broadband Ireland offered to attend an online meeting, however as there was no facility to facilitate a hybrid style meeting, it was agreed by the Corporate Policy Group that it would be more beneficial to have National Broadband Ireland attend a meeting in person rather than by video link and that a further request will be made to National Broadband Ireland to attend the Council meeting in September.

Councillor Des Guckian also referred to Cllr Warnock's motion on the Wealth Tax at the Council Meeting of the 7th March 2022 and outlined had he been present at the meeting, he would have supported the motion.

Councillor Brendan Barry sought an update in relation to the white markings of disabled parking places.

Mr Shay O'Connor outlined that the draft Parking Bye-laws for Carrick-on-Shannon will come before the members of the Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District for consideration and if they are adopted all signs and markings will be put in place.

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed this and proposed that when the white markings are put in place that compliance be monitored for a period of time and if further markings are needed, the blue markings should be used.

MM.48.22 Disposals under Section 183(1) of the Local Government Act

MM.48.22a Consider for Disposal Rural Cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.64 Acres at Sonnaghmore, Cloone, Co Leitrim.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Caillian Ellis
SECONDED by Cllr Enda McGloin

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council consent to the disposal of Rural Cottage and adjoining site pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning & Development

Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Particulars of the property to which County Council proposes to dispose:

The Property: Rural Cottage and adjoining site comprising circa 0.64 Acres in the townland of Sonnaghmore, Cloone, Co. Leitrim

The Person(s) to whom the property is to be disposed of: Mr Michael McCrann

MM.49.22 Consider the CE's Report 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 Chief Executive's Report and Recommendation pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) as circulated to the Members.

Nature and Extent of Development

The following development:

1. Construct a Facility Centre for Water Sports Activities which will include indoor and outdoor showers, toilets, external and internal seating, communication workspace which will be multifunctional, multimedia education and learning area.
2. Construction of a car park, and a new entrance to the adjacent Regional Road R207.
3. The installation of a Controlled raised pedestrian crossing on the Regional Road R207

Location of the Development

In the townlands of Acres and Drumduff North, Drumshanbo, County Leitrim

The Council has complied with the Requirements of the Regulations in respect of the proposed development and a necessary public notice was published in accordance with the Regulations. It is proposed to proceed with the works listed.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Felim Gurn
SECONDED by Cllr. Enda Stenson

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council proceed with the works in accordance with the approved plans.

Councillor Des Guckian stated he was opposing the development on behalf of the people of the area, as it impinges on the locals. He outlined his view that the development would have been better had it been located on Lough Allen, on the other side of Drumshanbo. Councillor Guckian expressed his concerns that the proposed car park could become a focal point for drug trading along the Shannon waterway.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported the proposal and commended the people of the area for engaging and interacting with Leitrim County Council. He commended Leitrim County Council for taking the views of the residents into consideration and he acknowledged that compromises were reached by all parties to enable this development to proceed. Cllr Barry highlighted that anti-social behaviour can happen anywhere and it is a matter for An Garda Síochána to deal with. Councillor Barry stated he hoped the development would be good for the people of the area and bring extra tourism activity.

Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Paddy Farrell also supported the proposed development.

Councillor Enda McGloin supported the proposal and outlined his view that funding should be sought for a caretaker role. He welcomed the interaction of the local people with the local authority on this proposed development and he paid tribute to the engineering staff of Leitrim County Council for taking on board the views expressed by the local people. Councillor McGloin said parking at this location during the busy season has been hazardous and this project will address safety issues in relation to parking at the blueway amenity.

MM.50.22 Consider to enter into an agreement with Louth County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 concerning the design, construction and completion of the Faster Project with Louth County Council being the administrating authority.

Mr Shay O'Connor provided an overview of the proposal outlining that the FASTER project is a joint proposal across Scotland, Ireland, and Northern Ireland to support the overarching ambition to transition to low carbon systems and to demonstrate how each of the three jurisdictions can provide early systems learning in relation to the electrification of transport. There are a total of seven project partners and 15 associate partners from across the three jurisdictions. The partnership will implement the physical rollout of 73 rapid charging stations in the programme area. Louth County Council is the lead partner for the Ireland jurisdiction and have been allocated 25 rapid chargers for the jurisdiction. The project aims to ensure that the availability of charging stations is not a major obstacle to Electric Vehicle (EV) market penetration with the proposal to carry out the design, analysis, procurement, installation, and operation of the 73 Rapid Chargers (minimum 50kw capacity) across the three programme jurisdictions along the main national transport routes.

The participating local authorities in Ireland are

Louth County Council
Monaghan County Council

Cavan County Council
Leitrim County Council
Sligo County Council
Donegal County Council.

It has been agreed that Louth County Council will act as lead authority for this scheme.

The high-speed charging points will be located on the National Road Network, the current proposal is that there may be 4 high speed charging points in Leitrim, with two proposed for both Manorhamilton and Carrick-on-Shannon.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon asked what the cost implications for the Local Authority will be.

Mr O'Connor stated that the installation costs of the project will be fully grant funded, however no decision has been made yet on the ongoing operating costs.

Councillor Sean McDermott proposed that some of these charging stations should be located at tourist areas.

Councillor Des Guckian noted that 2 charging stations in Carrick-on-Shannon and 2 in Manorhamilton is not very many.

Mr O'Connor said these charging stations will be in place by mid of next year and it will take approximately 20 minutes to charge a vehicle. A charge will apply for their use.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Felim Gurn
SECONDED by Cllr. Pdraig Fallon

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council enter into an agreement with Louth County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 concerning the design, construction and completion of the Faster Project with Louth County Council being the administrating authority.

MM.51.22 **Consider the approval of additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions during 2021 in accordance with the provisions of Section (108) 4 of the Local Government Act, 2001.**

Mr Vincent Dwyer informed the members that, with their consent, items 5 and 6 on the agenda would be taken concurrently.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action, and Emergency Services provided an overview of the report on additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in 2021.

Mr. Vincent Dwyer advised members that Leitrim County Council has continued to implement a programme of monitoring and reviewing expenditure to ensure that budgetary limits are not exceeded, and he advised Members as follows: -

- **Housing & Building – Over Expenditure of €174,190** – This primarily relates to additional expenditure requirements in the area of Housing Maintenance.
- **Roads Transportation & Safety - Over Expenditure of €505,117** – This can be attributed to additional overheads arising from the increased roadworks programme in 2021, coupled with the additional overheads arising from Covid-19, decreased car parking income and increased energy costs associated with public lighting.
- **Environmental Services - Over Expenditure of €172,496** – This is mainly attributable to additional costs associated with the operation of Civic Amenity Sites, additional training requirements associated with recruitment of Fire Fighters and increased costs associated with servicing the bring bank network throughout the county.
- **Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare - Over Expenditure of €38,791** – This is attributable to additional costs associated with the operation of the Veterinary Service within the county.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sean McDermott
SECONDED by Cllr. Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** to approve the additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions in 2021 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Councillor Des Guckian sought clarification as to when this over expenditure will be repaid by Leitrim County Council.

Mr Dwyer clarified that this is not a loan and any additional expenditure incurred by Leitrim County Council in the performance of its functions in accordance with the provisions of Section 108(4) of the Local Government Act, 2001 must be reported and approved. Corresponding increases in grant income will offset some of the over expenditure and Mr Dwyer also added that some functional areas will have over expenditure, while others have under expenditure.

MM.52.22 Consider the Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2021

The Annual Financial Statement for Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31st December 2020 was circulated to the Members.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Sean McDermott
SECONDED by Cllr. Brendan Barry

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December

2021 in accordance with Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Mr Dwyer advised Members that it is predicted that energy costs will have increased by 100% by year end.

Councillor Brendan Barry acknowledged the comprehensive detail outlined in the AFS.

Mr Vincent Dwyer paid tribute to Ms Gillian Tilson, A/Financial Management Accountant for all her help in the preparation of the AFS.

MM.53.22 Consider the Draft Annual Report 2021

Ms Mary Quinn, Director of Services advised the Members that the Local Authority is legally required to publish an Annual Report by end of June each year, which reports on activities and services delivered in the previous year, for which the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide.

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

It was **AGREED** to adopt Leitrim County Council's Annual Report, 2021.

MM.54.22 Report on the operation of Litter Pollution Act 1997 in regard to measures taken during 2021 in relation to the prevention and control of litter

Report from Environmental Awareness Officer, dated 4th May 2022 in relation to the measures taken during 2021 in relation to the prevention and control of litter, as circulated to each Member, appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this Meeting in the Minute Book.

Mr Vincent Dwyer outlined that Leitrim County Council will shortly launch an anti-litter social media campaign. He also confirmed a hazardous waste collection day will be held later in the year and highlighted the level of costs involved.

Councillor Enda McGloin said dog fouling is an ongoing issue and he proposed that more funding be sought to address the issue.

Councillor Enda McGloin queried what enforcement measures are in place to deal with persons who cannot explain what they do with their household waste or who do not have a collection contract with a registered Waste Collector.

Councillor Felim Gurn said people who carried out work on their homes during the lockdown are wondering when the date for the hazardous waste collection day is taking place as they want to get rid of unwanted paint cans etc.

Councillor McDermott queried if existing dog fouling initiatives are working and supported the rollout of further infrastructure to address this issue. Councillor McDermott supported

Cllr McGloin's comments regarding household waste.

Councillor Mary Bohan said some people that are not abiding by the litter laws, but the vast majority are. Councillor Bohan proposed that CCTV cameras be provided at Bring Banks.

Councillor Sean McGowan said litter is a significant issue in the county and he expressed his disappointment that Data Protection legislation is not currently allowing the use of CCTV to combat the problem.

Councillor Des Guckian stated he was happy to support hazardous waste collection and also the used electrical goods collection service.

Councillor Justin Warnock thanked all Tidy Towns Committees and Leitrim County Council for their efforts in community clean-ups. Councillor Warnock welcomed the hazardous waste collection day that is being planned for later in the year.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon said dog fouling facilities do work but are not 100% effective. Councillor Fallon said it is vital that mobile CCTV cameras are put up in locations and moved around the county. There are illegal dumping black spots and until the people carrying out the dumping are identified it will not stop.

Councillor Felim Gurn said it should be mandatory that all fast-food outlets provide bins outside their premises.

Councillor Caillian Ellis referred to the situation where landowners find rubbish dumped on their land and they are required to clean it up and dispose of it at their own cost. He proposed that some incentive be put in place to help these private landowners with the clean-up costs when illegal dumping occurs. Councillor Paddy O'Rourke supported this and said there should be a shift of responsibility away from landowners if rubbish is dumped on their property.

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn thanked community groups and members of Community Employment Schemes for all their work in keeping their communities clean and tidy.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire asked for an estimate of what it costs for free hazardous waste collection days. Councillor Armstrong McGuire asked if there could be a facility at the Civic Amenity Site in Mohill for receiving paint tins.

Councillor Justin Warnock outlined that Kinlough, as the third largest town in Leitrim, should have its own Civic Amenity Site. Councillor Sean McDermott supported this.

Mr Vincent Dwyer responded to the comments of the members as follows:

- a list of locations where dog fouling facilities are located will be circulated to the members.
- Community Wardens carry out house calls to ascertain how householders are

disposing of their household waste. This exercise is very labour intensive and 5% of the house calls may not be compliant. The Department of Environment, Climate & Communication is rolling out a programme that will require all householders to register how their household waste is being disposed. When this is enacted, the Local Authority will be able to determine who is registered with a Waste Collection Service provider and thereby carry out more targeted checks on those who are not registered with a Waster Collector. There are between 3 and 4 waste enforcement notices issued every week.

- The use of CCTV to combat littering is not always practical under current regulations.
- Leitrim County Council cannot afford to provide a permanent service for the collection of paint tins at Civic Amenity sites. The hazardous waste collection initiative for 1 day is costing €35,000. The subvention received from the Government for civic amenity sites has now stopped and Leitrim County Council is currently losing around €100,000 a year on Civic Amenity Sites.
- The request for a Civic Amenity Site at Kinlough is acknowledged. The service that is currently being provided is a geographical one. In the next 3-5 years there will be a change in emphasis as to how civic amenity sites are used and operated, with a greater emphasis on re-using and recycling items.
- The Waste Management Bye Laws that were passed by the Elected members of Leitrim County Council put a mandatory requirement for bins to be provided outside fast-food outlets, shops etc and these are being enforced.
- Once a dumping incident is reported, Community Wardens go through all the waste that is dumped on private properties or land and they have had some success in identifying those responsible.

Councillor Felim Gurn acknowledged that money is being lost on civic amenity sites, but said civic amenity sites are necessary, or the issue of illegal dumping will get worse.

MM.55.22 Note National & Local Service Indicator Reports

The National and Local Performance Indicators, 2021 reports as circulated was noted by the members.

MM.56.22 Management Reports February 2022 & March 2022

The Monthly Management Reports for February and March 2022, as circulated, were noted by Members.

Councillor Des Guckian welcomed the footpath from Annuduff NS to Antfield and also welcomed that Irish Water now allows local contractors to carry out work on local water supplies. Councillor Guckian expressed his concerns in regard to the decade of centenaries.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke said all Decade of Centenary commemoration events will be dealt with sensitively.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon acknowledged that this will be traumatic period for some and that

it is very important that recognition is given.

MM.57.22 Report from Corporate Policy Group

Ms Mary Quinn, outlined the Corporate Policy Group had considered the following items at their online meeting held on the 6th of May 2022:

- Update on Planning, Economic Development & Infrastructure SPC
- Update on the Environment, Climate Action & Agriculture SPC
- July Plenary Council meeting to be held in Aras Phadraig, Drumshanbo on the 4th July 2022
- Members attendance at upcoming conferences, training events, seminars including field trip requested by members to visit Waterford greenway and Waterford City flood defences.
- Items for Council Meeting 9th May 2022

The update was noted by Members.

MM.58.22 Note Date & Time of Annual Meeting 2022

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr.Mary Bohan
SECONDED by Cllr. Ita Reynolds Flynn

It was **AGREED** to hold the Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council on Friday, 24th June 2022 at 12 noon in The Bush Hotel.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr.Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Cllr. Thomas Mulligan

It was **AGREED** to move the Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District meeting from the 16th May to Monday, 23rd May 2022 in the Dock at 10 am.

MM.59.22 Attendance at conferences/training

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Padraig Fallon
SECONDED by Cllr Enda McGloin

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Cllr Caillian Ellis, Cllr Enda McGloin, Cllr Paddy O'Rourke, Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn, Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire, Cllr Sean McGowan, Cllr Thomas Mulligan, Cllr Enda Stenson, Cllr Mary Bohan, Cllr Frank Dolan, Cllr Padraig Fallon, Cllr Felim Gurn, Cllr Sean McDermott and Cllr Justin Warnock on a Field Trip to visit Waterford greenway and flooding relief initiatives from 11th May to 13th May 2022 be approved.

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke at the Pride of Place Awards in the INEC Centre, Killarney, Co Kerry on the 16th of May 2022 be approved.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Caillian Ellis
SECONDED by Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn

It was **AGREED** that the attendance of Cllr Paddy Farrell and Councillor Enda McGloin at the LAMA Spring Seminar in the Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny on the 11th to 12th April 2022 be retrospectively approved.

MM.60.22 Meeting Correspondence

1. Resolution dated 10th March 2022 from Westmeath County Council in regard to Children with Spina Bifida and /or Hydrocephalus currently requiring urgent Orthopaedic intervention.
2. Letter dated 23rd March 2022 from the Office of the Minister for Transport acknowledging receipt of Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council regarding NDLS office in Carrick-on-Shannon.
3. Resolution dated 22nd March 2022 from Dun-Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council regarding the withdrawal of Specific Planning Policy Requirements.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the resolution. Councillor Mary Bohan referred to the role of the Minister. Councillor Enda McGloin said the Planning Regulator can override what the Elected Members say.

Mr Lar Power, Chief Executive confirmed the Local Authority are required to adhere to the National Policy. Councillor Des Guckian said this is undemocratic and local decisions should stand.

4. Resolution dated 6th April 2022 from Galway County Council regarding Low-Cost fees for OAP's.
5. Resolution dated 11th April 2022 from Limerick City & County Council regarding GDPR consent forms.

Councillor Padraig Fallon said a review should be carried out in house in regard to GDPR consent forms as they create difficulty. Councillor Fallon proposed that the Corporate Policy Group look at this. Councillor Sean McDermott supported the proposal

6. Resolution dated 5th April 2022 from Kerry County Council regarding Stardust Fire.

7. Resolution dated 13th April 2022 from Westmeath County Council regarding harvesting of turf.

Councillor Des Guckian, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Caillian Ellis supported the resolution.

On the **Proposal** of Councillor Des Guckian
Seconded by Councillor Sean McGowan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council write to Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications of Ireland, requesting permission for Bord na Móna to allow Contractors to harvest turf due to the urgent need for fuel, resulting from the War in Ukraine

8. Resolution dated 13th April 2022 from Westmeath County Council regarding further reduction of taxes on fuel.
9. April Newsletter from the County Leitrim Society of New York
10. Resolution dated 26th April 2022 from Wexford County Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to introduce financial assistance to assist in the removal of asbestos from residential dwellings.
11. Resolution dated 26th April 2022 from Wexford County Council calling on the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Commissioner for Energy Regulation to ensure a transparent, robust and thorough procurement process be applied to the next supervisory body of Electrical Contractors agreement to ensure that all contractor's views are taken into account and that consideration for two bodies be considered to avoid monopolistic dominance of the market.

Other items discussed under meeting correspondence

Respite Services

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke queried if any response has been received from the HSE regarding respite services being provided for in the County.

Mr Kieran Brett confirmed no response has been received since last correspondence issued on foot of 7th March 2022 Council meeting. Mr Kieran Brett added that a follow up email had been issued on April 28th and that also had not received a response.

Councillor Enda McGloin asked that the meeting with Minister Rabbitte on the provision of a respite centre to meet the needs of people with disabilities be scheduled and he asked that

the HSE attend this meeting.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire confirmed that she has forwarded a question to the HSE Forum on this matter.

Get well wishes to Rachel Mallon

Councillor Sean McGowan wished Rachel Mallon get well wishes and a speedy recovery after her recent surgery.

MM.61.22 Vote of Congratulations

The Members extended a vote of Congratulations to Gavin & Charlie Duignan, Irish Contract Seating on achieving 50 years in business and wished them continued success for the future.

MM.62.22 Presentation on BFireSafe@School Project

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke welcomed Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer and Veronica Edwards from Carrigallen Secondary School to the meeting and they gave a presentation to the Members on the BFireSafe@School Project.

A copy of the presentation delivered to the Members appears as **Appendix 2** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke and the members unanimously paid tribute to the Finian Joyce and all who were involved in the project on their great achievement on winning the European Fire Safety Award 2021 presented by MEP Maria Walsh in Croke Park earlier this year.

MM.63.22 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan - Zero Discharge

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

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

Report by Capital Projects Office

"Leitrim County Council can confirm that the EPA have approved a Research Programme led by TCD as our academic partners to focus on using a small number of existing Council owned sites to test on site assessment options later this month. The required academic resources are now in place for this programme. The research programme will examine willow evapotranspiration systems as nature-based solutions for on-site wastewater treatment in

low permeability areas. 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 and to maintain the project within additional provisions of the relevant Code of Practice.

The CCMA also have a working group ongoing examining the potential of updating the existing surface water discharge licence process in the context of single houses. This Working Group will submit their proposals to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when complete."

Councillor Sean McGowan said this is one of the biggest issues in Leitrim. He asked that the Chief Executive continue to appeal to the CCMA working group to keep progressing this issue and achieve positive news on this matter.

All Members supported the motion.

MM.64.22 Motion from Councillor Mary Bohan, Councillor Frank Dolan, Councillor Padraig Fallon, Councillor Felim Gurn, Councillor Sean McDermott & Councillor Justin Warnock - Social Licence/consent for Gold Mining

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

"We the members of the Manorhamilton Municipal District propose that Leitrim County Council strongly condemn the Minister of Environment Eamon Ryan's decision to grant a prospecting licence to Flintbridge Resources over PL Areas 1469 and 3162 in the North of the County. We also wish to inform Minister Ryan that there will never be a social licence/consent for gold mining in this area.

Councillor Frank Dolan outlined that all the Members of the Manorhamilton Municipal District agreed to put this motion forward to the full Council as a means to support the local community on this issue. Councillor Dolan said the granting of the prospecting license will have a negative impact on people living in the area, tourism and the environment.

Councillor Mary Bohan expressed her shock that Minister Ryan would grant this licence. Councillor Bohan said the members want to make it clear there will never be a social licence/consent for gold mining in this area. Councillor Bohan said Leitrim Tourism and tourism providers have worked to promote the area and this is the last thing they want.

Councillor Bohan proposed that Leitrim County Council write to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, and Oireachtas members of this constituency on this matter.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion and said it unbelievable that Minister Ryan who was opposed to mining has now granted a prospecting licence. Councillor Warnock

referred to forestry and wind farms on forestry plantations in the county and he queried if elected members have any say on these matters.

Councillor Padraig Fallon said this issue is also before Sligo County Council at their monthly meeting and it has been raised with Oireachtas Members. Councillor Fallon highlighted that this will have a negative impact on our county, particularly North Leitrim. Councillor Padraig Fallon said there is a sequence of events in gold mining, and this is step one. He said assurances need to be sought that semi state and state owned bodies will not allow access to these lands.

Councillor Felim Gurn said all the elected representatives in North Leitrim represent their communities who do not want to destroy the landscape.

Councillor Sean McDermott said 47 townlands are devastated by this news. 2,500 people made submissions on this prospecting licence, which may lead to another.

Councillor Sean McDermott outlined the difficulties in obtaining planning for rural housing in contrast to the ease of application for this licence. Councillor McDermott said people in the area want to focus on tourism and not issues such as this. He said gold mining is one of the most destructive industries in the world and he stressed that the environment must be protected going forward.

Councillor Enda McGloin said he wrote to Minister Ryan on this issue. He confirmed that this prospecting licence is not a new occurrence, it goes back to the 1970's as previous prospecting attempts were made, and no mining licence applications have been made. Councillor Enda McGloin said the reply from the Minister stated that no intrusion should be undertaken unless the consent of the landowner/tenant is given. Councillor McGloin outlined he is concerned about the granting of this licence.

Councillor Bohan said a prospecting licence is to see what is there and she said there is no reason why Minister Ryan had to grant this. She highlighted the strong opposition to it.

Councillor Enda Stenson outlined that the members in South Leitrim fully support the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian supported the motion and said he has spoken and written against this in the past.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Frank Dolan
SECONDED by Cllr Mary Bohan

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council strongly condemn the Minister of Environment Eamon Ryan's decision to grant a prospecting licence to Flintbridge Resources over PL Areas 1469 and 3162 in the North of the County. We also wish to inform Minister Ryan that there will never be a social licence/consent for gold mining in this area.

MM.65.22 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian - Staff of Sligo General University Hospital

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

"That we express our appreciation and admiration for the exceptionally good and caring work being done by the staff of Sligo General University Hospital. The nurses, doctors, micro-biologists, x-ray staff etc are giving a first-class service to all patients, even though the current circumstances and their working conditions are very trying for them. In light of this we call upon the government to greatly improve the pay and working conditions of the staff and to increase the number of beds available."

Councillor Des Guckian paid tribute to the exceptional good and caring work of staff of Sligo General University Hospital who attended to him while he was in their care recently. Councillor Guckian said the current working conditions are very trying for staff and he said the nursing staff from abroad should be brought back and an 25% increase in pay would be in order for the nursing staff.

Councillor Justin Warnock supported the motion, but he said he could not see a 25% increase in pay being awarded but would welcome any pay increase for them.

Councillor Enda McGloin and all members wished Councillor Des Guckian a speedy recovery. Councillor McGloin said he attended the opening of a new Diabetes Centre at Sligo General University Hospital with the Minister for Health last week and referred to the issue of lack of beds. Councillor Enda McGloin welcomed the new 46 Bed unit in Sligo Hospital.

Councillors Brendan Barry Sean McGowan, Pdraig Fallon, Thomas Mulligan, Felim Gurn, Enda Stenson, Paddy Farrell and Mary Bohan all supported the motion.

Councillor Felim Gurn said he will bring this issue up at the next HSE Forum meeting.

Councillor Des Guckian thanked all the members for their support and said all the staff of Sligo General University Hospital need good support and concrete reward.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Des Guckian
SECONDED by Cllr Justin Warnock

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call upon the government to greatly improve the pay and working conditions of the staff and to increase the number of beds available. Leitrim County Council express their appreciation and admiration for the exceptionally good and caring work being done by the staff of Sligo General University Hospital. The nurses, doctors, micro-biologists, x-ray staff etc are giving a first-class service to all patients, even though the current circumstances and their working conditions are very trying for them.

MM.66.22 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson - Artists Payment

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

"That this council calls on the Government and Minister of Social Protection to find a solution which would allow artists with disabilities to be in receipt of the Basic Income for Artists payment without it affecting their disability supports."

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

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Government and Minister of Social Protection to find a solution which would allow artists with disabilities to be in receipt of the Basic Income for Artists payment without it affecting their disability supports.

MM.67.22 Motion from Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire - HAP

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire;

"Can I have an update on the HAP Housing assistant payment rates in County Leitrim. What increases have been applied in past 3 years?"

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

"The maximum HAP rent limits for County Leitrim are as follows:-

- Single Shared - €200
- Couple Shared - €220
- Single - €340
- Couple - €370
- Couple/One Parent Family + 1 Qualified Child - €450
- Couple/One Parent Family + 2 Qualified Children - €475
- Couple/One Parent Family + 3+ Qualified Children - €500

Leitrim County Council is also utilising the maximum 20% discretionary top up to these amounts which is being determined on a case-by-case basis. These HAP rent limits have not been increased within the last 3 years."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire acknowledged there has been no increase to the HAP rent limits within the last 3 years, and the maximum 20% discretionary top up amounts are being used on a case-by case basis.

Ms Mary Quinn said this is a reflection on what is happening in the rental market. Motions that have been submitted by members in the past on this topic and have been forwarded to the Government.

Councillor Brendan Barry said rents have increased and a limit of €500 for a Couple/One

Parent Family with 3 Qualified Children is very low. Councillor Barry said the Minister has the power to cap rents.

MM.68.22 Motion from Councillor Enda McGloin - Derelict Buildings

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to brief members on their current policy in relation to derelict buildings in the County, whether there is a register in place and if the current legislation is adequately dealing with the challenges this local authority (and others) have in dealing with the problem of dereliction in Co Leitrim."

Report by Capital Projects Office

"Properties that are formally declared as being derelict are recorded in the Derelict Sites Register, which is maintained by the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990. The Council considers that the current legislative framework for addressing derelict sites could be strengthened and notes the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Governments' intention to engage with local authorities in a proactive way to ensure effectiveness of the legislation. The DoHPLG also intends to carry out a review of the Act. These measures are in addition to the Vacant Sites Register and the proposed new vacant property tax, consideration of which is being pursued by the Department of Finance, and which provide alternative options to resolving such properties.

The obligation to ensure that a property is not derelict rests with the Owner of the property. Where the Council becomes aware of a potentially derelict property, it is required to investigate same so as to determine whether the property is considered 'derelict' within the meaning of the Act. Should the property be determined to be derelict, the Council may issue a notice on the Owner requiring them to undertake specified actions to prevent the property from becoming, or continuing to be, derelict. A failure to comply with the requirements of a notice constitutes an offence and may be prosecuted in a court of appropriate jurisdiction, and may be subject to penalties including fines, a term in jail, or both.

The Council, when issuing a Derelict Sites notice, will also advise that failure to comply with the notice may result in the property being entered in the Derelict Sites Register. The inclusion of a property in the Register may render it liable to a yearly financial levy should the property be located within an urban area. In Leitrim, the towns of Ballinamore, Carrick on Shannon, Dromahaire, Drumshanbo, Kinlough, Manorhamilton and Mohill are designated as urban areas. Properties recorded as derelict sites may be acquired by the Council – by agreement with the Owner or through use of a Compulsory Purchase Order."

Councillor Enda McGloin welcomed the reply received and acknowledged the challenges in dealing with dereliction. He asked how many buildings are on the Derelict Sites Register. Councillor Enda McGloin said it is important that a submission is made to the Department to enable Local Authorities to provide alternative options to resolving such properties.

Mr Bernard Greene, Senior Planner confirmed there are 37 derelict sites on the register.

Updating of the Derelict Sites Register is included on the Planning Department work programme for this year.

Councillor Enda McGloin welcomed the reply.

MM.69.22 Motion from Councillor Brendan Barry - Update on the provision of Social Housing Units

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

"I request that Leitrim County Council provide an update on the number of houses and their locations, that it intends to build over the next 2 years and will those planned houses be able to cater for current demand? People are finding it extremely difficult to find places to rent and live currently."

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

"Leitrim County Council propose to deliver the following social housing units through construction over the next 2 years.

Location	No. of Units
Carrick on Shannon	17
Manorhamilton	17
Ballinamore	14
Drumshanbo	5
Dromahair	4
Drumsna	4
Kiltyclogher	2
Total	63

It is difficult to ascertain at this point whether the delivery of these additional homes will meet future demand however Leitrim County Council have been able to slightly reduce the Housing waiting list over recent years utilizing all the delivery streams available to it."

Councillor Brendan Barry welcomed that there is an increase in housing stock over the next no. of years. Councillor Barry said there is a large number of houses for sale due to the increase in property prices and this is squeezing out renters. He outlined that the number of notices to quit have increased because rents have increased. Councillor Barry said there should be more funding provided for Local Authorities to build houses, as a lot of developers are holding tight due to the rising costs of building materials.

Councillor Enda McGloin and Councillor Sean McGowan asked if turnkey developments were included in the reply.

Councillor Justin Warnock noted that the report contained no reference to Kinlough.

Ms Mary Quinn said this is a 5-year programme, turnkey developments are included, and

she will revert to Cllr Warnock in regard to housing in Kinlough.

MM.70.22 Motion from Councillor Paddy O'Rourke - New Financial Providers

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

"I ask that this council contact the Central Bank asking that they instruct Ulster Bank, which is still governed by Central Bank regulations, to assist their customers in obtaining new financial providers as it appears Ulster Bank's priority has been only to transfer their loan book in order to gather their assets before exiting the market, while leaving holders of current and savings accounts with no assistance, which will lead to chaos in cash flow for many families, particularly elderly persons."

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paddy O'Rourke gave the background to his motion and called on the Central Bank to instruct Ulster Bank to assist their customers in obtaining new financial providers as various payments are made monthly e.g., instalments to insurance companies and if no payment is received the policy will fall void. Cathaoirleach, Cllr O'Rourke said with no assistance being provided by Ulster Bank to its current and saving account customers, this will result in chaos for many people particularly the elderly in the latter half of the year.

Councillor Enda McGloin said there should be more flexibility for Credit Unions to allow them to operate.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon said financial institutions do not provide any assistance and there should be a onus on them under consumer rights.

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

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council contact the Central Bank asking that they instruct Ulster Bank, which is still governed by Central Bank regulations, to assist their customers in obtaining new financial providers as it appears Ulster Bank's priority has been only to transfer their loan book in order to gather their assets before exiting the market, while leaving holders of current and savings accounts with no assistance, which will lead to chaos in cash flow for many families, particularly elderly persons.

MM.71.22 Motion from Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn - Public Consultation to change building regulations for changing/toilet facilities for Disabled Persons in public buildings

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

"I ask that the members of Leitrim County Council take part in a public consultation to change building regulations, so that changing places & toilet facilities for disabled persons are available in public buildings throughout Leitrim."

Report by Capital Projects Office

"On 9 February last, the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, invited submissions, observations, and comments, as part of a public consultation process, on a proposed amendment to the Building Regulations Part M (Access and Use) to make provision for a 'changing places' toilet in certain buildings.

A 'changing places' toilet proposes to offer larger, supported facilities that address the needs of people for whom current accessible sanitary accommodation are inadequate. These facilities enable people with complex care needs to take part in everyday activities such as travel, shopping, family days out or attending a sporting event. Currently there is no provision for a changing places toilet in publicly accessible buildings in Ireland. The needs of a proportion of the population will be met by the provision of this sanitary facility in large publicly accessible buildings and spaces.

Details of how Members of the Council may participate and make submissions – in relation to the proposed revisions – may be obtained via the link below.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/247d5-public-consultation-on-the-review-of-building-regulations-part-m-access-and-use-to-make-provision-for-a-changing-places-toilet-in-certain-buildings/>

The closing date for submissions is 12 May 2022 next."

Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn called on all Members to take part in the public consultation process by making submissions to change building regulations, so that changing places & toilet facilities for disabled persons are available in public.

Councillor Brendan Barry supported the motion and said that services are not adequate for older children.

MM.72.22 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell - Upgrade domestic septic tanks

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

"I ask the Council to call on the Minister for the Environment, Minister Eamonn Ryan, to increase the grant funding available to private individuals to enable them to upgrade their domestic septic tanks."

Councillor Paddy Farrell said he has received a lot of representations on this issue with septic tank inspections now taking place. Cllr Farrell said the current grant is insufficient and if the Minister is concerned about water quality there should be more money spent on resolving this issue.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion and said a substantial grant should be made available. Cllr McGowan highlighted that there are good treatment systems available.

Councillor Pdraig Fallon, Cllr Sean McDermott supported the motion.

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

It was **AGREED** that Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Minister Eamonn Ryan, to increase the grant funding available to private individuals to enable them to upgrade their domestic septic tanks.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 1.20 pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Dated: **4th July 2022**