

Minutes of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Áras and Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Tuesday, 7 May 2024 at 9.30 am

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

Apologies:

Officials Present: Justin Fannon, Senior Executive Officer Housing Capital
Aideen Kelly, Assistant Staff Officer
Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads - South Leitrim Area
Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator

At the outset of the meeting Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson paid tribute to Councillor Thomas Mulligan and Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire on their retirement from Leitrim County Council, thanking them for their service to Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District and County Leitrim as a whole. He wished them well in their retirement, adding that they were a pleasure to work with, whilst noting the disappointment in losing people of such calibre.

Councillor Sean McGowan, Councillor Paddy Farrell and Councillor Des Guckian in turn concurred with the good wishes to Councillor Thomas Mulligan and Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire.

CMD.54.24 Adoption of minutes 8th April 2024

Councillor Des Guckian referred to page 5 of the minutes where Mr Justin Fannon had advised Cllr Guckian that the person involved in the incident in Mohill had left the Mohill area. Cllr Des Guckian stated the person has not moved away and asked how is Leitrim County Council going to address this issue.

Mr Justin Fannon advised Cllr Des Guckian he was not aware the individual concerned was back in the area adding it will be investigated.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of 8th April 2024.

CMD.55.24 **Meeting Correspondence**

Mr Kieran Brett, Meetings Administrator, informed the members no correspondence had been received.

CMD.56.24 **Consider Tidy Towns allocations for Carrick-on-Shannon MD area for 2024**

Mr Justin Fannon, Acting Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructural Services gave a report on the Tidy Town Allocation for Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District under the General Municipal Allocation 2024.

Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the allocation. stating we have to work within the confines of the budget allocated.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said it was very positive to see Tidy Town committees receive the recognition they deserve for their work and complimented Leitrim County Council for their support to the Tidy Town Committees.

Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the allocation and complimented Tidy Town committees on the excellent work they carry out in the county.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan thanked the council for their allocation to the towns, especially Mohill.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Sean McGowan
SECONDED by Councillor Thomas Mulligan

It was **AGREED** to approve the Tidy Town Allocations under the General Municipal Allocation 2024.

CMD.57.24 **To approve the 2024 Estate Management allocation for Local Authority Housing Estates'**

Mr Justin Fannon informed the members €3,000 is being allocated to Treanmore estate in Mohill for general upkeep and improvements to the estate.

All elected members welcomed the funding.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Thomas Mulligan
SECONDED by Councillor Sean McGowan

It was **AGREED** to approve the Estate Management allocation for Local Authority

Housing Estates for 2024.

CMD.58.24 To approve the Chief Executive's Report and Recommendation 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 proposed construction of temporary flood defences in the townlands of Drumhierny and Leitrim, Leitrim Village, Co Leitrim

Councillor Paddy Farrell proposed the works proceed adding he can see no danger to other estates, and everyone in the estate is anxious to see the work commencing.

Mr Justin Fannon advised the full flood protection scheme for Leitrim Village is currently being considered. He added the Capital Projects team have secured funding from Office of Public Works to carry out the works necessary to resolve a localised flooding issue. At Christmas of last year, a temporary job was carried out due to flooding. Design works are now complete, and the works now proposed are the first step towards protecting Leitrim Village. He advised the full plan will take several years to complete.

Councillor Des Guckian stated the plan centers around a weak embankment and was wrongly initiated without the necessary permission. He advised that he is neither for, nor against, the proposal and requested discussion around the proposal be postponed for 2 months until the next meeting of Carrick Municipal District in July, when the new council will be in place. Cllr Des Guckian expressed the opinion that lowering the level of the Shannon was the only real solution to this problem.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson stated the proposal will not be discussed again as Part 8 was proposed and seconded.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Paddy Farrell
SECONDED by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire

It was **AGREED** to approve the Chief Executive's Report and Recommendation pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed construction of temporary flood defences in the townlands of Drumhierny and Leitrim, Leitrim Village, Co. Leitrim

CMD.59.24 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian:

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

"That our Council officials be asked to list, and to explain, what definite actions they have taken against the Vietnamese Company that owns the premises in Main St,

Mohill (formerly Gannon's), which collapsed into the street a few months ago. What is now proposed, by that Company and by Council officials, to allow the Public Realm works to be carried out on that side of Main St?"

Report by Economic Development

"The recent partial collapse of a building at Main Street Lower, Mohill, has been the subject of statutory notices under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964, determining that the building was considered to constitute a dangerous building and directing the owners to undertake various works to make the building safe and prevent any further collapse. While the "Dangerous Structures" legislations (the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964, The Roads Act 1993 and the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 provide a Council with a means to direct, by statutory notice, the owner of a building to undertake works to prevent a building from being dangerous, including the requirement to demolish. These Acts do not provide any avenue for the Council to direct the reinstatement of a partially collapsed building. As the building has been made safe, the "Dangerous Structures" legislation is no longer relevant in resolving the reinstatement of the collapsed building and other statutory powers have to be explored and utilised. In light of the restricted powers available to the Council to have the building reinstated, the desire for a rapid reinstatement was always going to be problematic. This has the potential to lead to a delay in the completion of the footpaths abutting the building in question."

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his dissatisfaction with the response, adding he was hoping council officials would give a clear answer and he questioned what are the council officials afraid of?

Councillor Thomas Mulligan stated the owners of the building acted in total disregard of the council and everyone else. He added the council moved along at the best pace they could at the time. There was a misunderstanding regarding the exact type of work that needed to be done and within a week, council officials were onsite observing the situation. Additionally, the council also had to engage with the consulting engineers employed by the building owners to ensure safety work was completed as quickly as possible.

Councillor Sean McGowan concurred with Councillor Thomas Mulligan adding that if works to the building hold up the public realm works it would be unsatisfactory, and he asked Mr Justin Fannon and the council officials to keep pressure on building owners to ensure the building was reinstated as quickly as possible.

Mr. Justin Fannon advised the area which may be affected is the area just under the scaffolding and that carparking outside of the footpath will be completed. The defect period for the public realm works is 1 year. Any outstanding element of the public realm contract can be completed during this period.

CMD.60.24 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian:

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

"That at least five new lay-bys be created, at suitable places, between houses, along the L3468-0, from The Top O' The Hill, Aughamore, to Derrycarne Forest Park entrance."

Report by Roads - General

"The district Office assumes that the road number is the L-3468-1 as the L-3468-0 is a cul-de-sac at Derrywillow. As per previous requests from elected members, we can create new lay byes once we have a grant applicable to the public road. In 2023, we repaired and re-established the existing lay byes on this public road to allow safer movement of traffic to the forest amenity."

Councillor Des Guckian gave background to his motion, adding extra lay-bys need to be placed on the Aughamore end of this road, and residents are objecting to lorries/trucks pulling in on their private property.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Sean McGowan and Councillor Paddy Farrell supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Banks reiterated new lay-bys can be created once there is a grant applicable to the public road, adding there will be a new 3-year road programme developed by the end of the year and this road could be included in same.

CMD.61.24 Motion from Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire:

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

"I ask for an outline of the safety audit conducted recently and its implementation at the riverside area in Carrick on Shannon. I also will ask if similar has been done elsewhere in the county in recent years."

Report by Roads - General

"In 2023, the district office carried out 2 water safety audits along the entire queue area of Carrick on Shannon. (from the Aras slipway to the Linear Park). Water Safety Ireland and IPB carried out separate audits and produced conclusions of a similar nature. A number of issues were raised on the public areas of the waterfront, which ranged from trip hazards to open water frontage. The district office carried out the remedial works as outlined in the reports which constituted erection of signage, installation of new handrail systems and removal of trip hazards. All opes within the existing handrail system along the public water frontage have appropriate signage. These are the only audits that has been carried out in recent years"

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire welcomed the response, and she acknowledged improvements have been made and stated that more awareness

should be raised regarding the improvements made by Leitrim County Council following the 2 water safety audits that were carried out.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson expressed his satisfaction with the response, concurring with Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire's remark about increased awareness and requested the Leitrim Observer to spread the word that the audits have been carried out, issues identified, and remedial action taken to rectify them.

CMD.62.24 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan:

It was agreed by the Members that Motion 8 in the name of Councillor Sean McGowan and Motion No 13 in the name of Councillor Paddy Farrell be taken concurrently as they relate to the same issue.

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

"To call on relevant departments of Roads, Water Services & Úisce Éireann to immediately carry out repairs to the sewerage line serving the Paddocks Estate in Carrick-on Shannon. There is a serious problem with the sewerage blocking up on a regular basis."

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

"There is an issue with damaged sewer pipes in the public roadway of the Paddocks Estate. It is understood a CCTV survey of the pipes was reported to LCC some years ago and to date no action has been taken. It is incumbent on Leitrim County Council to compel Úisce Éireann to carry out reconstruction of the damaged pipes as a matter of urgency."

Report by Water Services

"The Foul Sewer Network at the Paddocks Housing Development in Carrick on Shannon is with Úisce Éireann's Asset Planning Sewer Network Rehabilitation Programme and until such time that the required Rehabilitation works are planned Úisce Éireann will continue to jet the Foul Sewer Network on a weekly/Fortnightly basis as required."

Councillor Sean McGowan gave background to his motion stating quite a number of families live in the estate and sewerage coming up through manholes is not acceptable and requested immediate steps be taken to address this issue.

Councillor Paddy Farrell concurred with Councillor Sean McGowan, adding no funding has been put forward to address this issue and people have a role to play in the situation, be it Leitrim County Council or the builder.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian queried if it is Úisce Éireann or the developer that are responsible.

Mr Justin Fannon advised Úisce Éireann are responsible and have committed to jetting the Foul Sewer network in the estate. He further advised that Úisce Éireann have an intervention team in place and the estate is on its rehabilitation programme, adding works will be carried out in the medium term.

Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his disappointment with the reply adding it is not an appropriate answer from Úisce Éireann and added that jetting the Foul Sewer network is not acceptable.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson asked that we write to Úisce Éireann and outline the issues in the Paddocks Housing Development stressing the urgency of same.

All elected members agreed to this.

CMD.63.24 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan:

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

"I call on Darragh O'Boyle District Engineer, to have discussions with the Gardaí with a view to placing a 50km speed limit on local road L-5613-2 from Lough Rinn Estate and L-5612-0 at Farnaught, onto where they join the Tooman/Drumlish Road. There are a number of families living along this section of road with small children and they are concerned for their safety. I would also ask that signage be erected to advise motorists of this change."

Report by Roads - General

"There is currently a national review on all speed limits. Once this review is completed, we can assess our current speed limit regime. At that point, Leitrim County Council will produce a review of speed limits for approval by the elected members. Leitrim County Council will liaise with the Gardaí on our proposed speed limit review prior to presenting it to the members for approval."

Councillor Sean McGowan gave background to his motion.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan, Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson, Councillor Des Guckian and Councillor Paddy Farrell supported the motion.

Mr Justin Fannon advised that a national speed limit review is currently being carried out. By November this year every local road speed limit will reduce from 80 to

60kmph. During 2025, it is planned that all national roads speed limits will reduce from 100 to 80kmph and urban roads will reduce to 30kmph.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the changes, adding if speed could be policed, it would be more beneficial.

Councillor Paddy Farrell expressed his doubts that 60kmph speed limit will be low enough on local roads.

Councillor Sean McGowan queried the possibility of having a 50kmph on the road in question. He also queried if ramps or tabletop ramps such as those used at junctions could be placed on the road. He questioned who is going to police the speed on the road.

Councillor Des Guckian agreed with the suggestion of ramps or tabletop ramps on the road. He said reducing national speed limits only is not enough, speed limits should be addressing local needs also.

Councillor Thoms Mulligan supported the call to have speed limits reduced, adding greater consideration is required regarding ramps and raised tablespots, stating they can cause issues for tractors and agricultural vehicles.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson referred to the ramps on Castlecarra road, advising many people are unhappy with them, stating they are dangerous to cars, adding a discussion needs to take place around this issue.

Councillor Sean McGowan queried can the local authority identify roads that can be reduced to 50kmph and where the speed limit can be determined and adopted locally.

Mr Justin Fannon advised there is an allowance in the legislation, to facilitate a further reduction in speed limits at a local level.

CMD.64.24 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson

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

"There is a major outcry at the moment, in Carrick-on-Shannon, for the provision of a proper Community facility, to cater for local drama, music and dance lessons. Carrick on Shannon is the one area, in the district, without such a centre. May I ask what can be done to alleviate this situation."

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

"The Council is keenly aware of the lack of community facilities to cater for local drama, music and dance lessons. To address this deficit the council last year

purchased the property which was previously Colemans bookshop on Main Street and appointed architects to manage the project. A funding application under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to undertake the renovations required to make it the premises fit for purpose, was recently approved."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson gave background to his motion highlighting the need for a community facility for all types of groups in Carrick-on-Shannon. He added that this town has the largest population in the county and queried whether a recommendation could be made by this Municipal District that a Community Centre is needed sooner rather than later.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Councillor Paddy Farrell and Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian advised the old Town Hall in Bridge Street was meant to be used, however, this is now occupied by the Local Authority, adding St Mary's Hall is needed by the school, and if these 2 buildings were free, they may be used.

Mr Justin Fannon advised the Coleman's building on Main St. will be ideal for groups up to a certain size, adding it extends a long way back on the site, and it may be possible to develop a large community space within the building. He stated the building will be beneficial for arts and smaller groups.

CMD.65.24 Motion from Councillor Enda Stenson

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

"I ask the Senior Engineer Mr Darragh OBoyle, could at least 2 lay-bys be provided on the Meelick Hill Road, no L_3441_1. The school bus driver has brought the need for these to my attention."

Report by Roads - General

"The district office have a RMG grant on the L-3441 this year and we will access the existing conditions and, if possible, will create lay byes accordingly."

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed and noted the response.

CMD.66.24 Motion from Councillor Thomas Mulligan

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

"I am requesting that the culvert/pipe crossing under local road number L-5620-2 in the townland of Lisclonadea receive attention as it is preventing proper land drainage taking place."

Report by Roads - General

"The district office will carry out an inspection of the existing culvert on the public road and can replace, if damaged."

Councillor Thomas Mulligan noted the response and questioned whether this issue could not only be investigated but rectified. He added that it would only take a small amount of money to fix and expressed his hope that the response received would be positive.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

Mr Joseph Banks advised if serious works need to be carried out, an application for funding would have to be made.

CMD.67.24 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell:

It was agreed by the Members that Motion 8 in the name of Councillor Sean McGowan and Motion No 13 in the name of Councillor Paddy Farrell be taken concurrently as they relate to the same issue.

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

"To call on relevant departments of Roads, Water Services & Úisce Éireann to immediately carry out repairs to the sewerage line serving the Paddocks Estate in Carrick-on-Shannon. There is a serious problem with the sewerage blocking up on a regular basis."

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

"There is an issue with damaged sewer pipes in the public roadway of the Paddocks Estate. It is understood a CCTV survey of the pipes was reported to LCC some years ago and to date no action has been taken. It is incumbent on Leitrim County Council to compel Úisce Éireann to carry out reconstruction of the damaged pipes as a matter of urgency."

Report by Water Services

"The Foul Sewer Network at the Paddocks Housing Development in Carrick on Shannon is with Úisce Éireann's Asset Planning Sewer Network Rehabilitation Programme and until such time that the required Rehabilitation works are planned Úisce Éireann will continue to jet the Foul Sewer Network on a weekly/Fortnightly basis as required."

Councillor Sean McGowan gave background to his motion stating quite a number of

families live in the estate and sewerage coming up through manholes is not acceptable and requested immediate steps be taken to address this issue.

Councillor Paddy Farrell concurred with Councillor Sean McGowan, adding no funding has been put forward to address this issue and people have a role to play in the situation, be it Leitrim County Council or the builder.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian queried if it is Úisce Éireann or the developer that are responsible.

Mr Justin Fannon advised Úisce Éireann are responsible and have committed to jetting the Foul Sewer network in the estate. He further advised that Úisce Éireann have an intervention team in place and the estate is on its rehabilitation programme, adding works will be carried out in the medium term.

Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his disappointment with the reply adding it is not an appropriate answer from Úisce Éireann and added that jetting the Foul Sewer network is not acceptable.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson asked that we write to Úisce Éireann and outline the issues in the Paddocks Housing Development stressing the urgency of same.

All elected members agreed to this.

CMD.68.24 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell:

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

"I call on Leitrim County Council to explain why they are not paying maintenance fees for houses they own in estates. It is very unfair on other homeowners to carry this cost."

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

"The Council pays contributions towards the maintenance fees in private estates where properties have been acquired by the Council towards the costs associated with maintaining the public spaces. The Housing Department will contact the individual Residents Associations in this regard in order to process any outstanding payments."

Councillor Paddy Farrell gave background to his motion stating it is unfair that people in estates have to carry the cost for the rest of the tenants.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion.

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire supported the motion adding it does make a difference to an estate if a house pays €40 and queried could this fee be added to the tenant's rent.

CMD.69.24 A.O.B.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan thanked the members of Carrick Municipal District committee, the Chief Executive and staff of Leitrim County Council for their help and assistance over the years, adding it was a very effective committee that worked very well.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire thanked the council for everything they did, and the people who worked alongside her in her time as an elected representative, adding the achievements of the committee have been significant.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 10.40 am

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

SIGNED: _____
Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

Date: Monday, 8 July 2024