

**Minutes of the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Meeting held in the  
Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon on Monday, 8 April  
2024 at 10.00 am**

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

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

**CMD.40.24 Adoption of minutes 11th March 2024**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire  
**SECONDED** by Councillor Des Guckian

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**CMD.41.24 Meeting Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted by the members:

1. Email from Iarnród Éireann regarding provision of new footbridge and lift at Dromod Train Station.

Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his disappointment with the time frame of 2028 for the installation of the footbridge and lift, stating these are needed now, especially for older people with disabilities. He proposed correspondence be sent to Iarnród Éireann asking them to speed up the installation of the lift and footbridge at Dromod Railway Station.

All elected members supported this proposal.

**CMD.42.24 Approval of Festival & Events Grants 2024**

Mr Justin Fannon outlined to the members the list of festivals and events to

be funded through the Festivals and Events Tourism Grant Scheme 2024 for Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District as set out in **Appendix 1** to the minutes of this meeting.

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire requested clarification on the figures.

Mr Justin Fannon advised an overall figure of €7,445 was allocated to Carrick on Shannon Municipal District detailing the breakdown as follows;

- €2,127 is set aside for a specific municipal festival.
- €4,150 is the total festival funding allocation – he advised 8 submissions were received for the Carrick-on Shannon MD area. The Community and Tourism sections evaluated the applications in order to determine the allocations.
- €1,168 is the balance available should a request for funding be submitted from a community organising a festival or event later in the year.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson welcomed the funding, stating festivals are hugely beneficial to every area and agreed with keeping money aside if a request for funding is submitted during the year.

Councillor Des Guckian expressed his disappointment with the funding allocation and noted that with insurance costs increasing, it is not enough. He advised he did not agree with holding money for future festivals adding either festivals are included at the beginning or not at all.

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire thanked the community groups for submitting their applications and she highlighted the importance of festivals to families and how such events benefit people's mental and physical and wellbeing.

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

It was **AGREED** to approve the Festivals & Events Tourism Grant Scheme allocations 2024 for Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District.

**CMD.43.24 Nomination of a Member of Carrick MD to the new County Tourism Forum**

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

It was **AGREED** to nominate Councillor Paddy Farrell to the new County Tourism Forum.

**CMD.44.24 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan - Public realm**

### works in villages

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

"The public realm works that have been carried out in towns in the County are very welcome and will have a very good impact for these towns. However, the County also has very picturesque villages, and they too are very important for locals and visitors alike. Therefore, I am asking what plans are there for similar public realm projects in our villages? I believe works of this nature would be very important to locations like Dromod, Drumsna, Roosky & Jamestown, given their tourism potential."

#### **Report by Economic Development**

"The improvement in the Public Realm and the creation of attractive communal spaces is a key element in the regeneration of our Towns and Villages. Leitrim County Council has focused on the larger towns for the public realm improvement works to date and will continue to seek to deliver for the remaining larger towns in the short term. Leitrim County Council fully appreciate the value that public realm improvements can also make to our smaller villages especially those with tourism footfall and will consider the bundling together of a number of Shannonside villages in order to produce a project of suitable ambition and scale for RRDF funding in the medium term."

Councillor Sean McGowan gave background to his motion and queried could the villages Dromod, Drumsna, Roosky and Jamestown be looked at collectively for funding from the Department.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan and Councillor Paddy Farrell supported the motion.

Councillor Des Guckian stated he was opposing the motion as it does not fit into the appropriate development in villages and if the motion is passed it will prevent future elected members having a say on what is appropriate to an area. He stated that there is a concern with the way public realm works have been brought forward to date.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion whilst highlighting the importance of seeking continued funding from the Department and the importance of consulting with residents should funding become available.

#### **CMD.45.24 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian - Traffic Management in Dromod**

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

"That our engineers accede to the demands of the people of Dromod that a suitable and comprehensive new traffic calming, and traffic management plan be drawn up by them and that it will be put before the people of Dromod and Councillors before any final decisions are made."

### **Report by Roads - General**

"The district office has no current plans regarding construction of traffic management plans in Dromod. If and when this occurs, these schemes will follow the statutory requirements regarding public consultation."

Councillor Des Guckian gave background to his motion adding businesses are asking for more parking spaces, not less, and the issue of speeding by heavy vehicles and lorries has to be addressed along with cars belonging to non residents taking up the available parking spaces.

### **CMD.46.24 Motion from Councillor Des Guckian - Local authority houses at Treanmore, Mohill**

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

"That, in the case of the homes for the elderly at Treanmore, Mohill, Leitrim Housing be asked to explain why some of these houses have been let to people of a much younger age who are known to be engaged in anti-social activities and bullying of their elderly neighbours."

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

"Leitrim County Council as a Housing Authority provides accommodation for individuals or families unable to provide housing accommodation from their own personal resources. The Council has a number of estates within the Social Housing Stock where older persons are accommodated including the Treanmore Estate in Mohill. However, it should be noted that these dwellings are not exclusively used to meet the housing need of older persons. In certain limited circumstances, the Council may be required to allocate a vacant Local Authority dwelling to an individual or a household in an estate where older persons are accommodated. Prior to the allocation of social housing support, housing applicants are Garda vetted and mandatory Pre-Tenancy Training is completed with all newly appointed tenants to ensure that the tenant is familiarised with their obligations under the Tenancy Agreement and the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. Complaints relating to any alleged incidents of anti-social behaviour are fully investigated with the co-operation of An Garda Síochána."

Councillor Des Guckian gave background to his motion and questioned have the local authority no power to stop people's lives been made a misery.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan advised he was aware of the incidents that happened previously, adding the anti-social behavior that is taking place is

unacceptable and questioned why some people were accommodated there in the first place.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson acknowledged that steps have been taken by the Housing Department of the Council to address the issue.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan advised a lot of anti-social behavior comes from people who are not tenants in these houses adding there needs to be increased monitoring of the situation.

Councillor Paddy Farrell stated people should be vetted better.

Mr Justin Fannon advised regarding the incident outlined by Cllr Guckian, that a process was followed, with verbal and written warnings issued and as of today the individual concerned with causing the anti-social behaviour has moved on from the Mohill area.

Councillor Des Guckian thanked his fellow elected members for their support especially Councillor Thomas Mulligan and reiterated this behavior needs to be addressed now.

**CMD.47.24 Motion from Councillor Sean McGowan - Provision of footpath between the villages of Drumsna & Jamestown**

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

"I ask the Acting Director of Services Justin Fannon to contact Roscommon County Council to find out what progress they have made with regard the provision of the footpath between the villages of Drumsna & Jamestown."

**Report by Economic Development**

"Roscommon County Council engaged Clandillon Civil Consulting to develop the Inter Urban Greyway Pilot connection between Drumsna and Jamestown Villages along the L1037. The project has been advanced through concept development and options selection phases. The project is currently at National Transport Authority (NTA) Phase 3: Preliminary Design however no funding was received in 2024 to progress the project further through this phase. In terms of funding and the wider Roscommon context the NTA are committed to a large project in Ballaghaderreen for at least the next 2 years. Leitrim County Council will continue to engage with Roscommon County Council to encourage its promotion with the NTA."

Councillor Sean McGowan expressed his disappointment with the response from Roscommon County Council.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion adding he spoke with the Chief Executive of Roscommon County Council, Mr Shane Tierney who advised there is no funding available despite Roscommon

County Council seeking it.

**CMD.48.24 Motion from Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire - Proposal of 4 No. x 1 bed apartments at Castle Street, Mohill**

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

"I ask that the Planning Department of Leitrim County Council revisit the proposals for 4 No. x 1 bed apartments at Castle Street Mohill. Parents of children in The Hunt school have shared concerns which I believe are valid and every effort should be made to reach a better design before further costs are incurred."

**Report by Economic Development**

"Whilst the submitted Notice of Motion is addressed to the Planning Department, the sponsoring Department of the proposed housing development is the Housing Department. The role of the Planning Department is to offer advice to the Housing Department on a proposed development before the Local Authority advertises its intention to undertake a proposed development (which occurred in this instance resulting in redesign of certain elements to minimise the potential to cause overlooking from the subject property) and to then manage the resultant Part 8 public consultation process as required under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Following the completion of the public consultation phase on 11th April next, a report will be prepared on behalf of the Chief Executive which includes summarizing any submissions made and making a recommendation with regard to proceeding with the proposed development. This report is then submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. It is therefore considered premature for the matter to be discussed at a meeting of the Municipal District before the public consultation process has been completed or the submission of the Chief Executives report to the elected members, containing recommendations regarding the proposed development, in accordance with the legislative provisions nor should the Planning Department or member of the executive comment further at this time."

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire gave background to her motion, adding it is important to highlight the discomfort of people at an early stage whilst acknowledging due process will take place.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson and Councillor Paddy Farrell supported the motion.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan supported the motion adding the plan itself is nice, however, the idea of the property overlooking a school yard has to be changed. Furthermore, he added this proposal is not acceptable to parents

and people were annoyed that elected members did not inform them of it. He stated the elected members were not aware of this proposal.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion adding he will not back the proposal as currently presented as overlooking a school where children are playing is not acceptable.

Councillor Des Guckian stated the proposal is very ill advised adding a lot of people in Mohill are against it and asked the council to withdraw the Part 8 proposal. He stated that the proposal will result in the loss of further car parking in Mohill and that the design of what is proposed does not fit in with the existing architecture of the surrounding buildings such as the Hunt School.

Councillor Thomas Mulligan advised people are concerned based on recent anti-social behaviour incidents and questioned who would be allocated to these apartments. He concurred with Councillor Des Guckian suggestion that the Council do not proceed with this proposal.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the views of his fellow members and advised the Part 8 Proposal has to go before Carrick Municipal District members for their consideration and at this stage more discussions can take place on the proposal.

Mr Justin Fannon advised the members to carefully look at the design drawings, adding the design took into account that the building was beside a national school. There is potential for an individual while going up the stairs to one of the upper floor apartments to have sight of the school yard. Screening has been proposed to rectify this issue. The 2 ground floor apartments are disabled friendly. As far as he is aware none of the upper apartments overlook the school yard. He advised that securing town centre sites is difficult with numerous complicating issues, as there was no significant issue with land registry on this site, it was pursued. Currently 60% of people on the housing list are in need of 1 or 2 bed accommodation. He advised the CE's report will contain conditions attached to the planning before the proposal comes before elected members for approval, however, he reiterated there is very limited potential for overlooking of the school yard and it is impossible to see into the school yard when inside the apartments. Mr Justin Fannon advised the 11<sup>th</sup> of April is the closing date for submissions on the proposal.

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire stated the purpose of the elected members is to represent people who are agitated by the proposal.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson advised people do not object to the council having the property, the objection to this proposal is the fact it is overlooking the school yard.

**CMD.49.24 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell - Investigate dangerous section of road on the R209 where vehicles**

**come off the L3390 from Leitrim Village direction**

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

"I call on District Engineer, Darragh O'Boyle to investigate the dangerous section of road on the R209 where vehicles come off the L3390 from Leitrim Village direction. There needs to be double white lines on the R209 or some other deterrent as there has been several incidents at this junction."

**Report by Roads - General**

"We have installed driver feedback signs at both approaches to this junction advising the traffic to slow to 60kph. The existing centre line construction is in line with the current regulations."

Councillor Paddy Farrell gave background to his motion questioning could a full line be placed on that section of road.

Councillor Des Guckian and Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

Mr Darragh O'Boyle advised a driver feedback sign was erected; however, the signage can be reviewed. Furthermore, he advised the white line has changed due to regulations, but he will liaise with the road marking contractor in this regard.

**CMD.50.24 Motion from Councillor Paddy Farrell - Large volume of traffic in Attirory estates**

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

"Residents in Attirory estates are very angry that their concerns about the large volume of traffic coming off the N4 are not being addressed by Leitrim County Council. This matter needs to be addressed for the safety of children and pedestrians."

**Report by Roads - General**

"All housing estates which have been taken in charge have the mandatory 30kph speed limit along with pedestrian signage. The district office have recently constructed a ramped pedestrian crossing and driver feedback signs to slow traffic along this road."

Councillor Paddy Farrell gave background to his motion and asked could officials go out and meet with residents to listen to their concerns.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion whilst acknowledging the work that has been completed to date.

Councillor Finola Armstrong-McGuire questioned could active travel be an



option to address the issue.

Councillor Des Guckian and Councillor Sean McGowan also supported the motion.

Mr Darragh O'Boyle advised he was not aware the footpath was required, or that residents were willing to forfeit a piece of land to provide one. He stated he will engage with the active travel department regarding the development of a footpath between Attirory and N4.

**CMD.51.24 Motion from Councillor Thomas Mulligan - Dumping of furniture and household waste on local road No. L344820 in the townland of Cornee**

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

"I am requesting that dumping of furniture and household waste on local road No. L344820 in the townland of Cornee be removed and appropriate signage be erected to prevent similar incidents."

**Report by Head of Finance & Water Services**

"The matter will be investigated by the Environment Department and appropriate action will be taken."

Councillor Thomas Mulligan gave background to his motion.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion adding the dumping of furniture and household waste is disgraceful and needs to be brought to the attention of the Environment department.

Councillor Des Guckian seconded the motion and sought Cllr Mulligan's support to install CCTV cameras also as they can now be used as evidence.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson stated it is impossible to install cameras everywhere and people have to take responsibility for their actions.

All elected members supported the motion.

**CMD.52.24 Motion from Councillor Thomas Mulligan - Rebuild walls of bridge on the R202 in the townland of Treanmore**

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

"I ask that the walls of a small bridge on the R202 in the townland of Treanmore be rebuilt, as in recent years they have collapsed due to a combination of increased traffic, flooding and lack of maintenance."

**Report by Roads - General**

"We will place this bridge on our bridge rehabilitation works programme."

Councillor Thomas Mulligan noted the response.

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

**CMD.53.24 Any Other Business**

Mr Kieran Brett advised there will be no meeting in June due to the local elections.

Councillor Sean McGowan questioned could the May meeting of Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District be held the same day as the plenary council meeting in May.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Sean McGowan  
**SECONDED** by Cathaoirleach Councillor Enda Stenson

It was **AGREED** for the next meeting of Carrick municipal district meeting to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at 09.30am.

Mr Darragh O'Boyle advised the 3 parks in Carrick-on-Shannon are named as follows:

- Town Park is the park in the vicinity of Áras an Chontae
- Linear Park is opposite The Landmark Hotel
- People's Park is adjacent to Carrick Campus

This concluded the business of the meeting at 11.15am

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Enda Stenson**  
**Cathaoirleach, Carrick on**  
**Shannon Municipal**  
**District**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Kieran Brett**  
**Meetings Administrator**

**Date: Tuesday, 7 May 2024**