

**Minutes of the Ballinamore Municipal District Meeting held in the The Community Hall,  
The Island Theatre, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim on Tuesday, 6 February 2024 at 11.00 am**

**Members Present:** Councillor Paddy O'Rourke (Cathaoirleach)  
Councillor Enda McGloin  
Councillor Caillian Ellis  
Councillor Brendan Barry  
Councillor Ita Reynolds Flynn

**Apologies:** Councillor Gerry Dolan  
Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services

**Officials Present:** Laura Sharkey, Meetings Administrator, Ballinamore MD  
Darragh O'Boyle, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads - South Leitrim Area  
Pamela Moran, Clerical Officer, Finance Department  
Bernard Greene, Senior Planner, Planning Department  
Padraig MacShera, Senior Executive Engineer, Capital Projects Office  
Gillian Tilson, Financial Management Accountant

**BMD.14.24**      **To consider the Chief Executive's Report and Recommendation**  
**06.02.24**      **(Report to follow) 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 Drumshanbo Town Centre Regeneration Project (ref. 23-C-05) at Drumshanbo, Moneynure and Carricknabrack townlands in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. Following the consideration of the Chief Executive's report, to accept the recommendation contained in the Chief Executive's report to proceed with the proposed development or to resolve to vary or modify the development otherwise than as recommended in the Chief Executive's report or to decide not to proceed with the development.**

The Cathaoirleach invited Mr. Greene, Senior Planner to provide an overview of the Part 8 proposal.

The Chief Executive's Report was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting and appears as **Appendix 1** to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book.

At the outset Mr. Greene advised the Members that the purpose of today's meeting was to proceed, modify/vary, or not proceed with the proposed Part 8.

If approved by the Members the proposal would be submitted for funding under the RRDF – Rural Regeneration and Development Fund administered by the Department of Rural

and Community Development and the closing date for applications for funding is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Mr. Greene then gave a comprehensive overview of the proposal and a detailed breakdown of contents of the Chief Executive's Report.

Councillor McGloin thanked Mr. Greene for his report and his very comprehensive explanation. He also thanked Mr. MacShera, Mr. O'Connor and their team in the Capital Projects Office who compiled the proposal. He said it was great to see good use of public funding. The issue of dereliction in town centres in rural areas has increased over the years and this project addresses a lot of the issues created by that. He raised concerns regarding the amount of parking spots available but understood from the report the reason for same as parking is an issue in town centres and it is very difficult to get footfall into town centres. He said that he and his fellow public representatives are constantly coming under pressure regarding parking issues and the issues it causes for businesses.

The reaction to this by the public and on social media has been very positive and warmly welcomed. This project has the potential to encourage commercial activity in the town and bring people back to work in the centre of the town.

Councillor McGloin proposed the approval of the Part 8.

Councillor Barry supported the comments of Councillor McGloin and formally seconded the motion. He said that it was good to see the two derelict buildings being rejuvenated. Hopefully, this project will generate activity in the town centre. He saw the lack of parking as a downfall and like Councillor McGloin understood the reasons for this.

He said that there was a proposal for additional parking at Laird House and hopefully this would be successful as it would make it easier for people to shop and work in the town centre.

Councillor Ellis welcomed the project. He said that Drumshanbo Community Council should be praised for their vision to get things up and running. It is a great example of good community spirit and great to see the way everyone pulled together and an example to other towns and villages in the county. It is a great achievement for Drumshanbo.

Councillor O'Rourke also concurred with previous comments made and said that this will be a guide for other towns, if it is successful in getting funding. Drumshanbo can compete with the best in the country. It will be a good learning curve for other towns and villages to see what can be achieved with determination and imagination.

Councillor McGloin stressed that today was only one phase of the process and the next phase would be obtaining necessary funding. He said he felt that it was important that the public were made aware that this project cannot proceed without the major funding sought. He complemented the staff of Leitrim County Council who were involved in the process and wished them every success with their funding application.

Mr. Greene said that an application for funding in the amount of €6.172 million (90%) would be sought under the Rural Regeneration and Development fund. Leitrim County Council would provide funding in the amount of €617,000. This project would be the second largest regeneration project after the Public Realm works in Carrick on Shannon.

**Proposed by Councillor Enda McGloin, Seconded by Councillor Brendan Barry and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

“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 Drumshanbo Town Centre Regeneration Project (ref. 23-C-05) at Drumshanbo, Moneynure and Carricknabrack townlands in Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. “

**BMD.15.24      Any Other Business**  
**06.02.24**

**Vote of Sympathy**

Councillor McGloin proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late John Bruton, former Taoiseach on his passing.

This concluded the business of the meeting at 11.35 a.m.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councillor Paddy O'Rourke**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Ballinamore Municipal District**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Laura Sharkey**  
**Meetings Administrator**  
**Ballinamore Municipal District**

**Date:      Monday, 26 February 2024**