

Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of Athlone Town Council, which was held in the Civic Centre, Church Street, Athlone at 6.00p.m. on Monday 6th April, 2010.

Attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. M. Cooney

Members: Cllrs. S. Buckley Byrne, J. Henson, P. Hogan, G. McFadden, K. Moran, A. O'Rourke and A. Shaw.

Apologies: K. Molloy

Officers: Mr. Daniel McLoughlin, County Manager
Mr. Barry Kehoe, Director of Services
Mr. John Walsh, Town Clerk
Mr. Alan Kelly, Town Engineer
Ms. Edel Martin, Administrative Officer, Housing

Minutes:

It was proposed by Cllr. K. Moran,
Seconded by Cllr. A. Shaw and resolved,
"That we hereby confirm and adopt the Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting which was held on March 1st 2010"

Matters arising from the Minutes:

The Housing Officer, Ms. Edel Martin advised the Members that the role of Housing Certification in regard to lettings had been assigned to her.

The Director advised the Members that he had received requests for an extension of the deadline for submissions to the Willow Park Plan and this had been granted.

The Town Clerk advised that to date no response had been received from Bus Eireann.

The Director informed the Members that the issue of the extension of the town boundary would initially have to be dealt with at County level.

The Town Engineer advised that the works at Pinewood Close would be addressed in the following week.

The Director informed the Members that the Consultants appointed to advance the Loughandonning Plan would be attending a meeting on the following Friday to advise a timeline for proposals and that he anticipated it would be on the May/June Agenda.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that the Part VIII process for the Regeneration of the Castle had commenced.

He also informed the Members that he had referred the unfinished development at St. Mary's Place to the Planning Enforcement Section in Westmeath County Council.

Casual Trading:

The Town Clerk updated the Members on the process to date in regard to the making of the Casual Trading Bye Laws for Athlone Town Council. He advised that the time period for consultation had now lapsed. No submissions had been received and he recommended that the Bye Laws be adopted and made.

Cllr. McFadden enquired if Article No.27 of the Bye Laws could be amended to include the banning of psychoanalytical substances as currently sold in Head Shops. The Town Clerk advised that this matter had been discussed at length at previous meetings and it had been agreed that this matter should be dealt with by the laws of the state. The County Manager added that this matter was a serious issue of concern for all, but that it should be left at Government level.

Cllr. McFadden noted the comments of the Executive but added that she felt very strongly about this issue and that the Council should not have to wait for action at national level. Cllr. Hogan noted her concerns but he felt the Bye Laws should be adopted in their current format without further delay. Cllr. Henson agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. McFadden and he added that everyone wants these substances to be banned and he could not see why an amendment could not be proposed to the Bye Laws to exclude the sale of such compounds. Cllr. Cooney noted the Members concerns on the matter but advised that it was best dealt with nationally. Cllr. Shaw added that he supported Cllr. McFadden in theory, but that it would be wrong to incorporate the debate on Head Shops at this late stage. Cllr. Moran added that everyone was concerned about Head Shops but that he felt the Bye Laws should be adopted in their current format without any further delays.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hogan,

Seconded by Cllr. Moran and resolved,

“Pursuant to the Casual Trading Act 1995 we hereby make and adopt the Athlone Town Council (Casual Trading) Bye-Laws 2010”

Litter Management Plan:

Ms. Edel Martin, Administrative Officer advised the Members on the process to date regarding the formation of the proposed Litter Management Plan 2010 - 2012. She advised that public consultation had taken place and that no formal submissions had been received within the scheduled time frame. She recommended that the proposed Plan be adopted by the Members.

Cllr. Shaw stated that he had raised issues at the initial draft stage and was surprised that his suggestions had not been included in the Plan. He had recommended that targets should be set within the Plan to measure progress. In response Ms. Martin advised that there was more to Litter Management than quantifying the money received from fines. Litter Management would never be an area that was self-financing and while illegal dumping takes place it is proving more difficult to fine the perpetrators.

Cllr. Moran noted that major clean ups are being undertaken by residents associations and communities but that illegal dumping is a problem. Ms. Martin stated that the Tidy Towns set targets within the confines of their plan. She also advised that the Town Council carried out activities during the year to highlight particular issues and mentioned that Spring Clean week was happening the 1st week of April. In addition other areas such as dog fouling would be tackled later in the year. She advised that it was difficult to set targets in this particular area of Council business.

In summary the Director stated that litter management progress is not easily measured. The scope of the Tidy Towns is more than just a litter issue, but if the Members want to include amendments, they could be inserted. If not, the Plan should be adopted in its current format.

It was proposed by Cllr. Moran,
Seconded by Cllr. Hogan and resolved,
“Pursuant to the Litter Management Acts 1997 - 2003, we hereby adopt the Litter Management Plan 2010 - 2012”

Flood Defences:

Cllr. Cooney updated the Members on the progress to date regarding the applications for funding for flood defence to combat any future flooding in the town. He advised that a submission had been made for funding for a total of 5 no. schemes and funding had been secured for 2no. schemes at Iona Villas and Wolfe Tone Terrace/The Strand. He advised that works would commence on the areas where funding had been secured and an additional submission would be made in relation to the unsuccessful proposals at Brick Island (€125k) and the Quays (€175k) for less than 90% grant aid. He added that the grant aid notified for the successful projects was €466k which represented 90% of the cost. The balance will be financed from Development Levies.

Cllr. Hogan welcomed the announcement of funding for the successful schemes and commented that he would have appreciated receiving the report on the matter in advance of the meeting. He queried the reason why only 5 no areas had been included in the funding proposal. He stated his reservations regarding funding for other areas and requested to know the criteria used in submissions.

In response to issues raised, the Director stated that the first official notification received by the Council regarding the matter was on Thursday evening and time did not allow the

production of a report for the Members in advance of the Meeting. He further stated that the report would be circulated to the Members. He advised that Deerpark/Parnell included areas such as Millbank, the Park and Canal Walk. The funding for the Strand also includes associated areas such as Wolf Tone Terrace and other streets in the area.

He further advised that Clonbonny/Carrickobrien did not qualify under this funding scheme but that the Council would look at individual houses affected. He added that it was perceived a difficult task to protect rural houses.

Cllr. Hogan enquired as to how successful the Council envisaged they would be in securing additional funding. Cllr. Cooney replied that the Committee would keep pressure on in this regard.

The County Manager added that it would not be for the lack of trying that funding was not received, but that the Council also had to be realistic in that the funding might not be there. Certainly the evidence of flood damage will be available but getting schemes prioritised will be a major challenge, but will be pursued vigorously.

Cllr. Buckley Byrne wished to add her congratulations to all involved on the Committee in securing funding received to date and also added her thanks to Deputy O'Rourke who had kept pressure on at national level. She enquired as to what study would take place regarding the rural areas and what was the timescale involved. The Director advised that the matter of rural areas would be examined in house to ascertain the minimum cost of rudimentary measures.

Cllr. Moran added his congratulations to the Members of the committee and also to Deputy O'Rourke for the success to date. He added that it was very positive to see all political parties working together for the betterment of the town. Cllr. McFadden reiterated the comments of Cllr. Moran and added that the number of families who were affected by flooding in Parnell Square area should prioritise this area. She also added that the Brick Island area should be examined. The Members requested that Brick Island be pursued further and they hoped that the OPW would take on Parnell Square as a major scheme.

Cllr. O'Rourke congratulated all involved in progress to date and advised that some comfort should be taken from the positive result achieved. He added that he was curious as to what measures would be taken in creating the required defences.

The Town Engineer advised that the schemes involved had varying solutions. In regard to Iona Villas he stated that it would involve the construction of an embankment and examination of pipework systems in place in the vicinity, while the Strand would involve the issue of surface water in the area and isolating and closing off areas prone to flooding during times of inclement weather.

Managers Orders

The Members noted the summary of Managers Orders as circulated.

Questions

Question 1. Cllr. A. O'Rourke:
"When will work commence on the upgrading of the Athlone By-pass?"

Answer: September 2010.

Question 2. Cllr. A. O'Rourke:
"When will work commence to improve the road conditions, to upgrade footpaths, install pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures at Baylough?"

Answer: Work will be completed by November 2010.

Question 3. Cllr. M. Cooney:
"Can a report be prepared for the members as to the adequacy of public lighting at Retreat Heights?"

Answer: The area will be examined by the Town Engineer and considered in the context of the funds available.

Question 4. Cllr. P. Hogan:
"Will the Town Engineer in conjunction with the Tidy Towns Association commit to upgrading and maintaining the rockery garden at the vehicular entrance to Sarsfield Square?"

Answer: This is a project best dealt with by the local residents with the initial assistance of the Tidy Towns Group.

Question 5. Cllr. P. Hogan:
"Can this Council provide a temporary footpath on both sides of the Garrycastle bridge, before someone is seriously injured?"

Answer: This was not found to be feasible by Westmeath County Council who maintain the road.

Question 6. Cllr. A. Shaw:
“The roadway along the back of St Annes is in significant disrepair and overgrown with weeds with significant littering, details of which I have furnished recently to this Council. Can the necessary works be undertaken before the next Council meeting?”

Answer: Weed spraying will be undertaken with minor surface repairs. Litter should be dealt with by the residents.

Question 7. Cllr. A. Shaw:
“I have recently notified this Council of damaged footpaths at St. Francis Terrace. Will the Council carry out the necessary repair work as a matter of urgency?”

Answer: Urgent repairs to the roads have been carried out and the urgent works to the footpaths are programmed for the coming weeks.

Question 8. Cllr. G. McFadden:
“Would this Council repair/replace the footpaths in Parnell Square which have been damaged by the floods?”

Answer: Urgent works will be carried out.

Question 9. Cllr. G. McFadden:
“Would this Council repair the massive pot hole on Retreat Road as soon as possible?”

Answer: The matter will be examined.

Question 10. Cllr. S. Buckley Byrne:
“What was the outcome of the Directors discussion with the engineer Re the provision of a right hand turn light to facilitate traffic movement at the Traffic lights of the Crescent Junction?”

Answer: The feasibility of installing a filter light is being examined by the Traffic Light Maintenance Contractor.

Question 11. Cllr. S. Buckley Byrne:

“Would the Council remove the old concrete and building debris at the back lane in Sarsfield (near numbers 72/73) following works/ wall replacement on council property?”

Answer: **If this is Council debris, it will be removed.**

Apology:

A letter was received from St Patrick’s Terrace Residents seeking an apology and retraction of remarks made by Cllr. Buckley Byrne at the March Meeting regarding their area. In response Cllr. Buckley Byrne stated that the comments made related to illegal dumping at the gate of the former dump at Goldenisland and not St. Patrick’s Terrace and if any offence was taken, she apologized and appreciated the opportunity to set the record straight.

Army Memorial:

The Town Clerk reminded the Members that the unveiling of the Army Memorial would take place the following Monday and that traffic restrictions would be in place in the area during the ceremony. The Traders Associations for the area had been advised of this.

Festival of Europe:

It was proposed by Cllr. Moran,
Seconded by Cllr. Hogan and resolved,
“We agree to invite the President of Ireland, Mrs. Mary McAlesse to officially open the Festival of Europe”

Head Shops:

A response was received from the Minister John Curran regarding Head Shops and it was agreed to circulate it to the Members.

Winter salt supplies:

A letter was received from the Department of Transport regarding winter salt supplies and it was agreed to circulate it to the Members.

Draft Regional Planning Guidelines

Correspondence was received from the Midlands Regional Authority concerning the extension of the time period for receipt of submissions in respect of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines and it was agreed to circulate it to the Members.

Block Grant 2010:

The Town Engineer outlined to the Members the proposals for Block Grant Expenditure for 2010. Cllr. Moran proposed that the Members support the proposals as they were based on the roads in greatest need of maintenance. He added that those schemes removed from the list should be prioritized in 2011. He also added that in previous years the Council had set aside an allocation from it’s own resources to upgrade back roads and in light of current economic conditions further monies should be put aside in future. Cllr. Buckley Byrne supported this proposal adding her disappointment at the allocation received from the Department. She also requested costings of individual schemes involved. Cllr. Hogan expressed his disappointment that schemes that were previously prioritised were removed from this year’s proposals. He sought clarification in relation to the €800,000 needed by comparison to actual monies received. Cllr. Shaw added his disappointment that the figure required to bring roads up to standard was double the actual allocation. Cllr. Cooney shared the disappointment expressed by the Members adding that they had no option but to accept the Town Engineer’s proposals.

The Town Engineer noted the Members concerns adding that the €800,000 related to the actual estimated cost for bringing all roads up to standard. He added that costings for schemes were included in the previous years report but that the weather conditions had altered the list of priorities.

It was proposed by Cllr. Moran,
Seconded by Cllr. Hogan and resolved,
“Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Acts 1925-2001 and the Roads Acts 1993-1998, we hereby approve of the expenditure of the Road Block Grant 2010 as set out hereunder”

SUMMARY

Carriageway Restoration

- 1. Cherryfield Ave - DBM Overlay - € 10,000.00
- 2. Battery Road - DBM Overlay - € 10,000.00
- 3. Canal Banks - DBM Overlay - € 6,000.00
- 4. Pearse St - Surface Dress - € 9,450.00
- 5. Ball Alley Lane - DBM Overlay - € 6,000.00
- 6. Deerpark Road - DBM Overlay - € 20,000.00

7.	2-Mile Road	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 30,000.00
		- S. Dress	-	€ 30,000.00
8.	McCormack Park	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 15,000.00
9.	Mayfield Grove	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 30,000.00
10.	Cornamagh Rd	- S. Dress	-	€ 15,000.00
11.	Coosan Road	- S. Dress	-	€ 9,450.00
		- DBM Overlay	-	€ 35,000.00
12.	Arcadia Crescent	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 25,000.00
13.	One-Mile	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 20,000.00
14.	Newtown Tce	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 10,800.00
15.	Auburn Hts	- S. Dress	-	€ 12,250.00
		- DBM Overlay	-	€ 10,000.00
16.	Cartron Drive	- S. Dress	-	€ 3,750.00
17.	Lower Road	- S. Dress	-	€ 15,000.00
18.	Cartrontroy Rd.	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 10,300.00
19.	Altown	- S. Dress	-	€ 4,000.00
20.	Willow Park			
	Willow Park Crescent	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 8,000.00
	Norwood Court	- DBM Overlay	-	€ 20,000.00

Footpath Repairs

1. Grace Park Road	-	€ 5,000.00
2. Retreat Park	-	€ 10,000.00
3. Bloomfield Drive	-	€ 10,000.00
4. Arcadia	-	€ 5,000.00
TOTAL	-	€ 395,000.00

Temporary Advertising:

The Director presented proposals to the Members for the provision of permanent advertising boards at certain locations in the town to end the current trend of haphazard advertising signage on approach roads and roundabouts.

Cllr. Moran supported this proposal adding that it was a step in the right direction. He questioned if commercial entities would be permitted to advertise for a fee. Cllr. McFadden queried how this process would be managed. Cllr. Shaw welcomed the proposal but noted that the proposed size of advertisements may not be easily visible to passing traffic. Cllr. O'Rourke noted his support for the proposal but also thought that the proposed signage size should be revisited, as it may prove too small for impact. He also added that he felt that the resource should only be made available to non-commercial events. Cllr. Cooney welcomed the proposal and agreed that it should be for non-commercial use only. Cllr. Buckley Byrne added that it was a good idea and a proper plan for signage was welcome.

The Director welcomed the supportive comments of the Members adding that their contributions would be taken on board. He stressed that the facility was only for non-commercial time specific events and when in place, a zero tolerance approach would be taken to any illegal signage.

It was proposed by Cllr. Moran,

Seconded by Cllr. McFadden and resolved,

“We hereby approve of the provision of 3no. advertising boards for non commercial time specific advertisements at Grace Road (White Bridge), Ballymahon Road, (Moorings) and Old Dublin Road (east of Washhouse Road Roundabout)”.

Athlone Canal:

In response to Cllr O'Rourke's motion the Town Clerk advised that the cost of removing material from the Canal was €100k. Cllr. O'Rourke expressed his disappointment at the response received adding that Waterways Ireland was prepared to provide resources free of charge to clean the Canal and that this opportunity should be taken. He questioned the estimate of costings provided for this proposal. Cllr Cooney enquired as to how this would be funded if the project was advanced. Cllr Moran added his support to the motion and noted that previously pipework blockage at College Park had caused problems in this area. Cllr Shaw also supported the motion adding that if the funding was not there it could not be done.

In response the Director advised the Members that a budget was not set aside in 2010 and therefore these works could not be advanced. He also advised that the estimate included the disposal of the waste, which was costly. In response Cllr. O'Rourke noted his disappointment at not being in a position to advance this matter given the free resources being made available to the Council.

Traffic Calming Retreat:

Cllr. O'Rourke advised that he has raised this issue given the traffic volumes in the area and the fact that 3 no. schools traverse this route. He also raised the concerns of the residents in the area regarding access problems. In response to Cllr O'Rourke's comments the Director stated that the area will be examined but traffic calming is already in place here.

Town Preparation – 2010 Festivals:

In response to Cllr. O'Rourke's motion the Town Clerk outlined as follows the proposed town preparatory works to be carried out in advance of the festival season:

- 1) Render derelict sites acquired at Connaught Street and O'Connell Street non-derelict.
- 2) Write to property owners where decoration is required.
- 3) Hang bunting and flags in the core of the town.
- 4) Erect hanging baskets and plant roundabouts and open spaces.
- 5) Street cleaning will be intensified by the Council staff and Tidy Towns Employees.
- 6) Erect flagpoles at each corner of the Town Bridge.

Cllr. O'Rourke noted these but added that he had sought the preparation of a plan for the town on previous occasions, but it had not materialised. Cllr. Buckley Byrne queried whether it might be helpful to bring the Tidy Towns on board. Cllr. Hogan added that he hoped some works would be carried out to areas of dereliction, particularly on the Connaught Street side of town. Cllr. Shaw supported the motion and added the All Ireland Drama Festival had linked in with Athlone Town Council regarding their events. Cllr. Moran queried where monies would come from to fund the proposals.

In response the Town Clerk noted the Members comments and added that the town was in relatively good condition overall. He added that funding of €20,000 has been set aside for decoration in advance of festivals and Athlone will be as presentable as possible and he would welcome any views the Members may have.

HSE Primary Care Centre:

Cllr. Cooney voiced his disappointment at the announcement that the HSE had shelved plans to advance the Primary Care project for Athlone. He added that this matter had been on the table for a number of years and that planning permission had been granted for the facility. He noted that Athlone is a gateway town and this one vital piece of infrastructure was lacking. He added that the local HSE support for the project was evident but that National policy pulled the project. He suggested that a deputation of the Council meet with the HSE at national level.

Cllr. Moran supported the comments of Cllr. Cooney and added his outrage at the current position. He added that the Council should meet with the Minister for Health in this matter. Cllr. Shaw felt that this current decision was an insult to the people of Athlone. He supported the suggestion to seek a meeting with the Minister for Health to discuss this matter. Cllr Hogan added his support to all sentiments expressed and noted that despite all assurances given, the Unit had been shelved. Cllr. McFadden and Cllr. Henson added their support to the proposal to meet with the Minister to discuss this situation.

Cllr. Buckley Byrne noted that the integrity of local politics was at stake and questioned as to where the accountability lay at this decision. This is the single biggest piece of infrastructure that is missing from the town she added. Cllr. O'Rourke noted his support for his fellow Member's comments.

Cllr. Cooney thanked the Members for their support and added that a meeting with Joe Ruane, HSE and a deputation to the Minister for Health, would be sought.

Junction of Golden Island Road/John Broderick St:

The Town Clerk informed Cllr. Cooney that proposals for this junction are being prepared for the commencement of the Part VIII planning process. Cllr Cooney noted response and added that major concerns had been raised by road users in this area.

Connaught Street Pedestrian Crossing:

In response to Cllr. Cooney's motion the Town Clerk advised that the level of road grant funding received will not extend to the advancement of this project. Cllr. Cooney noted the response adding his disappointment at the reply received.

Temporary Museum:

In response to Cllr Hogan's motion the Town Clerk stated that such a proposal is not feasible in the context of a location and the proper presentation and layout of artefacts, including the security of same. The Castle will reopen at the end of the year and the artefacts need to be available in advance for selection and presentation in their new setting.

Fencing at Iarnrod Eireann Property:

In reply to Cllr. Hogan's motion the Town Clerk advised that the Council supported the desirability of Iarnrod Eireann providing adequate fencing in this area. Cllr. Hogan added that the lack of fencing in some areas was a cause of anti-social behaviour and the Members supported his motion. The Director noted the Members comments, adding that a meeting would be sought with Iarnrod Eireann regarding the issue.

Unemployment in Athlone:

In response to Cllr. Hogan's motion the Town Clerk stated that this issue should be raised by the Council's representative on the County Development Board. Cllr. Hogan advised that as he was the representative and he would take this matter up with the County Development Board. The Town Clerk added that the Council would write to the County Development Board on the matter.

Public Lighting at Bramble Close and Woodville Grange:

In response to Cllr. Shaw's motion the Town Clerk stated that these estates have been put forward for inclusion in the public lighting maintenance contract and the Council is awaiting a response from Airtricity. Cllr. Shaw welcomed the response.

Signage at Bonnavalley Bridge:

In response to Cllr. Shaw's motion the Town Clerk stated that this signage would be replaced. Cllr. Shaw thanked the executive for positive response.

Wansboro Park:

The Town Clerk stated in response to Cllr. Shaw's motion that the bonfire remnants will be removed and the need for additional Litter Warden patrols and litterbins will be examined. As regards the anti-social behaviour, the Town Clerk stated that such behaviour in a public place is a matter to be referred to the Gardai and the question of public lighting can only be dealt with in the context of competing lighting demands and the funds available. Cllr. Shaw acknowledged the response and added that this park is in an area of high visibility given its proximity to the river and it requires some litter control measures. Cllr. Moran supported this motion.

Anti Social Behaviour:

The Town Clerk in response to Cllr. Hensons motion, advised that anti-social behaviour orders are a matter for the Gardai. Cllr. Henson stated that the Council should look at tenant transfer policy in areas where anti social behaviour is reported. Ms. Martin Housing Officer, advised that in instances of Anti Social Behaviour the Council's policy was to evict the perpetrators if deemed necessary and not move the victims. The question of receiving evidence in the cases of Anti Social Behaviour was an issue for the Council. She advised that she would look at the possibility of being able to take account of complaints received from 3rd parties as evidence in such cases.

Footpaths/Road St Brigid's and St Frances' Terrace:

In response to Cllr. Henson's motion the Town Clerk stated that urgent repairs to the roads have been carried out and the urgent works to the footpaths are programmed for the coming weeks. Cllr. Henson welcomed the favourable response.

Lakelands Estate, Roscommon Road:

The Town Clerk advised the Members that the remedial works proposed to Pinewood Close would benefit the access to this estate. Cllr. Moran welcomed the positive response.

Road Sweeping Auburn:

In response to Cllr. Moran's motion the Town Clerk stated that this estate is already on the road sweeping rota and is swept every third week and the rota is available on the Council's website, should any Member wish to view it. Cllr. Moran noted the response but added that it had not been swept in 5 weeks.

Bloomfield Drive/Churchwood Junction:

The Town Clerk stated in response to Cllr. Moran's motion that this matter would be examined by the Town Engineer. Cllr. Moran felt that additional road marking and signage is required as a matter of road safety. He added that he had received numerous representations on this matter. Cllrs. Shaw and O'Rourke supported this motion.

Temporary Car Park at Grace Road:

In response to Cllr. McFadden's motion the Town Clerk advised that this is a matter for the Department of Social Protection to which it will be referred and added that part of this site is earmarked for the provision of 2 no houses for St Mel's residents. Cllr. Cooney queried the planning conditions attached to this development and the Town Clerk said that he would write to the Department of Social Protection regarding the provision of off street car parking for their customers.

Lighting at Retreat Heights:

The Town Clerk stated in response to Cllr. McFadden's motion that the area will be examined by the Town Engineer and considered in the context of funds available. Cllr. McFadden welcomed the response adding that she had received many representations on this matter from residents in the area. Cllrs. Cooney and Shaw supported this motion and Cllr. Shaw stated that a number of trees in the area may be the cause of the lighting problem. The Town Engineer undertook to examine the issue with Cllr. Shaw.

Dereliction Connaught Street:

In response to Cllr. McFadden's motion the Town Clerk stated that a report in relation to dereliction would be placed before the Members at the June Council meeting.

Road Signage at Garrycastle:

The Town Clerk stated that this matter will be referred to the Area Engineer adding that all signage on the Relief Road will be replaced in 2010. Cllr. Buckley Byrne welcomed the response.

Sarsfield Square Back Lane:

In response to Cllr. Buckley Byrne's motion the Town Clerk stated that the provision of bollards on rear roads would create an undesirable precedent in view of the number and extent of rear roads maintained by the Council. Cllr. Buckley Byrne added that the easy access to this laneway is attracting illegal dumping. Cllr. O'Rourke commented that the Council needed to be mindful of the fact that there are more secluded lanes in this location and provision of bollards in one lane, may lead to requests for others. There are details such as access and keys to be considered also. Cllr. Hogan supported the motion adding that this particular lane has experienced more vehicular activity linked to illegal dumping. He added that this matter was raised previously and that the provision of a bollard would be a small expenditure. Cllr. Cooney queried if all houses in this area would be agreeable to such a proposal. The Director advised that this matter will be examined and a report brought to the Members.

Town Twinning Signage:

In response to Cllr. Buckley Byrne's motion the Town Clerk stated that this matter will be examined and all signs cleaned or replaced where warranted. Cllr. Buckley Byrne welcomed the response.

This concluded the business of the meeting.