



Monaghan County Council



Monaghan Town Council



Garrickmacross Town Council



Castleblayney Town Council



Clones Town Council

MONAGHAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

**Monaghan County Council
Monaghan Town Council
Castleblayney Town Council
Carrickmacross Town Council
Clones Town Council**

Traveller Accommodation Programme **2014-2018**

INTRODUCTION

County Monaghan is located on the border of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and comprises an area of approximately 800 square kilometers. The population of County Monaghan was recorded as 60,483 in 2011. The number of people in County Monaghan who identified themselves as a white Irish Traveller in the 2011 census was 249

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 has been developed at County Council level, with Monaghan County Council identifying the relevant needs and input to delivery by the Town Councils of Clones, Monaghan, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross.

MISSION STATEMENT

Monaghan Local Authorities Plan to provide good quality suitable accommodation and ancillary facilities for Travellers in County Monaghan through a range of housing options.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. It is the policy of Monaghan Local Authorities, within the resources available to them, to provide suitable accommodation for the following category of Travellers:
 - A. Travellers identified in the Assessment of Housing Needs carried out in May 2013, as being in need of accommodation or included in any future assessment of needs carried out during the lifetime of this programme.
 - B. Travellers who have applied for accommodation since the Assessment of Housing Needs 2013.
 - C. New households formed during the period of this plan comprising family members of the households at (A) and (B) above.
 - D. New Traveller families who move into County Monaghan during the period of this plan and who satisfy Monaghan Local Authorities that they qualify for and demonstrate that they have a genuine need to be accommodated in the area and who do not have accommodation available to them in the area of any other local authority.

In addition Council will not accept responsibility for providing accommodation for Traveller families who are deemed by the Council to be able to provide accommodation from their own resources.

2. The accommodation options for Travellers which will be considered subject to resources available include:-

Private Ownership

Grants for house purchases

Assistance from Local Authorities for the Provision of Accommodation

Local authority loans for house purchase

Tenant purchase scheme - current scheme expires 2013

Mortgage allowance scheme

Loans and grant scheme for the purchase of caravans

Local Authority Loans for Improvements and Repair

Local Authority Loans for house improvement and repair

Housing adaptation Grants

Mobility Aids Grants

Housing Aid for Older People Scheme

Bedroom Extension to local authority housing

Rented Accommodation

Private rented accommodation with/without rent supplement
Rental Accommodation Scheme

Direct Provision of accommodation by Local Authorities or Voluntary Housing Organisations

Standard housing
Residential caravan parks
Temporary/transient caravan parks
Group housing schemes

3. Monaghan County Council is committed to engaging in ongoing consultation with Travellers at three levels:
 - With individual families through the Social Worker, Housing Officer and the assessment of housing need process.
 - With the extended family groups through the social worker, housing staff and Traveller support groups
 - At community level through the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
4. In accordance with the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, Monaghan County Council consulted with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, will consult with the general public and other interested parties, in the preparation, and compilation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018. Copies of the Draft Programme were placed on display in public offices on 31st October 2013, throughout the county and submissions will be sought on the draft document.
5. Monaghan Local Authorities will treat all housing applicants equally and fairly while at the same time respecting and making adjustments for individual or group differences and needs where possible.
6. Monaghan County Council completed a community centre at Gortakeegan Residential Caravan Park in 2008. The Council is committed to working on an inter agency basis to identify and develop programmes to meet the needs of Travellers. The Housing Section is represented on the Committee for Interagency Co-operation in the Delivery of Services and Supports to the Traveller Community. Monaghan Local Authorities will the support of the various agencies in delivering services to members of the Travelling community.
7. In conjunction with the provision of good quality and properly managed accommodation, it is the Councils policy to take the necessary steps to deal with incidences of unauthorised encampments in public places. The powers provided under the following legislation will be used as necessary, i.e.
 - Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948.
 - Planning and Development Acts 2000-2006
 - Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 as amended by Section 32 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998
 - Roads Act, 1993
 - Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994 (as amended)
 - Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2002.
8. Monaghan Local Authorities in co-operation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will liaise with statutory and voluntary bodies to develop and deliver appropriate training and support to enable meaningful participation by the Traveller representatives on the committee. It is hoped that the experience of Travellers on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will be positive and that they in turn will encourage others to play an active role in community development. Back up and support will continue to be provided through the social worker, caretaker, housing and maintenance staff of Monaghan County Council.

9. It is known that Irish Travellers experience significantly worse health than the settled population. Traveller infant mortality rates are higher and in general life expectancy is much lower than for settled people. Irish travelers often face poor living conditions and accommodation as well as discrimination, which are all detrimental to health. Accommodation provided by the Local Authority will be in accordance with good practice and legislation.

10. In preparation for the last Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 Monaghan County Council used the 2008 annual count numbers and the assessment of need in 2008 to establish need at this time. The number of Traveller families in County Monaghan at this time was 124. At this time it was assessed that 26 families were in need of accommodation and the projected need during the lifetime of the plan was 10.

The Local Authorities provided housing for 25 families in the last plan. The accommodation provided was 21 families accommodated in standard housing and 4 families accommodated in rural/single instance housing. The Local Authority also provided 34 families with accommodation at Gortakeegan during the period of the last plan.

11. There has been an increase in the number of Traveller families in the County from 124 families in 2008 to 155 families in 2012 which represents an increase of 31 families.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

Monaghan Local Authorities aimed to provide the following during the period of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013.

- To provide sixteen households with standard housing, subject to availability by Monaghan Local Authorities, the voluntary housing sector and resources availability.
- To provide four households with rural/single instance houses.
- To provide six families with group housing
- Plan for a further ten households who were forecasted to require housing over the period of the plan
- A total of thirty six units.

The following is the outcome of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013.

- Monaghan Local Authorities accommodated 21 families in standard housing.
- Monaghan Local Authorities accommodated 4 families in a rural/single instance house
- Monaghan County Council allocated 34 tenancies at Gortakeegan Residential Caravan Park.
- Largy Residential Caravan Park is no longer a Residential Caravan Park

Accommodation of Traveller families in County Monaghan annual count November 2012

Electoral Area	No. of families	L.A. Housing Rented tenancies	Owner occupier Housing	Tenancies allocated on Caravan Parks	Sharing with family	Own resources	Roadside	Private rented tenancy
Monaghan	137	74	24	7	9	5	0	18
Clones	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
CBY	13	7	0	0	0	1	0	4
CMX	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	155	83	24	7	10	6	1	24

The following is the accommodation preference of Traveller Households on waiting lists and in need of accommodation at May 2013.

Electoral Area	No. of Families	Current Private Rented	Current sharing	Current Caravan Park	Current Road Side	Preferred Accommodation	Projected Need October 2013
Monaghan	37	18	9	10	0	Social Housing Support	37
Clones	1	1	0	0	0	Social Housing Support	1
Castleblayney	7	5	1	0	1	Social Housing Support	7
Carrickmacross	2	2	0	0	0	Social Housing Support	2
Total	47	26	10	10	1		47

These figures are based on revised current information as at October 2013

Additional family formations

New family formation not included in the above table will be assessed as and when they arise and until then it will not be possible to be specific about the type and number of accommodation units required. When such needs are identified and established the Council will provide the necessary units of accommodation subject to resources.

STRATEGY STATEMENT

1. Implementing Authority

Monaghan County Council is the relevant implementing authority for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2013-2018, and the Town Councils of Monaghan, Clones, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross shall have regard to this programme in the performance of their functions concerning the provision of accommodation. A process of consultation and ongoing communication will be facilitated through the Housing Office of Monaghan County Council between the five housing authorities in the county and this will prevail for the duration of the plan.

2. Residential Caravan Park

Monaghan County Council maintains and manages one permanent residential caravan park at Gortakeegan, Monaghan (20 bays).

3. Provision of Accommodation

Monaghan Local Authorities will provide accommodation to eligible Traveller families through the following social housing options:-

A. Standard Housing

- Forty seven families are in need of long term housing. The preference of 44 of the families is for standard housing. This will be provided through the
- Direct provision of Local Authority Housing including casual vacancies arising in the existing stock and second hand house purchases
- RAS/leasing/private rented accommodation
- Provision of housing units by voluntary housing organisations
- Facilitating housing for households seeking transfer from voluntary housing when suitable local authority accommodation becomes available.

B. Rural Housing/Single Instance House

Three families have indicated a preference for a rural/single instance house.

C. Group Housing Schemes

No families have indicated a preference for group housing

4. Consultative Process

The following consultative process has being implemented

- In 2013, Monaghan County Council notified the relevant statutory bodies of its intention to prepare a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 and invited submissions on same.
- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee has been notified of the preparation of the draft and will meet to consider the draft plan.
- The Draft Plan of the programme will be put on display at local authority offices across Monaghan.
- Interested individuals or groups have two months to submit their views in writing to The Secretary, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Monaghan County Council, County Offices, Glen Road, Monaghan. Submissions/representation is required in writing, not later than 4.00p.m on 2nd January 2014. Objections or representations with respect to the Draft Programme within the same period will be taken into consideration before the adoption of the Programme.
- The latest date for the adoption of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan 2013-2018 by Monaghan County Council is the 30th April 2014.

5. Co-ordination of delivery of the programme

The Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section shall co-ordinate the delivery of the accommodation proposals. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee will review the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme annually.

6. Management and maintenance arrangements for Traveller Specific Accommodation

The following arrangements will apply:

- Allocation of tenancies will be administered by the Housing Officer in conjunction with the Social Worker.
- Incidents of anti-social behaviour will be dealt with using the relevant powers provided to address such behaviour in the interests of good estate management.
- One full time caretaker is employed to implement Monaghan Local Authorities policies and practices for good estate management on the residential caravan park.
- Monaghan County Council will make provision in its annual revenue budget for the management and maintenance of all Traveller specific accommodation provided by it.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

There are 44 households seeking standard social housing support, 3 households are seeking accommodation in a rural house/single instance purchase, or for one of these 3 families they have asked that two units at Gortakeegan be amalgamated to provide a larger living space for their family. The provision of accommodation will dependant on availability of accommodation and funding.

Specific implementation proposals

2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine households to be accommodated in standard/RAS/Voluntary housing subject to availability and financial resources.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One household to be accommodated in rural/single instance housing subject to availability or for this family the amalgamation of two units at Gortakeegan, this will be subject to the Departments approval and funding.• Nine households to be accommodated in standard/RAS/Voluntary housing subject to availability.
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One household to be accommodated in a rural house/single instance house subject to availability.• Nine households to be accommodated in standard/RAS/Voluntary housing subject to availability.
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One household to be accommodated in rural house/single instance house subject to availability.• Nine households to be accommodated in standard/RAS/Voluntary housing subject to availability
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eight households to be accommodated in standard/RAS/Voluntary housing subject to availability.

Conclusion.

The proposals outlined in this programme will endeavour to meet the existing and take account of projected accommodation needs within the County as outlined above. In addition, Travellers who seek accommodation on the Caravan Park will be considered subject to availability at Gortakeegan Caravan Park. The implementation of the programme will require co-operation between the Traveller and settled communities; provision of adequate funding both at national and local level and participation by other relevant agencies.

APPENDIX 1

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Membership

Following the Local Government Election in June 2009, the following Committee members were nominated by Monaghan County Council.

4 Elected Members of Monaghan County Council

Councillor David Maxwell	Monaghan Electoral Area (Chairperson)
Councillor Seamus Treanor	Monaghan Electoral Area
Councillor Matt Carthy	Carrickmacross Electoral Area
Councillor Seamus Coyle	Clones Electoral Area

1 Elected Members of Monaghan Town Council

Councillor Padraigin Uí Mhurchadha	Monaghan Electoral Area
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5 Traveller Representatives

Patrick Mc Donald	Monaghan
Francis Mc Donald	Monaghan
Kevin Donoghue	Monaghan
Alex Crumlish	Monaghan
Rosaleen Crumlish	Monaghan
Rose McGinley	Monaghan (November 2013)
Teague McGinley	Monaghan (February 2013)

2 Officials from Monaghan County Council

Nuala Woods	Senior Executive Officer
Mary Walker	Social Worker