

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2010

Annual Report 2010



Comhairle Chontae Mhuíneacháin

Monaghan County Council

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Mayor's Message



Ba mhaith liom mar Mhéara Chontae Mhuineachán, a mholadh as an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo. Is mor an onóir dom a bheith tofa mar Mhéara ar an Chontae. Ba mhaith liom buiochas a ghabhail le baill agus foireann Chomhairle Contae Mhuineachán as ucht a dtacaíocht leanúnach agus cunamh.

It is a great honour for me to be elected as Mayor of County Monaghan for the year 2010/2011. There is also great pride within my family and friends. I want to take this opportunity to once again thank the members of Monaghan County Council for electing me to this prestigious role. I thank them for their continuing support and co-operation.

I am very conscious of the responsibilities that my position as Mayor places on me in promoting and representing our County at all levels and hope that my efforts have been successful so far. I am very aware of the civic responsibility that is placed on our Councillors on Monaghan Co. Council. I can say with authority that our Councillors work tirelessly for the good of our County.

Monaghan County Council works along side other local authorities in the county and neighbouring counties. Its membership of Cross Border Bodies such as ICBAN, East Border Region, Blackwater partnership and Clones Erne East partnership among others, has brought many benefits to our County through Interreg monies. EBR, ICBAN and NWRCBG delivered €65 million, to their respective areas, during the last period of Interreg IIIa. I welcome the grants awarded for angling improvement works at Lough Muckno and also to Ballybay for industrial units.

Significant progress was seen on many issues in the year 2010. It saw the completion of Monaghan Town streetscapes and saw the reopening of the of the last border bridges at Annaghroe and Knockaginny. It also seen the complete resurfacing of Castleblayney streets damaged during the construction of Castleblayney by-pass.

2011 will see on going works such as the completion of the new Monaghan Fire Station. Other works are Carrickmacross Civic offices, Cloughvalley Housing Scheme, Clones Erne East Multi Sports Centre and the ongoing phases of the Ulster Canal Project.

Whilst we faced severe cutbacks to our budget for this year we still are maintaining our essential services and also allocated monies to different voluntary and community groups throughout the county. The voluntary and Community sector in Co. Monaghan is vitally important to Monaghan County Council in helping to build our local economy.

I commend this Annual Report for 2010 which shows the essential and important work that Monaghan County Council undertakes on behalf of the people of the county. I want to thank all the staff of Monaghan local Authorities for their dedication and hard work.

I want to thank former County Manager Declan Nelson for his kindness and help to me in my role as Mayor and wish him and Mary best wishes for the years ahead. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the Members, our acting Co. Manager David Fallon and the staff of the Council for their commitment and dedication to our county in 2010 and for the co operation and assistance they have shown to me in my role as Méara an Chontae.

Le gach dea-mhéin.

Cllr. Jackie Crowe
Mayor of the County of Monaghan
Méara an Chontae

Introduction – County Manager

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2010 on behalf of Monaghan Local Authorities. The Annual Report details the services provided by the County Council and the Town Councils in Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay, the elected members, staff and the various departments to the people of Monaghan. It is both a valuable source of information and a means of reviewing the performance of the local authorities.

As a response to the economic downturn the local authorities and the County Development Board adopted an innovative approach to economic development. The Economic Strategy & Implementation Plan for County Monaghan 2010 – 2014 was launched, heralding a flexible approach to the many possible future scenarios. Each Business Leaders' Forum is promoting partnerships between the business sector and the various state agencies. It is a blueprint for the future outlining deliverables involving key stakeholders and is relevant to County Monaghan.

Progress was made on a number of projects throughout the county in 2010 and included:

- The re-opening of the last two cross-border bridges at Annaghroe and Knockaginny
- The completion of Carrickmacross Civic Amenity Facility
- The construction of Monaghan town fire station
- The Water Conservation Project
- Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme
- Carrickmacross Civic Centre
- Glaslough Integrated Constructed Wetlands
- Mullaghmatt Housing Scheme in Monaghan town
- The planning stage of the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme

The Public Service Agreement (Croke Park Agreement) 2010-2014 was agreed nationally in June 2010. The agreement aims to

- Restructure and reorganise public service
- Sustain delivery of excellent public service alongside targeted reduction in numbers
- Maximise efficiencies and productivity through revised work practices and initiatives.

Monaghan County Council is already implementing the modernisation issues identified in the Report on Local Government and Local Authority Sectoral Plans. The aim of management is to provide improved efficiency and productivity and maintain service delivery standards despite reduced staff numbers.

The performance of the local authority staff during the severe weather experienced during the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 winters was an example of public service at its best. It involved service delivery in extremely difficult conditions and self-sacrifice by

staff across the organisation. This was acknowledged by the general public, elected members and management.

Sadly, we remember the passing of Councillor Noel Duffy, former Councillors John B. Fitzpatrick, and Adam Armstrong and a number of staff members – Mary Rudden, Raymond Boylan and Gerry Dillon.

May they rest in peace.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of the staff and elected members of the Monaghan Local Authorities together with the Strategic Policy Committees, County Development Board, Peace III, Partnership Board, the various community groups, development associations, and the business, commercial, sport and cultural groups. I look forward to continued progress in 2011 despite the challenges posed by the current economic climate working in co-operation with the elected members, local communities, the state agencies and the private sector.

David Fallon,
Acting County Manager

Housing and Building

The aim of the Council is to ensure that every household can obtain an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment, and as far as possible in a tenure of its choice. In order that the aim can be achieved it is important that:

- Unfit and overcrowded houses be eliminated.
- The demand for houses be met as it arises.
- The structural and environmental standards of housing be improved.
- Owner occupation be encouraged to the fullest extent compatible with national economic and social development.

The County Council contributes to these aims by:

- Managing housing provided by the Council and encouraging tenant involvement.
- Providing long term housing for those who need it.
- Providing good quality rented accommodation for people receiving rent supplement through the Rental Accommodation Scheme.
- Helping persons to provide their own housing.
- Provision of private sites where possible.
- Helping to improve existing private housing.
- Provision of housing and residential caravan parking sites for travellers.

Services Provided and Future Plans

Monaghan County Council is actively pursuing government policy on social, voluntary and affordable housing provision. An outline of the output from 2010 and the proposed 2011 programme is given below. The 2011 programme will be subject to the necessary finance being provided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Location	Completed in 2010	Under Construction/To commence or be acquired in 2011
Bree	0	4
Oram	4	0
Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross	0	18 plus 4 incremental purchase dwellings
Demountable units	0	1
Farm Homes	0	1
Purchases (second hand)	3	0
Purchases (new)	2	0
Totals	9	27

Location	Completed 2010	At Design Stage 2011
Castleblayney Care Association	0	20
Group home for persons with a physical disability	0	5
Newgrove Housing Association	0	6 (Funding approved by DOEHLG)
Total	0	31

Retrofitting Voids

The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government provided funding in 2010 of €269,190.

Compliance with Rented Standards in Local Authority Housing Stock

The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government provided funding in 2010 of €159,366.

Maintenance Programme

Maintenance is a key activity for the Councils housing service with €473,000 spent in the current year in response, cyclical and planned maintenance in respect of the current stock of 743. A further €40,645 was spent on estate management improvement works and services.

Allocations of tenancy

All allocations were made under the Scheme of Letting Priorities. There were 38 offers of tenancy to persons on the housing waiting list including 8 offers of a transfer to existing tenants within the existing stock. This enabled the Council to combine the best use of stock whilst addressing the needs of tenants. The number of casual vacancies that arose in the year was thirty four.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (R.A.S.)

At 31st December 2010, there were 171 long term recipients of rent supplement in Co. Monaghan. The following is a summary of the Rental Accommodation Scheme activity to 31/12/10 in Co Monaghan.

Voluntary housing RS recipients to RAS	19
Recipients housed in Local Authority Housing	29
Private transfers	<u>62</u>
Total	110

Tidy Areas Competition

There were 16 entries for the Tidy Areas Competition and the Judges reports showed that many Residents Associations continue to be actively involved in improving their estates. The principal prize winners in 2010 were

Best Overall Village

Tullyree Residents Association

Best Floral display

Magherarney Residents Association

Litter Control

Dun Ard Residents Association

Most Improved Village

Newbliss Resident Association

Finance

A capital allocation of € 3,890,000 was made to Monaghan County Council from the Department of the Environment and Local Government in 2010 for the direct provision of social housing and single instance housing for travellers.

Service Indicators – See Appendix 1

Road Transportation and Safety

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the improvement and upkeep of the road network within the county, which consists of 110 kilometres of National Roads, 288 kilometres of Regional Roads and 2,011 kilometres of local roads.

An initial allocation of **€7,332,267 for National Roads** was notified from the National Roads Authority in 2010 which included €6.4m for Improvements and the remainder for National Primary and National Secondary Maintenance.

Additional funding of **€2.5m** was allocated from the National Roads Authority in June 2010.

The total 2010 funding from the NRA is broken down as follows:

N2 Monaghan, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross By-passes Schemes	€3,918,542
N2 Clontibret to N.I. Border Scheme	€700,000
N.P. Safety Improvement Schemes	€125,000
NP Pavement & Minor works	€3,347,700
N.S. Safety	€105,000
N.S. Pavement & Minor Works	€1,018,301

Non-National Roads

The total budget for non national roads for 2010 amounted to €16,089,211 funded by grants of €12,793,499 from the Department of Transport through the NRA and the remainder from Monaghan County Council's own resources.

The NRA funding catered for the following:

EU Co Financed Specific Improvement Schemes €900,000 (4 Projects)

Low Cost Accident Schemes	€201,000 (14 Projects)
Local Discretionary Improvement	€5,431,598 (61 Projects)
Regional Improvement	€1,100,000 (13 Projects)
Discretionary Maintenance	€1,360,000
Restoration Maintenance	€1,600,000
Footpaths	€43,800
Training	€44,699
Annaghroe & Knockaginney bridges	€1,400,000 (2 projects)

Non public roads

Local Improvement Schemes allocation amounted to €297,000 and together with contribution by participants allowed for the completion of 18 lanes throughout the county.

N2. Clontibret to Northern Ireland Border Scheme.

Public consultation was held on 7th and 8th July 2010 with a view to identifying a route corridor option for the proposed Scheme. This attracted a lot of interest from the public who were facilitated by extending the period for making submissions to 30 Sept 2010. The public consultation Meetings were attended by 400 people. A total of 1860 submissions were received

It is anticipated that a preferred route corridor will be selected in 2011 following an appraisal of the submissions and comments received by Consultants for the Scheme.

Cross border bridges were officially opened at Annaghroe & Knockaginny on the 20th October 2010 -an historic occasion. The bridges were co-funded under the European Union's European Regional Development Fund. A total of €1,400,000 was received in 2010 via the Department of Transport. The official opening of Annaghroe and Knockaginny bridges took place on 20th October 2010. These bridges over the river Blackwater between Glaslough in County Monaghan and Caledon in Co. Tyrone were closed in the 1950's and 1970's respectively. In 2007 at a North/South Ministerial meeting, the Irish Government gave a commitment to fund the replacement of these two bridges. This was an historic decision as it was recognised that there was no longer a security justification for the last two such cross border roads remaining



Marie Smyth, Administrative Officer and local ladies on Knockaginny Bridge

The Official Opening was attended by elected members, dignitaries and officials from local authorities on both sides of the border. Each bridge was declared officially open after Minister for State at the Department of Transport Mr Noel Dempsey, T.D. and Northern Ireland Rural Development Minister Michelle Gildernew cut the tape.



Michelle Gildernew MLA and Noel Dempsey TD cut the tape

Jons Civil Engineering, Duleek, Co. Louth carried out construction of the bridges and Mott Mac Donald Pettit Ltd., Dundrum, Dublin were the Consultants on the Scheme. This was a very historic occasion especially for local people living along each border crossing, who were there in large numbers to witness the opening and look forward to a return to normality after so many years of inconvenience. Congratulations were extended to all involved in bringing the projects to completion especially the local residents for their patience and co-operation during construction.

Winter Maintenance

Record temperatures of up to minus 15 degrees were recorded with snow and frost lasting up to five weeks leaving commuting conditions very hazardous.

The severity of the weather increased demand nationally and locally culminating in a rationing of salt which was sourced on a countrywide basis by the National Roads Authority. This resulted in salting of Priority 1 roads only on many occasions.

Roads section responded to the emergency situation by co-ordinating regular Meetings incorporating Water Services, Housing and Civil Defence, Area Engineers from within the Local Authority as well outside agencies such as the HSE, Gardai and the local media. The public were updated on a daily basis via local radio.

Salt barn

Completion of a new salt barn at Knockaconny, Monaghan was also delayed by the prevailing harsh weather conditions. However, the salt barn will be available for use early in 2011. Funding of €220,000 for this project was provided by the National Roads Authority.

Motor Taxation

Eisíonn Comhairle Chontae Mhuíneacháin Ceadúnais Tiomána is Feithiclí don Rialtas Iárnach. Seoltar an t-airgead go léir go dtí an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Áitiúil le creidiúint don gCiste Rialtais Áitiúil.

The Motor Taxation/Driver Licensing Section deals with transactions relating mainly to ownership of vehicles, taxation of vehicles and the issue of driving Licences. The total number of licensed vehicles is steadily on the increase which has an escalating effect on the volume of transactions processed in Motor Tax.

The National Vehicle and Driver File (NVDF) is a national computerised database which is centrally controlled. The purpose of this database file is:

- To facilitate the Penalty Points System
- Provide greater on-line facilities in the Motor Tax Office
- Improve the level of service offered to the public

Monaghan Motor Taxation office has welcomed the Motor Tax Online System – a component of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government eGovernment strategy. Renewing Online minimises the impact of geographical constraints on the delivery of services. For year ending 2010 15,789 stock items were issued and revenues collected amounted to €3,425,837

Transaction Levels

Description	Total No of transactions	Total Income
Motor Vehicles/Trade Plates/ C.R.W./VR.C.	57,834	€11,076,475
Driving Licences	7145	€147,830
Total	64979	€11,224,305

Service Indicators 2010

Motor Tax applications dealt with:

Same Day	85%
Third day or Less	14%
5 th Day or Less	1%
Over 5 days	0%

Driving Licence applications dealt with

Same Day	28%
Third day or Less	71%
5 th Day or Less	1%
Over 5 days	0

Water Services

Monaghan County Council's role and responsibilities in the provision of sustainable water services were redefined under the Water Services Act 2007. The Act incorporates a comprehensive review, update and consolidation of all existing water services legislation, and facilitates the establishment of a comprehensive supervisory regime to ensure compliance with specified performance standards. Under section 39 of the Water Services Act 2007 Monaghan County Council became the Water Services Authority in County Monaghan responsible for the provision and operation of Water Services (Water and Waste Water) throughout the county serving domestic, agricultural, industrial and commercial customers.

In addition to our management of public water and waste water schemes - the Council administers the Rural Water Programme. The water services section holds a monitoring role, overseeing the workings of 12 Group Water Schemes within the county. This role is performed in partnership with the Group Water Schemes and other rural organisations under the ambit of the Local Water Monitoring Committee.

Monaghan County Council also implements relevant European Environmental legislation, in particular the EU (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2004 and the Urban Wastewater (Authorisation) Regulations 2007. The Environmental Protection Agency has now been assigned specific new powers in relation to the supervision of local authorities and their role in the provision of drinking water supplies under SI Nos 278 of 2007. The Council performs a similar role in relation to the supervision of group water and private water supplies.

Water Services Investment Programme 2009 – 2010

The Water Services Investment Programme aims to ensure that the timing and scale of water services investment facilitates economic and other development, compliance with statutory requirements for drinking water, wastewater treatment and the achievement of environmental sustainability objectives. Monaghan County Council continued to advance major water and wastewater schemes under the 2010 – 2012 Water Services Investment Programme.

Water Services Investment Programme 2009 – 2010

The current Water Services Investment Programme covers the period 2010 – 2012.

A number of major schemes / contracts were either under construction or substantially completed in 2010:

- a) Stage 2 – Co. Monaghan Water Conservation Project (at construction)
- b) Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme – Pipelines Contract (at construction)
- c) North East Serviced Land Initiative (Complete)
- d) Stage 3 – Water Conservation – Mains replacement in Monaghan Town Centre (Complete)

Water Conservation

The Co. Monaghan Water Conservation Project aims to reduce water wastage and unaccounted for water to an economic level through water conservation measures and improvements to existing infrastructure. Water Conservation is concerned with the reduction of unaccounted for water (UFW) and is a key to the sustainable use of water resources. Apart from environmental gains achieved through water conservation, the

delivery of additional water supply through leakage control and network management is a viable alternative to capital investment in new infrastructure.

The Co. Monaghan Water Conservation Project commenced in February 2008. UFW within the county, at that time, was in excess of 50%. Stage 2 – Active Leakage Control of the project, is yielding very satisfactory results, with countywide daily production volumes falling from 16,500m³/day to 12,552m³/day over the period June 2008 to July 2009. The overall UFW for the county now stands at 36%. Stage 2 of the Project will continue until mid 2011. Stage 3 – Network Rehabilitation (on receipt of funding) will commence in 2011.

Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme

Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme – Pipelines Contract involves the extension; replacement and upgrading of the sewer network at Carrickmacross and includes the construction of six pumping stations with ancillary buildings and site works. The contract further provides for the construction of new foul, combined and surface water sewers, the replacement of existing stone culverts and the refurbishment of existing sewers, combined with the construction of new pumping stations and rising mains in the town centre and extension of the network to surrounding environs. P & S Civil Works commenced with construction of the Pipelines Contract in February 2008. The construction contract is ongoing and will be completed in early in 2011. The estimated total cost, including non-contract costs is €16 million. Works to the wastewater treatment plant were to be carried out by means of a design, build and operate contract. As a result of the considerable costs to be borne by the local authority, under the water services pricing policy, it is not possible to proceed with the upgrading and expansion of the wastewater treatment plant at this time. However, Monaghan County Council has made a technical submission to the DEHLG in relation to Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant. The submission proposes an interim solution to the WWTP deficiencies by advancing elements of the main contract. The interim proposal will be designed to cater for the short term needs of Carrickmacross and will be incorporated into the wastewater treatment plant when complete. The estimated cost of Contract No. 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant – Advanced Works is €5.2 million.

Carrickmacross Water Augmentation Scheme

Carrickmacross Water Supply Augmentation Scheme, Design Build Operate (DBO) Contract, provides for the addition of new groundwater sources, the construction of a new water treatment plant and new water storage facilities at Nafarty. The scheme costing in excess of € 7 million will increase the current capacity of water supply from 2,500m³ to 4,800m³ per day. The contract documents prepared are in compliance with the approved Preliminary Report. Monaghan Co. Co. proceeded with a Compulsory Purchase Order in 2007 on the treatment plant / reservoir site. The estimated cost of the Design Build Operate Contract is € 5.5M. The DBO Contract Documents currently awaits DEHLG Approval.

Monaghan Town Sewerage Scheme

Construction of the advance works at Old Cross Square will alleviate existing problems in the wastewater collection infrastructure. The estimated cost of The Old Cross Square Pumping Station and associated rising mains (Advanced Works Contract No. 2) is €3.91 million.

North East SLI

The North East Region Serviced Land Initiative was substantially completed in January 2010. Piers Contracting Ltd. of Dublin was the main civil contractor. The scheme provides a sewerage collection system for development lands in the Ballyalbany, Coolshannagh and Rooskey areas of Monaghan town.

Castleblayney Water Supply Scheme

Stage 2 of the Castleblayney Water Supply Scheme project, proposes to interconnect Lough Bawn with a number of adjoining lakes, the aim being to decrease the impact of raw water abstraction on Lough Bawn itself. The Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme is the largest water supply scheme in the county and it now serves, Castleblayney, Ballybay, Lough Egish, Aughnamullen, Annyalla, Cremartin, Clontibret and Rockcorry. A preliminary report prepared by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers outlining necessary upgrading works on the Kilkit Water Treatment Plant will be forwarded to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for approval in 2011.

Castleblayney, Ballybay & Clones Sewerage Scheme

Monaghan Co. Co. bundled the schemes together for the purpose of preparing a Preliminary Report. All of the three schemes have treatment plants of a similar design capacity range 7500 – 12,000pe. Parallel problems are evident in each of the towns with respect to inadequacies in the wastewater networks and plants. Under the project, necessary improvements to wastewater collection and treatment systems will be carried out for each of the three towns. The objective is to provide an adequate wastewater infrastructure for Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay and their respect environs for the next 25 years.

The Preliminary Report on the scheme was completed in December 2009. An EIS on the Castleblayney Scheme was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2010. An oral hearing was held in relation to the proposed expansion of Castleblayney Waste Water Treatment Plant in February 2011 and a decision from An Bord Pleanála is expected in the coming months. The Preliminary Report for the bundled scheme will be submitted to the DEHLG on completion of the EIA process.

Rural Water Programme

Small Schemes Programme

Monaghan County Council completed the commissioning of an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) in Glaslough with a design capacity of 1,750 population equivalent (p.e.) in 2009 at cost of €825,000. Integrated Constructed Wetlands are a specific design approach to the use of constructed wetlands in the treatment of waste water and to water resource management generally. The project in Glaslough consists of the construction of five ponds in the grounds of the Castle Leslie Estate which will naturally treat effluent as it flows sequentially from one pond to the next. Riding paths have been constructed around each of the ponds - thus providing an amenity value to the site. A 3-year PhD student (2008 to 2011), has been assigned to the project through the University of Edinburgh. Data has already been collected and analysed during the first year of ICW operation to date. This pilot ICW can then be used as a benchmark for ICW knowledge and experience across the whole country.

Odour reduction measures have been deployed in Castleblayney and Ballybay to alleviate the smell caused by sewer gases. Monitoring will continue by Monaghan County Council in 2011 on this measure until it is fully resolved.

A phased refurbishment of Clones Wastewater Treatment Plant commenced in 2010 with the upgrade of the trickling filters and the sludge reed beds. This work will substantially improve the quality of effluent being discharged from the Treatment plant.

The EPA waste water discharge licence applications process was completed in 2009. Monaghan County Council has applied for licensing of 26 sites. All discharges to the aquatic environment from sewerage systems owned, managed and operated by water service authorities require a waste water discharge licence or certificate of authorisation from the EPA. At the end of 2010, the EPA issued one authorisation licence for Inniskeen Wastewater Treatment Plant and four Certificates of Authorisation for,

- Clontibret Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Threemilehouse Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Drum Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Tydavnet Wastewater Treatment Plant

The authorisation process provides for the EPA to place stringent conditions on the operation of such discharges to ensure that potential effects on the receiving water bodies are strictly limited and controlled. In overall terms the aim is to achieve good surface water and ground water status in addition to complying with standards and objectives established for associated protected areas by 2015 at the latest.

The Drumully area, west of Clones, received a new water supply from the Clones Public Water Supply scheme – this is now fully commissioned and operational. Drumully had previously been served by a water supply from Northern Ireland which was considered inadequate to meet the needs of the local community.

Group Water Scheme Programme

It is Monaghan County Council's objective to pursue a planned approach to investment in this programme, in partnership with the group water scheme sector and other rural organisations. The Local Water Monitoring Committee Members, consisting of Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Owen Brannigan, PJ O'Hanlon and Paudge Connolly, Mr. John Morris, (Macra Na Feirme), Mr. Seamus McKenna (Irish Farmers Association), Mr. Hugh O'Reilly and Mr. Paddy Ward (County Federation of Group Water Schemes), Mr. David Fallon Director of Service and Mr. Gearoid McCarthy as Rural Water Liaison Officer, manage and monitor investment in this area.

Group Water Schemes continued to carry out necessary upgrading and improvement works which were grant aided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Grants to the value of €187,680 were paid to the following schemes in 2010:-

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| • Killanny Reaghstown, | € 17,680.00 |
| • Donaghmoynne, | € 40,000.00 |
| • Magheraclone, | € 50,000.00 |

- Churchill Oram, € 50,000.00
- Aughnashalvey € 30,000.00

Subsidy of €2,174,972.50 towards the operational cost of supplying water for domestic use was paid to the following group water schemes:

- Glaslough/Tyholland €126,695.36
- Magheracloone €133,881.98
- Killanny/Reaghstown €201,445.01
- Corduff/Corracharra €120,554.88
- Churchill/Oram €144,784.60
- Donaghmoyne €240,301.18
- Truagh €197,641.26
- Doohamlet €128,237.90
- Stranooden €268,487.03
- Drumgole €138,494.96
- Aughnashalvey €211,329.34
- Tydavnet €263,119.28

Five grants totalling €9,543.81 were paid to private householders for the provision or necessary improvement of a individual water supplies to their house.

The Source Protection Pilot Project in Churchill, Oram continued throughout 2010 with the final report due to be published in the Spring of 2011. Expenditure on this project accounted for €225,795.02

Planning

Development Management

Monaghan County Council received a total of 580 planning applications in 2010 and issued 512 decisions. The Planning Office also processed a total of 69 planning applications received by the four Town Councils.

A total of 43 applications were refused during the year, representing a refusal rate of approximately 7%.

There were 15 decisions appealed to An Bord Pleanala from 1st January 2010 – 31st December 2010. Of these, 3 decisions were overturned, 6 were upheld, 6 were undecided.

Forward Planning

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for drafting, reviewing and publishing planning and development policies. The Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013, incorporating the plans for the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay, is the principal policy document used to manage physical development in the county. It translates national and regional planning policies to a local level and provides a vision for the future development of the county up to and beyond 2013. In 2010 there was one variation to the plan.

A comprehensive review of unfinished housing developments and the performance bonds in respect of housing developments was undertaken during 2010. The review of Monaghan Local Authorities' Taking in Charge Procedures for Housing Developments was completed in 2010. Other projects which were progressed during the year included work on a Local Area Action Plan in the Dublin Street area of Monaghan Town. A review of the Retail Strategy for County Monaghan also commenced in 2010. Preparation of the Design Guide for Rural Houses is now at an advanced stage was also completed in 2010.

Service Improvement

The Planning Authority's commitment to improving services to the public was indicated by the commissioning of a computerised self-service planning system. This service, when it becomes operational in early 2011, will allow users to identify their proposed development site and access details in respect of Council and government policies which may impact on it.

Work also commenced, during the year, on the scanning of planning files to a digital format. This will provide for easier and more convenient inspection of historic files via the Monaghan County Council website.

Planning Staff continued to be available for weekly pre-planning meetings and telephone enquiries throughout the year. While this requires a significant commitment in terms of resources from the Planning Section, it is considered that the time invested in pre-planning discussions results in the speedier processing of planning applications and represents value for money for all parties.

Enforcement

Generally when a breach of permission or an unauthorised development is detected by the Council, discussions with the offender(s) are sufficient to ensure that breaches of planning permission are regularised. However, where issues are not addressed by the offender(s) then formal enforcement action is taken. This is detailed in the statistics shown below.

2010 Enforcement Statistics

No. of cases subject to complaints.....	154
Warning Letters under Section 152.....	123
Enforcement notices under Section 154.....	24
No. of cases dismissed.....	15
No. of cases resolved through negotiation.....	61
Prosecutions	12

Development Contribution Scheme

The revised Development Contribution Scheme, which was adopted in 2008, in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, provides funding to improve infrastructure throughout the county.

The total amount of contributions that will accrue, when or if development commences, on planning applications granted in 2010 was €2,373,248.00. The total amount of financial contributions received in 2010 was as follows:

Water	€ 35,575.00
Waste water	€ 91,842.00
Footpaths & Lighting	€ 27,524.00
Community, Recreation & Amenity Levy	€ 481,897.20
Total	€636,838.20

Community and Enterprise

Monaghan County Development Board

The Office of Community & Enterprise primary function is to facilitate the operation of the County Development Board and its sub committees. In 2010 the CDB focused a lot its energy on the economic downturn and how it could contribute to addressing the impact of the recession in Monaghan. The development of an Economic Strategy for County Monaghan was at the core of the work of the CDB in 2010. Discussions on the key issues relating to economic development took place at board level and fed into the process of developing an economic strategy that was led by the Economic Development Sub Group. In 2010 the CDB celebrated its tenth anniversary and marked the occasion with a very successful Conference. The Conference took place on 26th November, 2010, and focused on the current challenging financial climate, and how we can work together to address the issues facing the county in these difficult times. A number of high profile speakers addressed the large audience on issues including:

- Future Business & Job Creation Opportunities,
- Promotion on a Shoestring
- Growing indigenous new businesses
- Mental Fitness

The CDB continued to support the implementation of the CDB strategy and progress on the 9 actions within the strategy were received and discussed throughout the year. The CDB facilitated the submission of an application to the Dormant Accounts Funding programme towards a Youth Café facility in Carrickmacross.

Economic Development 2010

Economic Strategy

The Economic Development Sub-Committee held four meetings in 2010. The main focus of the committee in 2010 was the preparation of an innovative economic strategy for the county which will seek to drive the economy of the County in the short to medium term. Focused consultation took place with key stakeholders from the business sector and senior personnel from relevant state agencies and the Local Authority and a number of workshops were held. 103 actions/brainstormed ideas were identified and the overall **Economic Strategy & Implementation Plan for County Monaghan 2010 - 2014** was launched in September 2010.

Business Leaders Fora

Arising out of the consultation process it emerged that the focus must be on appropriate implementation structures. This led to the formation of six Business Leaders Fora (BLF) under the following headings: IT, Industry, Food, Tourism & Amenities, Retail & Services, Education & Training. Each BLF comprises of personnel from the relevant State agency and individuals from the business sector with specific knowledge and expertise. Under the guidance of the Champion and Facilitator the BLFs held regular meetings during the last quarter of 2010 and identified actions from the Economic Strategy which they wished to progress as a priority. Regular progress reports were provided to the wider Economic Development Sub-Committee. Monaghan County Council facilitates three of the Business Leaders Fora – IT, Tourism & Amenities and Retail & Services.

In addition to the individual BLF meetings, Monaghan County Council also co-ordinated regular workshops attended by the Champions and Facilitators of all groups, so that common issues could be addressed. Successes to date include the following:

- ***Launch of Wi-Fi Hot Spot Initiative***

This initiative identifies those public bodies, companies or organisations in Co Monaghan which provide free WiFi access. Participants in the WiFi Hotspot scheme were provided with stickers to display at their premises to make customers aware of the free WiFi offering.

- ***Development of Monaghan Tourism Facebook page and Youtube Channel***

Whilst there has long been a dedicated tourism website for the county www.monaghantourism.com, a new promotional tool developed is the Monaghan Tourism Facebook page and a Monaghan Tourism channel on Youtube which brings together a large amount of video clips highlighting the amenities and festivals which are on offer in the county.

- ***Food Sector Report***

The Food BLF undertook a postal survey of companies operating in the Food sector in county Monaghan in order to determine both the value of this sector to the local economy and the key issues facing the industry.

- ***Major enterprise application to INTERREG IVA***

Monaghan County Council submitted an application to INTERREG IVA under the Enterprise call seeking grant support to develop the following:

- 1) Provision of 10,000sq ft purpose built Data Centre at Knockaconny, Monaghan with the potential to create a minimum of 15 jobs.
- 2) Extension of Project Kelvin to Carrickmacross (from Castleblayney) and to Enniskillen (from Monaghan taking in Clones, Newtownbutler, Lisnaskea).

- ***Green Economy Presentation***

The Industry group organised a presentation in September 2010 on the benefits and opportunities arising out of the Green Economy.

Social Inclusion Measures Group

The Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM) supports the implementation of three actions within the CDB strategy these actions focus on promoting and addressing Social Inclusion in the County. Progress in 2010 include:-

1. Improving Access to local transport through a co-ordinated approach. This action aims to improve the co-ordination of transport service throughout the county. This action is being led by Baltibus the rural transport company and is being supported by the HSE and Community & Enterprise. This action is working towards Baltibus co-ordinating transport needs and services in the county, maximising resources and reducing costs for the HSE.
2. Improving Access to Services, Information and Decision Making for the most marginalised. This action aims to look at how services are currently delivered by statutory providers and identify barriers to access. The action also aims to identify models of good practice in accessible service delivery and encourage consistent approach to accessible service delivery throughout the county.

3. **Promoting Positive mental health in particular among young people**
This action is working on mapping all services and supports for mental health in the county. This will then provide a simple and easy to use service map, highlighting where people who are experiencing mental health difficulties can get help. This action team which is being led by Youth Work Ireland Monaghan also organised SAFETALK training, a suicide awareness training programme for CDB members. This training helps people to identify the signs of someone who may be at risk from suicide and to direct them to where they can get help.

SIM group members worked on a series of events that took place in Social Inclusion week in October. A number of areas were identified that were promoted during the week through conversations held in organisations throughout the county and an awareness poster campaign. SIM group members felt the Social Inclusion events were worthwhile and agreed to prepare a report based on the feedback from the Social inclusion week events.

Monaghan Traveller Interagency Group

Monaghan Traveller Interagency group continues to work collaboratively to improve access to services and information for Travellers in the county. An integrated Traveller plan has been implemented since 2008. A development officer has been in place since 2009 working to build the capacity of local Travellers to represent their own needs at local level. In 2011 the Interagency group will concentrate on evaluating the work that has taken place over the past 3 years in relation to Travellers.

Refugee Resettlement Programme

In November 2009 66 programme refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo arrived in Monaghan under the United Nations Refugee Resettlement Programme. The programme is managed nationally by the Office of the Minister for Integration and delivered locally by local authorities. The resettlement programme has worked extremely well in Monaghan and the families have settled into life in Monaghan and Carrickmacross. Local communities have been very supportive to the families in adjusting to life in Ireland and in particular during the poor weather conditions experienced in 2010. Monaghan Integrated Development Company was allocated funding to support the families for the first year of their resettlement. Funding was allocated towards a number of actions and activities that encouraged and assisted the families to settle into life in Monaghan. Funding was also made available for the employment of two staff who work very closely with the families helping to access services and information on a daily basis.

Implementing the Disability Act 2005

Making Monaghan Accessible – The Council continued to work on implementing the obligations under the Disability Act 2005. In 2010 a number of projects were delivered from the Making Monaghan Accessible implementation plan and funded under the National Disability Strategy. One of the key pieces of work of 2010 was the Accessible parking campaign which aimed to raise awareness of illegal parking in disabled parking bays. Monaghan County Council linked in with National campaign to encourage people to think before they park and stop people from creating difficulties for people with a disability in accessing parking spaces. In December 2010 Monaghan County Council welcomed Mayor Rony Molina from the Phillipines, Mayor Molina, a disability activist in San Jose Phillipines was in Ireland to learn about the work local authorities have done under the Disability Act 2005. Towards the end of 2010 further

funding was received from the National Disability strategy. Funding will be allocated and spent early in 2011.

Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Strategy was adopted by the council members in 2010. The strategy sets out a number of actions that aim to embed social inclusion in the services of the County Council. Some of the key achievements of the social inclusion unit in 2010 were the delivery of social inclusion awareness training with each department in the council and a number of social inclusion awareness raising events. A tenant profile and poverty profile are an example of some of the documents produced by the social inclusion unit in 2010 these documents highlight barriers that exist for people in trying to access services of the council. The work of the social inclusion unit in 2011 will continue to support social inclusion practice across all sections of the council.

Supporting the Community

The Office of Community & Enterprise provides advice and support to the community & voluntary sector through a range of initiatives, some of which are detailed below.

Community Development Fund

The annual Community Development fund was rolled out in early summer of 2010. 78 applications were received from a variety of community groups throughout the county. This represented 27 groups who had not previously been supported under the fund. A total of €267,565 was requested through applications.

The fund was allocated across 3 distinct measures:

Measure 1: **Community Infrastructural supports:** Support small scale capital projects up to a maximum of €5,000

Measure 2: **Community Development Supports:** Support to community development projects & events up to a maximum of €1,000

Measure 3: **Community Capital supports:** Support to larger scale capital projects up to a maximum of €10,000

The largest financial demand continues to be within Measure 1: Community Infrastructural supports. This measure supports groups who are carrying out small scale capital projects within their communities. The average grant allocated to groups is approx €1,800. Measure 2: Community Development supports are very popular and support local and community initiatives to a maximum of €1,000. In total €100,000 was allocated to 68 different community groups in 30 geographical communities in the county.

Cultural Development Group

The role of the Cultural Development Group is to promote cultural activity in the county. This is the newest sub-group of the CDB, being established only in 2010. Its first task was to define what exactly it meant by cultural development!

It was agreed that for the purposes of the CDB, culture may be defined as “*A shared set of values*”, and that we wish to promote cultural development in order “*to promote a shared sense of community*”.

The cultural development of the county is important in order to create a sense of belonging, which in turn would promote and strengthen the links which bind us together as a community.

The Group is working on a project entitled 'The Oriel Room', which will be a digital repository of all things good about Monaghan and its people. The project is in its early stages, and will be developed more fully during 2011.

Cross Border Partnerships

The vast majority of county Monaghan's natural hinterland lies in Northern Ireland, and Monaghan County Council is committed to forging strong working relationships with our neighbouring Councils in Northern Ireland.

Through the Blackwater Regional Partnership, we are linked to Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council and Armagh City & District Council. This partnership covers all of Co Monaghan, and has brought approx €4 million in funding into the region through a range of initiatives. Projects have included natural resource tourism development and the monitoring of water quality along the Blackwater River. In 2010, the BRP received funding from the International Fund for Ireland to deliver a 'Culture along the Blackwater' programme, and from the Peace III Programme to deliver a range of activities aimed at bringing people from the region back into regular contact with one another.

Our involvement in Clones Erne East Partnership enables us to work closely with Fermanagh District Council to promote economic and social activity in the Clones DED. Again, the goal is to normalise social and economic movement across the region. 2010 was a regrouping year for the CEEP, and it is intended that a new set of programmes will emerge in 2011.

Monaghan County Council also participates in the East Border Region and ICBAN regional clusters of local authorities, and is an active participant in a number of regional projects which are being developed. It is hoped that these will bear fruit during 2011 and beyond.

During 2010, Monaghan County Council formed a partnership with Groundwork Northern Ireland, an organisation which uses working together on environmental projects as a tool for bringing communities together. Through this partnership, Monaghan County Council has secured funding of £220,000 sterling to construct a 'natural play' area in the grounds of Hope Castle, Castleblayney. The play facility will be designed in consultation with local groups, and should be in place by the end of 2011.

National Bike Week

2010 was the first year that Monaghan County Council got actively involved in promoting National Bike Week. With the help of Monaghan Sports Partnership and a number of voluntary groups which had an interest in cycling, a programme of events was put together which offered something for everyone, from the super-fit competition rider to the smallest child. Fun and family were the focus of the week, with family events taking place in Ballybay, Castleblayney, Monaghan and Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre.



Participants in the Garda Bike Unit lead cycle training

In addition to the public events, the Garda Bike Unit in Castleblayney delivered cycle training in all the primary schools in their district. All 121 pupils and their teachers in St Tiarnach's Primary School in Clones cycled to school. The week, which ran from 13 to 20 June, was a great success, with over 560 people taking part.

Monaghan County Council supported the events by organising joint promotion, providing road signs, handling the tendering requirements, reporting to funders etc, and organising deliveries of equipment and refreshments to each event.

Pride of Place

Pride of Place is an all Ireland competition organised by Co-Operation Ireland, and is open to Local Authorities north and south. Councils may nominate up to five communities across a range of categories to represent them in the competition. Being nominated by the Council is recognition of their hard work, and says thank you to them for their commitment to making their communities better places to live.

In 2010, Monaghan County Council was ably represented by Monaghan Chamber of Commerce in the 'Community Response to Unemployment' category, Mullaghmat in the Housing Estates category, the towns of Ballybay and Castleblayney and the village of Inniskeen.

Judging took place in August, with winners announced at a gala awards dinner in Trim in November. The strength of the community sector in the county was confirmed when Co Monaghan entries romped home in two categories; Ballybay won and Inniskeen were runners up in their respective categories.

Joint Policing Committees

2010 was the first full year of operation of the county's Joint Policing Committees. There are six JPC's in the county – one in each local authority. The aim of the JPC's is to provide a platform through which the local authority, the community and the Gardai can discuss issues which affect the safety of the community.

JPC meetings are open to the public, and their business was regularly the subject of front page headlines in the local press during 2010. Each JPC met a minimum of four times during the year, and also held at least one public meeting. They also held a joint meeting in November, facilitated by the Office of Community & Enterprise, to discuss progress to date, share experiences and plan for the future.

Common issues which are being raised through the JPC's include anti social behaviour, underage drinking, domestic violence, speeding and smuggling.

Monaghan Town JPC consulted with Comhairle na nOg around underage drinking in the town. They identified celebrations for the Junior Cert results as being a peak risk time for young people, and Comhairle na nOg designed a 'Don't Pour Your Dreams Away' awareness campaign which included taking advertising space on commercial hoardings around the town and organising alternative activities such as free adventure activities at Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre to divert young people away from the pubs. The scheme was hailed by all as a tremendous success and a fine example of how collaboration between community, Gardai and local authority can have a real impact at local level.



Tidy Towns

Monaghan County Council provides many supports to Tidy Towns groups and Residents Associations. Some, such as the Environmental & Recreational Improvement Fund, offer direct funding to groups; others are indirect, such as offering free spring bulbs to groups in the autumn and free trees during National Tree Week in March each year.

The Community & Enterprise section established a Network for Tidy Towns groups and Residents Associations in 2001, and it is now amongst the most successful and active networks in the county. Representatives from over fifty organisations attend meetings, which are timed to fit in with the seasonal nature of the groups' work.

Each year a meeting is held in March to plan National Spring Clean month, and discuss what supports the groups wish the Council to provide. In October, a de-briefing meeting enables groups to discuss the marks they received in the National Tidy Towns competition and plan for training and other supports to assist them to improve their marks.

To mark International Year of Biodiversity 2010, the network focused on the 'Wildlife and Amenity' category of the competition. The Council's Biodiversity Strategy funded

three training sessions with a specialist, and groups were trained to carry out a Habitat Survey of their area and to plan interventions to manage and improve what they have.

The Council also funded the purchase of almost €500 of reference materials and survey equipment, including bat detectors, microscopes and guides to Irish wildlife. These are available to the general public through the Library Service, and may be borrowed as a 'kit' to carry out surveys etc. We hope that local groups and schools will avail of this resource, and will help Monaghan County Council ensure that the wildlife habitats of Co Monaghan are protected and enhanced.

Monaghan Community Forum

Monaghan Community Forum was set up under the Local Government Act 2001 to facilitate the community sector to participate in decision-making. The Office of Community & Enterprise provides developmental support to the Forum. There are 352 groups presently registered with Monaghan Community Forum. Most of these groups are affiliated with 9 thematic networks which have representation on 30 statutory boards within the county and region.

Active Citizenship:

An active citizenship week, Community Showcase and Volunteering Fair, was organised for 27th Sept. to 1st October, 2010, to encourage social inclusion and promote volunteerism. 68 community and voluntary groups showcased their work at this event. Over 400 people participated in the week long activities.

2011 Calendar promoting volunteerism:

A 'Through Your Eyes Competition was held in April which was a media and viral campaign seeking photographs which epitomised social inclusion, active citizenship, volunteering. Twelve winning photos were selected to feature in a calendar entitled 'Through Your Eyes – A Photographic Celebration of Community Life in Co. Monaghan'. Approximately 60 people attended the calendar launch in September. We produced 2000 calendars and issued 1500 to the community and voluntary sector with the remainder distributed through local libraries, local employment services office, older peoples, youth and women's groups.

New Forum Website Launch:

A new Monaghan Community Forum website has been developed and was launched at the AGM in November. The website provides a point of contact for community groups throughout the county with information including an event calendar and news being posted on the website weekly. There is also access to Community Forum projects, community support resources, representative reports and ongoing activities.

Weekly e-bulletin

A weekly e-bulletin with information on community events, training and funding is sent out to all of our membership organisations every Tuesday. This bulletin is also available for download from our website - www.monaghancommunityforum.ie

Peace III 'Hands Together' – Major Peace Project

Monaghan Community Forum was successful in procuring funding from Monaghan County Council Peace III EU Programme for Peace & Reconciliation in October 2009. In 2010 the Hands Together Project ran a very full programme of events. These included 5 'Connecting through Dance' events, workshops in living willow structures, the establishment of Arts and Heritage networks in the county and the establishment of

a 'Song & Poetry Writers Group'. Through the 'Shared Heritage' element of the project 410 participants took part in workshops in green wood furniture, plant identification & folk lore, mushroom ID, dry stone wall building, traditional mud wall building, bronze casting and medieval pottery.

Tourism 2010

The tourism infrastructure in Co Monaghan still requires a good deal of capital support to build up both the quality and the quantity of product/amenities available to visitors.

Development of Lough Muckno

Substantial funding was secured in 2010 under INTERREG IVA to develop Lough Muckno as a tourism destination. The works, which include angling developments, access improvements, and enhanced playground facilities will be undertaken in 2011 and will enable Co Monaghan to attract major angling and waterskiing championships. The overall funding package awarded to develop Lough Muckno under this project is £520,000 Stg and this investment has the potential to bring major economic benefit to the Monaghan area.

In addition to the above, £220Kstg was also secured under a Peace III project to develop an Adventure Play Area in Lough Muckno for older children.

Development of Clones as tourism hub

Another major priority in terms of tourism development in 2010 was an application under INTERREG IVA for enhanced amenity infrastructure in the Clones Erne East Area. This has been successful and rollout will begin in 2011.

The Clones elements of the project include the following:

- Development of an Amenity park & Streetscape enhancement at Cara Street
- Interpretation & enhancement works at heritage sites in the town
- Upgrading of catering facilities and landscaping works at the Canal Stores
- Angling infrastructure developments at selected lakes in the wider Clones area

All the above constitutes an investment of approximately €1m in the Clones area.

Heritage Office

The Heritage Office has one staff member, the Heritage Officer, with a wide remit of work including the implementation of the County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan, maintaining the record of protected structures as well as advising on planning applications and other matters which have implications for heritage conservation. The Heritage Council supports the position of Heritage Officer in the county with financial support and technical advice.

County Monaghan Heritage Plan

2010 was the fifth year of the implementation of the County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2006 -2010. Its aim is to "*protect and enhance the built, natural, cultural and community heritage of County Monaghan and to increase awareness, understanding, responsibility and enjoyment of it by all.*"

A number of projects were undertaken in 2010 including:

- Historical Landscape Characterisation of Ballybay exhibition
- County Monaghan Church Inventory
- Framework for archaeological research – phase one
- Wild Things at School, worksheets and resources for primary students
- County Monaghan wetland map and GIS
- County Hedgerow Survey and Habitat Action Plan.

Heritage Week 2010

Events were held around the county to celebrate Heritage Week at the end of August. It was a vibrant week and many hundred people attended events around Monaghan. Some of the events organised by the Monaghan County Council Heritage Officer were:

- Grand designs. An evening of talks on architecture held in the Market House.
- Bat walk and talk at Lisanisk Lake, Carrimacross.
- Hedge growing and laying workshop on farm outside Castleblayney.

County Monaghan Biodiversity Action Plan

A five year Biodiversity Action Plan for the county was adopted by Monaghan County Council in November 2009. Unfortunately, the Biodiversity Fund administered by the DEHLG was dropped in 2010 and no funding toward the plan was forthcoming in 2010. However, the Heritage Office has maintained a watching brief over the plan and other funding avenues.

Funding was secured in 2010 for a three year biodiversity project, Action for Biodiversity under INTERREG IVA. This project is a joint project between ten local authorities and East Border Region Authority. Monaghan is one of the leads in the project.

County Monaghan Heritage Forum

The Forum continued to meet in 2010. This multi-stakeholder body supports and advises on the implementation of the Monaghan Heritage Plan. Four locally elected representatives sit on the County Monaghan Heritage Forum. These are: Cllr. Heather Humphries, Cllr. Seamus Coyle, Cllr. Jackie Crowe and Cllr. Paudge Connolly.

Conservation of Protected Structures

There are 648 structures on the Record of Protected Structures in County Monaghan. Twenty-one applications were made to the Grant Scheme for the Conservation of Protected Structures, which is funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and administered by the local authority. Ten applicants received funding totalling €64,000 under the scheme in 2010. Conservation works grant aided in 2010 include the repair and restoration of sash windows, external re-pointing and re-plastering with lime and roof repairs. All work was done to the highest conservation standard.

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg & the Youth Leaders for Peace project

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg were very busy in 2010 delivering their new programme – Youth Leaders for Peace, which is being funded by the EU Peace III Programme. To

date 300-400 people have been involved in the various aspects of the project. Some of the activities they were involved in are highlighted below:

Intergenerational Projects

- **Growing Green Together** - 16 young people and 11 older people took part in this 6 month gardening project. One to one **Computer & Internet Classes** were taught by members over a 4 week period to older people from the community. A series of 3 **Connecting through Cooking** classes were enjoyed by 21 participants. A **Wood Turning** class was enjoyed by a small group of young and old members.



Growing Green Together group

Cross Border Projects

- **Bonding Across Borders** is a 9 month cross border exchange programme which involves 25 participants from the Youth Leaders for Peace project and Keady Youth Forum. A **Youth Democracy Day** brought young people from Armagh, Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Newry and Mourne together. **Diversity Awareness Training** was delivered to participants of the Youth Leaders for Peace Project.

Community Events

- **Intercultural Sports Day.** 80 young people from various new cultures tried new sports. **A – Z Study Guide.** Bright, colourful and informative, 1200 guides were compiled, designed & printed, with 100 being distributed to each Secondary School in the County. 80 young people, teachers and principals attended the launch of the Guide. **Don't Pour Your Dreams Away.** Their major alcohol awareness campaign aimed at eliminating underage drinking and targeting Junior Certificate students comprised of an array of initiatives. *(Insert Picture of Campaign)*

Funding

- An application was made to the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. The application was successful and Comhairle na nÓg received €30,000 which will be used to support, develop and improve their work throughout 2011.

Monaghan Sports Partnership

Monaghan Local Sports Partnership was established in September 2006 as a sub-structure of the County Development Board, to support, enhance and increase participation in sport and physical activity for all in the county. The work of the LSP is directed by the Irish Sports Council and governed on a day-to-day basis by a Board of

members who represent statutory agencies, community groups and sports clubs throughout County Monaghan. Currently the number of staff stands at three people. A full-time sports co-ordinator, administrator and disability sports office are employed. Monaghan Sports Partnership also facilitated a thirteen week student placement from Dundalk Institute of Technology. The Sports Partnership currently has a membership of over 200 sports clubs and organisations.

The members of Monaghan Sports Partnership board are made up from the Statutory, Community and Sporting sector and meet approximately 6 to 8 times per year.

Functions of the Local Sport Partnerships

The three main functions of the LSPs are: - Information, Education and Implementation

1. Information

Information is disseminated through a weekly column in the local newspaper, a newsletter, dedicated website, facebook page e-mail contact list and meetings.

2. Education – coach / education

A series of training courses held locally for teachers, childcare providers, and sports club volunteers and general public in topics such as hydration and nutrition for sport, first aid, child protection, physical activity for children, walking for health.

3. Implementation – delivery of programmes

A wide range of activity programmes are held throughout County Monaghan targeting specific population groups which have been identified as participating less in sport and physical activity than others such as; females, older adults, youth, disability and ethnic minorities.

Sports Inclusion Programme (for people with a disability)

The Sports Inclusion Programme is designed to create opportunities for people with a disability to engage with sports activities and access to sports club and facilities. The disability areas addressed included physical, intellectual / learning, sensory and mental health illnesses. The programme is delivered across Counties Monaghan and Cavan as a joint initiative. The programme was originally funded through Pobal and the Dormant Accounts Fund which expired in 2010 but both Sports Partnerships secured further funding from the Irish Sports Council for the continuation of activities.

The programme has had a significant impact on people's lives and their integration into mainstream activities. The following is a number of examples of initiatives rolled out in 2010 in County Monaghan which provided new activities for people with learning / intellectual disability, physical disability, sensory disability and mental health illness – Soccer Skills, Keep Fit, Ten Pin Bowling, Horse Riding, Yoga, GAA skills, water sports activities. Also disability awareness training was provided to over 150 Transition Year students.

The programme was reviewed and a joint strategic plan developed along with the compilation of a DVD. The official launch of both documents and DVD is due to take place in early January.

Environmental Protection

The staff of Monaghan County Council's Environment Section is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the protection of the county's land, waters and air from pollutants that are harmful to humans, animal and plant life respectively. But responsibility for protecting the environment rests with each individual living and working in the county. The Council's staff needs the support and co-operation of the wider community in order to discharge their duties.

The Council has a broad range of environmental functions including:

- Waste Management
- Litter Control
- Water Quality Protection and Improvement
- Environmental awareness
- Food Safety
- Dog Control

Waste Management

Waste Management in the county is carried out in accordance with the North East Regional Waste Management Plan 2005-2010.

Landfill facility

Monaghan County Council operates the landfill facility at Scotch Corner in accordance with waste licence, granted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The "polluter-pays" principle is applied to the operation of the Landfill facility. The landfill levy increased from €20 to €30 in 2010. During 2010 further environmental improvement works at the landfill facility, including leachate and landfill gas improvement works and the capping of previously filled areas. The total volume of waste land filled in 2010 at the Scotch Corner landfill facility was 32,219 tonnes.

Materials Recovery Facility & Civic Amenity Site

This facility is being operated on behalf of the Council by McElvaney's Waste & Recycling. In 2010 a total of 7,266 tonnes of recyclable materials were processed at the facility.

Carrickmacross Recycling Centre

In August 2010 Monaghan County Council opened its new recycling centre in the Convent Lands in Carrickmacross. This facility is being operated on behalf of the Council by McElvaney's Waste & Recycling

Bring Sites

During 2010 a total of 1,035 tonnes of glass and 35 tonnes of aluminium cans were collected at the bring site network in the County. (Note: 1 tonne of glass equates to approx 3,500 bottles. 1 tonne of aluminium cans equates to approx 50,000 aluminium cans) In addition, 55 tonnes of textiles were collected at the network.

Waste Facility Permits and Registrations

The Council grants waste facility permits for a limited number of waste recovery activities listed in the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration)

Regulations, 2007. In 2010 four permits were granted, In 2010 four waste facility permits and two certificates of authorisation were issued.

Monaghan currently has five authorised treatment facilities for the recovery and dismantling of end of life vehicles. There are also two sites which compost bio waste to produce fertilizer and compost. Shabra Recycling Limited recycles plastic bottles to produce plastic packaging. There are currently thirteen authorised sites located across the county which accept soil and stone waste for the purposes of agricultural improvement

Authorised sites are subject to annual inspections by the council and must submit an Annual Environmental Report each year. The Waste Permit Register is available for download on the council website.

LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network)

The Environment Section continued to participate in the EPA-funded Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) programme in 2010. Projects completed during 2010 include:

- Delivery of food waste prevention awareness programme
- Master composting training held in Clones
- Energy awareness training for water services personnel

Litter Pollution

A total of 73 on the spot Litter Fines were issued in 2010. The majority of these involved fly-tipping of household refuse, and littering at Bottle Banks throughout the county. A new three year Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2012 has been prepared. for the Town Councils and Monaghan County Council. The plan sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter as well as measures to raise public awareness

Water Quality

While the quality of Co Monaghan's rivers and lakes had deteriorated significantly since the 1970's, some improvements in water quality have been recorded in the last few years, particularly in rural areas. We need to focus efforts on achieving better protection for our waters in order to comply with new EU legislation. The EU Water Framework Directive requires member states to protect water of good status, and to restore waters that are of moderate, poor or bad status. (Further information is available on www.wfdireland.ie).

Monaghan County Council has continued its programme of water quality monitoring, development control, catchment surveys, licensing and the investigation of water pollution complaints. Our surveys have recorded significant improvements in farmyard facilities in the county, and upgrading of farmyards was assisted by the Farm Waste Management Grant Scheme. Survey work on business premises commenced in 2008, with around 80 premises surveyed to date. It is planned to continue survey work and where necessary follow up inspections.

The Environment Section commenced a system of stream monitoring in 2008 called Small Stream Risk Score (SSRS). SSRS is a relatively new monitoring system based on biological indicators and will be used to identify "hot spots" and to track water pollution sources. Council staff are also working towards raising general awareness on water pollution prevention among all sectors.

Monaghan Co Council was involved in the development of the Northwest and the Neagh-Bann River Basin Management Plans – for further information and the latest status of both plans see www.wfdireland.ie.

Complaints

The Environment section investigates complaints covering the whole spectrum of our activities from illegal dumping of domestic refuse to water pollution, and dumping of hazardous wastes (such as by-products of illegal diesel laundering activities). In 2009, 490 complaints were investigated. The Council may serve a range of statutory and legal notices on landowners etc requiring them to carry out certain works etc. In 2009, 39 such notices were issued. Our investigations resulted in 20 cases being referred for prosecution. However, in the majority of cases, individuals will respond positively when advised that their activities are likely to cause environmental pollution. Air and Noise Complaints are dealt with by the Council's Environmental Health Officers

Environmental Awareness

In an effort to foster a spirit of co-operation between the Council and the community at large, the Council engages in a range of environmental awareness raising activities.

Some of the highlights in 2010 were:

- During National Spring Clean month in April, and again during Autumn Clean up almost 50 community groups within the county availed of free skip hire to help with their local clean-ups. This was in addition to many other clean ups organised throughout the year.
- €43,000 was provided to local voluntary organisations under the “Environment & Recreation Fund” for improving local communities. Grants were available for maintenance of open spaces, tree/shrub/hedge & flower planting, litter management, painting etc. Grants were presented to successful applicants at a special evening of recognition in July 2009.
- The Green Schools Programme continues to grow. At the end of 2010 over 60% of primary schools are registered with the programme, furthermore a schools environmental newsletter was distributed to all primary schools in March 2010
- The environment section ran an advertising campaign on illegal dumping and litter in the local media during Spring Clean month
- To address the issue of dog fouling, 10 special bins were purchased and delivered to Town Councils in County Monaghan.

Food Safety

2010 was the last year of the Council's five year contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). The Council will sign a new five year contract with the FSAI early in 2011. The Council is under contract to the FSAI to provide food safety control and support services to small food business operators in the County engaged in the slaughtering, processing and wholesaling of meat and meat products. The products range from fresh beef; lamb and poultry meat to cooked sliced ham and cooked sausages. These businesses supply the domestic market mainly but are now entitled to sell their products anywhere within the European Community.

The Council employs a County Veterinary Officer and two temporary veterinary inspectors. The inspectors carry out ante and post mortem examinations on all livestock slaughtered in the four local abattoirs. The CVO carries out regular

inspections of structural and operational hygiene standards in premises, and operates sampling and training programmes to assist owners and staff in attaining the required standards set out in national and EU legislation. In 2010, 1,646 cattle and 3,536 sheep were slaughtered in local abattoirs in Monaghan.

Dog Control Service

The council employs one full-time Dog Warden. 4,463 dogs were licensed in the county in 2010. 677 dogs passed through the dog pound in 2010 – with 138 having to be euthanised. 95 dogs were reclaimed by their owners and 425 were successfully rehomed, with the much-appreciated assistance of the Carrickmacross Dog Shelter and the Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The Dog Warden issued 92 on-the-spot fines during the year, 50 for keeping a dog without a licence, 24 for not keeping a dog under control and 18 for not identifying a dog with the owner's name and address on or attached to the dog's collar. Three dog owners were successfully prosecuted in court, one for not licensing their dog and two for not keeping their dogs under effective control.

Fire Service

Monaghan Fire Authority dealt with 472 first callouts in the last year, with 46 (12.3%) requiring assistance. Chimney fires accounted for 84 (17.8 %) of these. The other main locations of calls were dwellings 71 (15.0%), motor vehicles 58 (12.3 %), road traffic accidents 48 (10.1 %) and false alarms 64 (13.6 %). There were no fatalities in fires in County Monaghan in 2010. The number of calls dealt with at the individual fire stations together with a breakdown of the major sources of these calls was as follows:

Station	Calls	Chimney	Domestic Buildings	Vehicle Fires	RTA	False Alarms	Other
Ballybay	74(23)	12(1)	12 (4)	6 (3)	9 (2)	20 (1)	15(12)
Carrickmacross	74(5)	8	10	15	10	10	21(3)
Castleblayney	109(13)	11	14	17	9	11	47(13)
Clones	57(5)	17	7	6	6	5	17 (1)
Monaghan	158(12)	36	28 (3)	15	14 (1)	18	47 (5)
Total	472	84	71	58	48	64	146

Figures in brackets represent assisting calls

Annual Report – Callout Statistics (Fire calls only)

Quarter	Average Time in Mins to Mobilise	% of calls in Attendance less than 10 mins	% of calls in Attendance > 10 mins & < 20 mins	% of calls in Attendance > 20 mins
Jan - March	5m 53 secs	51.88%	39.5%	4.6 %
Apr – June	5m 26 secs	45.35 %	33.0 %	21.5 %
July - Sept	5m 31 secs	48.89%	43.3 %	7.8%
Oct – Dec	6m 39 secs	37.74%	53.0 %	9.3 %
Average 10	5m 56 secs	46.31%	42.28 %	11.41 %

Staffing

In November of 2010 Monaghan Fire Service suffered a deep loss with the untimely passing of Mary Rudden, Assistant Staff Officer. Mary had worked with Monaghan County Council for almost 40 years and spent the most of those years with the Fire service, during that time Mary gave loyal and dedicated attention to all fire personnel. The immense feeling of loss with the passing of our colleague so unexpectedly, who had so much experience and knowledge of the Fire Service was further compounded by the pain of losing a friend and confidant, who is so greatly missed. As result of our loss, the staff re-configuration has brought considerable change to the administration side of the fire service.

On the operational side of the Fire Service there was one new recruit this year, in the Ballybay brigade, which brought the service up to its full compliment of 51 fire-fighters.

Fire Appliances/ Equipment

A new Water Tender will be delivered in April 2011, which it is planned will replace the existing Water Tender used by Castleblayney brigade. A new storage shed was constructed in Ballybay to accommodate the purchase of a new fire jeep. The new jeep will be used as a personnel carrier and will allow the Ballybay brigade to utilize as a fending vehicle at all road based incidents.

The new equipment purchased during the year included the following:

- 7 No. sets of harnesses and associated equipment as part of the fall arrest system.
- 2 No. retrofitting mono couplings of RTA equipment in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross.
- 10 No. BA cylinders as part of our end-of life strategy.
- 10 Alerters and 2 Hand Portable.

Health & Safety

The National Directorate of Fire and Emergency Management issued the first batch of training material for the roll out of Standard Operating Standards (SOGS) for the Fire Service in June of this year. The information contained in each SOG forms the basis for complying with the statutory requirement for a risk assessment, as well as for training and preparing for specified operational incident types. The SOGs are intended to be a significant part of the "operational doctrine" for fire service operation. The process has involved the setting up of a dedicated SOG committee to engage, adapt, oversee and implement the agreed SOG and commence the roll-out of training for the first 10 No. SOG'S of the 54 No. proposed.

The Incident Command System has provided a clear health & safety management structure to ensure the command, control, and coordination of all fire service response calls. A number of large scale exercises were carried out to ensure the continuous up-skilling in the Incident Command System and to improve pre fire planning for related incidents.

Major Emergency Management

The North-East regional working group committee held a table-top exercise in the City North Hotel, Co. Meath during November which involved all the three Principle Response Agencies. The main of the exercise was to evaluate the Major Emergency Plan for each of the four authorities in the region.



Monaghan Fire station under construction

New Stations and existing stations

McGurrans Construction commenced construction work on the new Monaghan Headquarters Fire Station in September and are currently on scheduled for completion in late 2011. It is planned to have the new fire station in Monaghan operational in early 2012. The land purchases for the new Castleblayney station site and the land required

for access to the site for the new Ballybay station have been completed. A port-a-cabin was acquired and installed in Castleblayney Fire Station

The current budget restrictions to the capital works programme and H&S requirements have necessitated the following acquisitions:

- A portacabin for Castleblayney Fire Station to accommodate the need for a muster bay for fire-fighters;
- A Shed unit for Ballybay Station to accommodate additional storage facilities and new jeep;
- Storage unit for Monaghan Fire Station to accommodate fire-fighting foam.

Fire Prevention

The activity in Fire Prevention included dealing with all licence applications for pubs, clubs, restaurants, dance halls, gaming and lottery establishments, and dangerous substances. The emphasis on promoting Fire Prevention has been targeted at crèches, elderly groups, primary and secondary schools and housing estates.

Substantial progress was made in 2010 with regard to premises built or in use without Fire Safety Certificates. This resulted in an increase in retrospective applications. The revenue in 2010 from 82 fire certificate applications was €76,472.18. Four applications were exempt from fees. Approx. 89% of Certificates were processed within 2 months well above the national average.

National Schools Programme

The National Schools programme forms an important role in developing fundamental awareness and to promote the need for pre-fire planning in the home. All national schools were visited by firefighters. This programme is targeted at third class (8 to 9 year old children) and has received positive feedback from schools.

Training

In addition to the annual training programme carried out at each drill night the following training was undertaken by fire personnel in 2010:

- 1 No. recruit successfully completed a Recruits course and Initial Wearers Breathing Apparatus Course
- 3 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Compartment Fire Behaviour Course
- 5 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Peer Support training course to support our Critical Incident Stress Management policy.
- 1 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Pump operators course
- 1 NO. fire-fighters successfully completed a Fire Service Sub Officer Course
- 13 No. fire personnel completed the train-the-trainer course for the Fall Arrest System, which was subsequently rolled out to all fire-fighters in 2010.
- 49 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Road Traffic Incident Course in conjunction with Standard Operating Training.
- 22 No. firefighters completing a 2 day Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course in Dundalk;
- 10 No. Firefighters completed a refresher in Advanced Driving Course.
- 1 No. Fire Officer successfully completed a Breathing Apparatus instructor Course.

Major Incidents

There were a number of significantly large incidents during the year, most notably the fire at Hope Castle which involved the deployment of 3 No. Fire Brigades from Castleblayney, Carrickmacross, Ballybay and the hydraulic platform from Dundalk Fire Service Castleblayney Fire Brigade where the first alerted to the incident at 3:08am on the 4th November 2010 and by the time of arrival the entire building had been



Fire damaged Hope Castle

engulfed with flames, the fire was brought under control by 6: 45am. Pre-fire planning and exercises carried out at the Castle in recent times proved extremely beneficial in the execution of this protracted incident.

Equally, during the cold weather spells in November and December the fire service responded to emergency calls to provided water supply to domestic dwellings.



Gorse fires on Bragan

Building Control

Commencement Notices

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 212 Commencement Notices representing a total of 248 notifications of building works. The notified works included 139 new domestic residential units.

The income received from Commencement Notice fees amounted to €6,690.

Disability Access Certificates

The requirement to acquire a Disability Access Certificate DAC came into effect from 1st January 2010. The total number of DAC applications received in 2010 was 28 of which 12 have been granted with conditions.

The income received by the Building Control Authority by way of Disability access Certificate fees amounted to €12000

Inspections

The Building Control Authority carried out inspections on approximately 22% of all works of which it was notified.

Building Energy Rating (BER)

All new domestic units commenced after 1st July 2008 must furnish to the Building Control Authority a BER Certificate before the unit is occupied for the first time.

In addition following submission of commencement notices builders designers and owners are requested to submit Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure DEAP calculations to indicate how compliance with Part L will be achieved during construction.

Radon

Following an initiative undertaken by Cork County Council The Building Control Authority has (1) recommended that radon testing be carried in the housing stock of Monaghan Local Authorities and (2) where Radon levels above the reference levels are determined that remedial works be carried out on a prioritised basis.

Legislation

The Building Control Act was amended on 28th February 2008 by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government John Gormley. This consolidates and strengthens the enforcement powers of Building Control Authorities. New Regulations the Building Control (Amendment), Regulations, 2009 to amend Fire Safety Certificates and introduce Disabled Access Certificates have now come into effect.

Civil Defence Service.

Civil Defence Mission. *“To support the emergency services and to provide community support by promoting, developing and maintaining Civil Defence as an effective volunteer based organisation”.*

Monaghan Civil Defence currently provides community support to some 90 + community events annually, as well as acting as a multi-skilled 2nd line service to the main emergency services of the Fire Service, Local Authority, An Garda Síochana, HSE.

Currently Monaghan Civil Defence is pro-active in the following area of community & emergency support;

- First Aid / Casualty
- Search and Rescue
- Auxiliary Fire Fighting
- Boating Techniques
- Radiation Monitoring
- Radio Communications
- Welfare Provision
- Blizzard Conditions
- Gorse Fires
- Flooding
- Traffic Control
- Crowd Control
- Stewarding



Civil Defence training exercise

Major Emergency Planning training within the county on a shared basis with other relevant sectors of the Local Authority, Fire Service, An Garda Síochana, North Eastern Health Board, and other relevant voluntary agencies.

Severe Weather December 2010.

Monaghan Civil Defence played a major role during the recent severe weather in December. During an 18 day period CD volunteers assisted HSE & other groups with numerous tasks.

- HSE ambulance Service.
- Transport of HSE Staff to work.
- Transport of Community nurses on house calls.
- Transport of Welfare Officer on Community visits.
- Meals on Wheels.

Regional & Local Training:

Civil Defence members attended courses during 2010.

- Defensive Driving Refresher Course.
- Level 2 Powerboat training course.
- Boat Exercises
- Regional Technical Rescue Training.
- Auxiliary Fire Service training week-end.
- Local casualty training exercises.

Regional Competition 2010.

Monaghan Civil Defence hosted the Regional Civil Defence Competition in May 2010. Teams were tested in Foot drill, First Aid, Basic Rescue, Flood Defences & Water Pumping Exercise at various sites in Corby Rock Mills, Monaghan. The competition reflected the role for Civil Defence in the Major Emergency Framework Document. Teams from Cavan, Meath, Louth & Longford were invited to participate in the Competition. Cavan Civil Defence won on the day and went forward to the National final in Co Meath.

Training.

Civil Defence delivered Cardiac First Responder Refresher courses to members of the Fire Service in the second half of 2010. Casualty Instructors have now completed EFR / Occupational First Aid (O.F.A.) Instructors & Cardiac First Response training courses. O.F.A. courses were conducted in Monaghan, Carrickmacross, & Clones Centres for Civil Defence members.

Cardiac First Response / BLS Healthcare Providers Courses in the use of defibrillators were organised during the year for Civil Defence members, Fire Service Personnel, local community group and delivered by Civil Defence Instructors.

Training for Technical Rescue took place at Regional & County centres during the year. Weekly training takes place at the Civil Defence centre in Clones each Saturday morning. Technical Rescue Instructor Training was held during 2010.

One member successfully completed an instructors course in Technical Rescue in the Phoenix Civil Defence Centre in Dublin.

Training continues each Thursday evening in Monaghan Town. All AFS members have now completed training in CFR / OFA courses

Civil Defence visited a number of primary & secondary schools to help promote the organisation and to make the public aware of Civil Defence's work in the community. The Boat Unit continued to provide assistance to Monaghan County Council in the lake monitoring programme, water services, and also at numerous water based events where a rescue boat was required.



The boat unit in action

Library Service

In 2010 Monaghan County Library has continued to find ways to expand and develop the service, while dealing directly with more members of the public than any other service in the Council.

The Library Service is administered from the library headquarters in Clones. Its services include:

- Five branches located in the principal towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay. The five branches provide a continually updated collection of popular fiction and non-fiction books, audio books, DVDs, CDs and magazines for lending.
- A mobile Library Service operating from 37 points around the county on a fortnightly basis.
- A Schools Library Service visiting 64 primary schools on a twice yearly basis.

Although statistics for the Internet Access service continued to improve in 2010, the effect of the reduction in the book fund over the last couple of years appeared to manifest itself in reduced membership statistics and in the number of items borrowed:

- Internet sessions increased by 3% from 32,828 in 2009 to 33,822 in 2010.
- Items borrowed decreased by 6.8% from 199,593 in 2009 to 186,088 in 2010.
- Membership decreased by 5.5% from 9,171 in 2009 to 8,671 in 2010.

Carrickmacross Library

In 2010 work began on the construction of the Carrickmacross Branch Library, as part of the new Civic Centre in the town. The new library, scheduled for completion at the end of 2011, will be five times the size of the current branch and will provide a state of the art, custom designed facility for the community.

Outreach

In 2010 Monaghan County Library again managed to stage a surprisingly diverse and appealing range of Outreach events despite have no budget from which to fund it. This was achieved by concentrating on low cost or no cost events, as well as successfully networking with neighbouring Library Authorities when sourcing authors, storytellers etc. Events included;

- Monaghan Enterprise Board Clinics, Armagh Planetarium Living in Space, Children's Book Festival, Clones Canal Capers Festival, Iontas Open Day.
- Summer Reading Programmes, Arts and Crafts Classes, Pottery Classes, Creative Writing Classes, School Class Visits, Adult Computer Classes, English Language Classes, Irish Language Classes, Literacy Classes, Film Club.
- Book Clubs, Parent and Toddler Groups, Author talks, Nursing Home Visits.
- Science Week, European Waste Prevention Week, Heritage Week Workshops.
- Clones Film Festival Exhibition, Coillte Exhibition, Photographic and Art Exhibitions.

Peace III Project

Throughout 2010 Monaghan County Library together with Monaghan County Museum worked on the Peace III Funded project entitled 'Hidden Heritage of County Monaghan'. The aims of the project are;

- To bring people together under a common theme ‘heritage’.
- To form new groups of people, who might not have known each other beforehand.
- To research and find out about their local area.
- For the group to exchange ideas and learning.
- Each group to take ownership of their learning/research.

The four community groups across the County working on the project have extensively researched their local heritage and have had the opportunity to work together and learn a range of new skills including digital photography, Archaeology, genealogy etc. Exhibitions highlighting the work achieved by all of the groups will be displayed in various locations around the county in March 2011.

Local History

In 2010 the following resources were added to the Local History collection;

- Death Notices & Obituaries in the Northern Standard 1870 – 1879, 1880 – 1889, 1890 – 1899.
- Griffiths Valuation maps software for County Monaghan purchased from The Valuation office.
- All Griffiths Valuation maps for County Monaghan printed & bound.
- 1835 Book of Maps for County Monaghan copied, scanned & bound.
- Cancelled Valuation books for Aughnamullen West copied & bound.
- 22 Carrickmacross Workhouse Minute Books repaired, cleaned, scanned & rebound.
- The Northern Standard 2009 on microfiche.
- Publication on World War One casualties from County Monaghan.
- Publication on Famous People from County Monaghan.
- A number of old books copied & bound e.g. Bawn Handball Minutes book 1920’s, Glaslough in Oriel.
- Index of Local History books relating to the Parishes in County Monaghan.

Borrowbooks.ie

Borrowbooks.ie, the online inter-library loan facility continues to prove popular with library customers. This service allows any member of the public to browse public library catalogues throughout the country. The user may order items from them and they will be delivered to their nearest local branch for collection, at no additional cost to the customer.

Wi-Fi Pilot Scheme

In 2010 Monaghan County Library introduced Wi-Fi access to the Monaghan and Clones branch libraries on a three month pilot scheme basis. The aim of the scheme was to determine the likely level of demand for the service and to highlight any possible issues there may be with providing a service of this kind to the public on a long term basis. The Wi-Fi facility has proved very popular and we are now looking to formalise the service, and possibly roll the service out to further branches

County Museum

Hidden Heritage

This project, which is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development fund through the Peace III Programme and funded through Monaghan Peace III Partnership is focussed on bringing communities together through the study of their shared heritage. The four groups from around the county; Magheracloone, Tydavnet, Clones and Latton, continued to work with staff from the museum and library to research aspects of their own local heritage as they continued towards their goal of a larger audio visual display set to be launched in the Museum in April 2011.



Hidden Heritage field trip

The groups also received training through the various workshops that were made available to them throughout the year. The participants completed short courses in genealogical research, creative writing, digital photography and archaeological excavation techniques.

In connection with this project it was decided to run a summer camp in the four project communities during the summer period. The summer camp was aimed at children in 4th, 5th and 6th class with the goal of teaching them a little bit about their historical heritage, through a series of fun interactive events. The week long summer camp ran in each of the four areas during the month of July. The 100 available places were quickly filled, as the camp received a hugely positive response in each of the areas.

Exhibitions and Education

“Down to Monaghan” was launched in April 2010 and represented the culmination of over 2 years of collaboration between staff in Monaghan and Down County Museums

with the goal of producing an exhibition depicting the rich agricultural heritage of both counties. The display was launched in Down County Museum in December 2009 to very favourable reviews and large public interest. This response was mirrored in Monaghan County Museum as record crowds flocked to it during its run. Both museums produced a catalogue of their respective county's agricultural history as well as a detailed listing of all agricultural objects in their collections.

A travelling exhibition celebrating childhood in Ireland over the 20th century was launched by the Mayor of County Monaghan, Jackie Crowe in November of this year. Entitled 'Seen but not heard, *feictear ach ní cloistear* - A century of childhood in Ireland', the exhibition celebrates some of the many lifestyle changes experienced by successive generations of children growing up here over the course of the past 100 years. The exhibition was organised by the Local Authority Museums' Network (LAMN) which is comprised of thirteen local authority museums. Monaghan County Museum staff was pivotal in bringing this exhibition to completion as well as working on the research and design of the display the Curator acted as one of main administrators, collating all of the information collected by the 13 museums.

As with all exhibitions that take place in Monaghan County Museum a comprehensive education programme was designed for all exhibitions aimed at primary and secondary schools. Tours were also given to community groups and members of the public.

Outreach and Research

The programme of outreach events continued, with museum staff holding workshops and exhibitions throughout the county. New displays were set up in the Inniskeen Heritage Centre, Carrickmacross Workhouse, Broomfield Heritage Centre and Clones Library. As the cost of travel continues to be barrier for more outlying schools to access the museum's educational programme, the museum's education officer has been delivering talks and interactive, fun workshops in schools and community centres all over County Monaghan.

In connection with the Heritage Week, the museum staff held a Heritage Day in Monaghan Harps Sports Complex. The day attracted over 1,500 visitors. Some of the displays on view included a working threshing machine, a traditional blacksmith's forge, roof thatching, a petting farm, basket making, butter churning, wood turning and many more. This extremely successful event will now become an annual fixture in the museum's event calendar.



Blacksmith at work during Heritage Day

The museum's remit as a centre for historical research continued to grow this year as more and more academics and interested members of the public contacted the museum's research officer for advice and help. As part of this growing service the

museum is also working towards having more of its paper archive digitised to allow greater ease of access for researchers.

Collections Care

Behind the scenes the museum staff is constantly working hard to ensure that every object in museum's collection is properly cared for as per the standards set down by the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. As the first local authority museum to receive full accreditation under the programme the museum continues to be seen nationally as a leading light in the field of collections care. In 2011 the museum staff will be approached by the Heritage Council and asked to apply for the process of retention. Through this programme the museum staff will be asked to display how they have maintained all 32 standards of professional excellence as well as demonstrating the changes they have made to build on these standards. This will be a challenge that the museum staff are relishing as another opportunity to demonstrate on a national stage the dedication to professional excellence that pervades all our work.



Archery class during Children's summer camp

Monaghan Arts Office

Awards/ Grants

These awards are designed to financially assist groups/ organisation and events in their delivery of **arts** projects in County Monaghan. Monaghan County Council invested almost €200,000 in the Arts in Monaghan with the Arts Council also investing over €200,000 in the County.

1. **Arts Acts Awards 2010** 10 groups in County Monaghan were awarded a total of **€9,400**
2. **Partnership Grants** These awards are given to Arts Organisations in County Monaghan who deliver dedicated Arts Projects and Programmes. A total of **€67,000** was awarded in 2010 funding.

Venues: The Garage Theatre
 Iontas Arts Centre
 The Market House

Festivals : The Flat lake festival
 Féile Oriel
 Muckno Mania Festival
 Scoil An Bhoth Scotstown.

 Clones Film Festival
 Monaghan Rhythm & Blues Festival

The Market House

2010 was a successful year at the Market House which is a dedicated arts space run by Monaghan County Council. The programme of events this venue delivers can be



broken into three categories: Music, exhibitions and workshops. All events supported or hosted by Monaghan County Council can be viewed on our website www.monaghan.ie

Monaghan Leisure Complex

The Leisure complex is situated on the Clones Rd, Monaghan and is the largest health & fitness centre in the county. The facilities include a six lane, 25 meter pool, fully equipped gym, including a wide range of cardiovascular and resistance equipment as well as free weights and tennis courts. It is operated by under a license agreement by Coral Leisure Ltd.

A Leisure Complex Committee consisting of members of Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town Council monitor the operation of the facility through meetings with the management company on a quarterly basis. This committee is advised by a Consultative User Group consisting of representatives of a wide variety of groups and clubs who use the complex.

Since the complex opened in 2006 it has become recognised as the training base for many sports clubs within the county including the Sliabh Beagh and Oriel swimming clubs.

The complex is an approved training centre to run Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS) courses, also the club received for the third year in a row ILAM “White flag” status. The complex was the first sports facility in Monaghan to complete “Disability Awareness Training”.

The facility caters for schools, clubs and special needs groups both north and south of the border. Other services available at the complex are Neuromuscular Physical Therapy, Tang Soo Doo (martial arts) and weight management.

Miscellaneous Services

Human Resource Management

HR, Payroll and Superannuation System (Core)

Monaghan Local Authorities introduced Phase 1 of the roll out of the above information system in 2010. To date the following modules have been completed:

- Organisational Structure and Department returns
- Payroll
- Employee Self Service
- CSO Returns

Phase Two will involve modules relating to Recruitment, Training, PMDS and Health & Safety.

Recruitment

Monaghan County Council employs approximately four hundred and forty three members of staff. The multi-functional nature of the organisation is reflected in it's workforce which includes clerical/administrative, engineering, technical, craft workers, general operatives, librarians, fire-fighters etc.. The objective of Human Resource Management is to attract the best people into the organisation and to assist them in developing their full potential to enable them contribute fully towards meeting the organisations goals and objectives and to facilitate their career progression.

In 2010

- 3 interview boards were arranged for staff selection
- 3 members of staff were appointed.
- 7 members of staff were employed on short term contracts
- 4 members of staff resigned
- 10 members of staff retired
- 3 staff members died in service

Training & Development

Monaghan County Council recognises that properly targeted training and development is necessary in helping to equip staff at all levels to carry out their work in an efficient and professional manner. Training Needs Analysis is carried out annually and in parallel with the implementation of PMDS a training plan is produced. Emphasis is placed on linking training and development to the corporate objectives and Business Plans.

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs for 2010 was 4.52%. In 2010 comprising

- 159 training courses
- 1,342 training days
- 40 in-house courses
- 19 external courses

Work Life Balance Initiatives

Staff availed of a number of work life balance schemes during the year

- 28 members of staff availed of the work sharing scheme
- 11 members of staff availed of the shorter working year scheme
- 26 members of staff availed of parental leave
- 12 members of staff availed of career breaks

Corporate Affairs

Corporate Affairs provides support to Senior Management, the Mayor & Elected Members organises monthly Council Meetings and associated activities. It is responsible for the preparation of the Corporate Plan, Annual Report, Customer Care Plan, the administration of the Higher Education Grants Scheme, compilation of the Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, and management of Corporate Property.

The section also co-ordinates the compilation of National Performance Service Indicators for the Monaghan Local Authorities and monitors the implementation of the provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003.

Higher Education Grants

In accordance with the Local Authority Higher Education Grants Act 1968, 1978 and 1992, Monaghan County Council provides Higher Education Grants for eligible students attending approved courses at third level colleges. The Council adopts a scheme of grants each year with the approval of the Minister for Education.

324 new applications were received, of which 198 grants were awarded, 59 were referred to the VEC, 53 were deemed ineligible and 14 are waiting additional information. In addition, 386 grants were awarded to continuing students.

Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is compiled annually so as to ensure that members of the public can exercise their democratic right to vote in any elections/referendum that arise during the year. In compiling the Register we liaise with the Councils Revenue Collectors who act as fieldworkers and undertake the necessary enquiries to ensure an accurate document is produced. Members of the public can check if they are registered at www.checktheregister.ie

Twinning

Monaghan County Council is officially twinned with the following areas –

- Geel, Belgium (the parish of Tydavnet in North Monaghan is also twinned with this area)
- Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Peterboro, Canada
- Miramichi, Canada
- Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, Canada

No twinning exchange visits took place in 2010.

An Scéim Gaeilge

Implementation of the Scéim Gaeilge was monitored on a monthly basis during 2010. Many commitments given in the Scéim Gaeilge were implemented despite recessionary obstacles. Monaghan County Council introduced a new scheme this year, offering any staff member who indicated a willingness to provide a service in Irish to the public a gold or silver Fáinne.

Both the Coiste Gaeilge and Coiste Logainmneacha met regularly during the year.

Thirty six scholarships were awarded to secondary school students to assist them attend the Gaeltacht during 2010.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2010 was a success with many significant and worthwhile events organised.



Comórtas na bhFuinneog 2010

Finance

Financial Management

Although all modules of the Agresso Financial Management System are now in place there are ongoing enhancements to the system. New procedures for account for VAT are currently being implemented and the Planning Development Contribution module is being updated to take account of changes introduced during 2010.

The Local Authority Costing System introduced in 2008 to Monaghan County Council and the four Town Councils aims to build on the financial management systems with a view to delivering enhanced management information, particularly in relation to unit costs. The Annual Financial Statements and Annual Budgets for 2010 are now presented in the new format. The objective of the Costing System is to implement a costing model for all local authorities that :

- Standardises costing practice across local authorities
- Standardises the basis for apportionment of central management charges
- Identifies the full economic cost of providing defined services
- Identifies output measures for services, where appropriate, allowing comparison over time and between similar sized authorities.
- Implements a system that is manageable and provides relevant costing information.

Project work on the new Human Resources, Payroll and Superannuation system commenced during 2009 and was completed in 2010. All Monaghan Local Authorities are now operating the new Human Resources and Payroll system.

Corporate Procurement.

Detailed procurement guidelines and procedures were revised and updated in September 2010 to provide staff with detail information on current best procurement practice and regulation. Procurement is a key value adding function in Monaghan Local Authorities and this procedure document is designed to provide all staff involved in the procurement process with a thorough understanding of public sector accountability, best methods and processes involved in acquiring goods and services.

Internal Audit

The extensive nature of the Council's financial transactions requires that there be an ongoing review of the operations and records associated with these transactions to assure management that the Council's internal controls, procedures and accounting systems are operating as they should be. This function belongs in the area of Internal Audit. During the course of 2010 the Internal Auditor implemented the "Annual Audit Plan". The Council's Audit Committee continued to operate during 2010 and met on four occasions. The Audit Committee comprises of two Members of the Council and three external members. It is envisaged that the work of this committee will further enhance the efficient operation of the Council.

Prompt Payment Legislation.

Prompt Payment Legislation 1997 as amended by the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 provides that penalty interest will become payable if supplier payments for commercial transactions are not met

within 30 days. During 2010 there were no payments made by the Council in accordance with the requirements of this legislation.

Revenue Collection

The Council's Revenue Collectors are the primary means of regular contact with the Council's ratepayers and housing rent and annuity payees and in certain cases house loan payees. During 2010 the Council continued its focus on enhanced customer service and extended the use of Direct Debits, An Post Billpay and An Post Household Budget as additional payment methods. Overall 2010 proved to be a challenging year regarding revenue collection especially the collection of commercial rates which suffered as a result of the current difficult financial climate.

Council Committees

Corporate Policy Group:

Cllr Jackie Crowe, Mayor
Cllr Matt Carthy
Cllr Brian McKenna
Cllr Robbie Gallagher
Cllr David Maxwell

Strategic Policy Committees

Housing Policy (10 Members)

Cllr. Matt Carthy, (Chair)
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr Heather Humphreys
Cllr Aidan Murray
Cllr Seamus Treanor

Cllr Teresa Carolan, Carrickmacross Town Council
Kate Mullaney (Environment Sector)
Tom Freeman (Community/Voluntary Sector)
Paul McGinn (Community/Voluntary Sector)
Siobhan McKenna (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Planning & Development Policy (11 Members)

Cllr David Maxwell, (Chair)
Cllr Owen Bannigan
Cllr Seamus Coyle
Cllr Sean Conlon
Cllr Pat Treanor
Cllr Joe Brennan, Castleblayney Town Council
Christopher McGreal (Business)
Colm McBride (Local Development/Construction)
Heinz Lorenz (Environment Sector)
Eamon McNally (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Infrastructure & Environmental Policy (13 Members)

Cllr Brian McKenna (Chair)
Cllr Noel Keelan
Cllr Pdraig McNally
Cllr Hugh McElvaney
Cllr John O'Brien

Cllr Yvonne Newell, Clones Town Council
Cllr Gerry Traynor (Ballybay Town Council)
Kathleen Ward (Farming)
Brian McDonald (NFGWS)
Sonny McDermott (Community/Voluntary Sector)
Owen Finnegan (Environment Sector)
Seamus Kelly (Trade Union)

Community, Enterprise, Social & Culture (12 Members)

Cllr Robbie Gallagher (Chair)

Cllr Paudge Connolly

Cllr Gary Carville

Cllr Sheila McKenna

Cllr Jackie Crowe

Cllr Pádraigín UíMhurchadha, Monaghan Town Council

Packie Kelly (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Ann Mullen (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Loretta Patlabiene (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Lorna Morgan (Cultural)

Pat Joe Connolly (Cultural)

Gavin Shipley (Environment Sector)

Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2010

Title No.	Location	Numbers attended
Antrim \Tourism conference: Tourism in 21 st Century A Challenge for all	Dunadry Hotel, Co. Antrim	1
Centre for Cross borer studies 4 th AnnualConference: ICLR D Preparing for the Economic Recovery: Planning Ireland North & South out of a recession	Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen	1
AMAI Spring Seminar & Annual Conf. Local Government Efficiency & Financing	Sligo Park Hotel Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney	2
3 rd Sector Forum: Maximising your vote 2009 elections Ireland at the Crossroads: Economy, Europe & Emigrants	Red Cow Morans Hotel, Dublin Kingsley Hotel, Cork	2
Columcille Heritage Trust: The Role of Small Enterprises in Overcoming the Recession	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny	1
Driving Sustainable Tourism in a Stagnant Global Economy	Celtic Ross Hotel, Cork	1
LAMA Conference: Councillors Role in Changing Climate	Sligo Park Hotel,	1
Cultural Initiatives Through Town Twinning Cultural Heritage	Listowel, Co.Kerry	1
John Hewitt Soc. Back to Uncertainty: Considering Other Possibilities	Theatre &Arts Centre Armagh	1
Wiliam Carleton Summer School: Should Historians Still Read Carleton ?	Corick House Hotel,Clogher	1
Humbert Summer School: Catholic Church Reform\ Can the EU Survive the Euro crisis	Ballina/Killala. Co.Mayo	1
TDK Conferences 1. Local Government Seminar for Councillors 2. The Law of Defamation Seminar as it Affects Councillors	Patrick Punch Hotel Limerick	2
Mid-West Regional Authority Annual Conference Environmental Designations-Barriers or Opportunities	Greenhills Hotel, Limerick	1
A.C.C.C. Annual Conference	Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary	1
NILGA Annual Conference	Slieve Donard Hotel Newcastle	1
Our Town A 20:20 Vision	Co Wicklow Arts Centre, Bray	1
Environmental Recognition Conference	Manor West Hotel Tralee	1
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Title	Location	Number Attended
BMW Regional Assembly: Annual Conference Promoting Growth & Job's in Irelands Regions	Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan	1
Dundalk Chamber of Commerce: BIDS Conference (Business Improvement Dev Scheme)	Ballymascanlon Hotel Dundalk	1
Being Positive in a Negative Climate	Castlecourt Hotel Co Mayo	1
Magill Summer School: Reforming the republic – Issue of politics, economics and accountability	Glenties Co. Donegal	2
Celtic Conference 1. The Integration of Joint Policy Committees 2. Social Networking As the modern medium for Councillors	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork Sliver Tassie Hotel Letterkenny	2
International Peace Conference	Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary	1
BIDS Conference(Business Improvement Dev Scheme)	Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk	1
A Taste for Tourism	Portaferry Hotel	1
Entwined Histories II – Ireland France & America	Christian Bros School, Gorey	1
Byrne Perry summer School: A Taste for Tourism	Portaferry	1
Dr. Douglas Hyde: Summer School of Traditional Music	Ballaghadereen Co. Roscommon	1

General Information

Administrative Headquarters

Monaghan County Council,
 County Offices,
 The Glen,
 Monaghan
 Telephone: 047-30500
 Fax: 047-82739 Email – info@monaghancoco.ie

Office Hours – Monday to Friday 9.15 am – 1.00pm and 1.30pm – 5.15 pm
 Offices closed on Bank Holidays

Section	Tel. Number
Main Telephone Number	047-30500
County Manager's Secretary	047-30551
Director of Services	047-30546 / 30523
Personnel	047-30586/30591
Higher Education Grants	047-30546
Accounts	047-30589
Rates/Water	047-30590
Environment Section	047-30593 / 30517
Water Services	047-30504
Planning	047-30595/30532
Housing	047-30529
Housing Loans	047-30526
Housing Construction	047-30587
Roads	047-30597
Road Design	047-30596
Bypasses	047-30570
Community & Enterprise	047-73719
tOifigeach Gaeilge	047-30598

Address	Tel. Number	Office Hours (Monday to Friday)
Motor Tax Office Market Street, Monaghan	047 – 81175	9.30 am – 3.00 pm (open to public) 9.30am – 4.45 pm (office hours) Office closed on Bank Holidays
Monaghan County Library The Diamond Clones	047 – 51143	Individual office hours for each branch can be obtained from the County Library
Monaghan Arts Office, Hill Street, Monaghan Market House	047 - 71114 047 - 71113 (Fax) 047 – 38158	9.15 a.m. – 5.15 p.m.

Comhairle Baile Mhuineacháin

Monaghan Town Council



**Monaghan Town
Council**

Administrative Headquarters	Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan
Telephone Number:	047 82600
Fax Number:	047 84549
Email address:	clerk@monaghantc.ie
Web Site address:	www.monaghantown.ie
Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. Robbie Gallagher (FF)
Leas Cathaoirleach:	Cllr. David Maxwell (FG)
Members:	Cllr. Mary Carroll (FG)
	Cllr. Seán Conlon (SF)
	Cllr. Thomas Hagan (FG)
	Cllr. Paul McGeown (SF)
	Cllr. Donal Sherry (SF)
	Cllr. Seamus Treanor (NP)
	Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha (SF)
Town Manager	Declan Nelson/David Fallon
Town Clerk:	Marie Deighan
Revenue Collector:	Eilish Clarke
Staff Officers:	Sinead McCann and Mary Hughes
Assistant Staff Officers:	Miriam McMahan, Aisling Greenan,
Clerical Officers:	Edel Fitzsimons, Mary McCoy, Sinead Tibby, Donna Toal and Janice Eardley
Town Engineer:	Gareth McMahan
Assistant Engineer:	Jonathon Condell
Treasurer:	Allied Irish Bank, The Diamond, Monaghan
Budget 2010:	€6,519,795
Annual Rate on Valuation:	72.00

Monaghan Town Council held their Monthly Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 5.00p.m. in the Town Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Housing and Building

Monaghan Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and letting of all Town Council dwellings. There are 353 rented dwellings and 4 dwellings on tenant purchase. The average weekly rent is €50.

In 2010 Monaghan Town Council purchased 4 dwellings at Beechgrove Lawns and Belgium Square and acquired 2 dwellings under a Part V Agreement. One dwelling was sold under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2010.

Work continued to take place on the refurbishment of 64 dwellings in Mullaghmat Housing Estate under the Remedial Works Scheme.

The upgrading of attic insulation in 39 Local Authority dwellings and the provision of bonded bead insulation in cavities of 16 Local Authority dwellings took place in 2010.

An anti-social behaviour policy was adopted by the Members in November 2010.

Road Transport and Safety

Funding in the sum of €750,000 was awarded by the Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly under the Gateways and Hubs ERDF Grant Scheme for the enhancement of The Diamond/Dublin Street/Old Cross Square areas of the town and the provision of playground facilities in various housing estates in the town. The allocation represents 60% of the cost of the proposed works. Extensive public consultation with all stakeholders took place during 2009 and a Part V111 Planning application was lodged in early 2010. The environmental works carried out in 2010 to Dublin Street/The Diamond included a new pedestrianised public space facilitated by a reconfiguration of the road layout, relaying of footpaths and road surfaces and undergrounding of overhead cables. The works in Old Cross Square included the construction of a roundabout. Works will be completed by the end of June 2011.

The Council continued with its road and footpath improvements in 2010 with the assistance of the Road Grant from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Water Services

Statutory responsibility for the provision of water and sewerage services transferred to Monaghan County Council with effect from the 1st January 2004. Monaghan Town Council maintains the Automated Public Convenience in the Courthouse Car Park.

Development Management

34 planning applications were received during the course of the year.

In September 2010 the Town Council took in charge the roads and public open spaces in Clover Hill Housing Estate.

A policy was adopted by the Members in 2010 for the licensing of street furniture, goods displays, sandwich board and other structures.

In December 2010 a draft Local Area Action Plan was prepared in consultation with the Council, landowners and members of the public to develop a comprehensive land use plan for the development of the lands to the North East of Dublin Street. A public consultation process is currently underway and a report on any submissions/observations received will be prepared and brought before the Council in March 2011.

In accordance with Section 48(14)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2001 the following is an analysis of Monaghan Town Council's Capital Contributions for 2010:-

Amount Accrued in 2010

Community Recreation and Amenity Infrastructure	6,350
Car Parking	27,670
Total	34,020

Amount Paid in 2010

Car Parking	12,586
Community Recreation and amenity Infrastructure	4,900
Water and Sewerage	3,809
Total	21,295

Amount Spent in 2010

Car Parking	30,029
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Environmental Services

Monaghan Town Council continued to provide for street cleaning and the Litter Warden service throughout its area. 10 on-the-spot litter fines were issued in 2010.

The Members adopted a Litter Management Plan for the years 2010-2012.

A tree planting ceremony took place in March 2010 at the new Headquarters for the outdoor staff at Tirkeenan in conjunction with National Tree Week 2010.

Monaghan Town increased its marks in the National Tidy Towns Competition from 238 to 239. Monaghan Town Council allocated a grant of €25,000 to the Tidy Towns Committee in 2010 in respect of the works they carry out in the town. Monaghan Town Council were presented with an Award in recognition of the town achieving "Litter Free Status" in the Irish Business Against Litter Anti-Litter League 2010.

Recreation and Amenity

Local Voluntary groups received a total of €30,000 to encourage and to aid them in the work which they carry out in their areas. Contributions were also made by the Council in 2010 to other local organisations – St. Patricks Day Parade, Taste of Monaghan Festival, Christmas Festival, Blackwater 10K Run/Walk, Harvest Time Blues Festival, Monaghan Sub Aqua Club, Monaghan Immigrant Support Group, Monaghan Neighbourhood Project for the towns Halloween Festivities.

Miscellaneous Services

76% of the Rate Warrants were collected at the close of the financial year.

Conferring of Civic

HonoursA ceremony took place in May 2010 in the Market House, Monaghan to confer The Freedom of the Town on Her Excellency, Cecilia MacKenna, Ambassador of Chile to Ireland. This is the first time the Freedom of the town was bestowed upon a person. The Ambassador is a sixth generation descendant of General Don Juan McKenna, Liberator of Chile and a native of Monaghan Town.

Retirement of County Manager

A special meeting of the Town Council took place on Monday 18th October 2010 to mark the retirement in November 2010 of Declan Nelson, County Manager. Tributes

were paid to the County Manager by the Town Clerk and Members of the Town Council.

Payments to Elected Members

Total paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	€4,106.00
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	€18,324.00
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	€7,000.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	€20,997.00

Seminars and conferences attended by Members in 2010

Title	Location	Number
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2010	Sligo	2
Kerry Literary and Cultural Conference	Listowel	1
LAMA Annual Conference	Sligo	1
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland 97th Annual Conference	Donegal	6
Ballyhoura Development Ltd - The future of Rural Areas to 2031	Charleville	1
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd Annual General Meeting	Dublin	1

Comhairle Bhaile Carraig Machaire Rois

Carrickmacross Town Council



**Carrickmacross
Town Council**

Administrative Headquarters:	Town Clerk's Office, Old Fever Hospital, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross.
Telephone Numbers:	042 9661236/9661618/9663662
Fax Number:	042 9661236
Meara a Bhaile:	Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon (FF)
Members:	Cllr. Teresa Carolan (FG) Cllr. Matt Carthy (SF) Cllr. Pdraig McNally (FF) Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon (FG) Cllr. Mark Clarke (FG) Cllr. Noel Keelan (SF) Cllr. Kristina Jankaitiene (GP) Cllr. Catherine Martin (GP)
Town Manager:	Mr. Paul Clifford
Town Clerk:	Ms. Frances Matthews
Staff Officer:	Ms. Amanda Murray
Revenue Collector:	Ms. Angela Gallagher
Assistant Staff Officer:	Ms. Amanda McCarville
Clerical Officers:	Ms. Stephanie McEaney Ms. Niamh O'Reilly
Town Engineer:	Mr. Alan Hall
Assistant Engineer:	Mr. Joe Durnin
Town Foreman:	Mr. Patsy McKenna
Budget 2009	€ 2,641,631
Budget 2010	€ 2,515,291
Staff employed	16
General annual rate of valuation 2010	65.55

Carrickmacross Town Council holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:30p.m. Meetings are currently being held in the Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross.

Housing and Building

In 2010 Carrickmacross Town Council received €440,000 in Government funding for the provision of Local Authority Housing. The Council purchased 3 houses at various locations in the town. This brought the total of Council housing stock to ninety eight.

During 2010 the Council installed central heating in 2 houses and upgraded attic insulation in 5 houses to improve energy efficiency under the BER Scheme. New fitted kitchens were provided in 2 houses under the Private Rented Standards Scheme. The Council also provided new windows and doors in 6 houses and new guttering in 2 houses. Works were also carried out under the disabled persons grant to a house at St Macartans Terrace.

Road Transportation and Safety

Carrickmacross Town Council is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of urban roads in Carrickmacross. The Department of the Environment allocation for road improvement works in 2010 increased by €18,000 to €195,000. The Council's roads programme for 2010 was used to reinstate the footpaths and carriageway at O'Neill Street and Parnell Street following the completion of the laying of water and sewerage pipes in these locations. Chapel Lane and Farney Street were totally reinstated during 2009. The balance of reinstatement works will be completed during 2011.

New Pedestrian crossings were installed at O'Neill Street and the Ardee Road during 2010.

In accordance with Section 192 of the Local Government Act 2001 Bath Street was formally declared as Farney Street following a plebiscite of residents

Carrickmacross again received a bronze medal in the Tidy Towns Competition in 2010 and was placed second in the County Award. The Council made a provision of €7,000 for tidy town's projects in 2010.

Water Services

Construction commenced in February, 2008 by P. & S. Civil Works Ltd. to provide for the construction of new foul, combined and surface water sewers, the replacement of existing stone culverts and the refurbishment of existing sewers. The contract further provides for the construction of new pumping stations and rising mains in the town area and surrounding environs. The contract will be completed in 2011.

Development incentives and control

In accordance with Section 48(14) (b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, under the Development Contributions Scheme, €17,475.00 was accrued in 2010, and a total of €12,704.00 was received by Carrickmacross Town Council in 2010. The amount paid was spent as follows:-

Footpaths & Public lighting	€ 330.00
Car-Parking	€ 10,735.00
Community, recreation and amenity infrastructure and facilities,	€ 1,639.00

Carrickmacross Town Council received sixteen planning applications in 2010.

Digital recording of all planning history files was made available for public viewing from December 2007, via the internet.

The Council initiated a Slí na Sláinte route for the town in late 2010. The route which will be 3km long has been developed in association with the HSE and the Irish Heart Foundation. The route will be signposted in early 2011.

At a special presentation held in May, the Council made financial contributions to the various community groups and voluntary organisations throughout the town in the sum of €78,700. This sum included a new allocation to the Chamber of Commerce for the promotion of the town in the sum of €15,000. The Council has provided new storage facilities for the Chambers Christmas lights at the Council's depot on the Ardee Road.



Slí na Sláinte route

Carrickmacross / Carhaix Town Twinning

A group of 14 young musicians from the local branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann, travelled to Carhaix on Friday, May 14th, 2010. Their teacher Francis Mc Mahon, Branch Chairman Breen Jackson, Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon, Meara Bhaile Carrickmacross Town Council, Michael Mc Mahon Chairman Carrickmacross/Carhaix Town Twinning Association and parents Orla Mhic Shuibhne, Paul Quinn and Gerard Mc Guirk accompanied the highly talented teenagers.

Saturday afternoon was largely spent rehearsing with a group of Celtic musicians known as Castle Céilí from the Carhaix Ecole de Musique du Póher under the leadership of internationally renowned Uillinn piper Patrick Molard. At 8.30pm Castle Céilí took the stage first to entertain the international audience of Dutch, English, French and German guests who were there to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the town Twinning of Carhaix and German town Waldkappel. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann then took over and played samples of practically every type of Irish music including a most beautiful traditional Irish solo song. The climax was in the second part of the concert when the two groups played together and brought the house down. At the end of the set the insatiable and appreciative audience shouted for more and more. The evening's entertainment concluded with some Breton and Irish dancing, the highlight of which was a unique performance by Francis Mc Mahon.

The outstandingly enjoyable weekend was overshadowed a little when the return Ryan Air flight was cancelled on Monday. The day was saved however when Marie Louise Huiban, President of Carhaix Town Twinning Association did trojan work to book a passage home for the group on Irish Ferries. Ceoltóirí Drumlin showed the breath and depth of their talent by playing for the passengers from 8pm to nearly midnight. Copies of their latest CD Turas Ceoil were in big demand and lots of people expressed the hope of visiting Carrickmacross as a result of the positive way the town was presented to international audiences in France and on the boat home. Every cloud, even an ash cloud, has a silver lining.

Recreation & amenity

Phase 1 of the new Carrick Aces Running Track and Sports Field was substantially completed in 2010. This phase comprised the drainage of the overall site, the provision of the basalt surfaced running track and the completion of the central sports field which will incorporate 2 long jump pits, a pole vault area as well as shot putt and high jump areas. The centre field with its state-of-the-art sand carpet surface should be ready for use over the coming months and definitely before the end of the year. Carrick Aces successfully raised €80,000 in funding under the Sports Capital Programme in July, 2008. Both Carrickmacross Town Council and Monaghan County Council allocated €40,000 to the project. Carrickmacross Town Council has also committed €5,000 per annum for the next five years to help service a loan for the balance of works on the current phase of the project.

CCTV cameras were installed in the playground located at Convent Lands adjacent St. Macartans Villas.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade was another success, owing to the numerous bands and organisations which took place, not to mention the weather. It was the first year returning to our normal route from the Dundalk Road, as the ongoing sewerage works had forced us to march via the Ardee Road the previous year. The town was filled with spectators to view the colourful parade which was made up of over 50 participating groups. Taking part were a number of local and non-local bands, a number of community and business floats and marchers, as well as a wide collection of vintage tractors and machinery. Face painting and street entertainment brightened the day along with traditional music provided by the Carrickmacross branch of Comhaltas, prior to the parade. Prizes given out on the day went to An Lochrann Linn for the "Best Band", followed closely by the Corduff Pipers in second place, along with the Carrick Venturers winning the "Best Float" and O'Reilly Concrete scooping the silver! It was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all!

The Council continues to support the local June Bank Holiday festival and Halloween Festival in October. Both festivals were again very successful in 2010.

Other Events

A visit was made on the 28th of January 2010 to the Town Council's office by Dr. Evrony, Israeli Ambassador to Ireland.

A Civic reception was held on the 19th of July, 2010 to honour Mrs. Margaret McGovern nee Birdy who had received an MBE for her exceptional contribution to the Hospice Care Movement in Jersey earlier in 2010.

The signing of the contracts for the Carrickmacross Civic offices at Convent Lands took place following the October monthly meeting. Mr. Declan Nelson, County Manager announced his retirement to the members also at this meeting.



Site for new Town Council Offices

Miscellaneous

Cllr. Catherine Martin announced her intention to resign from Carrickmacross Town Council at the December monthly meeting.

Carrickmacross Joint Policing Committee

The membership of the committee consists of the Town Council members and officials, members of An Garda Síochána, members of the Oireachtas and community & voluntary sector representatives. “The JPCs function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Carrickmacross Town Council’s administrative area”. The topics discussed in 2010 were as follows:-

19 th February, 2010	Vandalism to Playparks	
6 th May, 2010	Public Meeting Anti-social behaviour	Presentation by Superintendent Noel Cunningham
	Misuse of Drugs	Presentation by Lisa Gavillet, Development Worker, North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force
4 th November, 2010	Anti-social behaviour - Misuse of Drugs.	

Payments to Elected Members

Total paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	€ 4,387.69
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	€ 17,979.00
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	€ 3,500.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	€ 25,866.69

Seminars and Conferences attended by Council members in 2010

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>
Northern Tourism Conference	Tourism in the 21st Century, Antrim	1
Association of Municipal Authorities	AMAI Spring Seminar, Sligo.	1
Dundalk Chamber of Commerce	Bids Conference, Dundalk, Co. Louth	1
TJK Conferences	Defamation Seminar for Councillors, Limerick	1
LAMA	Sligo Park Hotel	3
The John Hewitt Society	John Hewitt Seminar, Armagh	1
AMAI	AMAI Conference, Buncrana, Donegal	2
Kadenza Consultancies	Local Govt Efficiency Seminar, Wexford	1
LAMA - Kerry County Council	Autumn Seminar, Listowel, Co. Kerry	2
NUI Galway	Disability Inclusion Conf., G Hotel, Galway	2

Comhairle an Bhaile, Baile Na Lorgan Castleblayney Town Council



Administrative Headquarters: Town Hall, West Street, Castleblayney

Telephone Number: (042) 9740048/9740058

Fax Number: (042) 9749109

E-mail address clerk@castleblayneyc.ie

Web site Address www.monaghan.ie/castleblayneyc

Mayor 2010/2011: Cllr. David Funcheon (FF)

Members: Cllr. Aidan Campbell (FG) Cllr. Jackie Crowe (SF)

Joe Brennan (Ind) Cllr. Brendan Hughes (FF)

Cllr. Gary Carville (FG) Cllr. Peter Grimes (SF)

Cllr. James Cunningham (SF) Cllr. Sean Mc Cooney (FF)

Town Manager: David Fallon

Town Engineer: Declan Mc Kernan

Town Clerk: Jerome Savage

Staff Officer: Alison Mackle

Assistant Staff Officer: Ann Kellett.

Clerical Officers: Helen Martin, Mary Ward

Revenue Collector: Moira Kelly

Town Foreman: John Hennessy

Treasurer: A.I.B., Main Street, Castleblayney

Commercial Valuation: € 14,074

Annual Rate in Valuation: 57.10

Monthly meetings of the council have been held in the Castleblayney Enterprise Centre or in the Iontas Centre, at 7.00p.m on the fourth Tuesday of each month and more recently at 4pm.

Housing & Building

The Town Council housing stock on the 31st December 2010 consists of 109 rented dwellings with significant refurbishment works carried out on 23 including Laurel Hill. Furthermore, 10 dwellings are being bought out on the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Refurbishment works included insulation, kitchen improvements, separation of living room space from kitchen space, low level access showers as well as works to bring 20 properties up to a high BER standard.

Two new houses were funded costing almost €227,000, through the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Road Transportation and Safety

Improvement and maintenance of urban roads and footpaths continued during 2010. A total of €168,000 was spent on road improvement and maintenance from the revenue budget. The main streets were resurfaced in 2010.

Water Services

The Town Council as with all town councils has no direct function in relation water services since 2005 but handles many queries from the general public in this regard on behalf of the Co. Council.

The cost to the Council and payable to Monaghan Co Council in its capacity as a water authority, for water supply and waste water treatment for the towns domestic use, was €138,141 and €100,225 in respect of waste water treatment.

Development Management

In January 2010, the Castleblayney Town Council was short listed for an award against well funded opposition, for “Most supportive Local Authority for Community Affairs” with the awards ceremony taking place at a sponsored ceremony hosted by Chamber Ireland.

There were 8 planning applications lodged in 2010 compared with 13 in 2009 and 24 in 2008.

There were 12 further information requests and 6 submissions received during the year.

Environmental Protection

Castleblayney Town Council provides the street cleaning service throughout the town.

In 2010 the Council again supported the local Tidy Towns Committee in their efforts to clean up the town during Spring Clean month. The Tidy Towns Committee achieved 241 marks in 2010 (an increase of 6 marks over 2009).

The council provided funding of €10,000 to the Tidy Town Committee.

Aerial view of Castleblayney



Six on the spot litter fines were issued in 2010.

Work continues in dealing with derelict sites and buildings with a view to making improvements. Some 13 owners have been contacted with six positive results. Others have confirmed commitments to carry out improvement works while three will require particular attention, possibly legal.

Recreation & Amenity

The very successful Muckno Mania festival was funded to the tune of €6,000 by the council and other support provided to the organising committee.

The Council provided €17,000 to the Chamber of Commerce towards the towns Christmas lights and €5,000 in support the Iontas theatre.

Sums totalling €2,000 were distributed to 7 other interest groups.

Miscellaneous Services

Following an agreement in 2003 where Castleblayney Town Council entered into a partnership with Newry & Mourne District Council, a Steering Committee was established comprising of elected representatives North and South, Support Agencies, Statutory Organisations, Community and Voluntary Sector. The main aim of the project was to implement a cross border development plan which provided an important strategic focus for the cross border area of Castleblayney and South Armagh region. The project focussed on areas such as community development, festivals, angling and upgrading of Lough Ross and Lough Muckno.

The project in this phase has drawn to a close with well advanced funding plan for Muckno through Peace funding, to the tune of €500,000.

Other events during 2010

Staff Movements

Retirements: Mr Paddy McCahey (retired) deceased February 2010. Brian Boyd retired after 20 years service in March 2010.

Recruitments: Kathleen Cooper replaced Moira Kelly Revenue Collector taking maternity leave.

Payments to Elected Members

Total paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	€4,352.22
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	€17,937.68
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	€1,720.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	€29,395.59

Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2010.

Month	Seminar\Conference	Location	No. Attended
February	AMAI	Sligo	2
April	LAMA	Sligo	2
June	National Tourism	Carlow	1
June	I P B	Dublin	1
June	Meeting Minister C. Cuffe	Dublin	2
September	AMAI	Buncrana	2
October	LAMA	Listowel	1
October	Entrepreneur of Year	Dublin	1

Comhairle Baile Cluain Eois
Clones Town Council



Administrative Headquarters: Monaghan Street, Clones.

Telephone No. 047 51018 / 51814

Fax No. 047 52006

Website www.clones.ie

E-mail clerk@clonestc.ie

Cathaoirleach: *Cllr. Deirdre Kelly (FF)*
Leas Cathaoirleach: *Cllr. Yvonne Newell [FG]*

Members:

Cllr. Peter Mulligan (FG)
Cllr. Pat Treanor. (SF)
Cllr. Peter MacAleer (IND)
Cllr. Aidan Sheerin (SF)
Cllr. Anna Rooney (FF)
Cllr. Niall Quigley (SF)
Cllr. Ross Mealiff (IND)

Director of Services
Town Clerk.
Assistant Staff Officer
Clerical Officer
Town Engineer
Assistant Engineer
Town Foreman

Adge King
Geraldine Killen
Carmel Murphy
Eileen Fitzpatrick
John McKernan
Mark Hall
Pat Brady

Net Effective Valuation €7,305.00
General Rate on Valuation €59.90

Monthly Council Meetings are held on the last Monday of each Month

Housing and Building

In 2010 Clones Town Council received €672,000 Capital Housing Grant from the Department of the Environment which was used to purchase five houses at Tower View, Clones. A further €10,000 was allocated under “Compliance with Rented Standards” and this was used to provide smoke alarms, fire blankets and carbon monoxide detectors in all the Council’s rented housing stock. An additional allocation of €40,000 was also spent on energy efficiency works in 3 of these houses while €10,000 was spent on DPGs

At present there are 86 Rented Council Houses and 11 houses on Tenant Purchase.

Road Transportation and Safety

The Council continued its policy in 2010 of upgrading roads, footpaths, public lighting, and installed a new pedestrian crossing at Monaghan Street, Clones. The road layout at the car park at '98 Avenue was also upgraded to facilitate a new bus shelter.

These road improvements were carried out with the assistance of a Block Grant and Special Block Grant totalling €139,000 allocated by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government and a contribution of €9,900 from the Councils own resources.

Development Incentives and Control

11 Planning application were received in year 2010

Planning Related Fees received amounted to €3.800

In accordance with Section 48(14)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, regarding the Development Contributions Scheme, the following is an analysis of Clones Town Council’s Capital Contributions for 2010

Amount Accrued in 2010	
Footpaths & Public Lighting	€ 3,120
Recreation & Amenity	<u>€ 14,260</u>
	€17,380
Amount Received in 2010	
Footpaths & Public Lighting	Nil
Recreation & Amenity	Nil
Car Parking	Nil
Amount Spent in 2010	
Car Parking	€ 12,697

Environmental Protection

Clones Town Council continued to provide street cleaning services seven days a week and a part time Litter Warden service. The Council hire a road sweeper from Monaghan Town Council twice per month to assist with the sweeping in the Housing Estates and approach roads to the Town.

In 2010 the Council hosted a Heavy Waste Collection Day for the residents in the O'Neill Park area and supported the local St. Tiernach's Primary School in their efforts to clean up the town during Spring Clean Week.

Bins for dog waste and promotional signage were erected in a number of areas of the town.

Work continued in 2010 in dealing with derelict sites around the town. 8 owners were contacted and 6 have since carried out improvement works

Recreation & Amenity

Amended Bye Laws were adopted by the Council in 2010 prohibiting the consumption and possession of intoxicating liquor in all public places in the town with the exception of match days.

Contributions

Clones Town Council also made contributions to the following during 2010

- Water Safety Association.
- Clones Tidy Towns
- Largy College - Scholarship
- St Tiernach's Primary School

Finance

Clones Town Council complied with the material requirements of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997.

Payments to Elected Members

Total paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	€ 2,835.21
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	€ 17,357.55
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	€ 4,000.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	€ 33,594.96

Meetings/Committees

Clones Town Council are also represented on the following bodies:-

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland - Cllr. Mulligan and Cllr. Mealiff

Monaghan V.E.C. – Cllr. Quigley and Cllr. Rooney

Monaghan Integrated Development Board – Cllr. McAleer

Monaghan County Development Board – Cllr. Quigley

Comhairle an Bhaile, Beal Atha Beithe

Ballybay Town Council



Administrative Headquarters: c/o Community & Enterprise Office
Monaghan County Council, Glen Rd, Monaghan.

Telephone Number 047 73720

Fax Number 047 82739

Email: tmcguirk@monaghancoco.ie

Mayor: Cllr Michael Smyth FF

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Gene Duffy SF

Members:

Conlan, Sean FG

Duffy, Noel FG

Gilmour, Michael FG

Hamilton, Therese FF

McGinnity, Mary FG

O’Friel, Cathal FF

Traynor, Gerry FF

Town Manager: Mr John Murray

Town Engineer: Mr Declan McKernan

Town Clerk: Mrs Teresa McGuirk

Monthly Town Council meetings were held on the second Monday of each month (except August) in the Town Council Chamber @ 7pm.

The Late Cllr Noel Duffy



The members of the Town Council were stunned by the death of Councillor Noel Duffy on 18th October 2010 following a short illness. Cllr Duffy was first elected to Ballybay Town Council on 11th June 1999 and had held a 100% attendance rate at the council meetings until illness struck him in June 2010. He had returned to the council chamber at the meeting held on 11th October one week before his death and was looking forward to getting back to work representing the people of the town. He was a hard

working, well respected member of the council and will be sadly missed by his colleagues. May he rest in peace.

Joint Policing Committee

The Joint Policing Committee continued to meet during the year and meetings were well attended. Sub Committees were set up under the themes 'Traffic + Speeding' 'Underage Drinking' and 'Drugs' and dealt with all the issues arising under each theme.

Town Park Shortlisted for LAMA awards

Following an application under three category headings to the LAMA Awards for 2010, Ballybay Town Park was shortlisted in two of the categories namely 'Best Public Park' and 'Best Public Play Area' but unfortunately did not win either award.



Ballybay children enjoying the play area provided

Clones Road Junction works

Improvement works at the Clones Road Junction including the demolishing of the building on the junction known as McAviney's and the realignment of the roadway were sent out to tender in September 2010. Funding for the project was prioritised by the NRA in the amount of €350,000. Work on the project is expected to commence early 2011.

Town Twinning - 10th Anniversary Visit to Osterhofen Gergweis

A group of 35 people consisting of members of the council and members of the public travelled to Osterhofen/Gergweis in Germany to mark the 10th Anniversary of the twinning between Ballybay and Osterhofen/Gergweis. A framed presentation piece depicting the coat of arms for each of the towns was presented to Burgermeisterin

Liane Sedlmeier on behalf of Ballybay Town Council. A full itinerary of events and functions had been arranged and the group were very well looked after.

Ballybay Economic Forum

Ballybay Economic Forum continued their work to promote and encourage the development of Ballybay town. The official launch of the new website www.ballybay.ie was held on Thursday 16th September 2010 @ 8.30pm in the Ballybay Wetlands Centre.

Ballybay Historic Landscaping Plan

Funding had been secured from the Heritage Council by the Heritage Officer in Monaghan County Council to undertake a study of the architecture and archaeology of Ballybay which culminated in the production of the Ballybay Historic Landscape Characterisation Plan. This document will be a huge benefit to Ballybay by supporting any future tourism development or planning in the town. The launch of the Ballybay Historical Landscape Character Plan took place in the Wetlands Centre on 20th September 2010 @ 8pm and was very well attended.

Retirement of County Manager

Members of the council were unanimous in their acknowledgement of the work done in the county by retiring County Manager, Declan Nelson.

Payments to Elected Members

Total paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	€ 1701.25
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	€ 9,162.00
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	€ 280.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	€ 11,143.25

Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2010

Seminar\Conference	Location	2
AMAI Annual Conference	Buncrana	2
AMAI Annual Spring Seminar	Sligo	2

Financial Statement 2010

Athchomaire ar Caiteachais, Ioncaim agus Fuilligh Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2010 accounted for a turnover of in excess of €87 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €24,172,092 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County. The major areas of activity were Housing Construction, Roads and Water Services.

Capital Account

Activity by Programme Group	2010 Expenditure	2010 Income	2010 Net cost
Housing & Building	2,698,117	2,940,111	241,995
Roads Transportation & Safety	7,817,298	7,929,762	112,464
Water Services	8,440,222	5,687,967	(2,752,255)
Development Management	938,820	868,457	(70,363)
Environmental Services	2,805,183	1,433,085	(1,372,097)
Recreation & Amenity	417,446	483,026	65,580
Miscellaneous Services	1,055,006	2,500	(1,052,506)
Total Expenditure / Income	24,172,092	19,344,909	(4,827,182)

	2010	2009
Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1	4,306,127	3,824,022
Expenditure	24,172,092	26,966,652
Income	19,344,909	26,387,636
Transfers to Revenue	-	(471,967)
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	1,215,470	1,533,088
Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31	694,415	4,306,127

Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2010 Expenditure	2010 Income	2010 Net cost
Housing & Building	5,579,775	5,094,581	(485,194)
Roads Transportation & Safety	19,787,189	15,004,826	(4,782,363)
Water Services	10,564,140	7,308,324	(3,255,816)
Development Management	6,732,654	3,181,318	(3,551,336)
Environmental Services	7,096,068	4,430,315	(2,665,753)
Recreation & Amenity	3,062,434	287,763	(2,774,671)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	6,805,775	6,503,130	(302,645)
Miscellaneous Services	3,503,576	896,243	(2,607,333)
Total Expenditure / Income	63,131,611	42,706,500	(20,425,111)

Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund **(20,425,111)**

	€
Rates	6,370,715
Local Government Fund	13,422,098
County Charge	2,096,728
Pension Related Deduction	976,476
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	2,440,906
Transfer to Reserves	(2,049,043)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January	(1,064,263)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December	(672,400)

Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Account 2009

Income

State Grants and Subsidies	27,769,946	42.3%
Contributions from other Local Auths.	2,825,642	4.3%
Goods and Services	12,110,911	18.5%
Local Government Fund	13,422,098	20.5%
Pension Related Deduction	976,476	1.5%
Rates	6,370,715	9.7%
County Charge	2,096,728	3.2%
Total Income	65,572,516	100.0%

Expenditure

Payroll Expenses	23,101,392	36.6%
Operational Expenses	32,344,545	51.2%
Administration Expenses	3,434,738	5.4%
Establishment Expenses	1,457,444	2.3%
Financial Expenses	1,959,418	3.1%
Miscellaneous	834,073	1.3%
Total Expenditure	63,131,610	100.0%

Surplus for Year before Transfers **2,440,906**

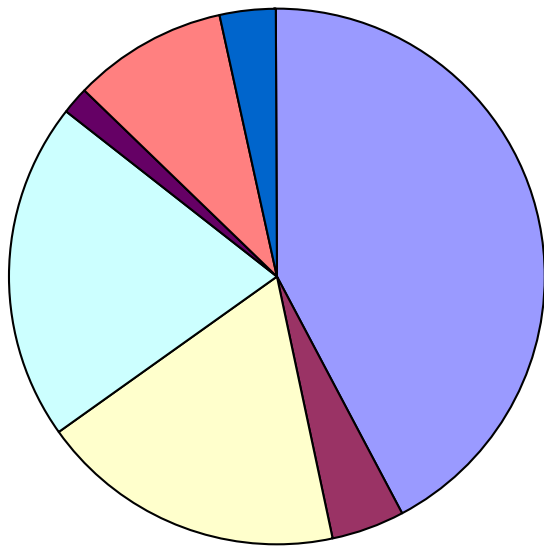
Transfers to Reserves (2,049,043)

Overall Deficit for Year **391,863**

General Reserve at 1st January **(1,064,263)**

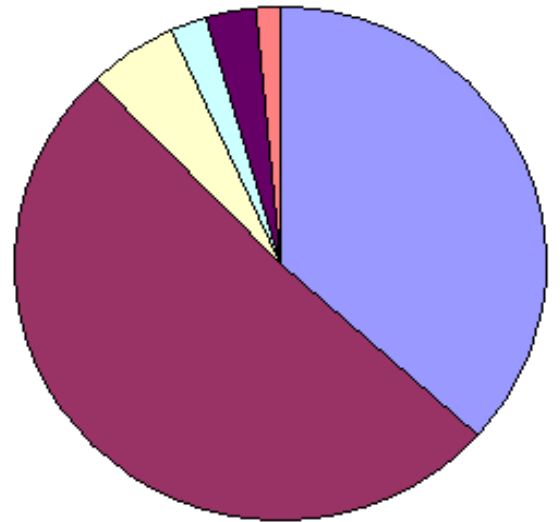
General Reserve at 31st December **672,400**

Revenue Income 2010



- State Grants and Subsidies
- Contributions from other Local Auths.
- Goods and Services
- Local Government Fund
- Pension Related Deduction
- Rates
- County Charge

Revenue Expenditure 2010



- Payroll Expenses
- Operational Expenses
- Administration Expenses
- Establishment Expense
- Financial Expenses
- Miscellaneous