

Comhairle Contae Mhuíneacháin Monaghan County Council



Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2013 Annual Report 2013



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Mayor's message



With this introduction of the 2013 Annual Report I want to at the outset thank my Sinn Féin party colleagues and fellow councillors for giving me the opportunity and the honour of serving County Monaghan in the capacity of Mayor. This report is drafted to the backdrop of the most radical reform of local government in over a century, in particular the abolition of Town Councils, as well as a dramatic reduction in resource and staffing levels. On behalf of the elected members I want to convey sincere appreciation to the services rendered by staff, for most members over many decades, in their line of duty to Monaghan County Council and the people of our county. I want to particularly acknowledge recently retired outgoing Acting County Manager David Fallon and welcome the appointment at the November meeting of new County Manager Eugene Cummins.

In serving the people of County Monaghan, for both councillors and staff, it is through working in consultative partnership with our citizens and communities where mutual benefit will accrue and our livelihoods enhanced. During my term as Mayor I have enjoyed the good fortune of witnessing on a county wide scale the selfless contributions of dedicated individuals and resilient voluntary organisations. Their shared endeavours and occasionally solitary acts collectively raise us above these currently challenging times, infusing positivity, boosting morale and giving hope. Working in partnership with statutory agencies has also reaped a successful outcome with the opening this year of the new Education and Training Board campus at Knockaconny, a development that has come to fruition with considerable input from both Councillors and staff at Monaghan County Council.

Fostering economic growth within our county and region remains the top priority among our Council's aims and objectives and to this end our role as a local authority most usually takes the form of enablers. However the recent success of the tourism related initiative 'The Gathering' has served as an exemplar of good practice between Council and the community and voluntary sector in generating economic activity, in this instance through the hospitality sector. I look forward to the further development of this public/private sector relationship strengthening for the benefit of all our citizens.

As 2013 draws to a close, local authority elections beckon. I lament the abolition of Town Councils and take this opportunity to pay tribute to all Town Councillors from both within and outside our county boundaries for their democratically elected representational service to their constituents.

Similarly, to those with whom I share the honour of being an elected member to Monaghan County Council I extend best wishes in whatever the future will bring.

Sean Conlon
Mayor of the County of Monaghan
Méara an Chontae

Introduction – County Manager

I am very pleased to present the Annual Report for 2013 on behalf of the Monaghan Local Authorities. The report provides a wide range of information about the services provided by Monaghan County Council over the past year.

2013 has seen a further decline in resources, with significant reductions in the level of funding from central government and rates and a further decrease in employee numbers, due to the moratorium on recruitment. However service levels have been maintained and many new services have been introduced. The Council's role in The Gathering tourism initiative throughout the year was recognised, building on the Council's role as community leader and I would like to acknowledge the role of the voluntary sector and the work carried out by communities throughout the county.

The implementation of "Putting People First" and the Local Government Reform Act will herald the most significant change to local government in Ireland in over a century. This will require major re-organisation at political and corporate level, with the dissolution of Town Councils and establishment of Municipal Districts as representative and service entities.

I acknowledge and commend the continued dedication and commitment of all our staff both indoor and outdoor during these changes. These are challenging times for our citizens and our staff and services continue to be delivered to a high standard in conjunction with the change management programme.

I wish to also to thank the Mayors, Cathaoirleach and elected members of both the County Council and five Town Councils who have served the people of Monaghan over the past four and half years. I wish to thank them for their service and offer best wishes to those who are retiring in 2014, following the rationalisation of the local government system. In addition I would like to wish good luck to all candidates standing for election to Monaghan County Council in May 2014.

Paul Clifford
Acting County Manager
31 Dec 2013

Members of County Council



**Padraig
McNally**



**Matt
Carthy**



**Aidan
Murray**



**Noel
Keelan**



PJ O'Hanlon



**Gary
Carville**



**Jackie
Crowe**



**Owen
Bannigan**



**John
O'Brien**



**Ciara
McPhillips**



**Seamus
Coyle**



**Hugh
McElvaney**



**Pat
Treanor**



**Robbie
Gallagher**



**Paudge
Connolly**



**David
Maxwell**



**Brian
McKenna**



**Cathy
Bennett**



**Séan
Conlon**



**Seamus
Treanor**

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 are eliminated.
- The demand for houses be met as they arise.
- The structural and environmental standards of housing is 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 2013 and the proposed 2014 programme is given below. The 2014 programme will be subject to the necessary finance being provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Location	Completed in 2013	Under Construction/To commence or be acquired in 2014
Bree	3	-
Latlorcan Glen	-	16
Demountable units	0	0
Farm Homes	0	0
Single Houses Acquisitions (second hand)	3	2
Totals	6	18

Voluntary Housing Schemes

Castleblayney Care Association Facilities for Intellectual Disability Drumillard, Castleblayney	<u>TOTAL BUDGET APPROVAL = €2,355,523</u> Projected Expenditure of 1,300,00 for 2014 – It is envisaged that houses will be occupied prior to end 2014.
Respond Housing Association – Group Home – Facility for Physical / Sensory Disabilities Carrickmacross	Awaiting Final Budget approval from Department for increased budget– anticipated construction start in 2014 with 50% construction completed by end of 2014
Respond Housing Association - Group Home – Facility for Intellectual Disabilities Carrickmacross	Anticipated purchase completion by January 2014 and renovation works to unit to be carried out by end of June 2014
Respond Housing Association – Extension to Steadfast House – Facility for Intellectual Disabilities Carrickmacross	Anticipated completion of works and project by April 2014
Newgrove Housing Association Facility for Intellectual Disabilities	Completion of purchase of single unit and in January 2014. Renovation required to unit which is anticipated for completion by end June 2014.

Energy Efficiency Programme

The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government provided funding of 324,000 in 2013 that upgraded 213 housing units.

Maintenance Programme

Maintenance is a key activity for the councils housing service with **€250,000, 70,000 and 150,000 respectively** spent in 2013 on response, work prior to re-letting and planned maintenance in respect of the current stock of 761 units.

Disabled Persons Grants, IWIL's and Extension

€47,000 was spent on 20 houses to allow persons to remain living in their own local authority houses.

Allocations of tenancy

All allocations were made under the Scheme of Letting Priorities. There were 42 allocations of tenancy to persons on the housing waiting list, including 11 transfer offers to existing tenants, from within the

existing stock. This enabled the Council to combine the best use of stock whilst addressing the needs of tenants. 42 casual vacancies (including demountables) arose in the year.

Monaghan County Council	Stock Rented 31.12.13	of at	No of Tenant Purchases	Average Rent	Waiting List at 31.12.13	New Tenancies 2013
	756		8	€44.00	984	42

Rental Accommodation Scheme (R.A.S.)

At 31st December 2013, there were 164 long term recipients of rent supplement in Co. Monaghan.

The following is a summary of the Rental Accommodation Scheme activity to 31/12/2013 in Co Monaghan which addressed the demand in the County.

Voluntary housing RS recipients to RAS (Total)	104
Private Rental market housed through RAS(Total)	190
Transfers in 2013	9

Grants

Monaghan County Council provides three Grants to assist people to live independent lives namely, Housing Adaption Grant for People with a Disability (HGD), Housing Aid For Older People (HOP) and Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme (MAG). The table below indicates how many people applied for the schemes, how much was spent in total on each scheme and how many people were successful in securing grants

Grant	App's Rec'd	Grants approved/paid	Amount approved/paid
HGD	71	44	€556,464.16
MAG	81	52	€226,346.41
HOP	109	81	€355,821.95
TOTAL	261	177	€1,138,632.52

*App's = applications

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 2013 were

Best Overall Village

Dun Ard Residents Association

Best Floral display

Boyher Residents Association

Most Improved Village

Tyholland Residents Association

Litter Control

Ard Bannagher Residents Association

Homeless Support

In 2013 55 adults presented to Monaghan Local Authorities as homeless. They were all assessed and following this were provided with appropriate housing supports and advice.

Service Indicators – See Appendix 1

Roads Transportation and Safety

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of the road network within the county, which consists of 104km kilometres of national roads, 298 kilometres of regional roads and 2144 kilometres of local roads.

A substantial programme of works was delivered recording significant achievements by the Roads and Transportation Department during 2013.

- The N2 Dublin Derry route from Coolkill East to Corracrin opened to two way traffic in December 2013. The improvement works span a distance of 3.8km with a 8.3m wide single carriageway, incorporating a cycle track. This has yielded enormous benefits to road users travelling from Derry and Donegal and the entire northwest region to Dublin.



- The Council continued to be proactive in promoting smarter travel by delivering phase 1 of the Ulster Canal Greenway Project as a non-motorised Walking and Cycling route. This was completed on a partnership basis with Monaghan Town Council and in discussion with interested parties including reputed owners and occupiers.

The grant allocation from the National Roads Authority for National Roads for 2013 was **€6,787,372** comprising of:

- Improvement works **€6,258,946**
- Maintenance works **€528,426**

The allocated funding provided for the delivery of:

Major Schemes

€250,000 provided for the completion of outstanding works on the - Bypasses of Castleblayney, Carrickmacross and Monaghan.
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National Primary Pavement and Minor works

€5,325,000 - Improvement of N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 2 & 4 Coolkill East to Corracrin.

The Contractors, P.T. Mc Williams Mc Laughlinn & Harvey Joint Venture, who were appointed in October 2012, carried out the improvement works to a 3.8km section of the N2 National Primary route between Cookill East and Corracrin on the Monaghan to Emyvale road. The road opened to two- way traffic in late December 2013 and will yield benefits to the local and wider population of the northwest region, giving more certainty of journey time and a safer road to travel with greater access to the local community and indigenous sector.

The Scheme was delivered in agreement and co-operation with the NRA and landowners along the route.

€100,000 –N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3 – Corracrin to Emyvale
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The part 8 Planning public consultation process was completed and approved at the June 2012 Meeting of the Council.

The approval of the National Roads Authority is awaited to allow this phase proceed to compulsorily acquire the land.

National Primary and National Secondary Safety Measures

€336,000 - National Primary Safety Improvement Schemes
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€94,000 - National Secondary Safety Schemes

Improvement to road safety on the National Primary and National Secondary roads was achieved through works completed at the following locations:

- €26,000 - N2 Aghavilla junction, Carrickmacross
- €60,000 - N2 Castleblayney to Carrickmacross junction treatment
- €50,000 - N2 RSMIS Killycard to Tullyvin (Design)
- €200,000 - N12 RSRM Tamlet
- €10,000 - N54 HCL Route treatment (Tullygrimes R187 junction)
- €12,000 - N54 Oriel Way junction Monaghan Town
- €70,000 - N54 RSMIS N54 Monaghan to Clones (Construction)

National Primary and National Secondary Maintenance

Maintenance of the National primary and Secondary roads continued with an allocation of €528,426.

Non-National Roads

The total budget for non national roads for 2013 amounted to **€10,926,682** grants of **€8,491,097** from the Department of Transport through the NRA and **€2,435,585** from Monaghan County Council's own resources.

A total of 69.36km of non national roads were improved under the restoration improvement grant and 76.83 km of non national roads (regional and local) were surface dressed under the Restoration Maintenance programme.

The Department of Transport provided funding for the following:

€3,635,507	-	Local Discretionary Improvement (36 Projects)
€598,310	-	Regional road Improvement (8 Projects)
€1,471,710	-	Discretionary Maintenance
€1,360,000	-	Restoration Maintenance
€36,000	-	Training (Health and Safety)

Specific Improvement Schemes: €850,000

€250,000	-	R178 Carrickmacross to Dundalk
€350,000	-	R189 Monaghan to Newbliss
€250,000	-	R181 Castleblayney to Shercock

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes (7 Projects) €180,000

€15,000	-	L1020 Drumdesco (Brennans Cross)
€15,000	-	R181 Shantonagh
€30,000	-	R188 Freame Mount Demense
€40,000	-	R189 Threemilehouse
€10,000	-	L3411 Corlealackagh
€20,000	-	R186 Tonysillogagh
€50,000	-	R178 Derryolam (Carthy's Cross)

Severe Weather Plan

A Severe Weather Plan was completed and implemented in 2013. This Plan encompasses Monaghan County Council's action to deal with all severe weather events including winter maintenance, flooding, storms etc..

Flooding

Funding for O.P.W. flooding projects was secured in 2013. This included projects at Ballybay, Threemilehouse, Drumbear, Monaghan. Planning for these projects is well advanced and works should commence in 2014.

Machinery Yard

The relocation of the Co. Council Machinery yard to the Town Council location at Tirkeenan took place in 2012. The Council fleet continued to be updated with the replacement of two Scania lorries in 2013.

Road Safety

The Road Safety Officer raised awareness amongst the general public through the media and by the distribution of leaflets and reflective armbands and high viz vests free of charge.

A Contribution was made to Monaghan Rotary Club to support the running of the Road Safety Roadshow by the Rotary Club and the Gardai. This event was held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan.

Putting People First

Planning for the abolition of the four Town Councils commenced in 2013. This included for the integration of the Town Councils into the Monaghan County Council structure and progressing the transformation to three Municipal Districts for County Monaghan.

Support and enhance Local Democracy

The SPC Committee met on 4 occasions during 2013 and recommended the following:

- **The Severe Weather Plan**
- **Noise Mapping Report**

The Roads Directorate responded to elected members monthly questions in a timely manner.

Customer Service

The section communicated with the public through the use of various media such as newspapers, local radio, website, emails, and the new on-line Fix Your Street.ie national website.

Traffic information was provided regarding road works, temporary road closures, and severe weather conditions, using local parish bulletins and the various media resources.

Motor Taxation

Eisíonn Comhairle Chontae Mhuíneacháin Ceadúnais Tiomána is Feithiclí don Rialtas lárnach. 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 Environment, Community and Local Government eGovernment strategy. Renewing Online minimises the impact of geographical constraints on the delivery of services.

Transaction Levels

Description	Total No of transactions	Total Income
Motor Vehicles/Trade Plates/ C.R.W./VR.C.	52272	€10,632,059
Driving Licences	8355	149,400
Total	60627	€10,781,459

Service Indicators 2013

Motor Tax applications dealt with:

Same Day	91%
Third day or Less	8%
5 th Day or Less	1%
Over 5 days	0%

Driving Licence applications dealt with

Same Day	34%
Third day or Less	65%
5 th Day or Less	1%
Over 5 days	0

Service Indicators see Appendix

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 No's 278 of 2007. The Council performs a similar role in relation to the supervision of group water and private water supplies.

From the 6th January 2014, Irish Water will be the Water Services Authority. Irish Water has been established to oversee the delivery of water services in Ireland and is an independent, state-owned subsidiary of Bord Gáis Éireann.

The establishment of Irish Water is a fundamental departure from the existing local authority based structure of water services in Ireland. Similar to other utilities (gas, electricity) the consumer will pay for the delivery of water services through a variety of payment options. The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) will be responsible for determining the cost of water services to the consumer.

Monaghan County Council will be engaged as agents of the new agency, through service level agreements, for a minimum of 12 years. There will be phased transitions of functions from all local authorities to Irish Water over the next three years. This will ensure a smooth transition to the new model and guard against the loss of local expertise. It will also mean that the majority of staff will remain in the direct employment of local authorities for a considerable period

When fully functional, Irish Water intends to raise funds on financial markets in the same way as the ESB and Bord Gáis. Other monies will come from domestic and non-domestic charges and Government funding. Any revenue generated by the utility will be re-invested in infrastructure, as there is a huge requirement for upgrading and providing new infrastructure over the coming decade.

Water Services Investment Programme 2010 - 2013

The Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010-2013 was based on a programme of work determined by the DECLG from the 'Assessment of Needs' submission by each of the Local Authorities in 2009. The Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2013 was a yearly rolling funding plan for the

provision of major water supply and wastewater infrastructure. Together with the Rural Water Programme, it played a key role in giving effect to the Government's commitment to:

- preserving and protecting our water resources as a key element of environmental policy,
- achieving good status in water by 2015 and ensuring that water quality does not decline in any waters, in line with the Water Framework Directive,
- meeting National and EU standards for drinking water and wastewater treatment,
- putting critical infrastructure in place that will ensure ongoing support for industrial, commercial and other development, and
- prioritising investment in water conservation measures including remedying leaks and demand reduction measures.

Strategic environmental and economic objectives provided the rationale for investment in water services infrastructure since 2000. Irish Water will continue to prioritise projects that target public health and environmental compliance issues, rehabilitation of existing water supply networks and projects which support economic and employment growth. The Programme for 2010-2013 prioritised projects that targeted public health and environmental compliance issues, rehabilitation of existing water supply networks and projects which support economic and employment growth'.

The following Water Service Investment Programme projects were advanced to planning / construction stage in 2013:

Water Conservation Stage 3 Works (Tender Stage)

Stage 3 of the National Water Conservation Programme involved the rehabilitation and replacement of defective supply networks where Active Leakage Control and repair has proven to be uneconomic due to the age and/or condition of the pipes, based on the results of work carried out under Stage 2.

The county's watermain rehabilitation requirements were prioritised into three distinct work packages. The estimated cost of the first work package under the programme was €2,571,172.

Works Package 1 will focus on mains replacement / rehabilitation in the following DMA's (District Meter Areas):

Monaghan Town –	MN Town Centre DMA
Monaghan Town –	MN Hospital / Milltown Road DMA
Monaghan Town -	MN Derry Road DMA
Monaghan Town –	MN Clones- Scotstown Road DMA

The tender notice for the Monaghan Water Conservation Stage 3 – Watermain Rehabilitation Project Phase 1 was published in December 2013.

The contract award will now be subject to the availability of Irish Water funding.



Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme – Water Treatment Plant DBO (Construction Stage)

The scheme comprises the proposed addition of new groundwater sources, the construction of a water treatment plant and reservoir at Nafarty at a Design Build contract cost of € 3.98 million.

The 80 week construction contract was awarded to Veolia Water (Ireland) Ltd in June 2013.

The contract includes for the design, construction and operation for a period of up to 20 years of facilities to abstract water from a number of production wells, pump the water to the headworks, treat the water and store it for distribution to the existing network. Accordingly, the design and build element of the works will include:

- Construction of new pumping stations (incorporating existing production wells) together with all associated site works including landscaping, fencing, access roads etc. at Spring Lake, Nafarty, Donaghmoyne and Monanny.
- Construction of new rising mains
- Construction of a new water treatment plant to satisfy an initial design demand of 3,200 m³/day and an ultimate demand of 4,800m³/day.
- Construction of a new 5000m³ Clearwater storage reservoir adjacent to the new water treatment plant together with all associated site works including landscaping, fencing, access roads, etc...

The operate element of the contract comprises the operation and maintenance of the designed and constructed facility (including the wells, rising mains and other existing infrastructure incorporated in the facility) for a period of up to 20 years including replacement of all worn and damaged parts as necessary to keep it in perfect working order.



Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Outfall (Detailed Design Stage)

Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme – Contract 3 (Treatment Plant Upgrade and Outfall) provides for the construction of the following infrastructure at the existing wastewater treatment plant:

- Inlet Pumping Station
- Stormwater Holding Facility
- Inlet Works
- Final Effluent Pumping Station
- 400mm diameter final effluent outfall
- Improved aeration

This project is now at an advanced stage of design. A business case submission was made in 2013 to Irish Water for the contracts inclusion in the 2014 – 2015 Capital Programme



Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme

Monaghan County Council completed a detailed design review of the Kilkit Water Treatment Works, including an analysis of proposals for:

- The treatment of washwater residuals.
- Increasing Clarifier throughput.
- The need for UV Disinfection Systems.

The project is approved for funding by Irish Water in 2014. Detailed design and contract document preparation is at an advanced stage.

Irish Water – Capital Programme

The Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010-2013 is being reviewed by Irish Water on the basis that it is required to take over the investment programme from 1st January 2014 and take responsibilities for operations, including statutory compliance. Irish Water will continue to prioritise projects that target public health and environmental compliance issues, rehabilitation of existing water supply networks and projects which support economic and employment growth.

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.

Group Water Schemes continued to carry out necessary upgrading and improvement works which were grant aided by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Grants to the value of **€644,931.00** were paid to 10 schemes in 2013:-

Subsidy of **€2,454,877.00** towards the operational cost of supplying water for domestic use was paid to 12 Group Water Schemes:

Two grants totalling **€3,534.48** were paid to private householders for the provision or necessary improvement of individual water supplies to their house.



Grants towards Specific Source Protection Works amounting to **€5,100.00** were approved in respect of Stranooden G.W.S. and Donaghmoynne G.W.S.

Planning & Economic Development

Forward Planning

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for drafting, reviewing and publishing planning and development policies for the entire county.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019, incorporating the plans for the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay, was adopted by Monaghan Local Authorities in February 2013 and came into effect in March 2013. It is the principle 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 2019. The associated Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report were also concluded during the year.

A new Development Contribution Scheme for County Monaghan 2013-2019 was adopted in June 2013 in accordance with the Draft Development Contribution Guidelines for Planning Authorities and became effective on 1st July 2013. The new scheme included significant reductions in the level of contributions due in respect of commercial applications, in an attempt to stimulate economic development

A comprehensive review of the Record of Protected Structures in Monaghan Local Authorities commenced at the end of 2013, having regard to the recommendations arising from the 2013 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey of the county. Work also began in late 2013 on preparing an Architectural Conservation Area and Management Plan for the village of Glaslough.

Development Management

Monaghan County Council received a total of 418 planning applications in 2013 and issued 358 notifications of decision. The Planning Office also processed a total of 54 planning applications received by the four Town Councils. A total of 11 applications were refused during the year, representing a refusal rate of approximately 3%, which is half the 2012 rate.

6 decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanála from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013. Of these, 1 decision was overturned, 2 were upheld, 1 was withdrawn and 2 were undecided.

Enforcement

2013 saw increase levels of enforcement activity compared to last year, due to both an increase in the number of complaints received, together with the appointment of a dedicated Enforcement Officer. Enforcement statistics for the year are outlined below.

2013 Enforcement Statistics	
No. of cases subject to complaints	125
Warning Letters under Section 152	139
Enforcement notices under Section 154	39
No. of cases dismissed	23
No. of cases resolved through negotiation	44
Prosecutions	2

Unfinished Housing Developments

The ongoing review of unfinished housing developments and performance bonds in respect of housing developments was continued through 2013. Site resolution engagement involving developers, lenders, and where applicable, administrators/receivers was progressed.

Monaghan Local Authorities carried out and completed essential public infrastructure works to 2 unfinished developments with the proceeds of bond monies. Monaghan County Council wrote to claim a further 17 insurance bonds in 2013. Derelict Site Notices were issued in respect to 4 unfinished housing developments.

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government recommended the removal of 18 developments from their database of unfinished housing in the National Housing Survey in November 2013, leaving 22 unfinished housing developments in County Monaghan on their list.

Development Contribution Scheme

The new Development Contribution Scheme, which was adopted in 2013, in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 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 2013 is €892,844. The total amount of financial contributions received in 2013 was €808,235. A detailed breakdown is contained in the table below.

Development Contributions 2013	
Water	€ 10,780
Waste Water	€ 37,054
Footpaths & Lighting	€ 4,650
Development Levy	€ 755,751
Total	€ 808,235

Service Improvement

The Planning Authority's commitment to improving services to the public is reflected in the provision of a computerised self-service planning system. This service allows users to identify their proposed development site and source details in respect of Council and Government planning policies which may impact upon it. This system was completely updated in 2013 to take account of the provisions of the new County Development Plan.

All planning application documentation from 2008 until the present day has been scanned and can be viewed via the public planning online search facilities. Planning applications from 1964 to 1996 previously on microfiche have been converted into digital format and are available to view via the internal planning system by all council staff and visitors to the planning office.

Planning Staff continued to be available for pre-planning meetings and telephone enquiries throughout the year. Although a significant commitment in terms of resources, it is considered that the time invested in pre-planning discussions results in the more efficient processing of planning applications, to the benefit of all parties.

A series of Agents Workshops were also commenced in 2013, with the aim of engaging with, and giving advice to practitioners in the planning field, in respect of the provisions of the new County Development Plan and other technical planning matters.

Tourism

The Gathering

The Gathering sought the support of the local authorities to provide a dedicated resource to activate The Gathering locally and this initiative proved to be a key focus for the Tourism section in 2013.

With the assistance of a local Gathering Steering Committee, a number of information evenings and a county launch was held. The original Project Plan for The Gathering set down a target of creating an additional 500 new events during the year, approximately 20 per county. However, this target was quickly revised and Monaghan's aim was to reach 50 new events throughout the year. The final number of registered events for Co Monaghan on www.thegatheringireland.com reached 125. Whilst a number of these were existing events, they all added a Gathering element. There is evidence that a number of other Monaghan Gathering events were held that were not registered on the website

Monaghan County Council was also responsible for overseeing the roll-out of The Gathering Local Community Funding and IPB funding measures and 33 organisations were funded under these measures. In addition, a further 9 festivals were funded through the council's own resources.

In terms of promotional literature, 6,000 copies of a Gathering Calendar of Events were produced in mid March and circulated throughout the county and 6,000 copies of an Explore Monaghan brochure were produced in May. These were also funded through the council's own resources under the budget ring-fenced for The Gathering.

81 event organisers in Co Monaghan provided feedback to the local Gathering team in relation to attendance at their events/festivals. These statistics showed that the economic impact of The Gathering in the county was approximately €2M as a result of 2,884 incremental overseas visitors and 7,803 additional bednights.

Tourism Development

Another key focus of the Tourism Section in 2013 continued to be the implementation of three major INTERREG IVA tourism infrastructural development projects in Co Monaghan. These were as follows:

(1) Development of Lough Muckno

Substantial funding was secured in 2010 under INTERREG IVA to develop Lough Muckno as a tourism destination. Key angling works had been undertaken in 2012 and as a result of these works several new angling festivals were held at Lough Muckno during the course of 2013.

Another key element of the project was the provision of a children's adventure playground which was completed in September 2013.



(2) Development of Clones as tourism hub

In May 2011, substantial funding to the value of €1.6m was awarded to Monaghan County Council and Fermanagh District Council to undertake enhanced amenity infrastructure in the Clones Erne East area.

Works commenced in late 2013 on the upgrading of The Canal Stores and on the provision of a children's playground in the townpark. In addition, Heritage signage was designed and angling improvement works were commenced with the project due to be completed by mid 2014.

(3) East Border Region Tourism Project

Monaghan County Council secured funding of €250,000 through East Border Region in 2011 to complete a number of smaller tourism related projects. The following project elements were undertaken in 2013:

- Angling Improvement works at Creevy lake, Carrickmacross
- Development of walking trails at Dartrey Forest

Further works at Barry McGuigan Park, Clones and visitor servicing works at Errigal Truagh and Ballybay are scheduled for 2014.

Tourist Office Provision

Monaghan County Council operated a Tourist Office in the Market House, Monaghan Town from mid June to end September. A record of all visitors to the office was kept and by the end of September this showed an increase of 500 visitors from 2012. The majority of enquiries related to directions, information on things to do and places to stay and the weekends of the Country Music festival and the Rhythm & Blues festivals were particularly busy. The County Library at Clones and Carrickmacross Library had designated stands for tourist literature and the library staff was available to respond to any visitor queries. There was an increase in genealogical enquiries recorded.

Community & Enterprise

The Community & Enterprise Section is responsible for co-ordination of the local government services offered to the community.

County Development Board

Arising out of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Governments *'Putting People First'*: County Development Boards will be abolished and replaced with Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's). Involvement of local government in enterprise support and the local and community development programmes, will give local authorities a much stronger direct co-ordination *capacity*. It is anticipated that both the setting up of the LCDC's and the establishment of LEO's within the county will take place in 2014.

Various Programmes that were operating under the auspices of the County Development Board/Local Authority are most likely to operate under the new LCDC structure; these include:

- The Peace Programme
- Monaghan Sports Partnership
- Comhairle na nOg
- Monaghan Age Friendly Initiative
- Community Forum

Social Inclusion Measures group

Social inclusion measures group brings together the key social inclusion agencies and organisations in the county to have a collective approach to addressing social inclusion issues and to ensure that all citizens in county Monaghan have equal access to quality public services. Below is an indicative list of work carried out by the SIM group in 2013:-

- Facilitated the SIM (Social Inclusion Measures) Committee including co-ordinating the CDB Endorsement of annual plans for local development companies in County Monaghan.
- Assisted and facilitated the roll out of Social Inclusion Week 2013 – 30 events took place across the county.
- Assisted and facilitated the roll out of Positive Mental Health Week – 39 events took place across the county.
- Facilitated the mapping of Mental Health Services and supports available in county Monaghan.
- Facilitated and welcomed new representative from all sporting organisations including GAA, FAI and Rugby on the Positive Mental Health Sub Committee.
- Facilitated and supported Mental Health Awareness Training.
- Odd Sock day took place on 13th September, 2013, the theme being "It's OK to be different."
- Assisted with Monaghan County Council Age Friendly Programme roll out
- Continued to address rural isolation through supporting the Rural Transport Programme (Baltibus) in the county.
- Supported other committees involved in Social Inclusion Activities

- Assisted and co-ordinated the housing of two additional Congolese refugee families in Carrickmacross and secured child places in local national and secondary schools, and childcare for the younger children.
- Facilitated and assisted the Congolese families with courses in the English language, basic life skills, and organised afterschool support and summer camps.
- Supported residents in St. Patrick's Reception Centre.

Monaghan Age Friendly County Initiative

The Council has signed up to leading the work on creating age friendly outdoor spaces and public buildings. Following a year-long process of planning and consultation, Castleblayney now has an age-friendly town action plan in place.

2013 also saw the development of the county's first Age Friendly Park, when Clones Town Council secured funding of approx. €51,000 from Cavan Monaghan LEADER to construct a restful corner for older people in Barry McGuigan Park.

National Bike Week

National Bike Week was a big success once again in Co. Monaghan, with community groups throughout the county doing themselves proud in their efforts to get people out and about on their bikes. 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. Funding of €5000 was allocated to the Council by the Dept of Transport, Tourism & Sport to support Bike Week in 2013. Monaghan County Council would like to thank all the groups and volunteers who got involved.

Smarter Travel

The Dept of Transport, Tourism & Sport's Smarter Travel initiative is aimed at getting people out of the private motor car and using more sustainable modes of transportation, such as public transport, walking and cycling. The local authorities are seen as a key enabler of the Smarter Travel strategy, due to their role in providing physical infrastructure such as bike lanes, parking etc.

- Active Travel Towns

Following on from the development of walking & cycling strategies for Monaghan town and Castleblayney in 2012, steering committees were set up in the two towns to progress the strategies during 2013. Linkages were made with local schools and businesses and a website, www.GoMonaghan.ie has been developed. Applications have been made for funding to the Dept of Transport, Tourism & Sport, and the rate of progress will depend on the level of funding secured.



- **National Cycle Network**

The 28th November 2013 marked a milestone for Monaghan Local Authorities, when Minister for Public Transport Alan Kelly cut the ribbon on the first section of the Ulster Canal Greenway. This project received €540,000 from the Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport, with the Council contributing a further €170,000. The Greenway uses the banks of the disused canal to provide a safe off-road walking and cycling path.

Community Smoke Alarm Scheme

500 alarms were received under the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Govt's annual Community Smoke Alarm Scheme, and distributed around the county via the Community Alert groups, the Community Gardai and the Community Forum. The alarms were targeted at 'vulnerable' households, which included older people, people living alone and people living in private rented accommodation. Twenty special kits for people who are deaf or hard of hearing were also distributed.

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. 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.

The Gala awards night was held this year in Derry on November 16th. The vibrant community & voluntary sector in Co. Monaghan once more shone, with Patrick Kavanagh Country bagging the runners-up spot in the 'Community Arts Initiative' category, and Donaghmoynce scooping top honours in the 200-500 population category. The groups, along with Laragh Heritage Committee, were nominated to represent the best of Co. Monaghan by Monaghan County Council.



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. There are 117 distinct groups registered with the Network, including 18 Tidy Towns groups and 46 Residents Associations.

In 2013, for the first time the county had two Gold Medal winners in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Glaslough and Carrickmacross are now only a handful of points behind the winning score and are future contenders for the title of Ireland's Tidiest Town.

Joint Policing Committees

The County JPC held its annual Public Meeting in Castleblayney in November. The focus of the meeting was 'safer communities' and the Gardai presented information on the pilot initiatives they had been developing through the Age Friendly Initiative. These include a bogus caller card for giving out to people who call to your home uninvited, and a Crime Prevention Ambassadors programme, where members of the community are trained by the Gardai to carry out visits to vulnerable people in their own communities to give them advice on how to avoid becoming the victim of crime.

Muintir na Tire also addressed the meeting, giving information on how to set up a Community Text Alert Scheme. Monaghan County Council agreed to assist the Gardai and Muintir na Tire to achieve complete coverage of the county before the end of 2014.

Refugee Resettlement Programme

The Office of the Minister for Integration informed Monaghan County Council of its decision to resettle in County Monaghan an additional 2 refugee families (20 persons – 10 in each family) formerly from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Monaghan County Council through the Office of the Director of Community & Enterprise co-ordinated this resettlement programme at local level. Again the resettlement programme was delivered by means of an integrated response from the various local agencies and organisations each providing the services and support relevant to their function remit as in the original resettlement.

Implementing the Disability Act

Making Monaghan Accessible continued to work on implementing the obligations under the Disability Act 2005. A number of projects, that continue to improve accessibility for people with a disability in the county, were finalised in 2013.

Community Development Fund

The Community Development Fund aims to promote, enhance and develop community development and social inclusion work throughout the county, through supporting the work of community and voluntary groups and organisations. It is open to any community and voluntary group in the county. The Community Development Fund is strategic in its focus to support local community development activity particularly since alternative sources for funding for communities are no longer available. The annual Community Development fund was rolled out in early summer 2013. In total €75,000 was allocated to different community groups in various geographical communities in the county.

Comhairle na nÓg

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg is the recognized voice of young people in County Monaghan. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs oversees Comhairle na nÓg, the delivery of which is the responsibility of each Local Authority. In Monaghan we have 27 active members representing schools, youth organizations and special interest groups for young people in the county. The Comhairle meets on a monthly basis and undertake an array of projects to meet the issues facing young people. The current members are in office since October, 2013, elections take place every two years at their AGM.

In 2013 their key piece of work for the year was:-

- The mapping of services and supports available in County Monaghan for people with mental health issues.

This was done in the form of an information leaflet and posters, 10,000 leaflets and 1,000 posters were printed and then distributed to schools, youth groups, agencies/organisations, sports clubs including GAA, FAI, Rugby, Sports Partnership etc.

Journey of Equals Intergenerational PEACE III project

Monaghan County Council secured €150,000 from the European Union's European Regional Development fund through the Peace III Programme funded through Monaghan Peace III Partnership to run an Intergenerational Peace III project. The "Journey of Equals" Peace III programme was designed to reach out to the five main towns in the county and engage older and young people in a series of five intergenerational peace building projects.

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 within the county and on a regional basis. There are 402 groups presently registered with Monaghan Community Forum.

Monaghan Community Forum was actively involved in the following projects in 2013:-

- Consultation with members in 2013
- Age Friendly Alliance
- Border and National Fora
- Active Citizenship
- Forum Communications Plan
- Monaghan Community Forum Website
- Peace III "Hands Together 2"
- Forum Youth Projects in 2013 – YELP and YoUTH

Heritage

The Heritage Officer has a wide remit, including the implementation of the County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan, maintaining the record of protected structures, combined with advising on planning applications and other matters that have implications for heritage conservation. Financial support and technical advice from The Heritage Council supports the position of Heritage Officer in the county.

Heritage is defined by Irish statute as "landscape, wildlife habitats, flora and fauna, inland waterways, monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects and archives, architectural heritage, geology, heritage gardens and parks".

County Monaghan Heritage Plan

In April 2013, the five year County Monaghan Heritage Plan was launched by Conor Newman, Chairperson of the Heritage Council in the Market House, Monaghan. Its' vision for the future of heritage in County Monaghan is to conserve our heritage and create new heritage assets, to retain and enhance our wildlife habitats and to conserve our cultural heritage.

In 2013, a County Audit of Geological Sites, one of the actions of the heritage plan, was undertaken by Monaghan County Council in conjunction with the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Heritage Council.

Action for Biodiversity

Funding was secured in 2010 for a three year cross-border biodiversity project, Action for Biodiversity under INTERREG IVA. This 100% funded project is a joint initiative between ten local authorities and EBR

Ltd. Monaghan County Council is one of the leads in the project and the Heritage Officer is the joint chair of the steering group.

In May 2013, the project held a major conference “Working Together for Biodiversity”. Featuring speakers from the EU Commission, government departments and the other experts from the UK and Ireland and Monaghan County Council, showcased the project and brought new ideas to the region. The project published the first Regional Biodiversity Framework in Ireland in November. This was launched at the closing event held in Monaghan, which highlighted the links between biodiversity and health.

County Monaghan Heritage Forum

The Forum met four times in 2013. This multi-stakeholder body supports and advises on the implementation of the Monaghan Heritage Plan. Four elected representatives sit on the County Monaghan Heritage Forum, Cllr. Seamus Coyle, Cllr. Jackie Crowe, Cllr. Paudge Connolly and Cllr. Ciara McPhillips.

Conservation of Protected Structures

The “Architectural Survey of County Monaghan” by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage was launched by the Mr. Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Monaghan in December 2013. The Ministerial recommendations details 1,350 structures for protection in the county, and for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures.

Monaghan Sports Partnership

A snapshot of key Achievements in 2013 - in line with our strategic objectives

Increasing Activity

- Women In Sport – over 500 women and teenage girls accessing activity programmes
- On Your Bike – safe cycling training for 200 primary school children
- Learn to Run – over 60 people embraced a ‘learn to run’ programmes in Ballybay Town Park leading to the establishment of a recreational running group who continue to meet and train on a weekly basis

Sports Club Development

- Supported the set-up of 6 new sports clubs in 2013, catering for over 450 people (Running, Indoor Bowls, Angling, Sailing, Cricket and Basketball)
- Major new Sports Participation Development Programme launched which funded €11,000 to 5 clubs for specific areas of development. This has the potential to yield very positive tangible results.

Training & Education

- Child Protection training (x6) delivered to 96 members of 37 sports clubs
- Sports First Aid courses (x4) provided to 37 sports club volunteers
- Active Leadership course (x1) provided to 16 sports / youth club leaders

Sports Inclusion Programme (for people with a disability)

A range of activities were provided for people with learning / intellectual disability, physical disability, sensory disability and mental health illness in: Soccer Skills, Line Dancing, Walking, Outdoor Activities. Disability Awareness Training was provided to over 400 Transition Year students

Linking in with national initiatives

Co-ordinating / supporting events within County Monaghan which contributed to national events e.g. Operation Transformation Walk, Active Schools Week, National Bike Week, National Recreation Week, National Play Day, Positive Mental Health Week, National Trails Day.

Most significantly has been the increased level of physical activity programmes now being delivered by the Local Sports Partnership in response to the needs of the local community and the recognition by the local community of the work of Monaghan Sports Partnership.

Monaghan Peace III Programme

In 2013 we successfully completed 21 Peace III funded projects. These projects were delivered using a number of mechanisms such as partner delivery, small grants, tenders and resource model allocation.

Project activity included

- Peace Transformation Programme – Conflict all around the world
- Multi Cultural Diversity Awareness Peace Building Study Visit
- Interfaith Church Tours
- Introduction to Technology courses
- Faces of Monaghan project
- Experiencing Teamwork FETAC training
- Committee Skills Training
- Launch of Men's Hub in Monaghan Town
- Women Journeying Towards Reconciliation training
- Minority Faith Capacity Building Programme

Key achievements for 2013

- Awarding of grants between €2000 and €15000 to 17 community groups as part of the Resource Allocation Model project.
- The *Racism is Wrong: Challenging Racism in Monaghan* conference looked at how communities can unite to build better relations and prevent attacks and discrimination.
- The *Comment Cents – Your Gains From Peace* conference looked at the economic benefits of Peace III funding in a border region.
- Continued use of MonaghanPeace.ie website. In 2013 we had 9,450 visitors to our web page and of those 5,993 were new visitors.
- Successful roll out of the Embedding Peace project which provided training and mentoring to project implementers and partnership board members.
- Successful application for extension of programme to December 2014.

Our spend for 2013 was €3,159,044.80 which equates to 91% of our overall allocation of €3,476,206. Any under spend will be used in the 2014 programme.

Environmental Protection

Environmental Protection is a topic that continues to hold a place centre-stage within both the national and international arena. However, it is primarily by protecting the Environment at local level that we can hope to safeguard it for future generations.

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. 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

During 2013 there was a significant policy change which will have a bearing on how waste management planning for County Monaghan is delivered into the future. Traditionally County Monaghan was part of the North East Waste Management region which consisted of the local Authorities of Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan. The North East region was one of ten regional waste regions but during 2013 this was reduced down to 3 regional waste regions. This reduction in waste management planning regions was in line with the recommendation of the government's policy on waste "A Resource Efficiency" to reduce the number of waste regions to allow for greater efficiency in the delivery of waste management planning. The new Connaught Ulster Waste Management Region comprises of the Local Authorities of Monaghan, Cavan, Donegal, Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway City, and Galway County with Mayo as the lead authority. Work on the preparation of new waste management plans for the three new regions commenced in late 2013. Each of the 3 regional plans will have to take into consideration the measures outlined in the government policy document through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste. Some of the specific actions outlines in the policy document include the following

- **A move away from landfill** to its virtual elimination and replacement through prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery.
- **A Brown Bin Roll-Out** diverting 'organic waste' such as food waste from landfill towards more productive uses as a resource opportunity.
- **Keeping costs down for the consumer** by introducing a new and strengthened regulatory regime.
- **New Service Standards** that will ensure that consumers receive higher customer service standards from their operator.
- **Placing responsibility on Householders** to prove they use an authorised waste collection service or manage their waste in an environmentally acceptable manner.

- **The establishment of a team of Waste Enforcement Officers** for cases relating to serious criminal activity (e.g. diesel laundering) will be prioritised, in consultation with An Garda Síochána.
- **Reducing red tape for Industry** to identify and reduce any unnecessary administrative burdens on the waste management industry.
- **A Review of Producer Responsibility** will be examined as part of the Review of Producer Responsibility to ensure that industry and business meets their obligations as producers of waste.

Landfill facility

Monaghan County Council operates one landfill facility at Letterbane, Scotch Corner under waste licence W0020-02 granted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The “polluter-pays” principle is applied to the operation of the Landfill facility. During 2013 the total volume of waste landfilled at the Scotch Corner facility was 32,708 tonnes. This was higher than the volume of waste landfilled in 2012 and in 2011 which was 28,075 and 27,361 tonnes respectively. Again in 2013 a significant amount of this waste was material repatriated from illegal disposal sites in Northern Ireland which Monaghan County Council again secured following a competitive nationwide tender during 2013. All landfill operators including Monaghan County Council are finding it difficult to attract waste which can be attributed to external factors outside the control of Monaghan County Council including the economic downturn, increased environmental awareness, increasingly stringent license conditions, the proximity of the Indaver thermal treatment plant, higher landfill levies and of course the need to move away from the practice of landfilling as per EU and government policy.

Scotch Corner Recycling Centre and Carrickmacross Recycling

The recycling centre at Scotch Corner comprises of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and a Civic Amenity site. At the MRF recyclables are separated into individual waste streams to meet the requirements of secondary markets whilst the Civic Amenity Site is primarily a facility where members of the public can recycle household wastes including WEEE and certain hazardous materials. Both facilities are operated by McElvaney Waste and Recycling. The MRF facility at Scotch Corner is operated under waste licence W0020-02 granted by the Environmental Protection Agency whilst the Carrickmacross Recycling Centre is operated under Certificate of Registration R00705-02 which again is issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Bring Sites

1,083 tonnes of glass, 47 tonnes of aluminium cans, and 25 tonnes of textiles were collected at the Bring Site Network in the county during 2013 i.e. a total 1,155 Tonnes. The total for 2012 was 1,116 tonnes. (Note: 1 tonne of glass equates to approx 3,500 bottles. 1 tonne of aluminium cans equates to approx 50,000 aluminium cans.) During 2013 receptacles for the collection of plastic bottles was also sited at bring banks in Castleblayney and Clones on a trial basis. In 2013 there were 28 council operated bring sites in the county.

Waste Facility Permits and Registrations

Any facility that accepts waste is required to hold a Waste Facility Permit (WPF) or Certificate of Registration (CoR) under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations 2007.

Waste Facility Permits and Certificates of Registration are normally granted for a period of 5 years and are monitored and audited annually. In 2014 a total of two new waste facility permits were issued and one existing permit was reviewed.

There are six authorised treatment facilities for the recovery and dismantling of End of Life Vehicles (ELV) within County Monaghan. A full list of authorised treatment facilities is available on Monaghan County Councils website.

Terralift Ireland is the only compost facility within the county that composts brown bin wastes and other organic waste to produce fertilizer. Shabra Recycling Limited recycles plastic bottles to produce plastic packaging such as bin liners. ADN Materials recycle plastic packaging using an extrusion process. Green Leaf Tyre Recycling accepts waste tyres for storage, baling and export. Polygon Recycling store plastic packaging like fertilizer bags and other materials pending export. Blue Dolphin Environmental are a wheelie bin and skip company that have a permit for waste storage and sorting pending removal offsite. There are nine authorised sites located across the county which accept soil and stone waste for the purposes of agricultural improvement and land development. Authorised sites are subject to annual inspections by the council and must submit an Annual Environmental Report each year.

Waste Collection Permits

The National Waste Collection Permit Office in Tullamore processes new applications and applications for the review of existing waste collection permits in the Republic of Ireland. Further information is available at www.nwcpo.ie. Waste collection permit holders in Monaghan can be inspected by Monaghan County Council.

LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network)

The Environment Section continued to participate in the EPA-funded Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) programme in 2013. Projects completed during 2013 include:

- Participation in Taste of Monaghan Festival focusing on home composting and the promotion of the stopfoodwaste.ie national campaign.
- Production of awareness video with Cork and Galway County Council's
- Worked with Tidy Towns group to increase their marks in the Sustainable Resource Use category of the national competition.

Litter Pollution

A total of 152 on the spot Litter Fines were issued in 2013. The majority of these involved fly-tipping of household refuse and littering at Bottle Banks throughout the county. Monaghan Local Authorities reviewed the Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2012 and began the process of replacing it with a new plan. This plan sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter as well as measures to raise public awareness for the next three years.

Water Quality

The quality of Co Monaghan's rivers and lakes had deteriorated significantly since the 1970's, and while some improvements are evident substantial work is needed to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. (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. Over 300 river and lake samples were collected and in excess of 400 investigations and inspections were carried out in

2013. Both farmyards and business premises have been surveyed in recent years with a focus of survey work on water supply catchments and other sensitive water bodies. During 2013 a significant programme of discharge licence reviews was undertaken with a view to ensuring less impact from point sources of pollution. A survey of intensive poultry units was undertaken in 2013 and further work is planned on tracking manure movements within and outside the county. Work to upgrade data management and use of GIS system is expected to be completed in early 2014.

In 2014 the Environment Section will focus on river sites that are below good status. River walks, habitat surveys, the use of Small Stream Risk Score and inspections will be used to identify factors contributing to the degraded status at these sites. The Council continued efforts to raise general awareness on water pollution prevention using local radio adverts and interviews in 2013. Information leaflets and other useful water quality and water pollution information are available on the council website. www.monaghan.ie under Environment Section.

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 2013, 500 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 and our investigations may result in cases being referred for prosecution. In 2013, 9 such notices were issued. However, in the majority of cases, individuals 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

Diesel Wash Dumping.

2013 saw a huge increase in the number of diesel wash dumping incidents in the county with 134 separate incidents handled by Monaghan County Council during the course of the year. Previously the most problematic year to date with regard to diesel wash incidents was 2012, when Monaghan County Council dealt with 97 separate incidents. Costs incurred during 2013 were in the region of €500,000. Since 2004 Monaghan County Council has now handled 371 such incidents with total costs now €2.2 Million.

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 2013 were:

- Participation in Spring and Autumn Clean
- €43,000 was provided to local voluntary organisations under the "Environmental Fund" for improving local communities. Grants were available for maintenance of open spaces, tree/shrub/hedge & flower planting, litter management, painting etc.
- The Green Schools Programme continues to grow. At the end of 2013 85% of primary and 75% of post primary schools was registered with the programme,
- €20,000 was distributed in funding through the Local Agenda Environmental Partnership Fund

- Environmental Officer continued to develop linkages with the community and voluntary sector such as Tidy Town and Sporting organisations
- Grant from Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government of €22,000 was spent on litter awareness measures

Food Safety

Monaghan County Council has a five year contract until 31st December 2015, with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (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 (CVO) 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 2013, 1,281 cattle and 2,795 sheep were slaughtered in local abattoirs in Monaghan.

Dog Control Service

The council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. 5,151 dogs were licensed in the county in 2013 while 24 general dog licences were issued. The general dog licence entitles the holder to keep any number of dogs at a specific location.

689 dogs passed through the dog pound in 2013 – with 44 having to be euthanised. 60 dogs were reclaimed by their owners and 324 were re-homed, with the much-appreciated assistance of the Carrickmacross Dog Shelter and the Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In 2013, 188 on-the-spot fines were issued to people for keeping a dog without a licence, 35 fines for not keeping a dog under control, and 18 fines for not ensuring that the dog wears a collar and/or tag with the owner's name and address on it. 2 dog owners were successfully prosecuted in court for not having a licence.

Fire Service

Fire Operations:

Monaghan Fire Service dealt with 412 callouts in 2013, 26% related to the clean-up process of laundered diesel residue while chimney fires accounted for 16% of all calls. The other main locations of calls were dwellings 43(10%), motor vehicles 28 (7%), road traffic accidents 46 (11%) and false alarms 32 (8%). There were no major incidents during the year however the G8 summit in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland offered an opportunity to engage and collaborate with neighbouring Local Authorities and Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) on procedures and protocol in the event of a major incident. Locally, there was a significant increase in road traffic collision involving fatalities. An improvement in the average time of attendance to fires by 9% and the average time to mobilize by 26 sec has been achieved in comparison to 2012.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared with NIFRS along the border to assist in the delivery of an effective response to Road Traffic Accidents.

In addition to the annual training programme conducted at drill night, 1430 training man-hours has been completed in Monaghan. In total 47 Standard Operating Standards (SOG's) have been delivered by the end of 2013 and have become a significant part of the "operational doctrine" for fire service operation.

In November a joint training exercise in conjunction with the Health Service Executive (HSE) was held at St. Mary's Nursing Home, Castleblayney, which involved crews from Castleblayney Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Ballybay along with nursing home staff. The exercise offered an opportunity to test the existing evacuation plan, casualty care and handling, and effective use of resources.



A shared PPE procurement agreement has been reached with Louth Fire Service to secure value for money and the preparation of Compartment Fire Behaviour Training facilities has commenced on the Civil Defence site adjacent the Fire Station.

Fire Prevention:

Further progress was made in 2013 with regard to premises built or in use without Fire Safety Certificates. The revenue from 56 (24 Regularisation FSC) fire certificate

applications was €45,073.66. There were 70 license applications and 10 planning reports processed, each requiring an initial inspection and subsequent follow-up inspections. In total 173 inspections took place and will form an integral part in the review of pre-fire plans for buildings within Co. Monaghan

Two Fire Safety Notices and one Closure Notice have been served on buildings in Co. Monaghan and a prosecution was initiated on foot of a previously served Fire Safety Notice, all under the Fire Service Act 1981 & 2003.



Building Control

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 140 Commencement Notices, 13 Disability Access Certificates and conducted inspections on 24% of all works of which it was notified in 2013. A surveillance program has commenced to ensure that all properties for rent or sale have identified an energy performance indicator in any advertisements.

From the 1st July 2013 a 'CE' marking is mandatory for all construction products placed on the market for which harmonized standards are in place. Information notes and advice has been forwarded and is ongoing with manufacturers, importers, distributors, builders, specifiers and designers in Co. Monaghan on their obligation to conform.

As part of the EBR energy efficiency and micro-generation project Monaghan County Council Offices at The Glen, Monaghan has been retrofitted with double glazed windows to improve the energy efficiency of the building and carbon output.

Following the publication of S.I. 80 of 2013 Monaghan Building Control Authority has engaged in information meetings, consultation and advice sessions on the changes to the Building Control Regulation which will come into effect from 1st March 2014. The new Building Control Regulations will require the owner/developer and builder of a building project to certify design, conduct inspections and certify completion of works to Building Control standards.

Civil Defence Service.

Training.

Occupational First Aid courses were conducted in Monaghan, Carrickmacross, & Clones Centres for Civil Defence members & Local Authority staff.

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

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

Weekly Training Classes

Training continues each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings.

Boat training is on Wednesday & Sunday mornings.

All new members attend Induction training, manual handling, CFR & OFA courses.

Civil Defence classes are now being held in the Carrickmacross Civic Offices.

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.

Introduction to first aid were held in a number of primary schools in Monaghan during the year.

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.

They also provided assistance to Sea Scout Ireland during the summer months in transporting scouts & equipment to an island on Lough Gill, County Sligo.

Boat units also assisted Meath Civil Defence during the Slane concerts.

St. Mary's Nursing Home Exercise on 17th October 2013.

Civil Defence role was to engage with the fire service to assist with emergency operations.

25 Civil Defence volunteers took part in the exercise.

Their main role was to act as casualties so that the fire service could simulate the evacuation of patients from the facility.

Ambulance & first aid cover was also provided in the event of an accident.

Library Service

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

- Five fully automated 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 to pre-schools, playschools, crèches and afterschool services operating from 24 service points around the county on a fortnightly basis.
- A Primary Schools Library Service visiting each of the 64 primary schools a minimum of once a year and visiting rural schools twice yearly.
- In conjunction with the ETB a wide range of computer classes are provided for adults in the Monaghan, Castleblayney, Carrickmacross and Clones branches, either through branch Internet PCs or through the 26 laptops shared by the branches.

Statistics 2013	
Total number of visits to full time libraries. (Monaghan, Clones and Carrickmacross)	239,047
Library Stock. Total Number of items borrowed	339,291 (25.5% increase)
Total number of Internet Sessions provided	32,497

Wi-Fi Service

The public WIFI service continues to increase in popularity in our four larger branches, Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Clones. Demand for the service has grown steadily throughout the year with a total of 4,437 sessions booked, an increase of 64.5%.

The National Strategy for Public Libraries 2013 – 2017

The new National Strategy for public Libraries was launched in December 2013.

Key Objectives identified include:

- The introduction of a single National Library Management System for all Library Authorities
- The introduction of a single National Membership Card
- The introduction of a single tender process for the acquisition of all Book stock, multimedia etc.
- Free Membership Nationally by 2017.

Outreach

In 2013 Monaghan County Library again managed to stage a surprisingly diverse and appealing range of Outreach events despite having no budget from which to fund it.

This was achieved by concentrating mainly on low cost or no cost events, as well as successfully networking with neighbouring Library Authorities when sourcing authors, storytellers etc. Events included;

- Children's Book Festival, Summer Reading Challenge, Bealtaine Festival, Heritage Week Events, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Clones Film Festival.
- **Classes.** Arts and Crafts, Millinery Workshops, Silver Surfers, Creative Writing, University of the Third Age, Adult Computer, English Language, Irish Language, Literacy, Driver Theory.
- Book Clubs, Sewing Club, Craft Afternoon, Film Club, Lecture Series, Exhibitions.
- Parent and Toddler Group visits, School Class Visits, Author Talks, Storytelling Sessions, Nursing Home Visits.

Monaghan-One Book, One County

This project is part of the Peace III – Resource Allocation Model project which was undertaken in partnership with the County Museum, designed to encourage the communal reading of a single book. The book selected was “The Twelfth Day of July” by Joan Lingard. 300 copies were distributed throughout the county. It is estimated that the book was read by over 1,500 people. A further 190 secondary school students participated in follow on writing workshops and 800 primary students took part in Art Workshops.

Lady Café Project

The highly successful Lady Café Project continued throughout 2013, with a full programme of workshops, courses and lectures. The project, funded under Grundtvig, an EU funding programme, also involved visits to three European partner countries, Italy, Slovenia and Turkey. In June Monaghan hosted a visit from all the partner countries, Majorca, Italy, Latvia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, and Slovenia. The next meeting of the European partners is scheduled to take place in May 2014 in Latvia. The project will culminate in the production of a report and the publication of a handbook to assist other organisations wishing to roll out similar initiatives.

A second European funding application under the Leonardo Programme is due for submission in April 2014.

Local History

In 2013 the following resources were added to the Local History collection;

- Carrickmacross Indoor Relief Register indexed.
- Death Notices & Obituaries from The Northern Standard Newspaper 1922 – 1929
- List of County Monaghan natives in the Royal Irish Constabulary in the 1840's & 1850's
- Castleshane School Roll Book 1849 - Rebound & Digitised
- Rossmore Estate Rent Book 1824-1829 – Rebound & Digitised
- Rossmore Estate Ledger 1828 – Rebound, Indexed & Digitised
- Lurganboy School Roll Book – Rebound & Digitised
- Castleblayney Register of Births 1881 – 1893 – Indexed
- U.S. Passport Applications of County Monaghan Natives 1785 – 1925 – Indexed
- Census of Inmates in Almshouses & Workhouses in New York 1830 – 1920 of County Monaghan Natives – Indexed
- Drumfreehan School Roll Books 1800's & 1900's – Rebound & Digitised
- Corlatt School Register Book – Rebound & Digitised
- New Local History Booklet Published

Local Community Development Programme

Monaghan County Libraries launched an initiative with the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Libraries Development Unit, LGMA and Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd. to provide local access to third level courses on subjects such as Sociology, Psychology, Community Development and Local History.

The 26 week course, which began on September 10th in Clones Library is aimed at Unemployed People Under 25, people who have not previously completed a 3rd level course and participants currently in the NEET Target Group (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Positive Mental Health Week Sunday 6th to Saturday 12th October 2013

As part of Positive Mental Health Week the Library Service re-launched the Library Bibliotherapy Collection.

This collection consists of 42 HSE approved self help books which are available in all 5 branch libraries.

Heritage Week

The “Love Where You Live” Photographic Competition was organised through all five branch Libraries. Prizes for the overall County winners were funded and presented by Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer on Friday 23rd August.

The Gathering

The Library Service was actively involved in the County Monaghan Genealogy “Home to the Little Hills” Gathering Project. The project was organised by Clogher Historical Society and funded by LEADER, culminating in two four day seminars in October, with over 180 participants, many from overseas.

County Museum

Introductions

The year began with the launch of the Gathering 2013 as people from all over the world were invited to come home and help celebrate their Irish connections. The museum was the focal point for many of these meetings throughout the year. Monaghan people from countries such as Australia, Canada and America strolled through the displays with their Irish relatives and learned about their heritage. The museum worked with Castle Leslie to promote the county to foreign visitors and collaborated with them to produce one of the most successful exhibitions in the history of the service.



Funding of €40,000 was successfully sourced from the Peace III Resource Allocation programme in partnership with Monaghan County Library service to provide a number of socially inclusive events aimed at building better relations at a local level through and appreciation of our shared historical heritage. The museum also received a grant from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht which paid for the production of a 60 page, full colour booklet, which added to the story told through our Castle Leslie exhibition; 'Between Two Worlds'.

User numbers continued to rise in 2013. More people than ever interacted with the service and discovered the rich history and heritage of County Monaghan. The museum service continued working to achieve its mission to celebrate the cultural diversity and historical richness of the region and bringing the diversity and richness to as wide an audience as possible.

Exhibitions

“Walking the Colours” was launched in April this year. This cross border initiative celebrated the marching customs of both the Catholic and Protestant traditions of Monaghan. The museum staff used the opportunity to display its remarkable collection of marching banners, which date back over two centuries. The banners festooned the walls of the museum gallery and the explosion of colour and symbolism told the story of both traditions.

The exhibition was complemented with an excellent education workshop programme devised by the education staff at Monaghan County Museum. One of the most imaginative workshops involved schools designing their own banners. This design process was supported by a local artist who aided them in painting and eventually mounting their banners. Many of the finished banners are now on display in the various schools around the County.

“Castle Leslie – Between Two Worlds” recounts the incredible story of the Leslie family of County Monaghan ever since ‘Fighting’ Bishop John Leslie settled in Glaslough in the seventeenth century. The story focused on the family during the twentieth century recounting the tumultuous events that shaped the lives of Anita, Desmond and Jack Leslie. Sir Jack Leslie 4th Baronet, now 97 was on hand to launch the exhibition in October.

Minister Jimmy Deenihan officially opened the exhibition and congratulated the museum and Castle Leslie on an extremely successful collaborative project. Within two months of opening over 3,000 visitors viewed this unique display of a time in Irish history, while relatively recent, is now almost forgotten. Workshops which have been organised to run in conjunction with this display are now booked through until June 2014.

Events

A vast array of outreach events, education programmes, tours, seminars and public talks took place throughout 2013. Some of the highlights included a seminar to mark the 400th anniversary of Monaghan Town receiving its charter in 1613. This meant that for the very first time Monaghan Town was allowed to elect people to represent them in the parliament in Dublin. A number of speakers gave presentations on the history of the county and the beginning of politics in Monaghan, to a packed house.



Archaeology summer camps were held throughout the summer, aimed at children who wanted to get their first taste of archaeological excavation and find out about the wonderful archaeological heritage of County Monaghan. As with many of the programmes organised throughout the year the workshops booked out very quickly and were a massive success.

There were a number of mock archaeological digs and genealogical research classes held throughout the county during 2013. These events were funded through Peace III in partnership with the Library Service. They offered adults an opportunity to gain experience of working on a professional archaeological site and also guided those wishing to embark on the process of tracing their ancestors. Again all of these programmes were booked out quickly and proved very popular.

As part of the Peace III funded programme the museum and library offered bus tours of the county during the summer months. Local historians took the participants on a tour of some of the significant historical areas of Monaghan. The aim of the tours was twofold, to promote the wealth of history that exists in the county and to act as a catalyst in building new relationships between the participants as they enjoyed their common interest in local history.



Arts Office

Monaghan County Council through its Arts Office supported Arts projects in the county through The **Arts Partners Grant** scheme. A **total of €55K** was invested in the projects listed below.

The Garage Theatre, Monaghan Town
Clones Film Festival

Castleblayney Arts & Resource Centre (Iontas)
Patrick Kavanagh Weekend, Inniskeen
Scoil Cheoil Na Botha, Scotstown
Carrickmacross Festival
Féile Patrick Byrne, Carrickmacross
Castleblayney Drama Festival



Separate to the above listed grants The Council awarded both **The Garage Theatre** in Monaghan & the Theatre in Castleblayney (Arts well) €25K each towards their programming.

Both Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town council continued their capital grant funding to the development of the New Garage Theatre, which was officially opened in November. This investment is now complete

The Artists's studios

The artist's studios has been secured in **The Old Post Office** in **Clones** under the stewardship of an Artists collective which has been set up by 2 professional Monaghan Artists. Funding was secured from Leader last year and fingers crossed more development will be on its way.

The Market House

The Market House a unique venue owned and operated continued to be programmed with both music and exhibitions, It is now being used by many and varied groups nearly every evening and at weekends, whether for rehearsals or workshops

A major project run directly by the Arts office is the international “**Harvest Time Blues Festival**” which is held in September each year. It has become widely recognised now as one of the Top Blues festival in Europe. This was the 18th Edition of the Festival. It continues to grow is considered a major cultural and tourist product in Ireland

We continued to assist individual Artists we supported a writers, theatre practitioners, Visual Artists received grants from both the Arts Council and Culture Ireland. It ranged from travel assistance to material purchases and direct funding matched with secured arts council funding.



Leisure Centre

The Leisure Complex is situated on the Clones Road, Monaghan and is the largest health & fitness centre in the county. Facilities include a six lane, 25 meter pool, fully equipped gym, including a wide range of cardiovascular and resistance equipment as well as an extensive free weights section, 2 specialist fitness studios, and 2 outdoor tennis courts. It is operated under a licence 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.

In 2013 the Council commenced a phased programme of replacing gym equipment and carried out upgrade works to the sauna and steam room. All of these improvements should serve to prolong the life of the centre and ensure that it caters to the needs of a broad spectrum of users.

The facility caters for schools, clubs and special needs groups, both north and south of the border.

Human Resources Management

The Human Resources Department supports Line Managers and Employees in achieving an efficient and effective delivery of Monaghan County Council's corporate and business objectives. It promotes a positive working environment, manages workforce planning, the training and development of staff, staff recruitment, is responsible for the delivery of statutory and non-statutory staff welfare policies and procedures, maintains stable industrial relations and works to create an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment within the Council.

HR, Payroll and Superannuation System (Core)

Monaghan Local Authorities have successfully implemented and are operating the Core HR, Payroll & Superannuation System. The modules implemented to date are Core Personnel; Core Time; Core Payroll; Core Superannuation; Core Recruitment; Core Training; CSO Departmental Returns and Employee Self Service.

The next phase of the HPS roll out will consist of PMDS and Health & Safety. These modules are currently being tested in pilot sites by Core International and the National Project Team and we are scheduled for rollout in 2015.

The terms and conditions of the Haddington Road Agreement required a large volume of modification to the Core HPS and were successfully implemented in June 2013.

Core Pension Non Reckonable Service (NRS) was successfully implemented on test environment in November 2013. 4 members of HPS project team attended 2 days training in LGMA. NRS balance went 'live' on Core 06 December 2013.

SEPA modifications for Payroll module were successfully loaded and tested on the 'Test Environment' on 18 December 2013.

Staff Training and Development

Monaghan County Council is committed to develop staff through a range of leadership development programmes, study assistance and training opportunities in order to embed into the organisation a performance culture that recognises, empowers and develops its staff to achieve their own and the Councils goals and objectives, overcome challenges, and lead within the Council. Training opportunities support many areas of the Council such as personal and operational performance and can contribute to employee welfare and satisfaction. In 2013, 3.98% of total payroll costs was spent on staff training and development and 1770 training days were provided by external and internal trainers.

Health and Safety Training formed a considerable part of the 2013 Training Plan.

A broad spectrum of work related third level courses undertaken by staff in the academic year 2012/2013

Monaghan County Council's commitment to training and staff development ensures that staff has the necessary skills and competencies to respond to the ongoing challenges of providing a high quality, customer focused and cost effective service.

Staff Recruitment

Monaghan County Council is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the provision of a work environment that is safe and supportive, where individuals treat each other with dignity and respect. The Human Resources Department processed applications for various positions during 2013. Vacancies were advertised in the local and/or national press and also on the Council website: www.monaghan.ie.

On the 1st of July 2011, the Government launched a new National Internship Scheme” JobBridge” as part of its jobs initiative programme. Monaghan County Council continues to facilitate Internship Placements under the National Internship Scheme as a Host Organisation and facilitated a total of 23 interns in 2013.

Retirements

In 2013 a total of eighteen employees and one Fire fighter retired from the service (twelve under a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme) of Monaghan County Council. Management and Staff of the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the retirees for their years of dedicated service and commitment to Monaghan County Council.

Industrial Relations

The policy of the Human Resources Department is to foster good industrial relations at corporate level and this has continued during 2013. Every effort to resolve staff issues, at the earliest possible stage, was made in an open and co-operative manner with Trade Unions.

Ongoing restructuring and re-assignment of duties has taken place across the Council to take account of staff reductions and the requirement to maintain critical services. As resources reduce, both human and financial, the Council has prioritised essential services in the assignment of staff and it is considered that increased productivity has been achieved.

Work Life Balance Initiatives

98 staff availed of a number of work life balance schemes during the year 2013

Corporate Services

Corporate Affairs provides support to senior management, the Mayor & elected members and organises council and committee 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.

Report of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government appointed the Local Electoral Boundary Committee Area on 15 November 2012 to review and make recommendations on the division of each council area, excluding Cork City, into local electoral areas, and to make recommendations on the number of members of each council to be assigned to each local electoral area. The Minister fully accepted the recommendations of the report and it was published in May 2013.

The key recommendation for County Monaghan is that there will be three electoral areas with 6 members in each. In making this recommendation the Committee adhered to its brief to, so as far as practicable, design the new electoral areas around the county's existing municipal towns and large urban centres. One electoral area will be based around Monaghan town, the second will comprise Clones and Ballybay. The third electoral area will include Castleblayney and Carrickmacross. The names of each of the town councils are reflected in the titles of the new electoral areas.

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

Higher Education Grants

A new central online application system for student grants has been setup, known as Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI). The new system accepts all new student grant applications, including applications from existing students to change their courses or progress to new courses (be they add-on courses or otherwise).

Monaghan County Council continues to renew grants for students who were awarded grants by the Council prior to 2011 and are continuing on that course. In 2013/2014 Monaghan County Council had 214 renewal grants, 4 were deemed ineligible and 3 are awaiting additional information.

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

In May, Cllr Hugh McElvaney, Mayor, Cllr Noel Keelan, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Paudge Connolly visited Prince Edward Island, Canada for the Annual Settlers Day Celebrations.

The Council visited Miramichi, in Canada in June. The Council was represented on this occasion by The Mayor, Cllr Sean Conlon and Cllr Ciara McPhillips.

Also in June, the Council, in conjunction with Tydavnet Twinning Committee, hosted a Twinning/Gathering event. The event was attended by a delegation of 15 persons from Geel in Belgium.

Expenditure on Twinning amounted to circa €5,800.

Implementation of Scéim Gaeilge

Implementation of the Scéim Gaeilge was monitored on a regular basis during the year. The Council continued to honour commitments given in the Scéim na Gaeilge 2008 – 2011.

Thirty six secondary school students were awarded scholarships to attend four Gaeltacht Colleges in summer 2013.

Finance

Ongoing Developments

During 2012 and 2013 the Project Management Office requested details for a wide range of functions provided by Local Authorities. These requests issued under the Local Government Efficiency Review (LGER) sought details in relation to expenditure, payroll, payments, treasury management, debt management and a wide range of questionnaires regarding Information Technology. Based on the outcome of analysis of the data returned Business Cases have been prepared for the sharing of services across all Local Authorities for Payroll, Accounts Payable, Treasury Management and Transactional Human Resources. Monaghan County Council expects to become part of the National Local Authority shared service for payroll in 2014.

Significant staff resources were invested in the transfer of Water Services to Irish Water. This process commenced early in 2013 and resulted in the take over of Water Services by Irish Water on 1st January 2014. A project team was put in place to complete the data gathering exercise that was required in order to ensure that all areas relevant to the transfer were identified and completed within the timeframe agreed at national level. The County and City Managers Association assisted with the transition by establishing the Water Services Transition Office to assist Local Authorities. Sufficient progress was made in 2013 to enable the transfer take place on 1st January as planned.

Another significant project started in 2013 was the commencement of the preparation for the unification of Monaghan Local Authorities. A project team was established comprising Finance, Information Technology and Town Council Staff to prepare for the unification of Monaghan Local Authorities in June 2014. This involves all aspects of the Financial System including customer accounts, suppliers accounts, housing rents, housing loans, amalgamation of bank accounts and bank reconciliation. The objective is to have all systems unified prior to the Local Elections at the end of May 2014.

Corporate Procurement

Detailed procurement guidelines and procedures were revised and updated in September 2013 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.

Ongoing analysis of procurement is taking place at national level in order to identify further efficiencies that may be available to Local Authorities.

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 2013 the Internal Auditor continued to implement the "Strategic Audit Plan". The Council's Audit Committee continued to operate during 2013 and met on 5 occasions. The Audit Committee comprises of 2 Members of the Council and 3 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. With effect from 1st July 2011 there was a reduction in the payment period to 15 days for valid invoices although penalty interest still only applies to payments not met within 30 days. Monaghan Local Authorities complete a quarterly payment return setting out details of how long it takes to pay suppliers. These quarterly returns are available on the Council's website.

During 2013 Monaghan County Council did not make any payments of prompt payment interest.

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. Revenue Collection and Debt Management are increasingly important in the current financial climate. Outstanding accounts are increasingly difficult to collect and as a result the revenue collectors are spending a greater portion of their time pursuing accounts that are in arrears.

Council Committees

Corporate Policy Group

Cllr Hugh McElvaney, Mayor
Cllr Brian McKenna
Cllr Matt Carthy
Cllr John O'Brien
Cllr Owen Bannigan

Strategic Policy Committees

Housing Policy SPC (10 Members)

Cllr. Matt Carthy, (Chair)
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon,
Cllr Ciara McPhillips,
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 and Development SPC (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)

Environment & Infrastructure SPC (13 Members)

Cllr Brian McKenna (Chair)
Cllr Noel Keelan,
Cllr Pdraig McNally,
Cllr Hugh McElvaney,
Cllr Robbie Gallagher

Cllr Yvonne Newell, (Clones Town Council)
Cllr Gerry Traynor (Ballybay Town Council)
Kathleen Ward (Farming)

Brian McDonald (NFGWS)

Larry McDermott (Community/Voluntary Sector),

Owen Finnegan (Environment Sector)

Seamus Kelly, Dooskey, (Trade Union)

Social Cultural Community & Voluntary (12 Members)

Cllr John O'Brien (Chair)

Cllr Paudge Connolly

Cllr Gary Carville

Cllr Cathy Bennett

Cllr Jackie Crowe

Cllr Pádraigín UíMhurchadha (Monaghan Town Council)

Packie Kelly (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Agnes McGuinness (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Loretta Patlabiene (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Lorna Morgan (Comm. Forum Cultural)

Pat Joe Connolly (Comm Forum Cultural)

Carmel Brennan (Environment Sector)

Seminars & Conferences attended by Members in 2013

Title	Venue	No's Attended
TJK Conferences Ltd	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	7
TGR Seminars	Bunratty Castle, Bunratty, Co Clare	7
ICLRD Eighth Annual Conference	Canal Court, Newry, Co Down.	1
IBIS Tolerance and Diversity in Ireland North and South	UCD Research Boardroom, University College Dublin	3
AMAI Spring Seminar 2013	Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co Wexford.	2
ICBAN Community Planning	Ranfurly House, Arts & Visitor Centre, Dungannon.	1
24 th Colmcille Winter School Conference Will the Euro - - - - The Single European Currency Survive	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchill, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	4
Mid-West Regional Authority Economic Recovery	Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co, Tipperary.	7
ACCC Local Government Reform	Tower Hotel Waterford	3
TGR Seminars Time and Priority Management for Councillors	Grainne Suite, Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co Clare	3
Public Affairs Ireland A New Future for Local Government in Ireland	Westin Hotel, Dublin	1

Alcohol Forum The Power of Local Community in Reducing Harmful Drinking	National Convention Centre, Dublin	1
TJK Conferences Freedom of Information training seminar for Councillors	Woodfield House Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick	1
Celtic Conferences Drug & Alcohol Abuse Seminar	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	5
Superior Training Local Government & Job Creation	The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford	3
Clare Roots Society Gathering the Scattering	Templegate Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare	1
LAMA Spring Seminar	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford	7
Cantillon The Economy & Entrepreneurship	Institute of Technology, Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
Knights & Rebels Team A Decade of Commemorations	Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.	1
The Westport Conference Social & Traditional Media & the Councillor	Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo.	2
11 th National Tourism Conference The Gathering	The Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co Clare.	3
Training Seminar for Councillors Local Government & Consumer	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co Donegal.	1
Dundalk Chamber Tourism Conference	Ballymascanlon House, Dundalk.	2
I.C.L.R.D. Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland	Canal Court Hotel, Newry	2

Laurentic Conference Ireland Northwest – Canada's Gateway to Europe	Inishowen Galway Hotel Buncrana, Co Donegal	1
Training Seminar for Councilors Local Tourism & the Councillor	The Talbot Hotel, Co. Wexford.	3
BGSeminarz Domestic Water & Fluoridation	Silver Springs Moran Hotel, Cork	1
Celtic Conferences Identifying the Tourism Product	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork.	6
Cork County Council Annual Mayors Conference Strategies for Maximizing the positive Impacts of Tourism	Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youghal, Co. Cork	1
Rattoo Heritage Society Annual Environmental & Heritage Conference	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry.	5
Mayor of County Donegal National Conference on Sport & Mental Health	Jacksons Hotel, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.	2
TGR Seminar How Councillors can successfully access funding to help community programmes	Grainne Suite, Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co.Clare.	2
EPA 2013 National Water Event	Galway Bay Hotel, Galway, Co. Galway.	2
Social Farming Cross Borders Living an Ordinary Life	Landmark Hotel. Carrick on Shannon Co. Leitrim	2
European Union European Regional Development Fund East Border Region Conference	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath.	2

Superior Training Services The Councillor & The Environment	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare.	4
Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly “Contribution of Cohesion & Urban Policy to Economic Recovery”	Royal Hosptial. Kilmainham Dublin	3
European Union European Regional Development fund, East Border Region Members Forum Meeting	Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down.	1
Celtic Conferences European Movement Ireland	Celtic Ross Hotel. Rosscarvery, Co Cork.	2
BG Seminar Mental Health & Local Councillors	Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Co Kerry	1
The French Connection The Percy French Festival	Castlecoote House, Co. Roscommon.	1
BG Seminar The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive	Clonree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.	1
Greystones Town 2013 La Touche Legacy Seminar Celebrating 25 Years	Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co Wicklow.	1
Good Energies Alliance Ireland 2030 Vision: The Future of Energy in Ireland	Bush Hotel, Carrick-On-Shannon	1
TGR Seminars Poverty in Ireland today – overview of contemporary facts & figures	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co Clare.	2
LAMA LAMA Autumn Conference	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare.	6
Nuclear Free Local Authorities Future energy needs and risks from radioactive discharges	Council Chamber, Galway City Hall, College Road, Galway	1

Age Action Ireland/ Monaghan County Council Positive Living in the Third Age – Enhancing the Golden Years	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.	1
BGSeminarz Future Energy Needs – Wind Turbines to Nuclear	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny	2
Celtic Conferences Design Guidelines for the Planning & Development of Rural Housing	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	2
TGR Seminars Contemporary Overview of Immigration into Ireland	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty,Co Clare.	1
TGR Seminars Putting People First – Update on Local Government Reform to date	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty,Co Clare.	1
I.C.B.A.N. Launch of ICBAN Strategic Framework	Slieve Russell Hotel, Cavan	7

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

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 '98 Avenue Clones	047 – 74704	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.

Monaghan Town Council



Monaghan Town
Council

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN

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. Paul McGeown (SF)
Leas Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seamus Treanor (NP)
Members: Cllr. Mary Carroll (FG)
Cllr. David Maxwell (FG)
Cllr. Seán Conlon (SF)
Cllr. Robbie Gallagher (FF)
Cllr. Thomas Hagan (NP)
Cllr. Donal Sherry (SF)
Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha (SF)

Town Manager: David Fallon
Town Clerk: Marie Deighan
Revenue Collector: Eilish Clarke
Staff Officers: Sinead McCann and Mary Hughes
Assistant Staff Officer: Lorraine Brogan
Clerical Officers: Aisling Greenan, Edel Fitzsimons, Mary McCoy, Sinead Tibby-Tracey, Donna Toal, Janice Eardley and Eimear McMahon

Town Engineer: Dermot Deeney
Assistant Engineer: Jonathon Condell

Treasurer: Allied Irish Bank, The Diamond, Monaghan
Budget 2013: €6,189,474
Annual Rate on Valuation: 72.00

Housing and Building

Monaghan Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and letting of all Town Council dwellings. Extensive works were carried out in 2013 in an effort to avoid freezing pipes in dwellings.

Housing	Stock Rented 31.12.13	of at	No of Tenant Purchases	Average Rent	Waiting List at 31.12.13	New Tenancies 2013
Monaghan Town Council	346		1	47.50	347	19 (6 of these were existing tenants transferred

Plans to proceed with Phase 3 of the Mullaghmart Remedial Works Scheme are underway at present which will see the refurbishment of 23 dwellings.

Road Transport and Safety

In 2013 the Town Council took in charge An t-Ullghort Housing Estate, Kilnacloy and Housing Estates at Old Park Court and Mullaghcroghery, Clones Road, Monaghan.

The Town Council provided “Parent and Baby” parking in their car parks in 2013.

Free parking was provided by the Town Council in the run-up to Christmas from 12noon each day.

Monaghan Town Council introduced the Monaghan Town Council Street Collection/Begging Bye-Laws 2013 which prohibit begging/street collections in the Upper Mill Street of Monaghan town.

Development Management

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

Part 8 Planning Permission was granted in June 2013 for the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 1 Scheme for approx. 3.4km in length. The works are located adjacent to the townpath of the Ulster Canal (with sections alongside the R189, Rooskey Vale, Old Cross Square, Canal Street, Glen Road, St. Louis Convent Grounds, Canal View area, Oriel Way, Tom Young’s Wood and Killyconnigan Housing Area

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 2013:-

Amount Accrued in 2013

Community Recreation and Amenity Infrastructure -

Footpaths and public lighting -

Amount Paid in 2013

Car Parking 4,038

Community Recreation and Amenity Infrastructure 6,683

TOTAL 10,721

Environmental Services

Monaghan Town Council continued to provide for street cleaning and the Litter Warden service throughout its area. 31 on-the-spot litter fines were issued in 2013.

Monaghan Town increased its marks in the National Tidy Towns Competition from 269 to 277 – General Impression “Green and lush is not what your adjudicator expected but what was enjoyed on the day – that and the wonderful sound of bells striking the hour in the Diamond area. Monaghan Town is striving forward in the National Tidy Towns competition and the town centre presented very well with nice balance of heritage buildings, private residences and commercial premises”.

Monaghan Town Council allocated a grant of €10,000 to the Tidy Towns Committee in 2013 in respect of the works they carry out in the town. Monaghan Town Council was presented with an Award in recognition of the town deemed “Clean to European Norms” in the Irish Business Against Litter Anti-Litter League 2013.

Recreation and Amenity

Local Voluntary groups received a total of €13,000 to encourage and to aid them in the work which they carry out in their areas. Contributions were also made by the Council in 2013 to other local organisations – St. Patricks Day Parade, Taste of Monaghan Festival, Christmas Festival, Harvest Time Blues Festival, Monaghan Town Country Music Festival, Monaghan Sub Aqua Club, Monaghan Immigrant Support Group and the Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project for the towns Halloween Festivities.

Plans were underway in 2013 for a Famine Memorial for the town in memory of those who suffered, died or emigrated during the Great Hunger (1845-1850).

Miscellaneous Services

62% of the Rate Warrants were collected at the close of the financial year.

The Cathaoirleach and the Members of the Council laid a wreath at the Bombing Memorial in Church Square in May 2013 to commemorate those who died as a result of the Monaghan Bombing in 1974.

Monaghan Town Council was listed in the 10th Annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for the project “Garage Theatre”. The Cathaoirleach and the Town Clerk attended an Awards Ceremony in Dublin in November 2013. The Council were commended under the “Sustaining the Arts” Category of the Competition.

In 2013 Monaghan Town Council provided land at Tirkeenan, Monaghan to the Monaghan Community Allotments Limited for the provision of Community Allotments in the area.

A presentation took place in October 2013 to David Fallon, A/County Manager to mark his retirement. Mr. Fallon had spent 9 years in County Monaghan, 3 of these as Manager of Monaghan Town Council.

Civic Receptions

In November 2013 the Town Council hosted a Civic Reception for the Monaghan Harps U-14 Hurling Team who won Division 5 of the All Ireland Feile na nGael Hurling Tournament 2013

Seminars and Conferences attended by Members in 2013.

Title	Location	Number
Association of Municipal Authorities		
Of Ireland Spring Seminar	New Ross	3
Association of Municipal Authorities		
Of Ireland 101 Annual Conference	Inchydoney	2
Local Authorities Members Association	Ennistymon	1
Ace Training – The Effects of Budget 2014 on the Irish Economy	Clonmel	1
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance	Dublin	1
Annual General Meeting		

Expenses paid to Town Council Members in 2013

Total paid to Members in respect of Travelling/Subsistence	€4183
Total paid to Members for attendance at Meetings of Council	18100
Total paid in respect of Chairpersons Allowance	7000
Total paid in respect of salary/remuneration	20805
Total paid in respect of Conference Fees	1200
Total paid in respect of Mobile Phone Allowance	452

Total expenses in respect of travelling abroad 3183

Expenses Paid to Town Councillors

CLLR.	TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE	ANNUAL MEETING ALLOWANCE	CATHAOIRLEACHS ALLOWANCE	Totals	REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE
CARROLL	1303	2036	0	3339	
CONLON	1822	2036	0	3858	4161
GALLAGHER	0	1812	0	1812	0
HAGAN	0	2036	0	2036	0
MAXWELL	3847	2036	0	5883	4161
MCGEOWN	0	2036	3500	5536	0
SHERRY	0	2036	0	2036	4161
TREANOR	0	2036	3500	5536	4001
UI MHURCHADHA	394	2036	0	2430	4161
	7366	18100	7000	32466	20805

Carrickmacross Town Council



**Carrickmacross
Town Council**

Carrickmacross Town Council

Administrative Headquarters: Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross.

Telephone Numbers: 042 9661236/9661618/9663662

Fax Number: 042 9662921

Meara a Bhaile: Cllr. Matt Carthy (SF)

Members:
Cllr. Teresa Carolan (FG)
Cllr. Darcy Lonergan (GP)
Cllr. Pdraig McNally (FF)
Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon (FG)
Cllr. Mark Clarke (FG)
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon (FF)
Cllr. Kristina Jankaitiene (GP)
Cllr. Noel Keelan (SF)

Town Manager: Mr. Paul Clifford
Town Clerk: Ms. Frances Matthews
Staff Officer: Ms. Amanda Murray
Revenue Collector: Ms. Philomena Carroll
Assistant Staff Officer: Ms. Amanda McCarville
Clerical Officers: Ms. Stephanie McEneaney
Ms. Niamh O'Reilly
Area Clerical Officer Ms. Mary Marron
Town Engineer: Mr. Alan Hall
Assistant Engineer: Mr. Joe Durnin
Adopted Budget 2013 € 2,364,396

General Annual Rate of Valuation 2013 65.55

Carrickmacross Town Council holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:30p.m. Meetings are held in the Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Riverside road, Carrickmacross.

Housing and Building

Carrickmacross Town Council, as a housing authority, provides social housing for 96 households and manages over 220 applications for social and affordable accommodation. No allocation was made for the provision of new Local Authority Housing in 2013.

During 2013 the Council provided in its planned maintenance programme a new kitchen and fireplace in one house, 3 new fireplaces in other houses and new fascia and soffit in 13 houses. A level access bathroom conversion was also completed in 1 house. Radon sumps were installed in 3 houses following radon inspections the previous year. Remedial works were carried out in 35 Cloughvalley following the collapse of the chimney and 30, St Macartan's Villas following a kitchen fire. Both these works were part financed by the Council's insurance company.

In 2013 the sum of €37,947.30 was spent under the Building Energy Rating Scheme. This scheme is part funded by the Department. The Council spent this allocation improving the energy ratings of 3 dwellings by upgrading central heating systems and installing attic insulation. The insulation of 24 other houses were also upgraded under this Scheme.

The following houses were upgraded under this programme:-

Nos. 29, 31, 35, 37, 40, 42, 54, 57, 58 & 61 Drummond-Etra; No. 4, Emmet Road,
No. 74 Cloughvalley, Nos. 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 29 & 32 Valley Close.

Road Transportation & Safety

Carrickmacross Town Council is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of urban roads in Carrickmacross. The Department of Transport's allocation for road improvement works in 2013 was €161,300 which was a reduction of over 17% on 2012's allocation. The road works programme for 2013 included the following projects;

- Road resurfacing works at Barford Meats junction, Bridewell Lane, Upper Drummond Etra, Derryolam Court, Cúil Fearná and Monaghan Street.
- Works have also been progressed at the improvements to the R-179 Kingscourt/Ardee road junction with this being completed in early 2014.
- Three number driver feedback signs have been erected.
- The wall at the HSE clinic on Emmett road has been set back allowing for a wider access into the Boy's National School.
- An additional bus shelter was erected on the bus stop on the link road of the By Pass.
- A new disabled parking space was provided outside Scoil Rois.

Development Incentives & Controls

Carrickmacross Town Council received ten planning applications in 2013.

Carrickmacross Town Council's Development Plan 2013 – 2019 was completed and adopted by the members and became effective from the 11th March, 2013.

In accordance with Section 48(14) (b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, under the Development Contributions Scheme, €6,754.00 was accrued in 2013, and a total of €4,835 was received by Carrickmacross Town Council in 2013, Car Parking charges.

Community Grants

Following the May monthly meeting the Council made financial contributions to the various community groups and voluntary organisations throughout the town. The Council made annual contributions to the Chamber of Commerce for the promotion of the town and for Christmas Lighting. In all over €72,500 was allocated by the Council during 2013.

Funding Allocated in Budget 2013 for Specific Projects/Groups

Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Christmas Lighting
Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Promotion of Town
Tourism Contribution
St. Patricks Day Parade/Band Performances
Halloween Festival
Music Festival
Carrickmacross Twinning Association
Tidy Towns Projects

Carrickmacross / Carhaix Town Twinning

In 1993, Carrickmacross set up a twinning committee which resulted in the town twinning with Carhaix, Brittany, France. Over the years the bond has strengthened. Hoela Barbadette, a harpist and Kevin Ruellan who plays clarinet and bombard and are both teachers in the Ecole de Musique, Carhaix arrived in Carrickmacross on Saturday, March 23rd, 2013 to join local traditional Irish musicians for the Feile Patrick Byrne annual celebration. The mixture of Irish and Breton music went down a treat in Corduff Community Centre on Saturday night and again in the Shirley Arms Hotel on Sunday afternoon. Hoela and Kevin were here to make plans to take a group of their music students to Carrickmacross for the 2014 Feile Patrick Byrne.

On the 26th of May the Council facilitated a dawn chorus in association with the Twinning Committee in Carrickmacross and Carhaix. Skype was used to link the two towns simultaneously while an hour of singing and music took place from 8a.m. on a beautiful Sunday morning. Coffee and croissants were then served to all those who took part.

Recreation and Amenity

Two additional outdoor fitness areas have been completed in 2013, one on the Convent Lands and the other on the Convent Avenue adjacent the Civic Offices. These works have been part funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Sports Capital Programme. The total amount of grant allocated was €14,000 which was received in early 2014.

The Council has also sought funding for an upgrade of the Cloughvalley Play Park which will include installation of new pieces of equipment, restoration of existing pieces, new playing surface and skatepark.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 2013 St. Patrick's Day Parade was yet another success, owing to the numerous bands and organisations which took part. As normal, the day kicked off with the Flag Raising Ceremony at the Courthouse, and was accompanied by the music of the Steadfast Brass Band. At 3 o'clock, a colourful line up of over 50 entrants marched proudly from the Dundalk Road onto Main Street, where they were greeted by a huge crowd of spectators. 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 were awarded on the day to the Corduff Pipers for the “Best Band”, followed closely by runner up Stedfast Brass Band. Corduff/Raferagh Community Centre scooped “Best Float” with their “Gathering” themed float, while St. Joseph’s Boys National School walked away with second prize dressed as individual cards from a deck. 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 2013.

Miscellaneous

The May monthly meeting was followed by a reception for the launch of the new Carrickmacross webcam by the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce.

Presentations

Achievement presentations were made to each of the following during 2013:-

Carrickmacross Boxing Club

Ms. Leanne McAree-Murphy winner of a silver medal in the women’s senior elite championships.

Carrickmacross Coarse Angling club

Mr. Jamie Edwards’s winner of a gold medal and Mr. Lee Harris who won a bronze medal in the All Ireland Junior category and Ms. Emma McMahon won a gold medal for the All Ireland Ladies category.

Carrick Emmet Minor Team

Carrickmacross Emmet’s on winning the Minor Championship and the Minor League double.

Tidy Towns Success

In 2013 Carrickmacross received a gold medal in the Tidy Towns Competition and was placed second in the County Awards. Carrickmacross Town Council continues to support the Tidy’s Towns Committee and the Chamber of Commerce through a number of various projects.

Other Events

In June 2013 the Official opening of Carrickmacross Civic Offices took place. Minister for Local Government and Reform Phil Hogan officiate at same. Council members and staff past and present together with delegates from local community groups and associations were in attendance to mark this wonderful occasion.

A number of exhibitions took place during the year, they included Carrickmacross Lace exhibition, exhibition by Monaghan County Museum, Art & Crafts exhibition by local women’s group.

Seminars & Conferences attended by Carrickmacross Councillors in 2013

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>
New Regional Governance in Ireland	Perspectives and Challenges	2
Mid-West Regional	Annual Conference	1
General Council of County Councils	Annual Conference	2
Carlow Tourism	11 th National Tourism Conference	3
Bluestack Communication	Local Government Reform Conference	1
Ace Training	Role of Local Authorities in Promoting Sport, Recreation and Literature	2
Sustainable Tourism Seminar	Sustainable Energy	3
Wexford County Council	Training Seminar for Councillors	3
LAMA	LAMA Autumn Seminar	1
BG Seminarz	Rural Crime Prevention and Detection	1
Ace Training	Sports & Planning Conference	1

Details of Members Expenses for 2013 are as follows:-

Councillor	Travel Subsistence (Meetings, Conferences) Twinning Subsistence	& Annual Allowance	Mayor's Allowance	TOTAL	Representational Allowance (Gross – subject to PAYE)
Darcy Lonergan	€ 504.01	€ 2,036.00	€ 1,750.00	€ 4,290.01	€ 4,141.00
Teresa Carolan	€ 0.0	€ 2,036.00	€ 0.00	€ 2,036.00	€ 4,141.00
Mark Clarke	€ 3,349.74	€ 1,445.56	€ 0.00	€ 4,795.30	€ 4,141.00
Kristina Jankaitiene	€ 137.91	€ 2,036.00	€ 0.00	€ 2,173.91	€ 4,141.00
Matt Carthy	€ 0.00	€ 2,036.00	€ 1,750.00	€ 3,786.00	-
Noel Keelan	€ 935.89	€ 2,036.00	€ 0.00	€ 2,971.89	-
Padraig McNally	€ 2,505.08	€ 2,036.00	€ 0.00	€ 4,541.08	-
P.J. O'Hanlon	€ 0.00	€ 2,036.00	€ 0.00	€ 2,036.00	-
Mary Kerr Conlon	€ 1,734.12	€ 2,036.00	€ 0.00	€ 3,770.12	€ 4,141.00
Totals	€ 9,166.75	€ 17,733.56	€ 3,500.00	€ 30,400.31	€ 20,705.00

Payments to Elected Members - Summary

Total Paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	€ 9,166.75
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	€ 17,733.56
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	€ 3,500.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	€ 20,705.00

Castleblayney Town Council



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 2013/2014:	Cllr. Gary Carville (FG)
Members:	Cllr. Brendan Hughes (FF) Cllr. Jackie Crowe (SF) Joe Brennan (Ind) Cllr. David Funcheon (FF) Cllr. Aidan Campbell (FG) Cllr. Peter Grimes (SF) Cllr. Sean Mc Cooley (FF) Cllr. James Cunningham (SF)
Town Manager:	Paul Clifford
Town Engineer:	Declan Mc Kernan
Town Clerk:	Jerome Savage
Staff Officer:	Alison Mackle
Assistant Staff Officer:	Ann Burke.
Clerical Officers:	Mary Ward, Deirdre Power
Revenue Collector:	Pamela Burke
Town & Area Foreman:	Colm Lynch
Treasurer:	A.I.B., Main Street, Castleblayney
Commercial Valuation: € 15,150 Annual Rate in Valuation: 56.00	

Monthly meetings of the Town Council have been held in the Castleblayney Enterprise Centre at 7.00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Noteworthy Events during the year:

- Opening of Muckno Play Parks
- Presentation made to Castleblayney Faughs on winning the County Minor Championship
- Presentation and reception for both the Monaghan Senior Men and Senior Ladies Football teams for winning the Ulster Final
- Visit of French Delegation to Castleblayney in May and in October
- Heritage Day – 400 years since the first Market Day in Sept 2013
- Passing of Kathleen O'Connor former member of Castleblayney Town Council Staff.
- Retirement of David Fallon Town Manager and Acting Co Manager

Housing and Building:

The Town Council housing stock was reduced by one following a sale to a tenant. It consisted of 107 rented dwellings at the end of 2013. BER works involving extensive insulation improvements was carried out on 34 properties to bring properties up to a high BER standard. This was subsidised almost 100% by the Department. Five dwellings remain subject to the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

No houses were purchased in 2013.

Disabled persons remedial works were carried on three dwellings in 2013 which included fitting low level access showers and hand rails.

In July 2013 building started on 20 Castleblayney Community Care Homes at Drumillard on lands bought from the Council.

Road Transportation and Safety

A total of €128,692 was spent on road maintenance with funding of €115,000 from the National Roads Authority.

An agreement was in 2013 reached with the owner of ground subject to the Mc Grath road Compulsory Purchase Order. There are no longer any outstanding financial issues relating the Mc Grath road project.

Three possible roads to the North East of the town already confirmed as beneficial to the needs of the town's future, known as roads 2a and 2b servicing the Industrial Park and, outside of the town council boundary, the N2 (Old) to R181 link road remain on hold as funding is not available.

Almost €14,000 was spent on footpaths in Drumillard from development levies.

Smarter Travel:

On the basis of a study of the town's pedestrian and cycling facilities as funded by the DoE , a submission was made for almost €1million grant aid for improvement works to make walking and cycling a safer and more enjoyable experience for all, but particularly the elderly and young families. The submission was supported by a study/survey of the needs of the elderly in the town as enabled by Age Friendly Alliance.

The outcome of the smarter travel submission is awaited.

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

Planning applications received in 2013 saw an increase to 17 from 4 in 2011

The year 2013 marked the 400th anniversary of the first fair in the town and the council was quick to support same with a traditional fair day and an information night on historical and cultural aspects of the town through the intervening years, delivered by the Mayor Gary Carville.

The town's first Christmas market on the 8th December was also supported by the council.

Environmental Protection

Castleblayney Town Council provides the street cleaning service of the main street.

Much of the remaining street cleaning is now carried out by Monaghan Co Council directly as all staff have been transferred from Castleblayney Town Council. Invoicing to Monaghan Co Co for this service is now minimal.

In 2013 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 the following marks:

Year	Number
2013	262
2012	256
2011	244

The Council continues to follow up on illegal dumping. The new CCTV camera resulted in a significant increase in Litter fine payments in 2013 – see following table;

Year	Litter Fines
2012	650
2013	3,388
Total	4,123

The novel doggie pooper scooper bags made national headlines during the year with take up by the public spiking as a result.

Recreation & Amenity

The council supported the social life of the town by through the following payments.

Fund	Paid
------	------

Christmas Lights (Energy Bills)	2,625
Tourism contribution Monaghan Co Co	1,270
Payments Tidy Towns	7,083
Representational Functions & Promotion of Local In	4,076
Contributions to Other Bodies	16,200
Special Awards and presentations fund.	4,320
Total Paid:	35,575

From the above specific community Groups /special events were funded as follows:

Community Group/ Event	Amount
Castleblayney Chamber of Commerce	9,000
Muckno Mania Summer Festival	2,500
Iontas Centre	2,500
IDFPA European Weightlifting Competition	1,000
County Monaghan Pipe Band Championship	100
Castleblayney Drama Festival	100
Castleblayney Care Association	300
Irish Bog Snorkelling	350
Castleblayney Show Ltd	550

The town's parks cost almost €9,000 to maintain. Costs are significantly down

The agreement with Blayney Rovers to lease a part of the Drumillard park to the club to support future ground development helped secure lotto funding of €60,000. Planning permission has been sought for the ground works.

The Council supplied allotments site near Beech Drive, Drumillard continues to impress with good take up and extensive usage.

Playgrounds - Childrens & Adventure

Two new playgrounds in the Muckno Estate opened in September. Funding for this project is through Interreg supported by CASA in conjunction with Monaghan County Council Tourism section.

In September, relations of the Hope Family visited the Civic Offices where the deputy Mayor Cllr Brendan Hughes presented Jill Carter and her daughter Lilian with a handmade town crest.

Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2013.

Month	Seminar\Conference	Location	No.Attended
February	AMAI	New Ross	2
September	AMAI	Clonakilty	1
September	IPB	Dublin	1

Councillor	Travel & Subsistence Allowance	Annual Meeting Allowance	Cathaoirleach's Allowance	Total	Representational Allowance
Hughes	€540	€1,843	€0	€2,383	€4,181
Carville	€1,338	€1,936	€860	€4,134	€0
Crowe	€0	€2,036	€0	€2,466	€0
Cunningham	€0	€1,843	€0	€1,843	€4,181
Brennan	€0	€1,892	€0	€1,892	€4,181
McCooley	€0	€1,885	€0	€1,885	€4,181
Campbell	€0	€1,943	€860	€2,083	€4,181
Grimes	€0	€1,943	€0	€1,943	€4,181
Funcheon	€0	€1,301	€0	€1,301	€4,181
Total	€2,308	€16,622	€1,720	€20,650	€29,267

Clones Town Council



Administrative Headquarters: Monaghan Street, Clones.

Telephone No. 047 51018 / 51814

Fax No. 047 52006

Website www.clonestown.com

E-mail clerk@clonestc.ie

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Peter McAleer (NP)

Leas Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Aidan Sheerin (SF)

Members: Cllr. Peter Mulligan (FG)
Cllr. Pat Treanor (SF)

Cllr. Anna Rooney (FF) Resigned in Nov 2013

Cllr. Marcella Leonard (SF)

Cllr. Ross Mealiff (NP)

Cllr. Deirdre Kelly (FF)

Cllr. Yvonne Newell (FG)

Cllr. Martina Hurson (FF) co-opted in Dec 2013

Director of Services	Adge King
Town Clerk.	Geraldine Killen
Assistant Staff Officer	Carmel Murphy
Clerical Officer	Eileen Fitzpatrick
Town Engineer	John McKernan
Assistant Engineer	Mark Hall
Town Foreman	Pat Brady

Net Effective Valuation €7,492

General Rate on Valuation 59.90

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

Housing and Building Programme

Clones Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and letting of all Town Council dwellings. The Council's housing stock consists of 91 rented houses and all houses were let at the end of 2013. During

the year, refurbishment works were carried out to 27 dwellings to improve energy efficiency under the BER scheme and Mobility Works were carried out to 5 dwellings. There are also 5 houses purchased by way of annuity under the tenant purchase scheme.

Stock of Rented at 31/12/12	No of Tenant Purchases	Average Rent	Waiting List at 31/12/13	New Tenancies 2013
91	5	€47.00	76	3

Road Transportation and Safety

The Council continued its policy in 2012 of upgrading roads, footpaths and public lighting in the town. These improvements were carried out with the assistance of a Block Grant totalling €115,000 from the National Roads Authority and a contribution of €8,000 from the Council's own resources.

Improvement works were carried out at the Fermanagh Street Carpark which included new surface dressing and re-lining and also the replacement of footpaths at various areas in the town

Development Incentives and Control

6 Planning applications were received in year 2013

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 2013

Amount Accrued in 2013	
Footpaths & Public Lighting	Nil
Recreation & Amenity	Nil
Amount Received in 2013	
Footpaths & Public Lighting	Nil
Recreation & Amenity	Nil
Car Parking	€ 5,000
Amount spent in 2013	
Footpaths & Public Lighting	€ 6,681.93
Drainage	€1,022.46

Environmental Protection

Clones Town Council continued to provide street cleaning services 7 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.

Clones Tidy Towns achieved 258 marks in 2013 (an increase of 7marks over 2012). The council provided funding of €2,000 to the Tidy Town Committee

Clones Forum & the Tidy Towns Committee with assistance from Clones Town Council held a very successful Litter Pick Tea Party on the 11th April 2013. . This was followed by the arrival of the Sam Maguire Cup to the event.

Recreation & Amenity

Contributions to Community Groups

Financial contributions and assistance was given by the Council in 2012 to the following organisations – St. Patricks Day Parade, Canal Capers Festival, Irish Water Safety and Largy College (Gaeltacht Scholarship)

The first phase of the Barry McGuigan Park development was completed in 2013 with the assistance of funding from Cavan Monaghan Leader of €51,236.65. The development included the provision of a biodiversity area, seating, lighting, signage and a small plaza at the entrance to the park.

Finance

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

Seminars and Conferences attended by Members in 2013

Title	Location	Number of Members
AMAI Spring Seminar	New Ross, Wexford	2
AMAI Conference	Clonakilty, Cork	2
Irish Public Bodies AGM	Dublin	1

Details of Members Expenses for 2013 are as follows:-

Councillor	Travel & Subsistence	Annual Meeting Allowance	Cathaoirleach's Allowance	Total	Representational Allowance
Mulligan	1,381.45	€1,018.00	0	€3,357.31	€4161.00
Mealiff	1,381.45	€1,335.49	0	€2,716.94	€4161.00
Kelly	0.00	€1,975.86	0	€1,975.86	€4161.00
Newell	0.00	€1,975.86	0	€1,975.86	€4161.00
Sheerin	0.00	€1,975.86	2,000	€3,975.86	€4161.00
McAleer	0.00	€1,97.86	2,000	€3,975.86	€4161.00
Treanor Also Co Council	0.00	€2036.00	0	€2,036.000	0
Leonard	0.00	1,975.86	0	1,975.86	3,857.54
Rooney	0.00	0.00	0	1289	€3815.92
Totals	€2,762.90	€14,268.79	€4,000	€21,989.55	€32,639.46

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 Therese Hamilton FF
Deputy Mayor:	Cllr Paul Carragher FG
Members:	Carragher, Paul FG Duffy, Elizabeth FG Duffy, Gene SF Gilmour, Michael FG Hamilton, Therese FF McGinnity, Mary FG O’Friel, Cathal FF Smyth, Michael 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.



Joint Policing Committee

The Joint Policing Committee continued to meet during the year. Meetings were well attended. Sub Committees continued to work under the themes 'Traffic + Speeding' 'Underage Drinking' 'Drugs Awareness' and dealt with all the issues arising under each theme. Other local policing issues were dealt with as they arose.

Contributions to Groups & Events

Financial contributions and assistance was given by the Council in 2013 to the following organisations and events – The Gathering of the Boats (The Gathering 2013); SOSAD – Support Our Sons And Daughters; reception in conjunction with The Gathering of the Boats for visitors from twinned town in Germany and the commemorative plaques project.

Visitors to the Council Meetings

A number of groups / representatives were invited to the council meetings during the year as follows:

- Mr Pat Cusack, Ms Julie Corcoran and Ms Breege McCabe attended the meeting on behalf of SOSAD Ireland. Mr Cusack gave an introduction on how and why the organisation was set up, where their offices were situated, some statistics on the rate of suicide incidents, along with a detailed overview of the work of the voluntary organization which included 24 hour support being available for anyone with suicidal thoughts; awareness raising; breaking the stigma surrounding suicide; providing support and direction to those who may be approached by someone feeling suicidal, and to provide support and direction for those bereaved by suicide
- Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce – invited to relay their experiences in setting up their Chamber in an effort to help support the setting up of a Chamber of Commerce in Ballybay

- Mr David Fallon, Monaghan County Manager and Mr John McEnteggart; CEO County Enterprise Board - to discuss the possibility of identifying businesses / agencies to locate in the town
- Public meeting held in June 6th June @ 7.30pm in the Riverdale Hotel. Mr John McEnteggart CEO of the County Enterprise Fund supported by Mr Alan McAdam from MCA Consulting facilitated a 'think tank' session to explore the possibility of developing businesses to locate in the town.

Receptions

- Civic Reception held in January to acknowledge Ballybay Pearse Brothers GAA Team on becoming Monaghan Senior Champions 2012
- Open air reception as part of Monaghan County GAA Senior Team's Tour of the county following their success on becoming Ulster Champions 2013.

Ongoing Maintenance and upkeep of the town

The Area Engineer continued to address ongoing maintenance issues raised by members at monthly meetings along with undertaking a programme of work for the year. Major items of work included in the Programme of Works for 2013 included Town Park Maintenance, Surface Drainage and the provision of a hard surfaced playing area in park.

Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2013

AMAI Annual Spring Seminar – New Ross - Cllr M McGinnity and Cllr C O'Friel
 AMAI Annual Conference - Clonakilty – Cllr C O'Friel and Cllr M McGinnity

Details of Members Expenses for 2013 are as follows:-

Councillor	Travel & Subsistence	Annual Meetings Allowance	Cathaoirleach's Allowance	Total	Representational Allowance
Traynor	0	€1,018		€1,018.00	€0
Gilmore	0	€1,018		€1,018.00	€0
McGinnity	€1,244.46	€743		€1,987.60	€0
O'Friel	€1,435.50	€1,018		€2,453.50	€0
Duffy	0	€1,018		€1,018.00	€0
Hamilton	0	€1,018	€280.00	€1,298.00	€0
Smyth	0	€1,018		€1,018.00	€0
Carragher	0	€1,018		€1,018.00	€0
Duffy	0	€743		€743.14	€0
Totals	€2,679.96	€8,612.28	€280.00	€11,572.24	€0.00

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Financial Statement 2013

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

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2013 accounted for a turnover of in excess of €80 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €21,477,674 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

	2013 Expenditure	2013 Income	2013 Net cost
Housing & Building	2,685,078	2,814,020	128,942
Roads Transportation & Safety	7,411,406	7,580,092	168,686
Water Services	5,862,970	4,410,619	(1,452,351)
Development Management	911,541	1,496,769	585,228
Environmental Services	5,278	245,975	240,697
Recreation & Amenity	4,462,935	3,612,470	(850,465)
Miscellaneous Services	138,466	63,603	(74,863)
Total Expenditure / Income	21,477,674	20,223,548	(1,254,126)

	2012	2013
Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1	2,715,721	1,700,256
Expenditure	17,769,140	21,477,674
Income	16,423,224	20,223,548
Transfers to Revenue	(239,643)	(30,423)
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	570,094	1,755,760
Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31	1,700,256	2,171,467

Revenue Account

Activity by Division

	2013 Expenditure	2013 Income	2013 Net cost
Housing & Building	6,026,633	5,297,625	(729,008)
Roads Transportation & Safety	16,957,351	12,319,942	(4,637,409)
Water Services	10,115,458	7,413,382	(2,702,076)
Development Management	6,701,014	3,191,201	(3,509,813)
Environmental Services	7,038,671	4,143,381	(2,895,290)
Recreation & Amenity	3,123,131	190,975	(2,932,156)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,030,369	1,701,332	(329,037)
Miscellaneous Services	7,055,611	4,041,228	(3,014,383)
Total Expenditure / Income	59,048,238	38,299,066	(20,749,172)

Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund

(20,749,172)

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Rates	6,597,586
Local Government Fund	11,968,784
County Charge	2,020,182
Pension Related Deduction	1,066,169
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	903,549
Transfer to Reserves	(2,085,993)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January	(473,567)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December	(1,656,011)

Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Account 2013

Income

State Grants and Subsidies	22,052,299	36.8%
Contributions from other Local Auths.	5,399,644	9.0%
Goods and Services	10,847,124	18.1%
Local Government Fund	11,968,784	20.0%
Pension Related Deduction	1,066,169	1.8%
Rates	6,597,586	11.0%
County Charge	2,020,182	3.4%
Total Income	59,951,788	100.0%

Expenditure

Payroll Expenses	25,171,441	42.6%
Operational Expenses	27,407,330	46.4%
Administration Expenses	2,379,830	4.0%
Establishment Expenses	909,917	1.5%
Financial Expenses	2,344,416	4.0%
Miscellaneous	835,305	1.4%
Total Expenditure	59,048,239	100.0%

Surplus for Year before Transfers **903,549**

Transfers to Reserves (2,085,993)

Overall Deficit for Year **(1,182,444)**

General Reserve at 1st January **(473,567)**

General Reserve at 31st December **(1,656,011)**