

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2014 at 11.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr S. Conlon, Mayor.

**Present:** Cllrs Bennett, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. D. Brannigan, A/Chief Fire Officer, Mr. N. O'Connor, Environmental Education Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies** Cllr Bannigan, Carthy, Carville and O'Brien

At the outset, Cllr Maxwell proposed a vote of good wishes for a speedy return to good health of Cllr Murray's wife Anne who is currently hospitalised. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Conlon and unanimously agreed.

The Mayor stated that he was proceeding to deal with the items remaining on the agenda for the April Council meeting.

**9. To receive progress report on the implementation of the Litter Management Plan:**

Mr. N. O'Connor, Environment Education Officer reported on the implementation of the Litter Management Plan. He outlined the following:

- €730,000 spent on litter related activities in 2013.
- 162 litter complaint investigations completed.
- 152 on the spot litter fines issued.
- 900 tonnes of litter from streets and roads collected and landfilled
- 44 schools issued with Green Flags – 6000 pupils involved in the Green Schools Programme.
- 73 Autumn and Spring Clean events.
- 17 litter black spots eliminated
- 2 events for the Gum Litter Taskforce.
- €28,000 spent on Litter Awareness projects.

The Mayor and members commended the activities of the Council's Environment Section in relation to litter management.

A lengthy debate followed the presentation to which a number of members contributed. Members expressed concern at the amount of money that was spent on litter related activities – monies that could be better spent on other Council services. They also expressed concern at the vast amount of litter that had been collected from

the town streets and from along the roads in the county. They suggested that the provision of additional mobile CCTV cameras would be money well spent. The engagement of private contractors to detect littering offences was also proposed.

Mr. O'Connor replied to queries and comments from the members. He stated that a Task Force is being developed at national level to examine serious instances of illegal dumping.

Mr. O'Connor thanked the Mayor and members for their co-operation and assistance over the last five years.

#### **10. To receive update on the Building Control Management System.**

Mr. D. Brannigan, Acting Chief Fire Officer advised the members that the new Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 9 of 2014) came into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014. He explained that the Owner of any building works is now obliged during the design stage of the building works to appoint a registered architect, chartered engineer or registered building surveyor to design the building works and certify compliance of the design in accordance with the Regulations. The Owner then appoints an Assigned Certifier (with similar competencies as the designer) to inspect the building works, to coordinate the inspection work of others and to certify that the building works are in compliance with the Regulations.

Mr. Brannigan clarified that while the works may be carried out by self-build, at present a named person must be identified as the builder and confirm that he is competent to undertake and to carry out the building works in accordance with the plans, calculations, specifications, ancillary certificates and particulars listed in the commencement notice, that he will co-operate with the Assigned Certifier and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all works carried out are certified in accordance with the Regulations.

Anyone commencing building work should now use the new electronic Building Control Management System (BCMS) which is now available online at [www.localgov.ie](http://www.localgov.ie). Alternatively, a Commencement Notice may be submitted in paper form at an additional administration fee. Having provided the Building Control Authority with the appropriate certificates, design & inspection documents and drawings at both commencement and completion stages of the works, the building will be then placed on a public register.

Mr. Brannigan stated that between January and February 2014 there was 93 Commencement Notices applications processed, the equivalent of 66% for the entire year of 2013.

Following his presentation, Mr. Brannigan responded to queries from the members.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Brannigan for an informative presentation.

**15. Business submitted by County Manager:**

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager referred to the briefing document in relation to the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in Monaghan. He stated that the new LEO had officially come into force on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April and that this was a very important event for the Council. All of the staff in the LEO are now employees of the Council and Mr. John McEntegart, Head of Monaghan LEO would report directly to him as Manager. He advised the members that there was great expertise in the office and there are great opportunities for small businesses. He pointed out that of the 61,000 jobs created in Ireland over the past year that circa 40,000 of these were created through the SME's, most of which had been in existence for less than five years. He said it was important that business people talked to the staff in the LEO and availed of the expertise that was available. The emphasis would be on creating employment and it was important that the business people are aware of the myriad of supports that are available to them.

Mr. Cummins then responded to comments from the Members and again urged the business people in the county to make contact with the LEO.

The meeting then concluded – the remaining business on the agenda to be carried forward to the May Council meeting.