

**Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr G Carville, Mayor

**Present:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Maxwell, Martin, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, P. McNally, J. O'Brien and Treanor.

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Drew Hurley and Mr Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Mr Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer, Ms. Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Ms Michelle Murphy, Local Sports Partnership Co-ordinator, Ms Daphne Purdy, Cross Border Walks Development Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

At the outset, the Mayor extended a vote of congratulations on behalf of the Members to Cllr Brenda McAnespie and her husband Vincent on the birth of their son, Darren Anthony.

The Mayor also extended condolences on behalf of the Members to Mr Paddy Johnson, former Senior Engineer with Monaghan County Council on the death of his wife Bridget Johnson, R.I.P.

The County Manager associated himself and the staff with both expressions.

**Suspension of Standing Orders:**

The Mayor advised that in accordance with Standing Order 25 he had received the following notice:

- (1) In the names of Cllrs Bannigan, Keenan, Carville, McElvaney, Maxwell, P. McKenna and Humphreys.

***“Under Standing Order 25 we wish to propose the suspension of standing orders in order to discuss the recent developments in the Eirgrid proposal to build a 400 Kv overhead power line through Co. Monaghan”.***

The Mayor advised that he had received five notices of Urgent Business in relation to the following matters:

- (i) Site for proposed regional hospital for the North East region (3 notices)
- (ii) Undocumented Irish in America
- (iii) Release of kidnapped green party candidate - Ingrid Betancourt

**On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was unanimously agreed to deal with item 1.**

### **Item 1 - Proposed North/South Interconnector Power line:**

In moving the motion, Cllr Bannigan stated that Monaghan County Council had forwarded numerous items of correspondence and questions to EirGrid regarding the proposed North/South Interconnector and to date EirGrid had refused to directly answer these queries. This Council had also called for the appointment of an independent consultant, however the appointment of EcoFys/Golder Associates, who have previously worked for both Eirgrid and the Government, showed this is not the case.

A lengthy debate followed to which a number of members contributed. The following motions were passed during the course of the debate:

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that this Council seek a meeting with the consultants Eco Fys/Golden Associates to discuss the proposed 400 kv overhead power line.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that this Council calls on the Government and Eirgrid to immediately publish the exact location of the 650 km of 400 kv power lines identified in the All Ireland Grid Study.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed*

*“That this Council begin the process of varying the County Development Plan to include a policy stating that:*

*No high density overhead power lines in excess of 220 kv be located within 100 m of any dwellinghouse, school, sports field, play-ground or place of work.*

The County Manager advised that the proposed change in policy may contravene Government Policy.

Cllr Bannigan stated that the DoEHLG had no specific guidelines in relation to distance of buildings from power lines.

**A roll call vote on Cllr Bannigan’s proposal resulted as follows:**

**For:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, McNally, O’Brien and Treanor. **Total 19**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

**Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded**

*“That Monaghan County Council having already agreed that the Strategic Infrastructure Act must be repealed now calls on all Oireachtas Members in the counties affected by the proposed so called ‘North South Interconnector’ to*

*support our call and that we write to each requesting their support for the repeal of this anti-democratic legislation as a matter of urgency”.*

Cllr B McKenna proposed an addendum which was seconded by Cllr Treanor

*“ That we write to all the T.D’s and Senators of the counties directly affected by the Eirgrid proposed transmission lines requesting that they jointly or individually initiate the necessary wording to bring forward legislation that will seek and ensure the repeal of the Strategic Infrastructure Act.*

A roll call vote on Cllr B. McKenna’s addendum resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, McNally, O’Brien and Treanor. **Total 19**

**The Mayor declared the addendum carried. The substantive motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously**

The Members complimented the work of the North East Pylon Pressure Group and said the presentation they had received from this group had been very informative.

*On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Kieran, it was agreed that an FOI request be submitted to the Department of Energy seeking all information relating to the tendering process and the Terms of Reference that were applied in the appointment of Consultants to undertake the independent study on the comparative merits of overhead electricity transmission lines versus underground cables.*

### **Urgent Business Items 2, 3 and 5 – Location of new Regional Hospital:**

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed to take Urgent Business Items no 2, 3 and 5 relating to the proposed Regional Hospital for the North East.

- (2) In the names of Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna and Treanor

*“ In view of the disclosure last week that Health Partnership, the firm of consultants appointed by the HSE to carry out the location study for the new Regional Hospital in the North East, had recommended Navan, Co. Meath as the preferred location, that this Council conveys to the HSE, in the strongest possible terms, its rejection of this recommendation. We propose that this Council write to the C.E.O of the HSE, Professor Brendan Drumm, calling on him to out rightly reject the recommendation contained in the Health Partnership report as it in no way meets the need of the people of Co. Monaghan for safe and speedy access to accident and emergency and the full gambit of acute hospital services that such a facility is expected to provide.*

- (3) In the names of Cllrs McElvaney, Humphreys, P. McKenna, Maxwell, Keenan, Bannigan and Carville.

***“That the Council discuss recent reports concerning the HSE and the siting of the proposed Regional Hospital”***

- (5) In the names of Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally, O’Brien and Kieran:

***“That Monaghan County Council express its disappointment at the recommendation from the Consultants regarding the proposed location of the new regional hospital for the North East Region in Navan, and this Council immediately correspond with the Board of the H.S.E., calling on them to reject their findings”.***

In moving the motion Cllr B. McKenna stated that the HSE had commissioned a study on the location of a new regional hospital and it had been disclosed in the media that Navan had been chosen by the Consultants as the preferred location. Navan does not meet the criteria in relation to the “Golden Hour”, whereby a patient had to be in reach of a hospital within sixty minutes of a heart attack or other medical emergency. Navan is an hour and a half from North Monaghan and the road structure is not satisfactory. It is only a half hour drive from Dublin city and it cannot be considered to be centrally located for the North East Region. The HSE are continuing to remove acute services from hospitals and they had stated in the past that no service would be taken away until a better service has been put in place. He urged the HSE to revisit the decision to locate the regional hospital in Navan. Cllr Conlon seconded the proposal and concurred with the sentiments expressed by Cllr McKenna.

Cllrs McElvaney, Gallagher, McNally, Humphreys, Martin and the Mayor also spoke to the debate and condemned the decision to locate the regional hospital in Navan, a decision which lacks any real concern for the health and safety of the people of County Monaghan.

***On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to write again to the Oireachtas Members asking them to arrange a meeting with a Professor Drumm and a delegation from Monaghan County Council to discuss the ongoing situation at Monaghan General Hospital.***

#### **Urgent Business Item 4 – Undocumented Irish in America:**

- (4) Notice in the names of Cllrs Conlon, Treanor, B. McKenna, Carthy, Keelan and Crowe:

***“With the Taoiseach’s impending visit to the United States to address the joint houses of Congress, we call on his office to meet with representatives of the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform and give endorsement to the campaign that will create a path for the 40,000 undocumented Irish towards U.S. citizenship”***

**On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to take Urgent Business Item number 4.**

In proposing the motion Cllr Conlon requested permission to move Notice of Motion 18(i) at this time. This was agreed.

*Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Treanor seconded*

***“ That Monaghan County Council supports the work of the organisation representing the undocumented in the USA, the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform in their efforts to enhance visa arrangements between that country and Ireland and to assist those Irish people seeking a path to US citizenship ”***

Cllr Conlon said this issue was time sensitive as the Taoiseach will address the American Houses of Congress in the immediate future. A system needs to be put in place for the undocumented Irish in America and the Irish Government needs to be pro-active in its approach. We are not requesting a general amnesty but a similar application system to the “Walsh” Visa during the 80’s which was based on a lottery system. The undocumented, if arrested by the police, are shackled and put in prison and then deported even if they have established roots in the country.

Both motions were put to the meeting and agreed. It was also agreed to circulate this proposal to all local authorities.

**Urgent Business Item 6 – Release of Columbian Green Party Presidential Candidate:**

- (6) Notice in the names of Cllr Martin, O’Brien, Coyle, McElvaney, Bannigan and McNally

***“That this Council calls for the immediate release of Columbian Green Party Presidential Candidate Ingrid Betancourt who was kidnapped and has been held hostage since 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2002 and all other hostages and out rightly condemn the activities of Columbian guerrilla movement FARC and use all possible influence to seek the release of all hostages”***

On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed to take Urgent Business Item 6.

Cllr Martin stated that the Columbian Green Party Presidential Candidate Ingrid Betancourt had been held hostage by the FARC Guerrilla Group since 2002. She is currently in very poor health and in need of urgent medical attention. He called on the FARC Guerrilla Group to immediately release Ingrid Betancourt and all the other hostages and asked that this proposal be forwarded on to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

*Cllr Treanor proposed an amendment which was seconded by Cllr Carthy*

*“ That we call on the Columbian Government to enter inclusive dialogue with the FARC Group to resolve these difficulties “*”

A roll call vote on Cllr Treanor’s amendment resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, McNally, O’Brien and Treanor. **Total 19**

The Mayor declared the amendment carried. The substantive motion was put to a vote which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, McNally, O’Brien and Treanor. **Total 19**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

(1) **Confirmation of Minutes:**

**On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Adjourned Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 be confirmed.**

**On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2008 be confirmed.**

(2) **Correspondence**

**The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:**

- Letter from the Secretary of Monaghan Association Beds and Herts inviting two representatives of Monaghan County Council to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2008 in Luton.
- Letter from the Chief Executive Officer, County Monaghan VEC seeking a contribution of €10,000 from Monaghan County Council towards the purchase of a site at Dartrey for a new Outdoor Education Centre for Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from Mr Aidan Corcoran, Manager Transmission Projects with EirGrid in relation the proposed North South Interconnector.
- Letter from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D, regarding the proposed North South Interconnector.
- Letter from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., in relation to Monaghan County Development Plan.
- Letter from Mr Caoimhghin Ó Caolain, T.D., in relation to County Monaghan Development Plan
- Letter from Mr Michael Egan, National Roads Authority regarding the national roads allocation for Co. Monaghan.

- Letter from Mr Eamon Ó Cuiv, T.D., Minister for Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding the Local Improvements Scheme.
- Letter from Mr Stephen Mulvany, Hospital Network Manager, North East Hospitals regarding Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Dr. Rory O’Hanlon, T.D., in relation to Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Mr Brendan Smith, T.D., Minister for Children regarding representations made to Professor Drumm re Monaghan General Hospital
- Letter from Mr Brendan Smith regarding representations he made to Ms. Mary Harney, T.D, Minister for Health and Children re Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Mr Caoimhghin Ó Caolain, T.D., regarding his request for a meeting to Professor Drumm and Minister Harney re Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Mr Caoimhghin Ó Caolain, T.D, advising of Minister Harney’s refusal to meet with the Members of Monaghan County Council to discuss the Hospital situation.
- Letter from Ms Mary Harney, T.D., Minister for Health in response to a request from Monaghan County Council to meet with the Minister.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D. concerning a resolution from Monaghan County Council in relation to the provision of services for cystic fibrosis patients.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Ms Mary Coughlan, T.D., regarding the World Trade Talks and the Irish Beef Industry.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr Micheal Martin, T.D. regarding a request from Monaghan County Council to meet with the Minister.
- Letter from Mr Jim Kelly, Secretary, Commission on Taxation inviting the Council to make a submission to the Commission in relation to their Terms of Reference outlined in the letter.
- Letter from Mr Seán Ó Cuirreáin, An Coimisineir Teanga thanking the Members for the opportunity to give a presentation to the Council.
- Letter from Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D. regarding a motion from Monaghan County Council to accord national honours to Thomas Kent.
- Letter from Private Secretary to Mr John Gormley, T.D. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government re the introduction of a micro-chipping and neutering/spaying incentive scheme to curb unwanted dogs.
- Letter from the Town Clerk, Monaghan Town Council regarding a Notice of Motion relating to Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from the Town Clerk, Clones Town Council regarding a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members of Clones Town in relation to Agency Workers.
- Letter from the Town Clerk, Clones Town Council regarding the appointment of an Ombudsman in the Department of Health.
- Letter from South Dublin County Council regarding a Notice of Motion passed by the Members of South Dublin County Council regarding medical and support services for persons with Cystic Fibrosis.
- Letter from the Town Clerk, Macroom Town Council regarding a Notice of Motion in relation to agency employment.
- Letter from Mr Dermot Kirwan, Friends of the Elderly, seeking nominations from all over Ireland for ‘Ireland’s Oldest Working Person’ award 2008.

- Letter from the Board of Ulster Scots notifying all councils about “The David Healy Football Day” and subsequent details.
- Minutes of a meeting with Minister for State Mr Tony Killeen, T.D., held in Clones Fire Station 98 Avenue, Clones on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

### **Outdoor Education Centre for Co. Monaghan:**

A short debate took place in relation to the request from Co. Monaghan V.E.C. for a contribution of €10,000 towards the purchase of a site at Dartrey for an outdoor recreation centre.

*“ Cllr Treanor proposed, Cllr Humphreys seconded that the Council agree, in principle, to a contribution of €110,000 to County Monaghan V.E.C. towards the purchase of the proposed site at Dartrey ”*

The Members agreed to refer this item to the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group for discussion and recommendation re funding.

### **Resolution from Clones Town Council:**

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to adopt the following resolutions from Clones Town Council, as follows:

(i) *“ That this Council calls on the Minister for Health, Mary Harney, T.D. to appoint an Ombudsman in the Department of Health so that the people of the country can get an honest answer regarding their complaints about health matters.”*

(ii) *“This Council hereby resolves, that Agency employment should not be used as an unnecessary substitute for direct employment or as a mechanism for avoidance of fair pay and conditions.*

*Noting that legislation will come before the Oireachtas on the issue of Agency Employment, Clones Town Council believes and recommends to the Minister that the principle of equal treatment should be included in any such legislation on this issue”.*

Cllr Carthy requested that he be permitted to move notice of motion (e) at this time. This was agreed.

### **Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded**

*“That Monaghan County Council notes the increase in agency employment throughout the economy. We are aware that many workers from Ireland and abroad are offered agency employment when they are seeking direct and permanent employment.*

*We understand that trade unions have raised concerns that many of these workers are retained on minimum conditions and in some instances are not receiving their full entitlements.*

*This Council hereby resolves that Agency employment should not be used as an unnecessary substitute for direct employment or as a mechanism for avoidance of fair pay and conditions.*

*Noting that legislation will come before the Oireachtas on the issue of Agency Employment, Monaghan County Council believes and recommends to the Minister that the principle of equal treatment should be included in any such legislation on this issue.*

Cllr Carthy said there were quite a number of agency workers in the country who are retained on minimum wage and some are let go before the twelve month period contract ends to ensure they do not receive their full entitlements. This motion was asking that Agency Workers should not be used as an unnecessary substitute for direct employment or to avoid fair pay and conditions.

The Mayor put Cllr Carthy's motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

#### **Local Improvement Scheme:**

*Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that Monaghan County Council proceed with the L.I.S. programme for all areas in 2008 and borrow the money, if necessary, to fund the programme.*

Mr. John Murray, Head of Finance advised that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government would have to sanction any application for borrowing.

*Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Keenan seconded that the Council write to Minister Ó Cuiv, T.D. seeking clarification of the position regarding the Clar funding for the Local Improvement Scheme for the year 2008.*

In response Mr. John McGrath, Senior Engineer stated that a letter had issued to Minister Ó Cuiv's office following the recent LIS Committee meeting, in relation to this matter.

The Members agreed to defer the proposals pending, a full report at the next meeting, detailing the current situation regarding the Local Improvement Scheme and CLAR funding.

#### **Commission on Taxation:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that this Council makes a submission to the Commission on Taxation.*

At the request of Cllr Humphreys Notice of Motion (b) was taken at this time

*Cllr Humphreys proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded that this Council write to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Brian Cowen, T.D., requesting that he changes the Finance Bill so that rent paid by the parents of students in Third Level Education who live outside a 30k radius of the college is fully allowable against income tax.*

The Mayor put Cllr Humphreys motion to the meeting and it was agreed. It was further agreed that it be forwarded as a submission to the Commission on Taxation.

**Minutes of Coiste Gaeilge:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to request that any minutes received from Coiste Gaeilge be made available bi-lingually.*

**Health Service Executive:**

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to accept an invitation from Mr Stephen Mulvany, Hospital Network Manager, Health Service Executive to meet with both himself and Mr. Tadhg O'Brien, Joint Programme Manager, North East Transformation to discuss the current situation regarding Monaghan General Hospital and location of the proposed regional hospital. It was agreed that the deputation would consist of the Mayor and two from each political grouping.

*“ Cllr Keenan proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that this Council calls on the incoming Taoiseach, Minister Brian Cowen, T.D., to replace the current Minister for Health, Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., during the forthcoming Cabinet re-shuffle, as she has failed the people of this country in the provision of Health Services ”*

**A roll call vote on Cllr Keenan's proposal resulted as follows:**

**For:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Crowe, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Maxwell, Martin, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna and Treanor.  
**Total 14**

**Against:** Coyle, Gallagher, Kieran, O'Brien and McNally. **Total 5**

**The Mayor declared the motion carried.**

**Monaghan Association Beds and Herts:**

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that the Mayor/Deputy Mayor represent Co Monaghan at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Beds and Herts. Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2008 at St. Joseph's Parish Centre Gardenia Ave, Luton”*

**Resolution from South Dublin County Council:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to support a Notice of Motion passed by South Dublin County Council requesting the Minister for Health and the HSE to take appropriate action be taken immediately so that medical and support services at local regional and national levels for persons with Cystic Fibrosis be provided to the highest international standard.*

3. **To consider Material Contravention Ref. 07/2261.**

The Members considered the report of Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services, dated 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008 in relation to the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 2007 – 2013.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was unanimously agreed to approve a Material Contravention to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013, to grant planning permission for development of a two storey structure at Ballybay, Ref. 07/2261, as per the report of the Director of Services dated 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008.*

4. **Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme:**

This item was deferred to the May Council meeting.

5. **Conservation Grant Scheme:**

Ms. Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer circulated a detailed report on the applications received under the Conservation Grant Scheme 2008. She gave a brief overview of the scheme and responded to queries raised by the Members.

*On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to approve the allocation of grants under the Conservation Grant Scheme for protected structures for 2008 in accordance with the report of the Heritage Officer.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to write to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government seeking a large increase in allocation for this scheme for 2009.*

6. **To adopt the Draft Annual Report:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to adopt the Draft Annual Report for 2007.*

**Agenda items 7 & 8 – Local Sports Partnership update and report on County Monaghan Way Walks were deferred to the May Council meeting.**

9. **Community Development Fund 2008:**

Mr Adge King, Director of Services referred to the report on the Community Development Fund 2008 which had been circulated to the Members. Following consideration by the sub committee and the Corporate Policy Group the Community Development Fund for 2008 will focus on three distinct measures

- (i) Community Infrastructure supports – max. grant €5,000
- (ii) Community Development support projects – max. grant €1,000
- (iii) Community capital supports – max. grant €10,000

The fund for 2008 is €100,000 and is available as grant aid to community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community development projects or initiatives in their area.

*On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed to approve the Community Development Fund for 2008.*

## 17. Questions

### **Cllr Heather Humphreys asked:**

- (a) In the interest of safety and to slow down traffic, when do Monaghan County Council expect to be in a position to commence work to put in place much needed ramps on the road in Rockcorry Village that leads to Hilltop and Boyer?

**Reply:** *Quotations are currently being obtained for the installation of ramps on the Hilltop road in Rockcorry. It is hoped that the ramps will be completed before the end of April.*

- (b) What plans have Monaghan County Council to erect additional public lighting at St Mary's Church, Coravacan which is located at a very dangerous junction?

**Reply:** *There are no plans at present to erect additional public lighting at St Mary's Church, Coravacan. The council will obtain an estimate for additional lighting and add it to the list of public lighting schemes currently waiting for funding in the Clones Area.*

- (c) What is the present position regarding Department of Environment & Local Government funding for Local Improvement Schemes for 2008 and the related Clar funding?

**Reply:** *The grant allocation from the Department of Transport for 2008 is €892,000. Monaghan County Council recouped €388,614 in March 2008 from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for works carried out between November 2007 and 31st January 2008. In a letter received from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in March this year it appears that no further notification of Clar funding will be made until March 2009. The LIS Committee requested that the Council write to clarify that this is the case.*

### **Cllr Benny Kieran asked:**

- (d) What plans have Monaghan County Council to extend the sewerage network in Rockcorry to facilitate new connections on the Monaghan Road.

**Reply:** *Monaghan Co. Co. intends to extend the foul sewer network and watermain on the Monaghan Road, Rockcorry by a distance of 290m. The proposed extension will be funded under the Small Water and Sewerage Scheme Program and it is intended to commence construction in 2008.*

(e) Given the serious nature of the junction known as Quigleys Cross, Cornasoo, will Monaghan County Council consider:

(i) Erecting traffic lights at the junction to prevent further accidents as a short term solution.

**Reply:** *The installation of traffic lights at this location is inappropriate as the traffic volumes using it are not sufficient to warrant them. Additional warning signs and road markings can be installed as an alternative.*

(ii) With the ongoing upgrading of the Monaghan to Newbliss Road and given the protracted length of time in securing property to facilitate improvements of this junction would Monaghan County Council consider a C.P.O. to address this impasse that would allow for these works to be carried out and ultimately avoid serious injuries at this junction?

**Reply:** *The council will approach the landowner concerned again with a view to purchase the land required. If negotiations fail, then the council will have no option but to commence a C.P.O process for the land required.*

**Cllr Padraig McNally asked:**

(f) Regarding Inniskeen Village

(i) In light of the answer given regarding Council land at Mucker Inniskeen last month, will this land be connected to the new sewerage plant?

(ii) When will the new sewerage plant be fully operational?

(iii) Will the Council be in a position to accept new connections to same?

**Reply:**

(i) *Currently this land is outside the existing collection system by 1.5km. It would be expensive to extend the collection system to the lands at Mucker. An initial survey has been done and results show a Pumping station would be required to service the existing Council housing. A further pumping station at Mucker, would be required. We will include this in submission to department in 2009 for funding.*

(ii) *The new treatment plant for Inniskeen is operational and treating all waste water for the town at present.*

(iii) *The council will be in position to accept all new connections into the new sewage works*

(g) What is the latest position regarding damaged bridge at The Glebe, Inniskeen, i.e. when will it be fully repaired?

**Reply:** *The bridge is privately owned. Repair of the bridge is a matter for the owner.*

(h) When will surfacing be completed in both Deery Terrace and Dun Ard?

**Reply:** *The last section of Dun Ard has been delayed until a sewer line is placed. There is no funding for surfacing of Deery Terrace in 2008.*

**Cllr Padraig McNally asked**

- (i) When will work be completed on the dangerous corner at Magee's Shop in Inniskeen Village?

**Reply:** *The Area Office is currently seeking quotes for the placing of a safety barrier and railing along the river at this location. It is hoped to have this completed in late summer.*

- (j) Has this Council any plans to put new play equipment in place of the damaged equipment removed from the playground in Inniskeen?

**Reply:** *With regard to the Inniskeen playground, the provision of additional equipment, seating, signage and the reinstatement of access paths has been included within the Councils 2008 programme for playgrounds.*

**Cllr Gary Carville asked:**

- (k) What is the up to date position on the provision of a new Fire Station in Castleblayney?

**Reply:** *We are on the Departments capital programme for 2007 and we are currently in the process of purchasing the site. Further progress is subject to receiving approval from the DoEHLG.*

- (l) Is the Council aware of the immense danger which drivers are under at the Shercock Road junction on the Castleblayney By-Pass and on the Shercock / Lough Egish road from Castleblayney due to the incompleteness of works and what plans does the Council have to have these works completed and safety measures put in place to address the situation?

**Reply:** *The contractor for the scheme GTCL, has responsibility for ensuring that the works are completed in a safe manner and this includes having approved temporary traffic management plans in place when working on or close to the public road that has live traffic.*

- (m) How much has the Castleblayney By-Pass cost to date? How does this compare with the Budget for same? Are there any specific overruns, e.g with contractors etc? When will works be completed?

**Reply:** *To date the scheme has cost approximately €85m including payments to the contractor and compensation to landowners affected by the CPO. At present the scheme is within budget. The contractor has programmed to complete the works by mid-summer 2008.*

- (n) What is the up to date position regarding Castleblayney Courthouse and does the Council envisage works being carried out on this building which is deteriorating badly?

**Reply:** *The County Council has not secured funding for this project to date and loan approval has not been received from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The condition of the building is a cause for concern. It is imperative that remedial work is carried out without delay.*

**Cllr Gary Carville asked:**

(o) In relation to Local Improvement Schemes for 2008,

(i) Has the Council received any communication from the Government in relation to funding?

**Reply:** *The grant allocation from the Department of Transport for 2008 is €892,000. Monaghan County Council recouped €388,614 in March 2008 from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for works carried out between November 2007 and 31st January 2008. In a letter received from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in March this year it appears that no further notification of Clar funding will be made until March 2009. The LIS Committee requested that the Council write to clarify that this is the case. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs acknowledged receipt of this letter and undertook to make further contact with the Council when any further information is available.*

(ii) What are the implications for this county are as a result of the failure of the Dept of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to fund the lanes improved in CLAR areas in 2007?

**Reply:** *The Council's expenditure less income for 2007 on LIS Schemes is €628,865 and will be made as a first charge against the 2008 allocation*

(iii) How many lanes are expected to be included in the 2008 programme?

**Reply:** *The LIS Committee has yet to prioritise the works for this year. The available funding is €263,135.*

**Cllr Owen Bannigan asked:**

(p) (i) How many people are presently on the Housing Waiting list for Ballybay town in the following categories:

- Family accommodation	9
- O.A.P's	6
- Single Parents	14
- Single Persons under 55 years	<u>19</u>
Total	48

(ii) What plans have Monaghan County Council to purchase land in Ballybay town for future housing needs.

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council proposes to identify a suitable site for future housing needs in Ballybay town in the current year.*

(iii) What plans have Monaghan County Council to purchase turnkey developments in Ballybay town.

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has examined a number of potential turnkey developments in Ballybay Town but no suitable turnkey developments have been identified to date.*

**Cllr Owen Bannigan asked:**

- (iv) What houses are expected from Part 5 in Ballybay in 2008 and 2009.

**Reply: *There are 12 units proposed to be acquired under Part V in Ballybay in 2009***

- (q) (i) What was the value of rates collected in Ballybay town, Clones town, Castleblayney town, Carrickmacross town and Monaghan Town in 2007.
- (ii) What was the total value of rates collected by Monaghan County Council in 2007.
- (iii) What was the value of written off rates in all of the above towns and the County Council area.
- (iv) What was the value of rates that remain uncollected and not written off in 2007 in all of the above areas.

**Reply: *Ballybay Town Council is not a Rating Authority and therefore does not collect rates. The Rates relating to Ballybay are included with the County Council Rates. The uncollected rates is the amount of the 2007 rates uncollected at 31/03/2008.***

Authority	Collected	Write Off	Uncollected
Clones T.C.	367,781	65,752	58,569
Castleblayney T.C.	606,359	90,093	103,884
Carrickmacross T.C.	1,227,876	36,121	92,914
Monaghan T.C.	2,684,961	308,221	94,281
Monaghan Co. Co.	5,348,072	211,786	169,573

- (r) What action will Monaghan Co. Council take against the H.S.E. given the state of dereliction on the H.S.E. premises in Main Street, Ballybay (known locally as the Clinic) to ensure that they carry out the necessary remedial works.

**Reply: *The HSE had offered this building for sale and while a sale agreement was reached this deal seems to have now fallen through. The tackling of derelict sites in Ballybay has been identified in the town's new economic strategy as a priority objective. The upgrading of the "clinic" site will now be perused in a similar manner to that of the various other derelict sites in the town***

**Cllr Sean Conlon asked:**

- (s) When the source of a rat infestation, which is presenting a health risk, cannot be determined in a community/residential area, what onus lies with the Local Authority in eradicating same?

**Reply: *The onus actually is on the Health Service Executive - North East who has power under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 as amended in 1947 and 1970. The Local Authority would deal with rodent infestation in Local Authority housing estates.***

**Cllr Matt Carthy asked:**

- (t). What remedial works do the council intend to carry out on the R179 in 2008, the locations and the expected date of commencement?

**Reply:** *An allocation of €270,000 under the Restoration Improvement grant has been received and as discussed and agreed at the Area Roads meeting the section from Corrinshigo to border - will be done during the summer.*

**19. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations**

*The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to:*

- Mr Paddy Johnson, former Senior Engineer with the Council on the death of his wife, Bridget.
- Ms Claire Tracey, County Council staff on the death of her father, Paudge Treanor, Shee, Tydavnet.
- Ms Moira Kelly, County Council staff on the death of her uncle, Paudge Treanor.

*The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to:*

- An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D., for his service as Taoiseach and wishing him well in his retirement.
- Mr Tommy McGarvey, former Overseer, on his recent retirement from Monaghan County Council.
- Station Master and Fire Brigade Unit in Clones on the recent opening of the new Fire Station in Clones
- Mr Daniel McKenna, on winning the Ulster U16 Singles Handball Championship
- Mr Conor O’Gorman on winning the Ulster U17 Singles Handball Championship
- Mr Christopher McKenna on winning the Ulster U16 Doubles Handball Championship
- Ms Lisa Bogue on winning the Ulster U17 Girls Handball Championship
- Mr Owen McClave on winning the Emerald Masters “B” Ulster Handball title
- Mr Pdraig McKenna on winning the Ulster U15 Singles Handball Championship
- Mr Pete Larkin on winning the Golden Masters “B” Doubles Handball Championship
- St Louis Convent on reaching the Ulster U19 All-Ireland football schools “A” Final
- Mr Terry McElvaney on winning the Ulster u16 Doubles Handball Championship
- Mr Martin McEntee on winning the Golden Masters “B” Doubles Handball Championship and the Golden Masters “B” Singles Irish Open Handball title

## 20. Conferences

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the Members listed.*

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members Selected</b>
Sherkin Island Marine Station	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Conference</b>  <b>Water: The Challenges for Users</b>	Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline Co Cork	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> April	John Keenan Heather Humphreys Patrick McKenna Gary Carville Pat Treanor John O'Brien Padraig McNally Vincent P Martin
Chambers Ireland	<b>Local Economic &amp; Social Development Conference</b>	Marriott Hotel Henry Street Limerick	21 <sup>st</sup> April	Hugh McElvaney Patrick McKenna Owen Bannigan Gary Carville Seamus Coyle Robbie Gallagher
Confederation of European Councillors	<b>Developments in the Planning Systems, North and South</b>	Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen,	24 <sup>th</sup> April	David Maxwell Patrick McKenna Gary Carville Benny Kierans John O'Brien
Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly	<b>BMW Regional Assembly Annual Conference</b>	Heritage Hotel Portlaoise	1 <sup>st</sup> May	John Keenan David Maxwell Heather Humphreys Gary Carville Brian McKenna Benny Kierans Seamus Coyle

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meara**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

