

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross on Monday 1st December, 2014 at 3pm

Chair: Cllr Padraig McNally, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Bannigan, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McPhillips, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S.Treanor.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Director of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that Mr. John McGrath, Senior Engineer was in attendance at his last Council meeting as he was leaving Monaghan County Council to take up a position with Meath County Council. He stated that he would be sorry to see him leave as he was an excellent official. He wished him every success in his new position.

A number of members concurred with the sentiments expressed by the Cathaoirleach and paid tribute to John for his excellent service with the Council.

Mr. E. Cummins Chief Executive also expressed good wishes on behalf of the staff.

Mr. McGrath expressed his thanks to the members and Chief Executive. He stated that he had enjoyed his time with the Council where he had worked as part of a team. He also acknowledged the important role of the elected members.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd November, 2014 be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to resolution from the Council regarding the beef crisis.
- Letter from the Jobseekers Policy Unit of the Department of Social Protection regarding the Farm Assist and the Rural Social Schemes.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority advising that due to current funding restrictions in relation to major roads projects, the N2 Clontibret to the Border scheme has been suspended at the emerging preferred route stage.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Department of Social Protection in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the Department's Office in Ballybay.
- Letter from Deputy Brendan Smith enclosing copy of reply to Parliamentary Question regarding the Department of Social Protection office in Ballybay.

- Letter from Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin enclosing reply from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the DSP office in Ballybay.
- Letter from Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., enclosing copy of letter from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the exemption of childcare facilities from rates in the Valuation (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2012.
- Letter from Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin enclosing reply from the Minister for Agriculture in relation to representations made on behalf of the IFA National Poultry Committee.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council calling on the Minister for Defence to rescind the 21 year rule from members of the Defence Forces.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton, T.D., to reverse the Farm Assist eligibility criteria of Budget 2013, which saw some of Monaghan's approximate 500 farm families and 11,000 farm families nationally, lose up to €135 of essential income per week and also reverse the RSS changes which now see a participant receive only a weekly top of €20.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that Monaghan County Council expresses its disappointment at the failure of An Tanaiste and Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, T.D., to meet a delegation of Oireachtas members, the elected members of Ballybay/Clones MD and representatives of Ballybay Chamber of Commerce to discuss and seek assurances on the continuance of the Department of Social Protection offices in Ballybay and that this Council again calls on An Taoiseach, the Minister and all Fine Gael elected representatives to ensure these much needed jobs remain in Ballybay Town.

Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded, that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to review the rates being charged on commercial childcare facilities as has been the case for community childcare facilities.

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McPhillips, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. Total 15

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cllrs Campbell and Maxwell Total 2

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded

That Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform requesting an exemption of rates for all childcare providers.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for 2 against and 2 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council write to the five T.D.s for the Cavan/Monaghan constituency asking them to request the National Roads Authority to include the N2/A5 project on their list for funding in 2015.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Department of Social Protection to purchase a property and car-parking in Ballybay in preference to leasing.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to provide funding to ensure that the current proposed N2 corridor from Clontibret to the Border is reduced from 400 metres to 100 metres.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council calls on the Communications Regulator to review their regulations in regard to disruption in service of broadband. Businesses are highly reliant on good communications in order to be able to operate. Businesses should be offered compensation when broadband and phone lines are not in service.

3. To adopt revised General Development Contributions Scheme 2013-2019

The Members considered the report under Section 48(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 on submissions received in respect of the draft revised General Development Contributions Scheme 2013-2019.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning informed the members that as a result of the public consultation process undertaken on the draft scheme, two submissions had been received one from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and one from the Irish Wind Energy Association. Details of the submissions received and the Executive's response to the issues raised are set out in the report.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council, adopt the recommendations contained in the Director's Report which recommended adopting the published Draft Development Contribution Scheme as the Development Contribution Scheme for the period 2013-2019 with the scheme coming into operation on the 1st December, 2014.

4. To receive Report on the N54 Co-ordinated Access Strategy

The Members were circulated with a report prepared by the Council's Road Design section – *Options for proposed Co-ordinated Access Strategy to Zoned Industry, Enterprise & Employment Lands along the N54 in Monaghan Town.*

Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer gave a presentation to the Council in relation to the preparation of a co-ordinated access strategy for the N54 at Tullygrimes, south west of

Monaghan Town for all zoned lands in the area. He referred to the background to the preparation of the report, the planning history and outlined in detail the four possible access route options contained within the report. The report concluded that the options explored as part of the study have certain advantages/disadvantages associated with each proposal in terms of compliance with national and regional/local planning policies, cost implications, impact on existing infrastructure and general layout of facilities, safety, accessibility, environmental, and impact on third party holdings, including existing commercial and domestic properties. In particular, all of the options require third party lands and agreements for which consent from the relevant landowners has yet to be sought and obtained.

5. Management Report – November 2014:

The members considered the Management Report for November which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive outlined the contents of the report in detail and responded to queries/comments from the members in relation to items contained therein.

6. To approve nominations to the Strategic Policy Committees – filling of sectoral positions

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the nominations to the Strategic Policy Committees, received to date from the National Pillars/PPN (Monaghan Community Forum) be approved.

SPC for Housing and Fire & Civil Protection:

Name of Nominee	Representing
Barry McCarron	(Environment Pillar)
Marc Mullen	(Community)
Fiona McCaffrey Jones	(Community)

SPC for Environment and Transport:

Name of Nominee	Representing
Conan Connolly	(Environment Pillar)
Kathleen Ward	Farming Pillar
Paddy Sherry	Community

SPC for Economic Development & Enterprise Support:

Name of Nominee	Representing
Michael Connolly	Environment Pillar
Joe Rudden	Farming Pillar
Orla Cassin	Community

SPC for Social, Cultural and Community:

Name of Nominee	Representing
Anja Nohlen	Environment Pillar
Fiona Keenan O'Brien	Community (Cultural)
Noel Carney	Community (Cultural)
Henry Blackburn	Community
Ursula McKenna	Community
Lorraine Cunningham	Community

7. To approve nominations to the Joint Policing Committee:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the nominations to the Joint Policing Committee, received to date from the National Pillars/PPN (Monaghan Community Forum), be approved.

Name of Nominee	Representing
Mr. P.J. Harte	(Community – Older Persons Forum)
Mr. Michael Watters	(Community – Clogher Historical Society)
Mr. Eugene Treanor	(Community – 50 50 Monaghan Group)
Mr. Brendan McNally	(Community – Clontibret Text Alert Scheme)

8. To approve recommendations and minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 7th November, 2014

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the recommendation contained in the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 7th November, 2014, be approved and that the Minutes of that meeting be confirmed.

LCDC – replacement of member:

Mr. P. Clifford, Director advised the Council that the HSE nominee to the Local Community Development Committee (Rose McCaffrey) had been replaced by Cathal Hand and he requested the approval of the members to this change.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council approve the nomination of Cathal Hand, HSE to the Local Community Development Committee.

9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

It was agreed that the reports received from Cllrs Bannigan, Bennett, Carthy, Keelan, McElvaney, McNally and O'Hanlon, in relation to their attendance at the following conferences:

- AILG Training Seminar (Finance), Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.
- AILG Training Seminar (Housing), Cavan.
- AILG Induction Training, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- AILG Training Seminar (Planning) Bundoran, Co. Donegal.
- AILG Annual Conference, Cavan
- LAMA Autumn Seminar, Bunrana, Co. Donegal
- Cross Border Connections Conference, Bunrana, Co. Donegal.
- Accountability in the Public Service, Dublin.

10. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

Library Shared Services:

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive referred to the Circular from the Department of the Environment in relation to the Implementation of 'Managing the Delivery of Effective Library Services' that had been circulated at the meeting.

Mr. A. King, Director of Services gave a brief overview of the contents of Circular LS1/2014 which issued in late October. The circular refers to the recent review of the library service organisation and deliver and outlines 14 proposals for a more effective and efficient and effective public service and a better library service to local communities and citizens as set out in "*Managing the Delivery of Effective Library Services.*" Key elements of the proposals include:

- A new shared service management structure for library authorities to be established.
- A proposed minimum population target of 100,000 as a basis for determining a libraries shared services structure (Cavan/Monaghan).
- Adoption of the concept of a 'lead' authority operating through a service level agreement – Memorandum of Understanding.
- A single management team and single headquarters.

Following a brief discussion it was agreed to defer consideration of the matter and to include it as an agenda item for a Council meeting early in 2015.

CTek Building:

Mr. Cummins referred to the CTek Building (located adjacent to the Civic Offices) which is at an advanced stage. The Council will shortly be seeking tenders from local Auctioneers to assist with the marketing of the units

Branding:

Mr. Cummins referred to a discussion at the November Council meeting in relation to the 'Branding of County Monaghan'. As indicated at that meeting Mr. Cummins again referred to the opportunity to invest both in Monaghan and in Daniel McKenna who was hoping to enter the World Junior International Rally Championship in Monaco in January and required a significant amount of money for that purpose. If the Council were to part-sponsor him it might act as a catalyst for other promoters to also come on board. The decision to allocate funding was ultimately a decision of the members.

The Cathaoirleach stated that he had been speaking with Daniel the previous weekend and he outlined to the Council the financial implications of Daniel's decision to participate in the European rally championship. Daniel's first rally was initially planned for March but this had now changed to January 2015, so hence the reason why the matter was being brought to the members for an earlier decision.

A lengthy debate followed to which a number of members contributed. Following the debate -

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that Monaghan County Council support, in principle, the allocation of €25,000 to Daniel McKenna, subject to him meeting with the Corporate Policy Group and the Party Whips to discuss the conditions attached to the sponsorship proposal.

A vote, by show of hands, resulted in 15 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 6th October and 3rd November 2014.

This item was not dealt with.

12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes again to Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Alex White TD to insist that the North South 400 kv Interconnector project is treated in the same manner as the Grid West and Grid Link in terms of undergrounding options.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Alex White TD to immediately instruct EirGrid to suspend work/planning application of the North/South Interconnector 400kv Interconnector and Grid 25, in view of the ESB submission to the Government's green paper on Energy policy which states that EirGrid's latest projection for increased electricity demand 2008 – 2024 is 5%, while current Grid 25 plans/projections are for a 45% increase in the period 2008-2024. Costing €4 billion this suspension would be until a complete and comprehensive independent international review of EirGrid's plans/projections taking place.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes again to the Independent Expert Panel (IEP) requesting that the information submitted by EirGrid to the Committee be furnished to this Council and made public so that citizens can see from the I.E.P. reached their opinion that the work done to date on the North-South Interconnector was compatible with the methodologies now being employed on the Grid West and Grid South Projects.

13. Questions:

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

1. In an effort to avoid risking data protection infringement regarding the request from Irish Water for the address details of Council housing tenants, will this Council seek permission from Council tenants prior to disclosing this private information to a third party?

Reply: The Council has not written directly to tenants regarding the request from Irish Water for details of housing tenants. Section 26(1)(a) of the Water Services Act, empowers Irish Water to request local authorities to provide such information as Irish Water may reasonably require to enable it to perform its functions under the Act. The local authority will comply with legislative requirements in this regard

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

2. In relation to the scourge and cost of illegal dumping throughout our county what progress has the Council made in their investigations into the potential of hiring a private firm to detect culprits?

Reply: The Council are in the process of developing a draft plan of action for 2015 to address and implement measures that would help reduce this problem. The engagement of external services is one of a number of options being considered. The draft action plan once completed will be presented at a CPG meeting.

3. How much did the Council spend on renting office accommodation in 2014?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will spend approximately €266,000 renting office accommodation in 2014.

4. Has the Council received any update from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government regarding a resumption of the Tenant Purchase Scheme which was in operation up until relatively recently?

Reply: The 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme ceased in December 2012. The previous scheme will be replaced by an incremental purchase model. Broad details of the scheme were outlined in Part 3 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 but have not yet commenced. It is anticipated that this will be initiated following the drafting of the detailed Regulations in 2015

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

5. Due to the fact that the design for the Group Home for women with Physical and Sensory disabilities (Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross) has now been officially sent in for Planning, could the Council give an expected completion date for this project?

Reply: A revised planning application in respect of the scheme was submitted to the authority on the 20th November 2014. It is envisaged that planning approval, subject to no objections being received, would be obtained by February 2015.

The Tender process will take until Q2 of 2015 and hopefully Department approval will issue for revised prices also in Q2 2015. The appointment of a contractor would be anticipated in Q3 2015 and completion of build in Q3 2016.

6. Will Monaghan County Council consider putting a provision for galvanised (long lasting) clothes lines to be installed in all new Housing projects it undertakes so as to try and reduce the high usage of tumble dryers and in the long term, reduce the carbon footprint and save tenants money on electricity?

Reply: Where possible in new developments the local authority will incorporate clothes lines to address these issues.

7. Will the Council confirm what respite care is available to families caring for the elderly in County Monaghan?

Reply: The Council has no role/function in the provision of respite care. This information can be obtained from the local Health Service Executive office.

8. Will the housing section of Monaghan County Council confirm how many vacant properties it currently has in the entire county with a breakdown for each Municipal District and an indication as to when these will be given to people on the Housing Waiting/Transfer List?

Reply: As of the 28th November 2014 the situation is as follows

Municipal District Area	Number of Units Vacant	Commentary
Ballybay/Clones	5	3 units offered, 1 ready for allocation, 1 awaiting keys back from former tenant
Carrickmacross/Castleblayney	9	2 under repair, 1 unit offered, 2 subject of succession of tenancy applications, 5 long term vacancies subject to redevelopment (Oliver Plunkett Park)
Monaghan	17	3 under repair; 9 subject of remedial scheme (Mullaghmatt); 5 offered

In respect of houses currently offered to applicants from the housing list/transfer applicants the individual households have 7 days to respond to the offer letter.

In respect of the houses under repair the timescale depends upon the extent of works required in the individual houses.

Succession of tenancies are included under vacant properties but are subject to the assessment and validation of the applications submitted.

The houses in Mullaghmatt being used to co-ordinate the movement and rehousing of persons part of the remedial scheme.

In respect of Oliver Plunkett Park, the development is subject of plans for the redevelopment of the block in 2015.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

9. In relation to a presentation on childhood obesity, that was presented to the Monaghan County Council last year. Numerous measures were set out to combat childhood obesity. Has Monaghan County Council taken note and addressed any of these measures that were mentioned and if so, which ones and what are the future plans in relation to addressing childhood obesity within our county. Parents complain to me on a regular basis about vending machines selling unhealthy snacks in public places. Can Monaghan County Council do anything to prevent the installation of vending machines selling unhealthy snacks in public places? Are there any guidelines or an application process needed to install vending machines?

Reply: The responsibility for the regulation of vending machines falls to the Health Service Executive, and as such, is outside the remit of Monaghan County Council.

Dr Eldins recommendation that urban environments should be planned in a way that is conducive to helping people become healthier is noted and agreed. In addition to the zoning of lands for the specific purpose of recreation / amenity use in the major towns, the Council continues to maintain and develop its open spaces and recreational facilities for the benefit of the public. Recent examples of this include;

- Development of the Monaghan Town Greenway
- Partner in the development of the Clones Peace Link Sports Facility
- Development of adventure playground at Muckno
- Installation of outdoor gym equipment at Peters Lake, Monaghan and Bath Avenue, Carrickmacross
- Upgrading and development of walking routes at Dartry, Muckno and Lisanisk
- Upgrading of play facilities at Killygoan, Monaghan Town, Cloghvalley, Carrickmacross, and Cara St, Clones

Dr Eldins suggestion that a health dimension be included in the Councils spatial planning policies relating to the location of hot food outlets would be ultra vires.

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

10. After the recent floods in our County, will Monaghan County Council consult with the OPW with regards to works to put flood defences in place at the usual black spots? Massive disruption was caused throughout the County because of roads that were closed. In some instances the raising of the road would solve this?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will continue to liaise with the Office of Public Works to seek funding for flood mitigation measures where feasible solutions can be found.

11. In relation to Castleblayney By-Pass. Will Monaghan Council clarify that all units within the industrial estate have access to the estate from the Upper Bree entrance when needed?

Reply: Access will be controlled and be available where needed.

12. Will Monaghan Council provide details of how community groups and people in rural areas get reserved bins of grit and salt for their areas in the event of this winter been as bad as it is forecasted?

Reply: Monaghan County Council operate a salt bin scheme where an applicant can purchase a bin with or without salt. Details are on the Monaghan County Council's website www.monaghan.ie

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

13. Given the housing crisis that exists in County Monaghan with over 1100 citizens and families on the Housing Waiting List, what advice are our Housing officials offering to people who find themselves in need of secure accommodation, given that the Council are not building or buying any housing units in terms of the numbers that are required and also given that good rented accommodation is almost impossible to find in the county?

Reply: The Council can only outline the housing options available to applicants. Following the issue of the Social Housing Strategy 2020 by the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government on 26th November it is hoped that funding will be made available to Monaghan County Council to enable it to increase the supply of social housing within the County. The vision outlined in the strategy is that every household will have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price.

14. What is the up-to-date position in relation to upgrading of the County Council housing stock in terms of attic and cavity wall insulation?

Reply: Approximately 60% of total housing stock has been subject to upgrading works. However work carried out to houses transferred from town councils needs further survey and verification; additional work may be required to some houses following that work. This analysis of upgrading work carried out to date is currently being undertaken.

15. How many housing units have Monaghan County Council taken under the RAS – Rental Accommodation Scheme in 2014; how many housing units have Monaghan County Council in total under this scheme, and at what cost to the taxpayer?

Reply: There were 5 houses taken in 2014. There are 238 Private Units and 111 Voluntary units totalling 349 within the RAS scheme. Total expenditure paid out to landlords in respect of RAS tenancies totals €1,282,903.04

16. In relation to the NPPR – Non Principal Private Residence Charge, how many houses/apartments have been declared as Non Principal Private Residences in County Monaghan? While acknowledging that payment plans have been put in place for citizens who are finding it difficult to pay this charge, will the Council consider writing off some or all of this charge where it has been clearly demonstrated that severe financial hardship exists i.e. mortgage arrears, negative equity etc?

Reply: The total number of properties registered that are liable to NPPR in County Monaghan is 2,967. Monaghan County Council is not authorised to write off NPPR charges.

Cllr N. Keelan asked (contd):

17. In relation to serious flooding that has occurred across County Monaghan in recent weeks, including areas close to the River Fane in Inniskeen and also in the Donaghmoyne area where homes were at risk of flooding, what plans have the Council to ensure that these problem areas are rectified; has the Council applied for special funding from the Department to deal with these issues?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will continue to liaise with the Office of Public Works to seek funding for flood mitigation measures where feasible solutions can be found. In relation to Inniskeen this has been included for further assessment in CFRAM study. Funding was received recently to implement mitigation measures at Lisnagunnion from the Office of Public Works.

Cllr S. Treanor asked:

18. At the July meeting I tabled a question regarding a foul smell emerging from Kabeyun Compost at Castleshane. Has Monaghan County Council had the opportunity to meet with the owners of this company to address this matter and what action will be taken by this Council if the owner refuses to comply with the terms of the planning permission which was granted to him some years ago?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has carried out a site inspection and examined the current composting process as well as what odour abatement infrastructure has been implemented as was required under the former Waste licence. In addition the planning section is also investigating the relevant planning file to determine if non compliance is applicable. Once all of the facts have been established Monaghan County Council will then determine what course of action is needed, if any, under the Air Pollution Act or the relevant Planning Acts. Monaghan County Council will endeavour to investigate the complaint as quickly as possible but as this has been ongoing for in excess of 14/15 years it will take a period of time to have the matter resolved.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

19. Can Monaghan County Council outline the application process/procedures for the taking in charge of housing estates, where-
- (a) The estate developer has ceased trading/gone out of business and is no longer operating to make an application, meeting the criteria/requirements of the taking in charge process?
 - (b) An application has been made by a developer to have an estate taken in charge, has been requested by Monaghan County Council, for additional information to allow the application be processed,
 - Is there a specified period of time in which they must respond?
 - Can the Council bring enforcement proceedings to ensure, compliance with their request?
 - (c) A developer is still successfully trading/operating, but has failed to make an application for the taking in charge of an estate-

- Is there a specified time period from the completion of the development, in which application can be made for the taking in charge?
- Can the L.A. take enforcement proceedings, to take an estate in charge?
- In these circumstances, can the residences initiate the taking in charge process?

Reply: Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (amended by Planning & Development Act 2010) provides for, and outlines the process for the taking in charge of housing estates by local authorities.

The Act states that when a development has been completed in accordance with planning permission, to the satisfaction of the planning authority, the authority shall initiate proceedings under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 to take it in charge, when requested to do so by the developer, or by a majority of owners of the houses. This request to have an estate taken in charge may be made at any time after the completion of the development. Where the majority of owners of the houses so wish, they may submit their request to have an estate to be taken in charge, irrespective of whether or not the developer remains in business. Where an estate has not been completed to the appropriate standard, then the Authority may seek to have the situation remedied through enforcement action. In the event that enforcement proceedings have not commenced within a period of 12 years following the grant of planning permission, or where it is considered that enforcement proceedings will not result in the satisfactory completion of the development, then the Authority may move to have the estate taken in charge.

20. Can Monaghan County Council outline the expenditure on complying with current Health and Safety Regulations since 2010, i.e. 2010/11/12/13/14-
- (a) Overall expenditure in all areas of County Council expenditure?
 - (b) Specifically on the County Council's road programme on-National roads?
 - Regional roads
 - Local roads?

Reply: Health and Safety is incorporated into many Council activities and it is not possible to quantify the exact proportion attributed to Health and Safety. The Department of Transport provide funding to cater directly for Health and Safety training and resources and in the period 2010 to 2014 this amounted to €152,699. In the same period, the Council contributed a total of €195,000 from its own resources towards Health and Safety.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach stated that he had received two notices of Urgent Business in relation to the decision to close two Ulster Bank branches in the county in the towns of Castleblayney and Clones. It was unanimously agreed to discuss the motions of urgent business in accordance with Standing Order 14.2.

Notice in the names of Cllrs P. Treanor and Crowe:

That Monaghan County Council seek an urgent meeting with senior Management of Ulster Bank to demand the reversal of their decision to close their branches in Clones and Castleblayney in March 2015.

The motion was proposed by Cllr P. Treanor and seconded by Cllr Crowe and agreed.

Notice in the name of Cllrs Coyle, McNally, O'Hanlon and Gallagher:

That Monaghan County Council seek an urgent meeting with Senior Ulster Bank executives to seek a reversal of their decision to close two of their County Monaghan branches – Clones and Castleblayney and outline to them the disastrous impact this decision will have on the economic activity of the towns of Clones and Castleblayney, the inconvenience on the businesses in both town and their loyal County Monaghan and surrounding area customer base.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Coyle and seconded by Cllr Campbell and agreed.

Cllr Aidan Campbell stated that he had secured a meeting with Ulster Bank Officials for Friday 5th December and that a representative from each party could attend that meeting.

It was agreed that one member from each political grouping on the Council (and representative of both the Ballybay-Clones and Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.s) would attend the meeting.

Date for January 2015 Council meeting:

It was agreed that the January Council meeting would be held on Monday 12th January, 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

The Cathaoirleach wished the members, officials and members of the press a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous and healthy New Year 2015.

The meeting then concluded.