

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, Monaghan on Monday 4th December 2006, at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr P McNally, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, D. Fallon, A. King and P. Clifford Directors of Service, Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Executive Planner, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms A. Mackle, A/ Staff Officer.

At the outset, Cllr McElvaney expressed his disappointment that the County Manager had stood in with representatives of only one political party when the photographs were being taken at the official opening of Monaghan Leisure Centre. He said the same occurred at the opening of the Monaghan By-pass.

The Mayor said that the County Manager did not take the photograph.

The County Manager said he was not responsible for what the Northern Standard publishes. He was aware that numerous photographs were taken on the day.

A number of Members agreed with the comments expressed by the Manager.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to write to the Northern Standard newspaper requesting that where photographs are taken at official Council functions and are being published in the Northern Standard newspaper that any photograph which includes the Mayor or Deputy Mayor would be given priority.

Cllr McElvaney asked that the minutes be amended on page 11 to read as follows

Page 5 – last paragraph – after word present include “from the Community & Enterprise Section”

Page 14 – Long Services Awards – delete “he was not” and add “the Members were not invited” ”

This was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2006 as amended.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was distributed to the Members

- Letter from Cathy Burton, Private Secretary to Mr Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a letter in connection with the Register of Electors
- Letter from Sorcha De Bruch, Private Secretary to Eamon O’Cuiv, TD, Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs regarding the CLAR programme.
- Letter from Jennifer Cremin, Programme Division for the NRA regarding the N2 Monaghan/Emyvale Road Realignment Scheme
- Letter from Paschal Griffin, Senior Project Manager regarding the inspection and cleaning of road signage on national roads.
- Letter from An Garda Siochana regarding additional Garda Resources in Co Monaghan
- Letter from Clair Dunne, Director of the Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre requesting a supporting letter to accompany their application for funding.
- Email from Lorraine Dunne, Appointment Secretary to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahearn, TD, requesting a meeting on behalf of a deputation from Monaghan County Council regarding Monaghan General Hospital protest.
- Email from Lorraine Dunne, Appointment Secretary to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahearn, TD regretting that the Taoiseach is unable to meet the deputation from Monaghan County Council and stating that the correspondence has been passed on to his colleague Mr Brian Lenihan, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children.
- Letter from Caoimhghin O Caolain, TD regarding the planned protest at the gates of Leinster House in support of the restoration and development of services at Monaghan General Hospital
- Letter from Ceann Comhairle, Dr Rory O’Hanlon, TD regarding Monaghan General Hospital protest
- Letter from Clones Town Council about a Notice of Motion agreed at their monthly meeting regarding the Register of Electors
- Letter from Louth County Council regarding a proposal in relation to the Higher Education Grant Scheme
- Letter from Mullingar Town Council regarding a Notice of Motion which calls on the Minister of Education and Science to regulate the school book suppliers and stop the custom of printing new books every two years
- Invitation from the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Cavan to their Carol and Community Award Night

Register of Electors

Cllr P Treanor proposed writing to Clones Town Council in support of their motion which called on Monaghan County Council to liaise with the Town Councils in future years when compiling the Draft Register of Electors to avoid the needless deletions of names from the Register. He also proposed writing to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to request them to improve the way the Register of Electors process is carried out in the future

Higher Education Grant Scheme

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to write to Mary Hanafin in support of the proposal adopted by Louth County Council regarding the Higher Education Grant Scheme

Rape Crisis Centre

Cllr Kieran proposed sending a letter of support to the Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre in support of their application for funding.

NRA Correspondence

Cllr B McKenna referred to a letter received by the NRA, which stated that under the Governments national transport infrastructure investment programme “Transport 21”, funding for the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Bypass would not be considered for funding in the short term. This contradicts what the Taoiseach had said previously in his speech to the Fianna Fail Ard Fheis in which he stated the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Road Realignment Scheme was in the pipeline.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr R Gallagher it was agreed to write to Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern to clarify if the N2 Monaghan To Emyvale Road Realignment Scheme would be progressed in the near future

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to request the Road Engineering staff of Monaghan County Council to carry out an audit of all traffic calming sites in each electoral area, and to confirm whether the bollards are lit or not and that a report be presented to the Council.

An Garda Siochana Correspondence

Cllr McElvaney quoted a line from the correspondence from C. Clancy, Assistant Commissioner, an Garda Siochana, which stated that “Local Garda Management reports there have been no instances of illegal dumping of diesel since June 2006”. However the report from David Fallon, Director of Services talks about illegal dumping of diesel in Monaghan right up to the end of November. He asked Mr David Fallon to clarify the situation.

David Fallon, Director of Services said the letter from An Garda Siochana was dated 2nd November, 2006 but was not received until the 9th November, 2006 and this incident was not reported until after the 2nd November.

3. Part VIII – Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 2001

On the proposal of Cllr B McAnespie, seconded by Cllr R Gallagher the Members agreed to approve the report by Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning, dated 24th November 2006 in relation to the Extension to Emyvale

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Derrygasson Upper, Emyvale under Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Developments) Regulations 2001.

4. To consider proposed variation to County Development Plan 1999:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Coyle the Members agreed to approve the report of Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning, dated 27 November 2006, in relation to the proposed variation to County Development Plan 1999 to deal with re-zoning at Tullanacrunnat, Castleblayney.

5. To consider Material Contravention to Monaghan County Development Plan 1999:

Cllr P. McKenna proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that the Council approve the material contravention of the County Development Plan 1999 in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to allow for a development at Drumnolan Wood, Glaslough, as presented

Cllr B McKenna asked for a verbal overview/report on these items.

Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report dated 29th November 2006 in relation to this item. He said planning permission had been granted previously on this site but had lapsed. Ms. Leslie was now applying for permission to build eleven houses in a heavily wooded area which would involve the removal of a number of trees. The application is for tourism development so Part V would not apply here.

Cllr B McKenna said that he had visited the site which was remote from Glaslough Village. He was not speaking against the proposal but it was located in a very exposed site. During the Development Plan meetings they had spoken against tree removal at Laragh. In Tydavnet, a man was refused planning permission even though he had identified the trees that were to be felled. This application does not identify how many trees are to be removed. There appears to be a case of double standards here.

The County Manager said that the Council gives priority to commercial/ industrial projects particularly when it comes to economic development. The application was not the same as a private residential development; Castle Leslie currently employs in excess of 100 people.

The Mayor said that the Members have the right to change the Development Plan - however, they cannot grant planning permission. He knows of a man who wanted to build three chalets at Rahans Lake. However, he was told he might get permission for one. There seems to be double standards being applied. This county needs tourism facilities.

In response to a number of queries by the Members Adrian Hughes gave the following responses:-

- there are no double standards being applied - just different designation. Rahans Lake is a natural heritage area and the applicant proposing to build chalets did not specifically state that it was for tourism. Monaghan County Council actively grants permission to tourism applicants throughout the county.
- Regarding the felling of trees, the number of trees to be felled is limited. There are a substantial number of trees in the area and the loss of some trees will not impact on the wider area. They have received clear indication why some trees are to be removed.

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Services said three quarter of the Members must vote in favour of this proposal. A feasibility study was requested when planning permission was being sought for this area. It is considered contrary to the guidelines for Sustainable Rural Housing development unless, it is next to an existing tourism area. This application is linked to Castle Leslie. The houses cannot be used as a primary residence.

Cllr Carthy objected to this proposal. He said that the community would get little from this process. People would arrive with their cars full of what they needed for the weekend and would not use local facilities. This Authority would receive nothing in Part V or rates.

Cllr Maxwell said that Castle Leslie already had 8 – 10 houses for holiday lets and there is a major benefit to the local village.

The Mayor, asked what safeguards would need to be included to ensure that this would be used for tourism?

Mr. Clifford said that the proposed conditions provide safeguards as no Engineer or Solicitor can sign off on these applications unless the houses are used for tourism proposes. This site is located next to an old demesne and has heritage connotations. He advised the Members that if they required public lighting extending two to three miles from the village, light pollution may affect the wildlife given the wetlands located close by. In response to queries from the Members regarding the provision of footpaths, he stated that there was not the normal requirement for footpaths but that a contribution towards footpaths and lighting can be levied on the developer.

Cllr Conlon proposed an amendment, Cllr McNally seconded -

“ That a condition requiring footpaths/lighting be included as part of the planning conditions ”

Mr. Clifford said that if they put a condition on the planning application for the inclusion of lighting in the demesne, Monaghan County Council would not have the authority to enforce its, however they could levy a contribution based upon costs of €100 per linear meter that would work out at €70,000 towards the provision of a footpath. Public lighting, which can remain on for up to twelve hours in winter, would have an impact on wildlife.

A debate arose as to the correctness of the process – some members felt that the motion to contravene the development plan should have been voted on first and then the conditions added.

The Mayor ruled that he was putting the amendment first and then the original/substantive motion. He said that conditions were always placed on planning applications first and then planning permission would be added.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting - A show of hands resulted in the following, 11 for, 7 against, 1 abstention.

Mr. P. Clifford advised that in order to pass the motion that three quarters of the Members of the Council must vote in favour.

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting.

“ That the Council approve the material contravention of the County Development Plan 1999 in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to allow for a development at Drumnolan Wood, Glaslough and that a condition requiring footpaths/lighting be included as part of the planning conditions ”

A vote by show of hands resulted 16 for 1 against 2 abstentions.

6. Proposed takeover of Lisnaroe Group Water Supply Scheme:

The Members considered the report dated 21 November 2006 from Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Water Services in relation to the Lisnaroe Group Water Supply Scheme. The Members of the Scheme have requested the Council to takeover the scheme and the Council is empowered to do so by virtue of Section 6(3)(a) of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1962. He recommended that the Council takeover this scheme.

In accordance with Mr. Clifford's report and recommendation the Members agreed to the proposed takeover of Lisnaroe Group Water Supply Scheme.

7. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group:

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 22nd November 2006 be approved

8. Local Sports Partnership:

Cllr McElvaney referred to a resolution passed by the Council at an earlier meeting in relation to the Sports Partnership which proposed that Monaghan County Council would participate in the Partnership with the VEC. He enquired as to why this had not happened and that a different regime was now in place. He said the Manager had the right to advise the Members that the body,

as proposed by the Council, couldn't be established. He objected to the County Development Board taking on the Sports Partnership and to the use of Monaghan County Council logo on correspondence. He said that it was clear that the officials of Monaghan County Council were trying to oust the VEC from the process. He wanted to point out to the Members what was going on. He proposed going back to the original proposal where the VEC and Monaghan County Council would operate jointly.

Cllr B McKenna said that subsequent decisions had been taken since the resolution that Cllr McElvaney spoke of. The Manager had not ignored the wishes of this Council. It had been difficult to get co-operation from the CEO of the VEC. The Sports Partnership is up and running and has moved forward with the appointment of a Development Officer. Further monies have been allocated by the Sports Council. The Sports Partnership is an independent body and has to move on – they can't risk losing valuable grant monies.

Cllr P Treanor said that as someone involved with the Sports Partnership, he disagrees with Cllr McElvaney. He rejects the comment that the VEC were not involved. The same proposal was adopted by the VEC as by the Council. It ensured that all sporting bodies were involved in the process. He congratulated Cllr Humphreys on her role as Chair. He wished to congratulate John Tracey from the Irish Sports Council who guided them through the different requirements.

Cllr Conlon congratulated Cllr Humphreys on being appointed Chairperson of the Sports Partnership. He said that it was unfortunate that the VEC have not yet nominated someone to participate; he hoped that differences could be put aside and that the new body can move on.

Cllr Humphreys thanked the Members for their good wishes. The Partnership, which had been set up for the benefit of sport in the county, has held two meetings. She said that her priority, as Chairperson, was to get as much money into the county for sport. There were a large number of applications put forward for funding.

The County Manager said he rejected what Cllr McElvaney said. The Sports Partnership was organised under the aegis of the County Development Board. - that was Government policy. It was also wrong to say that there were difficulties between the VEC and Monaghan County Council.

A number of members stated that the VEC were invited to nominate a representative to the Sports Partnership but still hadn't done so.

Cllr Humphreys said that the Sports Partnership could write to the VEC asking them to participate.

Cllr McElvaney requested that Monaghan County Council logo be dropped if this body are an independent body.

The County Manager said the Sport Partnership could write to the Council requesting the use of Monaghan County Council logo and the Members can decide on the matter.

Mr. Adge King advised that approx 80 applications had been received from various sporting groups in the county and that it was intended the money would be allocated in January.

9. Taking Estates in Charge

Cllr Carthy asked how many estates are to be taken in charge and are the developers required to develop water and sewerage facilities. Cllr Carthy requested that this information be circulated to all the members; he said that Foxfield and Woodvale in Carrickmacross had problems with their water quality. He asked who monitors the water supply in private estates.

Adrian Hughes said that he did not have the exact figure would come back to the Members at the next meeting with figures. He stated that sub standard estates will not be taken in charge, unless they are more than seven years old, where the bond may be used to carry out remedial works.

David Fallon, Director of Services said that the EPA monitors the water quality.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed to take the estate known as "The Corran", Drumbear in charge.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to take the estate known as "Lakeview Heights", Corrybrennan, Ballybay in charge.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to take the estate known as "Derryolam Court", Shercock Road, Carrickmacross in charge.

10. Clar Sub Committee

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to reconstitute the Clar Sub Committee

The Mayor, Pdraig McNally proposed that two names from each political party be submitted for the January meeting.

Cllr B McKenna proposed Cllr Keelan and Cllr Treanor to represent the Sinn Fein members.

The Members agreed to put an item on the January agenda to fix a date for a meeting of the Speed Limits Committee.

11. Report on Illegal Dumping of Diesel Wash in County Monaghan

David Fallon referred to the report which had been prepared by Mr. Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Environment Section. He said the number of incidents was decreasing however the quantity of diesel wash was increasing. It is 5 cent per litre to deal with washed diesel, to date it has cost €1.1 million. The Council are awaiting a grant of €273,000. It is a highly dangerous, toxic, caustic liquid. It is difficult to prosecute those involved. Richard Dowling from RTE had interviewed him on this matter for the evening news.

The Mayor said it was worth noting that this item should not have been made available to the press before the Members had a chance to view it.

The County Manager said the press get the agenda but not the reports, this issue had already been reported on Northern Sound Radio the previous week. He was not aware of how Northern Sound Radio had been given the reports.

Cllr Gallagher said that the National Newspapers had contacted him the previous week but he had not given them any information.

The Members complimented Mr Fallon and Kieran Duffy for a very comprehensive report. Illegal processing of diesel puts legitimate companies out of business and poses a serious health risk to the general public. People involved with this activity have no respect for the public or the environment - it is simply about making a profit. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government have so far funded the cost of cleaning up this product; it is not something that the Council can carry the cost of. Members expressed disappointment at the response of the Assistant Garda Commissioner dated 2nd November in this regard and called on them to continue to pursue the culprits.

Mayor McNally encouraged members of the public to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activities to the Gardai.

12. To fix Dates for Meetings:

On a vote by show of hands, the Members agreed to the January Council Meeting on January 5th 2007 - 12 for, 4 against, 3 abstentions.

Meeting re New Council Offices:

It was agreed that a meeting to consider the New Council Offices project would be held, in Committee, on the afternoon of the January Council meeting.

13. Minutes of Meeting of the following Committees

(a) On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr J O'Brien the Members noted the minutes of the Local Monitoring Committee held in

the M Tek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Tuesday 4th April, Wednesday 7th June and Wednesday 6th September 2006.

- (b) *On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher seconded by Cllr Carville the Members noted the minutes of the meeting of Coiste Logainmneacha held Friday 20th January, Friday 24th March, Friday 21st April, Friday 19th May and Friday 21st July 2006.*

Cllr McElvaney referred to an item in the Minutes of Coiste Logainmneacha held in Monaghan Town Council on Friday 19th May, 2006, under A.O.B. in which a discussion took place on the use of the name Jubilee Road Clones for 98 Avenue and it was suggested that where Planning Applications were submitted with Jubilee Road as address that these applications should be invalidated on the basis of incorrect address. Cllr McElvaney said that he was opposed to this. A new library and Fire Station are being located on this road. During the Development Plan meeting there was an agreement that Estate names should be bi-lingual, however in these minutes it says Gaelic only.

Cllr B McKenna said that the naming of housing estates was to be bi-lingual or Irish only.

- (c) *On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Coyle the Members noted the minutes of An Choiste Gaeilge held on the 16th December 2005 and the 21st July 2006.*

Cllr Maxwell pointed out that there was a typographical error in the Minutes of 13th January 2006, which appeared to be a duplicate of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th December 2005. The Meetings Administrator agreed to check this.

- (d) *On the proposal of Cllr Kieran seconded by Cllr Coyle, the Members noted the minutes of Traveller Accommodation Committee held on 4th July and 14th September, 2006.*

- (e) *On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Kieran the Members agreed the minutes of the meeting with Mr Chris Lyons, HSE held on Wednesday 6th September 2006.*

Cllr McElvaney requested that the word “honesty” be removed from the minutes as he felt Mr. Lyons had not been entirely honest with them.

14 Business submitted by County Manager

Monaghan Immigrant Support Group

The County Manager said that he had received a letter from Canon McGreevy on behalf of the Monaghan Immigrant Support Group, requesting funding of €2000 towards transport costs incurred by the Monaghan Immigrant Support

Group, which helps integrate refugees from St Patrick's Centre into the local community.

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to allocate donation of €2000 to the Monaghan Immigrant Support Group.

Cllr Bannigan stated that he had submitted a motion to deal with Urgent Business relating to the Nitrates Directive. Due to time constraints he proposed that this be deferred until the January Council meeting.

15 Matters Arising

County Development Plan

Cllr Kieran referred to the meeting in relation to the development plan held on the previous Thursday 29th November. He stated that Members were incorrectly told that they couldn't vote on his proposal to rezone land from industrial/employment to commercial at Cornacassa, Monaghan.

Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner said that he didn't say the Members couldn't vote. What he did say was that the land zoned commercial is coloured yellow on the zoning map for Monaghan town. The site in question is zoned industrial/employment (coloured red). As this is a change in policy, a submission should have been made during the prescribed period. As no submission had been received it couldn't be considered. He referred to the decision taken by the full Council at an earlier meeting that no land could be zoned where a submission had not been received during the prescribed period.

The Mayor said that they Members were tied by their own proposal.

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Planning said that legally they could not go back over this item. He said that the information given the Members was not flawed and that the Development Plan process relating to the consideration of submissions concluded last Thursday. The Members had agreed to place the amended plan on public display and invite submissions from the public. The process will be re-opened when the Manager reports on the submissions received during this period.

Cllrs Kieran and McElvaney said that whilst the area was zoned industrial, there is retail going on there at the moment and so there would be no problem changing it if the members wanted to.

Cllr Humphreys said it was her understanding that discussion on the Development Plan had finished last week.

The County Manager said the Members had already agreed that there would be no further discussion on zoning if no submissions were received.

The Mayor asked if these people were aware that this site they had been zoned incorrectly then why had they not put in a submission during the original period?

Cllr Kieran said that they had been informed by planning office that they did not need to.

The County Manager said that this was an outrageous statement

Cllr B McKenna enquired if anything could be done at this stage to change the zoning – could a variation or material contravention be considered?

The County Manager said that it may be possible to re-visit this down the line under a variation to the development plan.

Cllr Maxwell said that he had spoken to the landowner and he had said that he did not want to go down the variation path.

Cllr McElvaney asked what is the difference between Variation and Material Contravention?

Mr. Adrian Hughes said that variation is used where the members wish to change a policy, objective or general zoning in the current plan. The new variation would apply to all future planning applications. A material contravention provides for a specific exemption from the policy, objective or general zoning of the plan for an individual planning application, to allow it alone to be granted permission contrary to the plan.

The Mayor ruled that on the basis of the advice received from the officials that he was ending this debate and moving on with the business of the meeting.

15. Matters arising out of the Minutes of November Council meeting

Register of Electors

Ms. C Thornton, Meeting Administrator said that approx. 700 claims had been received to date. The closing date for receipt of claims was Saturday 9th December but they would accept forms received up to first post Monday morning, the 11th December – 9.30 a.m. at the latest.

Cllr McElvaney welcomed the extension of time agreed by the Minister in this matter.

North East Doctor On Call Service

In response to a query from Cllr McElvaney as to whether there had been any response from Professor Drum in response to a proposal by the Members at the November meeting that they had found his remarks given at the Oireachtas Health Committee insulting, the Meeting Administrator said no there was no response.

Road Safety Campaign

In response to a query from Cllr Maxwell regarding the provision of reflective arm bands, Mr David Fallon, Director of Services said the budget for 2006 had been expended, but that more armbands would be provided next year.

Speed Limits

Cllr Carville thanked the Roads Department for cutting hedges on some of the roads in the Castleblayney area that were being heavily trafficked as a result of motorists trying to avoid delays arising from the bypass.

Cllr Crowe said that the traffic lights in Castleblayney are currently not working and the traffic is flowing much better at the moment.

The County Manager said that the lights would have to be reactivated in the interest of safety for pedestrians.

Farm Plastics

In response to a query from Cllr Humphreys, Mr. David Fallon, said that the Council have applied to be included in the next round of pilot areas but as yet have received no indication of when they are to be included.

Billy Fox Memorial Park

Cllr Bannigan said that he was aware that some discussions had taken place on this and he requested an update for the January Council meeting.

North East Regional Drugs Task Force

Cllr Maxwell said he had attended the North East Drugs Task Force Meeting and that an initiative was set up to train a number of Foroige members in drug awareness. Funding of €71,000 was to be made available for this initiative between Cavan and Monaghan.

16. Questions

Cllr Gary Carville asked:

1. What plans does the Council have to control illegal dumping for the purposes of bonfires at Halloween on Council owned properties such as at Bree Housing Estate in Castleblayney and other similar locations and what specific actions has the Council taken to deal with results of such activities at Bree Housing Estate on 31 October 2006, including the reporting of illegal dumping to the Council on that date?

Reply - The Council published an advertisement in the local press before Halloween advising people of the danger to both public health and the environment. Householders were advised not to supply materials for the burning of bonfires as this is an offence under the Waste Management Act 1996 – 2003

2. When will the Council provide Bus Shelters at Annyalla village for the use of local residents and for children attending the local Primary School?

Reply - Monaghan County Council do not usually provide bus shelter as they are generally provided by bus operators

3. What is the up to date position regarding the proposed and much needed link road from the existing N2 Monaghan Road in Castleblayney to the Keady Road which has been provided for in the Draft County Development Plan and what are the specific next steps in the process?

Reply - Subsequent to the receipt of funding from the Department of the Environment and Local Government, Monaghan County Council has appointed the Engineering Consulting firm of RPS to examine the various options to provide a link between the existing N2 Monaghan Road in Castleblayney to the Keady Road (R181). It is envisaged that a draft report will be presented to the elected members and general public in the coming weeks in order to discuss the various options.

4. Will the Council engage with the residents of Bree Housing Estate in Castleblayney to create a Development Plan for the estate and what specific measures can this Council undertake to assist the people living there in improving their area?

Reply - Monaghan County Council is presently completing the draft County Development Plan 2006-2012. Public consultation meetings were held in Castleblayney town in November 2003 and again in April 2006, following publication of the draft County and Town Development Plans. The proposed amendments to the draft County and Town Development Plans made by the elected members will be available for public inspection and submissions for a period of 4 weeks.

The residents of Bree Housing Estate may, if they wish, meet with the Council's planning officials in relation to any aspect of the area by booking an appointment in the Planning Department, Monaghan County Council.

5. What are the most up to date numbers of applicants on the Housing Waiting Lists for each of the Electoral Areas of this county and how do the figures compare with the same period in 2005?

Reply

Housing waiting list

-	Approved applications on housing waiting list at March 2005	Approved applications on housing waiting list at August 2006	Number of housing applications received between March 2005 and August 2006
<u>Monaghan County Council</u>	223	213	79
Monaghan Town Council	215	264	74

<u>Castleblayney Town Council</u>	129	129	41
<u>Clones Town Council</u>	65	91	18
<u>Carrickmacross Town Council</u>	210	106	51
Total	842	803	263

Cllr Carthy asked:

6. What is the up to date position regarding the council 'taking in charge' the Foxfield and Woodvale housing developments in Carrickmacross? When will these estates be connected to the urban water supply?

Reply - Monaghan County Council received an application from McGreevy Construction Ltd. on 24 April 2006 to have these estates taken-in-charge. Monaghan County Council is working with the developer to ensure the completion of works on these developments in relation to sewerage and footpaths. Monaghan County Council is not yet in a position to connect these estates to the public water supply scheme and the developer continues to provide a treated water supply to Foxfield and Woodvale estates.

7. What are the up to date plans for the commencement and completion of enhancement and development works at the Convent Avenue in Carrickmacross?

Reply - Work was carried out on the avenue last year. Further enhancement works are necessary and will be developed in conjunction with the development of the Civic Centre. It is unlikely that any significant developments will take until 2008.

8. Re: PART V Housing:

Since the introduction of Part V of the Planning and Development Act –

- a) How many houses have been provided by Monaghan Local Authorities under this scheme in each year since?

Reply

Part V	Summary of programme to date		Under construction for Local authority	Under construction for Voluntary Housing Associations	Expected to commence	Total
	Units completed					
	2005	2006	2006	2006	2007	
Monaghan Co Co	0	7	14	0	61	82
Clones Town Council	0	5	0	0	11	16
Castleblayney	0	4	0	0	5	9

Town Council						
Monaghan Town Council	12	22	36	31	42	143
Carrickmacross Town Council	4	4	3	0	3	14
Total	16	42	53	31	122	264

- b) How much land in lieu of housing has been secured by Monaghan Local Authorities under this scheme in each year since?

Reply - *Monaghan Local Authorities have acquired no land to date under Part V.*

- c) In how many instances has a financial settlement in lieu of housing been agreed by Monaghan Local Authorities under this scheme in each year since? How much in total does this amount to and what specific housing has been provided with these funds?

Reply - *An agreement has been made by Monaghan Town Council in two instances. The combined total due to the Town Council is €508,486. The Town Council will submit proposals to the DOEHLG to use these funds for housing purposes upon receipt of same.*

9. Is the Council aware that with regard to the residential 3% annual discount that tenant purchasers are entitled to a Department circular (6-95) states that when calculating the discount local authorities should use the date of Transfer Order as the cut-off point i.e. the date when the sales contract is signed and money is handed over?

Considering that it has transpired that some Councils have been using the Date of Valuation which, due to the delay that often occurs between the two dates, results in some purchasers losing one years discount; can the Manager inform the members as to whether Monaghan County Council has been using the Transfer Order date or the Date of Valuation as the cut-off?

If it has been the latter what plans does the Council have to identify and refund purchasers who participated in the tenant purchase scheme and who lost a years discount?

Reply - *Monaghan County Council has used the date of the Transfer Order as the cut off point when calculating discount where the purchase has been completed by the tenant purchaser within the time of offer. If the tenant purchase is not completed by the expiry time, Monaghan County Council will arrange an updated valuation and allow an additional 3% discount, where applicable, in that case. The increased valuation may increase the net sale price of the house, taking into account any discount entitlement.*

Cllr Jackie Crowe asked:

10. When will the public lights for Tullycorbet Hall be installed. These lights have been paid for and should be connected immediately. It is very dangerous for people using the hall especially during these dark evenings.

Reply - The ESB have installed the columns in the last month. They propose to install the lantern heads and make the connection in the next 2/3 weeks.

11. In the interest of safety for residents and mass goers at Oram chapel when will Monaghan Co. Council install the promised footpath from the main road to the chapel.

Reply - It was envisaged that these works were to be carried out as part of the housing scheme in the area however this didn't materialise. These works have been measured and will be included as part of the road programme for 2007.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

12.(a) Will Monaghan County Council immediately carry out repair/maintenance work on the road known locally as the Cremartin Road (LP03410 to LP03421), as local residents of the road and the surrounding area are very concerned at the current dangerous condition of the road due to the work on the Castleblayney By-pass and traffic using the road to the landfill?

Reply - Some maintenance work has been carried out on this road over the last few months and will be continued until the major construction works has been completed on the bypass. The difficulty is that any maintenance work carried out is only effective for a short term due to the volume of heavy traffic along this route. The section LP03410 will need extensive drainage and reconstruction and is part of the planned programme of works for 2007.

(b) What is the up to date position with regard to the request from Monaghan County Council to the Department of transport for re-classification of the Cremartin Road to regional status?

Reply - There has been no further developments on the request to re-classify the Cremartin Road to Regional Status.

(c) When will Monaghan County Council put in place public lighting at the junction of the Cremartin Road and the Ballybay/Castleblayney Road (RJ183) and the (LP03410) as this is currently a very dangerous junction?

Reply - A design has been received and it is envisaged that these works will be incorporated in the programme of works for next year.

(d) What plans have Monaghan County Council for a playground for the village of Latton?

Reply Monaghan County Council has no plans to provide a playground at Latton.

Cllr Owen Bannigan asked:

Regarding the proposed bundled scheme for Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay

(a) Has Monaghan County Council appointed Consultants?

(b) Will the scheme be Design & Build or Design, Build and Operate?

Reply Monaghan County Council appointed Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers to prepare the preliminary report for the above bundled project on the 23rd October '06.

The consultant will be required to address the issue of procurement of the construction of the project and to make recommendations as to which elements of the project should proceed by traditional procurement and which by D&B, DBO or DBOF.

18 Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to propose that Monaghan County Council have a Civic Reception for the Donaghmoyne Ladies Football Team on winning the All-Ireland club Championship on Sunday last

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to

- Donaghmoyne Ladies on winning the VHI Healthcare All-Ireland Senior Club Championship.
- Ciara McAnespie on being selected "Young Player of the Year" in Ulster.
- Drumhowan G.A.A. Club on winning the Monaghan Junior Football Championship and the junior double for 2006.
- Carrickmacross Emmetts on winning the Vincent McAviney Cup, the Intermediate League and the Monaghan Intermediate Double for 2006.
- Raymond McHugh on his appointment as Principal of St. Macartan's College, Monaghan.
- Padraig Duffy on his appointment by the G.A.A. as Players Liaison Officer.

The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to

- Mrs Elizabeth Ingram on the death of her husband Cllr John Ingram, Banbridge District Council.
- Mr Paddy and Jimmy McShane on the death of their uncle Patrick McShane.
- Cllr Gary Carville on the death of his uncle Joe Smyth.

The meeting then concluded

Signed: _____ **Meara** _____ **Meetings Administrator**

Date: _____