

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 7th December, 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Maxwell, McElvaney, McPhillips, B. McKenna, McNally, O’Hanlon P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. A. King, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. P. Maguire, A/Senior Executive Planner, Ms. M. Cullinane and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. Coyle.

Vote of sympathy:

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy with Cllr Seamus Coyle on the death of his mother Rose Anne (Rosie) that weekend. Cllr McNally seconded the proposal and paid tribute to the late Mrs. Coyle who he said Cllr Coyle would miss terribly. A number of members joined in the expression of sympathy to Cllr Coyle. The vote was agreed unanimously by the members.

Cllr Keelan also proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr Ciara McPhillips on the death of her uncle John Joe Reilly, late of Newbliss. Cllr P. Treanor seconded the proposal which was also agreed unanimously.

Cllr McPhillips thanked the members for the expression of sympathy.

Mr. A. King, Chief Executive joined in the votes of sympathy on behalf of the Management and Staff of the Council.

As a mark of respect the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period.

On resumption, the Cathaoirleach asked the members of the media to withdraw from the meeting room as Item 1 must be dealt with in the absence of the public and the media, in accordance with Article 8 of the Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations 2014.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council discuss Item 1 ‘In Committee’.

1. In Committee – To consider the recommendations of the Public Appointments Service and the Corporate Policy Group in relation to the appointment of Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council.

Mr. A. King, Chief Executive explained to the members that, following receipt by the Cathaoirleach of a recommendation from the Public Appointments Service in relation to the appointment of Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council, the Corporate Policy Group had met to consider the recommendation. In accordance with Article 3(2) of S.I. 589/2014, Local

Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations, the Cathaoirleach notified the Council members that the Corporate Policy Group accepted the recommendation from the Public Appointments Service and recommended to the Council that Mr. Eamonn O'Sullivan is appointed as Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr. Eamonn O'Sullivan to the position of Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council.

A number of members expressed the view that there needed to be a binding contract in place to ensure that the new Chief Executive would remain in the position for the duration of the contract. It was noted that the Council had already written to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in this regard.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that if there is no response from the Minister for the Environment and Local Jobs to our letter in relation to the period a Chief Executive must serve as Chief Executive before our February meeting that we write again to the Minister urging he address this issue.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the meeting return to public session.

2. To consider the filling of the Casual Vacancy on Monaghan County Council arising from the resignation of Cllr Eugene Bannigan

Cllr. McPhillips said it was her pleasure to propose the co-option of Sean Gilliland, Boraghy, Loughmourne, Castleblayney, to Monaghan County Council for the Ballybay-Clones electoral area. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Campbell. As there was no other proposal Sean Gilliland was deemed co-opted to fill the casual vacancy on Monaghan County Council.

Cllr Maxwell, as whip of the Fine Gael party introduced Cllr Gilliland to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Keelan welcomed Councillor Gilliland and wished him well for the remaining term of the current Council. All members present congratulated Cllr Gilliland.

The Chief Executive, Mr. A. King also welcomed Cllr. Gilliland and wished him every success during his term on the Council. He said he looked forward to working with him.

Cllr. Gilliland thanked the Cathaoirleach, his proposer and seconder, the elected members and the Chief Executive for their warm welcome. He said he was looking forward to working with them for the betterment of the county. He stated that he had a keen interest in the development and improvement of the infrastructure of the Ballybay-Clones area.

It was agreed that that Cllr. Gilliland would fill the vacancy on the following committees:

- SPC for Social Cultural and Community Development
- Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee
- Clones Erne East Partnership
- Lough Muckno Partnership
- EirGrid Sub Committee
- Landfill Sub-Committee

It was agreed that Cllr McPhillips would continue on the Speed Limits Committee.

Cllr McElvaney made a statement during which he referred to an RTE programme that was to be broadcast later that night and that he would feature in it.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the following meetings be confirmed -

- (i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd November, 2015*
- (ii) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 10th November, 2015*
- (iii) Minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 20th November, 2015*

4. Correspondence.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that he had received two notices of Urgent Business as follows:

Proposed by Sean Féin members

That the Council engage with the appropriate departments in an effort at seeking remedial measures to alleviate recurring flooding in Monaghan town.

Proposed by Fine Gael members

Due the recent flooding we are calling on this council for urgent action to be taken in conjunction with Louth County Council to address serious flooding in the Annadrumman/Toome where a number of residents cannot get out of their homes due also in part to the Louth water supply from Lough Muckno.

This flooding also has a knock on effect on the Oram and Cremartin areas around Castleblayney. An urgent meeting needs to be set up between the executive and the member of the area affected to address this ongoing problem.

It was agreed that the Urgent Business would be taken at the 5.00 p.m.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the new tenant purchase scheme for existing local authority houses.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation the Group Home at Carrickmacross.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the Council's resolution seeking an increase in home help hours.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding the former Bose Factory in Carrickmacross.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport regarding additional LIS funding.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport regarding the Clontibret to the N.I. border road scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding current garda numbers.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding the Department of Social Protection office in Ballybay.
- Letter from Nigel Renaghan, Chairman IFA National Poultry Committee thanking the Council for its support for the IFA Committee's proposals under the TAMII Schemes.
- Letter from Irish Water in response to the Council's resolution regarding the treatment of hard water.
- Letter from Cavan County Council asking for support for its resolution requested the Minister for Agriculture to consider implementing a plan for spreading slurry other than on the calendar dates that presently exist and which take no cognisance of unpredictable weather conditions.
- Letter from the Reverend Charles Cheverie, Prince Edward Island, thanking the Council for its generous financial assistance to help restore the historic Roman Catholic Cemetery there.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in response to the Council's resolution regarding the Dublin-Monaghan bombings.
- Letter from the Office of Public Works regarding the proposed relocation of the Ballybay PSC office to Monaghan Town.
- Letter from Jenny Pyper Chief Executive, Utility Regulator in response to the Council's resolution regarding the North-South Interconnector.
- Letter from the County Secretary, County Monaghan Comhaltas, accepting the Council's invitation to a meeting to discuss plans for the possible hosting of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann at a future date.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council write again to Minister Pascal Donohue outlining the great need for the reintroduction of the LIS as a separate entity, as there is inadequate funding from our roads budget to implement a meaningful LIS going forward.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that a delegation of one member of each grouping, the Cathaoirleach and staff from the relevant Council sections meet with the County Monaghan branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann in January, for the purpose of securing Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann for Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that this Council write to the office of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Theresa Villiers, MP, and British Prime Minister David Cameron urging the British government to allow access by an independent international judicial figure to all original documents in their possession relating to the Dublin-Monaghan bombings of 1974. That this Council appeals to all local authorities throughout the island of Ireland to similarly correspond with the named offices for the purpose of determining culpability of this atrocity.

On the proposal of Cllr Cathy Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council write again to the office of the Department of Social Protection and request that they source a building in Ballybay to house new Public Service Card office. The Department of Social Protection's decision to move to Monaghan will have a detrimental effect on the town of Ballybay and its people.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council write again to Irish Water and request that compensation is awarded to households and businesses that are supplied with hard water. Households and businesses incur additional charges on a regular basis with a hard water supply, such as replacing appliances and installing water softeners should be compensated for.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council writes to the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and specifically, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to request a replacement company to take over the former Bose facility in Carrickmacross as quickly as possible, with a view to regaining a manufacturing business in the town, and noting that rent is already covered by the Bose Corporation until the end of 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that this Council calls on the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the HSE, RESPOND Housing Association and all relevant bodies to continue to push for completion of the Group Home for persons with a physical and sensory difficulties in Carrickmacross as quickly as possible. Too many delays have been encountered with this project.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Transport, Paschal Donohoe, TD, to agree to a special meeting with a deputation from the Council in relation to providing additional funds for our Local and Regional roads.

5. To consider Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross

The members considered the Section 183 Notice and the report which had been circulated to each member in advance of the meeting and were also circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal .29 hectares of land at Drummond Otra, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross to Monaghan County Enterprise Board in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice dated 16th November, 2015 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

6. To consider the Draft County Monaghan Retail Strategy 2015 – 2021

As Chair of the Planning SPC, Cllr P. Treanor introduced the Draft Retail Strategy which had been considered by the Strategic Policy Committee and the Corporate Policy Group.

Ms. M. Cullinane, Executive Planner outlined the purpose of the Draft Retail Strategy 2015 – 2021. The main purpose is to create appropriate conditions necessary to foster a healthy and vibrant retailing environment through policy recommendations based on:

- An analysis of the county's retail environment
- Providing information on the quantum, scale and types of retail development required over a 6 year period

Ms. Cullinane presented figures regarding the amount of retail floorspace and vacancy levels in the towns. She stated that substantial growth had occurred in the boom years and there were currently high rates of vacancy in the towns, particularly with regard to comparison and bulky goods categories. She presented indicative additional retail floorspace requirements on a county basis for 2015 to 2022 which demonstrated that for comparison and convenience retailing there was limited current requirement but that towards 2022 there should be some additional requirement. The figures indicated continuing oversupply of bulky goods.

With regard to assessing planning applications, the preferred location for retail development is within existing town centres and that larger retail planning applications will be subjected to Retail Impact Assessment, The Sequential Test and Traffic and Transport Assessments.

Ms. Cullinane recommended that the Draft Retail Strategy would go out for public consultation. A report would be prepared on any submissions received and presented to the Council at a meeting in early 2016. If agreed by the Council the Draft Retail Strategy would be adopted as a variation to the Development Plan by March 2016.

Following her presentation, Ms. Cullinane responded to queries/comments from the elected members.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Draft County Monaghan Retail Strategy 2015-2021 be placed on public display and that submissions be invited from the public. That public meetings be organised in each of the five towns in the county and the submissions be invited from the Public Participation Network.

7. To receive update on the CFRAM Programme – Statutory Consultation on Draft Flood Maps

Mr Pádraig Maguire made a presentation to the members including an update on

1. The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMs) Programme
2. The Development of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for County Monaghan

He made the following key points:

- CFRAMs is the responsibility of the OPW and not Monaghan County Council. It is a national programme identifying key flood risk areas across the country. The role of the Local Authority is to validate information presented by the OPW and highlight the issues locally during public consultation phases.
- The Draft Flood Risk Maps that are currently on public display during the statutory consultation period of **20 November – 23 December 2015**, is one of a number of key stages in the CFRAMs process. The OPW will be making a presentation to the members early in 2016 on the options being considered for each of the four AFAs in County Monaghan (Monaghan Town, Carrickmacross, Ballybay and Inniskeen)
- If someone wishes to object to the draft flood risk maps, then they must make sure they are eligible (e.g. they are owner, occupier or user of land or property within one of the four AFAs) and that these objections must be made on the relevant objection form, on or before **5pm on 21 December 2015**.
- If any other person wishes to make a comment or observation, then they should do so on the relevant form on or before **5 pm on 23 December 2015**.

- All objections and comments/observations should be sent to OPW, HQ in Trim, County Meath and not to Monaghan County Council

In the second part of his presentation, Mr Maguire went on to outline what the Council were doing in terms of assessing flood risk in the remainder of the county (outside the above 4 areas). Key points made included:

- Monaghan County Council has to prepare a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for all of County Monaghan to ensure compliance with the DECLG Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009.
- The SFRA process and outputs will include:
 - Identification of flood risk in all urban and rural areas in County Monaghan;
 - Develop a suite of flood risk maps reflecting actual flood risk;
 - Develop a Flood Risk Management Strategy – policies and objectives; and
 - Review Settlements and zoning throughout County Monaghan to reflect information emerging from points 1 -3 above
- Work had progressed on this SFRA and would continue in the early part of 2016. A Draft SFRA would be presented to the members prior to going out on public consultation in Q2 2016.

In conclusion, Mr Maguire highlighted the importance of this work in light of recent flood events over the weekend and likelihood of further flooding later that week. In addition to the work in terms of reporting flood incidents and recording by the Engineers within the Municipal Districts, he asked that if any members present, or members of the public, have information regarding recent flooding, to contact him at the County Council or any of the Municipal District Engineers to provide as much information as is possible, as this will be invaluable in expanding the County Council flood risk database and developing a County Monaghan SFRA.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for OPW to provide immediate funding for Monaghan County Council to address the serious flooding black spots in our county.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the OPW requesting a further open day in a local hotel regarding flood risks in the county.

It was agreed that the motions of Urgent Business would be taken at this point given their relevance to the item under discussion.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

That the Council engage with the appropriate departments in an effort at seeking remedial measures to alleviate recurring flooding in Monaghan town.

In proposing the motion Cllr S. Conlon requested that the report prepared by Consultants for the former Monaghan Town Council, in relation to flooding at the traffic lights be forwarded to the Office of Public Works for consideration.

Cllr Campbell proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded

Due the recent flooding we are calling on this Council for urgent action to be taken in conjunction with Louth County Council to address serious flooding in the Annadrumman/Toome where a number of residents cannot get out of their homes due also in part to the Louth water supply from Lough Muckno. This flooding also has a knock on effect on the Oram and Cremartin areas around Castleblayney. An urgent meeting needs to be set up between the executive and the member of the area affected to address this ongoing problem.

The Cathaoirleach put both motions to the meeting and they were agreed.

8. To receive Presentation from Consultants (Roughan & O'Donovan) on the Dundalk – Sligo Road Project.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Michael Conroy (Roughan O Donovan), Colin Acton and Anthony Dale (Aecom) to the meeting.

In their presentation, the Consultants outlined the current status of the Dundalk-Sligo Road Project, following which, they responded to queries from the elected members. They explained that the progression of the project would be dependent on funding being allocated.

9. To receive Management Report for November, 2015

The members noted the contents of the Management Report for November 2015 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

10. To confirm date for January Council meeting.

It was agreed that the January Council meeting would be held on Monday 11th January, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally, McPhillips, O'Hanlon in respect of their attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- AILG Training Seminar (Housing), Maynooth, Co. Kildare
- AILG Training Seminar (Local Government Reform), Inchydoney, Co. Cork
- LAMA Autumn Seminar, Kilkenny
- AILG Training (Roads), Silver Springs, Cork
- AILG Training (Water Pollution), Dublin
- Local Authority Finance, Wexford
- AILG Training (Roads) Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
- AILG Training (Water/Lobbying), Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- Consumer Rights, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
- LAMA Spring Seminar, Tuam, Co. Galway.

12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 2nd, 10th and 20th November

This item was not dealt with.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

This item was not dealt with.

14. To receive update on Ulster Canal project.

This item was not dealt with.

15. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

Peace Link Project:

Mr. King referred to the decision of the Council in July 2012 whereby the members agreed to contribute €487,976 to the Clones Sports Project (The Peace Link) to meet the budget shortfall on this project. The project has initially been allocated €7.8m by the SEUPB. The Council has now received notice of an increased offer of €8.5m as a result of an overall programme underspend. The Council is satisfied that it will be able to present eligible expenditure to draw down up to approx. half a million of this additional funding. When the outcome of this funding becomes clear a full report on the overall spend on the project will be presented to the members.

Peace IV:

Mr. King advised the members that the new EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2014 – 2020 (Peace IV) was approved by the EU Commission on the 30th November 2015. Following on from this announcement the Special EU Programme Body (SEUPB) met with Senior Management of the 17 Councils in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland to outline details of the programme. The overall allocation for the Peace IV programme is €270m, with Councils being invited to deliver 30% of this budget of €79.35m. This funding is made up comprises of €69m (85%) European Regional Development Fund, and 15% (€10.35m) match funding provided by the accountable departments in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

He stated that the allocation to Monaghan County Council is €2,971,514 and the Council will now be required to deliver this across the actions of Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations. This allocation is subject to Monaghan County Council submitting a detailed Action Plan, aligned across the three themes, to be approved by SEUPB. Each Council will be expected to put in place appropriate partnership arrangements which will form the Peace Partnership Board. The board will plan, manage and implement the programme. Preparation of the Action Plan will begin in the New Year, and it is anticipated that preparation, consultation and approval will take place by late 2016. It is envisaged that once the action plan has been approved by SEUPB that program activity will commence in 2017.

16. To receive presentation from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. David Joyce, Equality and International Development Officer, Irish Congress of Trade Unions and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr. Joyce explained that the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) is seeking the support of Monaghan County Council for the Charter for Fair Conditions at Work. The Charter sets out basic requirements for decent working conditions: a Living Wage, Fair Hours of Work, Fair Public Procurement, Respect at Work and Union Recognition.

He stated that the Congress Charter Campaign has already seen over 100 TDs and MEPs sign up in support and Congress is now seeking the support of elected councillors across the country. Congress has already met with a number of County Councils, in relation to this matter.

Mr. Joyce then responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council pledge support for the Irish Congress of Trade Union's campaign to achieve a living wage and fair employment conditions as set out in the Congress Charter.

18. Questions:

Cllr C. McPhillips asked:

1. What procedures has Monaghan County Council in place to deal with the increased volume of materials which are brought to our Bring Banks after the Christmas period, to ensure that banks are not full and are available for use?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will work with the contractor to ensure extra collection over the Christmas period in urban areas.

2. Can Monaghan County Council confirm the emergency contact numbers that are available to both tenants and road users over the Christmas period?

Reply: Notice is placed in the Northern Standard and on Monaghan County Councils website giving details of the emergency contact numbers.

3. Further to a previous question, has Monaghan County Council received, to date, any details regarding the Town and Village Renewal Scheme? If the details are to hand, can same be outlined?

Reply: The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is currently being prepared by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. It is intended that the five-year scheme with a total investment of €30m will roll out in 2016. The new scheme will be informed by the outcomes of the 2015 REDZ scheme, which was designed as a "pilot" programme involving communities and local authorities working together to initiate local development. Castleblayney, Ballybay and Lough Egish were successful in attracting the REDZ funding in 2015.

4. Will Monaghan County Council outline the details of the Tenant Purchase Scheme, in particular the key dates and the sources of income which are to be included in calculating "reckonable income"?

Reply: A summary of the New Tenant Purchase Scheme has been forwarded to all Council Members. A full presentation of the New Tenant Purchase Scheme for existing local authority houses will be made to members at the February Council Meeting. Following this meeting all tenants will be notified of the new scheme.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

5. With a view to the development of potential flagship tourism attractions in the county what is the current position in relation to the ongoing discussions between Monaghan County Council and Coillte with regard to Rossmore Park and when can we expect a conclusion to same?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is currently in discussions with Coillte with a view towards completing a Memorandum of Understanding between both parties in relation to the management and development of Rossmore Park. It is anticipated that an agreement can be concluded shortly to allow some development of the facility in 2016.

6. In relation to the recent C-FRAM study which was designed to identify areas of flooding in County Monaghan when can we expect the affected areas to be addressed?

Reply: The CFRAMS for the North West and Neagh Bann (NWNB) River Basin Districts is progressing in line with the original plans to develop Flood Risk Management Plans for key flood risk areas across the country. There were four areas identified as Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) in County Monaghan which are Monaghan Town, Carrickmacross, Ballybay and Inniskeen. These four areas are being assessed as part of the national CFRAMS programme and the following is an update of progress and future work:

- The Draft Flood Risk Maps for the four AFAs of Monaghan Town; Carrickmacross; Ballybay and Inniskeen are available for inspection from 20th November, 2015 to 23rd December, 2015 at the Planning Section, Monaghan County Council Office, Carrickmacross Civic Offices & Ballybay Clones Municipal District Office. They are also available for inspection online at - http://maps.opw.ie/flood_draftmap_consult/ (see CFRAMS information note sent with agenda of this meeting for further details)
- The OPW and RPS are currently developing Optioneering Reports for each of the above four areas. These Options Reports will identify a range of options in terms of dealing with the flood risk identified, and where necessary, will outline proposed works that will be planned and undertaken to alleviate the flood risk to residential and commercial property owners.
- In Q1 and Q2 2016, these Options Reports will be presented to the members of Monaghan County Council by the OPW /RPS and thereafter put on public display for a 4-6 week period
- Towards the end of 2016, a detailed Flood Risk Management Plan will be prepared for each of the four AFAs, summarising the above, and providing a plan for any capital works or other necessary solutions to reduce or alleviate flood risk to people or their properties that were identified as being at flood risk within the four AFAs

A short presentation will also be provided on the above by Mr Pádraig Maguire at the December Council Meeting.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked (contd):

7. Can the Council give an update with regard to the taking in charge of the Knockcarrick housing estate in Annyalla?

Reply: The Council has not received a taking in charge application for this development. It has however successfully drawn down €200,000 from the related development bond, and it is now intended to use this to remediate the site.

8. Can the Council outline the emergency contact persons and contacts in each MD and where these can be accessed so that council tenants or members of the public who may encounter an emergency situation requiring the assistance of the council over the Christmas holiday period can make contact easily and quickly?

Reply: Notice is placed in the Northern Standard and on Monaghan County Councils website giving details of the emergency contact numbers.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

9. Can the Council erect signage to the Convent Lands Housing estate to prevent HGV's from parking there at night?

Reply: Signs were ordered by the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney on the 18th of November last and are currently being fabricated. Delivery expected soon.

10. When does this Council envisage works to commence on the Group Home for persons with Physical and Sensory Disabilities in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Respond Housing Association envisages commencement in Quarter 1 of 2016.

11. What is the total length of Public roads in Co. Monaghan (National, Regional, Local etc) in kilometres; can you give us a breakdown per MD?

Reply:

Road Classification	Monaghan Km	Ballybay/ Clones Km	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney Km	Road Class Total Km
National Roads	49.02	20.41	35.33	104.75
Regional Roads	56.53	159.25	82.41	298.18
Local Primary Roads	132.48	246.80	162.52	541.80
Local Secondary Roads	163.29	243.91	174.69	581.90
Local Tertiary Roads	310.49	397.48	313.25	1021.22

2547.85

Total Road Length (Nat/Reg/Local)	711.80	1067.85	768.20	2547.85
Total National Road Length	49.02	20.41	35.33	104.75
Total Regional Length	56.53	159.25	82.41	298.18
Total Local Road Length	606.255	888.191	650.470	2144.916

Cllr C. Carthy asked (contd):

12. Can the Council confirm the BER rating for each of the housing units it owns in the county; subsequently, are all units to a certain rating (including existing dwellings)?

Reply: The Building Energy Rating Records are currently being updated following the completion of Phase 1 of the Energy Efficiency Programme involving the increase of insulation in cavity walls and attics and pipe lagging so records are not readily available for all houses at present. Given the exceptional diversity of the more than 1,400 houses in Council ownership with years of construction ranging from 1877 to 2015 the Building Energy Ratings range from G to A3. All Monaghan County Council owned houses with cavity walls have had Energy Efficiency upgrade work carried out under Phase 1 of the Programme and it is intended that the remaining houses with solid and hollow concrete block walls are to be targeted under Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency Programme as directed by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. As the dwellings owned by Monaghan County Council range from 1-bedroom single storey houses to 6-bedroom 2-storey houses with various types of heating systems there is no target Building Energy Rating; the overall intention of the Energy Efficiency Programme is to provide 100mm wall insulation and 300mm attic insulation where possible with associated ventilation where required.

13. Will the Council be seeking private houses to purchase in 2016; when does it envisage advertising these purchases?

Reply: Monaghan County Council intends to purchase ten or more houses in 2016 depending on funding available. To increase the number of houses available to let it is intended that some derelict houses will be purchased in 2016 and more than sufficient numbers have been identified for this purpose. There is approximately 300 houses advertised for sale in County Monaghan at present and the Council is continuously receiving expressions of interest from property owners so there is no need for an advert at present. As the year progresses if it is deemed necessary advertising will take place.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

14. For the purpose of enhancing road user safety along the N2 at Moyles Castleshane, will the Council Roads Section seek of Transport Infrastructure Ireland the installation of a middle lane on this busy national primary route for traffic turning right onto the L-5520-0.

Reply: The TII adopt a standards based approach to junction treatment that considers accident history and traffic volume at a particular junction to determine the most appropriate junction arrangement. This junction will be brought to the attention of the TII Safety Inspector for consideration.

18. Notices of Motion:

It was agreed that consideration of Notices of Motion 18(1) – 18 (4) be deferred to the January meeting.

19. Votes of Congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the Donaghmoyne Ladies Football team on winning the All Ireland Club Football Championship.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that a Civic Reception would be hosted for the Donaghmoyne Ladies team on the evening of the February Council meeting and that the February meeting would be held in Carrickmacross Civic Offices.

It was also agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Rockcorry GFC on winning the Ulster Junior Club Football Championship.

20. Conferences/Training.

There were no conferences/training events approved at the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach wished all present a very happy Christmas and new year 2016.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
