

**Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr G Carville, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. Con McCrossan, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. Padraig Maguire, Executive Planner, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

**(1) Confirmation of Minutes**

Ms. Carmel Thornton, Meeting Administrator referred to a correction on page five of the minutes, last sentence, under the title Clar/Local Improvement Scheme, the date should read 31 January 2008 and not 31 February 2008

*On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 be confirmed as amended.*

**(2) Correspondence**

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

- Letter from the National Roads Authority detailing the 2008 National Roads Allocation under the headings National Primary and National Secondary.
- Letter from Mr Aidan Corcoran, Manager Eirgrid Transmission Project's acknowledging receipt of correspondence sent by Monaghan County Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.
- Letter from the Department of Social and Family Affairs in response to a letter send from Monaghan County Council dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.
- Letter from Ms Martina Kearney, Private Secretary to Ms Mary Coughlan, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to the Farm Improvement Scheme.
- Letter from Mr Paul Flanagan, Private Secretary to Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council supporting a resolution from Macroom Town Council calling on the Minister for Health to introduce a system of reporting in the Health Service.
- Letter from Mr. Gabriel O'Connell, County Monaghan Partnership requesting that the nomination of Local Authority Representation to the board of the Integrated Body be placed on the February Council agenda.
- Letter from Ms Maura O Caoimh regarding the proposed ban on Jet Skis on some of the lakes in Cavan and at Lough Muckno in Co. Monaghan.

- Letter from Ms Una Duffy regarding the proposed ban on Jet Skis on some of the lakes in Cavan and at Lough Muckno in Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from Ms Kathy Duffy, Secretary Monaghan Society in New York inviting Members to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- Letter from Mr Jim Brady, Chairman of the Caledon Regeneration Partnership regarding their tenants the Blackwater Regional Partnership and how it's essential that the Blackwater Regional Partnership receive Interreg funding to ensure the sustainability of Caledon Courthouse.
- Letter from Paraic O'Dufaigh, Director General of the GAA thanking the Members for their Civic Reception and presentation to mark his appointment as Director General of the GAA.
- Letter from Labhras O'Murchu, Cathaoirleach of Fonduireacht a Phiarsaigh requesting nominations for the Pdraig Pearse Award 2008.
- Resolution from Ballinasloe Town Council highlighting the present inadequacies in the planning system whereby An Bord Pleanala can approve planning applications that are not in line with proper planning.
- Letter from Dublin City Council supporting a resolution from Monaghan County Council calling on the Government to accord national honours to Thomas Kent.
- Resolution from Balbriggan Town Council calling on the Minister for the Environment to bring in legislation to close the loophole in the law, whereby drives with foreign licences who break the road Traffic laws are not given penalty points.
- Resolution from Waterford City Council calling on the Government to honour its commitment to implement new legislation regarding Agency Workers as promised under the terms of the National Agreement "Towards 2016".
- Letter from Ms Martina Kerney, Private Secretary to Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mary Coughlan, TD acknowledging correspondence concerning a motion adopted by Waterford County Council in relation to banning the importation of Brazilian Beef.
- Letter from Ms Teresa McGuirk, A/Town Clerk, Ballybay Town Council in relation to a Notice of Motion adopted by Ballybay Town Council requesting Monaghan County Council to examine the possibility of locating their new County Council Headquarters in Ballybay.
- Letter from Mr Brendan Smith, TD, Minister for Children regarding the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme.
- Resolution from Limerick County Council calling on the Government and the Minister for Health to abolish the HSE and replace it with an efficient body.

### **Farm Improvement Scheme**

***On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture Mary Coughlan to re-introduce as a matter of urgency the recently suspended Farm Improvement Scheme ”***

### **Proposed Interconnector:**

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

*“That this Council calls on Eirgrid to immediately accept the offer of an independent consultant to examine all aspects of the proposed interconnector from Meath through Cavan and Monaghan to Tyrone. This independent analysis to examine the need for the project, the cost of the project, the underground option and the use of modern technology to enable these high voltage power lines to be placed underground. This independent consultant to be agreed between Eirgrid and the local communities.*

*“ On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to write to all Local Authorities highlighting Eirgrid’s intention to locate 625km of grid throughout Ireland and to place its power lines overground as opposed to placing them underground in accordance with public wishes. Monaghan County Council seeks the support of each local authority in the matter. ”*

### **Caledon Regeneration Partnership**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Martin it was agreed to send a letter Caledon Regeneration Partnership in support of the retention and further development of the Blackwater Regional Partnership ”*

### **Motion from Balbriggan Town Council**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Balbriggan Town Council calling on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Minister John Gormley, T.D., to bring in legislation to close the loophole in the law, whereby drivers with foreign or otherwise invalid licences who break the road Traffic laws are not being given penalty points.*

### **National Roads Authority**

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P McKenna it was agreed to seek a meeting with National Road Authority officials to re-consider the 2008 National Roads Allocations for National Primary and National Secondary routes and to explain the reduction of one million euro over the 2007 allocation.*

*Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr Kieran seconded that the Roads SPC be circulated with a list of road projects, that have been submitted to the National Roads Authority for funding – the SPC to prioritise these projects and submit recommendation to the Council. This was agreed.*

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Director stated that he will meet with the Area Engineers to examine all roads identified in the County Development Plan and will bring a report to the Strategic Policy Committee for discussion and recommendation to the full Council.

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the allocation of €100,000 for Ballinacarry Bridge be used to carry out safety measures on the Ballinacarry Bridge similar to safety measures carried out on the Northern Ireland side of this bridge.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed to that detailed plans for the bypassing of Clones Town are immediately submitted to the National Roads Authority.*

### **Notice of Motion from Waterford City Council**

*On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Waterford City Council calling on the Government to honour its commitment to implement new legislation regarding Agency Workers as promised under the terms of the National Agreement “Towards 2016”*

### **Community Childcare Subvention Scheme**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to write again to Minister Brendan Smith, TD restating the motion as adopted at the October Council meeting in relation to the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme.*

### **Limerick County Council**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Limerick County Council in relation to a motion of no confidence in the Health Services Executive (HSE) and calling upon the Government and the Minister for Health to abolish the HSE and replace it with an efficient body who would have the professionalism and commitment to deliver a modern and effective Health Services for Cystic Fibrosis patients, especially young adult patient who are born with this life threatening disease.*

### **St. Patrick's Day celebrations in New York**

*“ On the proposal of Cllr P McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council accept the invitation from the Monaghan Society in New York to attend the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations.”*

The Mayor gave his apologies and said he would not be able to attend and proposed that the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Crowe attend in his place. This was agreed. It was further agreed that one member from each political party and an official would represent the Council in New York.

## **Co. Monaghan Partnership Cohesion Process**

**On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to nominate Local Authority Representatives on the Integrated Body.**

It was agreed to nominate Cllr John Keenan, Cllr Jackie Crowe and Cllr Benny Kieran as the Council's representatives to the County Monaghan Partnership Integrated Body.

### **Jet skis By-laws**

In response to a number of queries, Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Services replied that it would be difficult to introduce by-laws to control the use of jet-skis because it would be difficult to monitor the by-laws. The Cavan residents fear that if we implement by-laws in County Monaghan that the problem of the use of jet-skis will transfer to Cavan lakes. The matter will be discussed by the SPC and a report brought before the Council at a future meeting.

### **Failte Ireland**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to write to Ms. Joan Crawford, Failte Ireland to state that the Members of Monaghan County Council were unhappy with Failte Ireland arranging its Annual Industry Briefing on the same day as most local authorities hold their ordinary meetings and to ask them to consider re-scheduling such briefings in the future.*

### **3. To consider proposed variation to County Development Plan 2007 -2013:**

Mr. P. Maguire, Senior Planner referred to the detailed report which had been circulated in relation to the proposal to vary the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 (Variation No. 06), by introducing a new policy for the provision of alternative fuels a requirement in all new service stations/petrol forecourts in Co. Monaghan and said the Planners had no objections to the proposal.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to vary the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 as per County Managers Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2008.*

### **4. To consider Material Contravention to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 -2013.**

Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services requested that a decision on this application be deferred by the Members as there are a number of legal issues to be resolved.

5. **Part VIII Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001**

(i) **Ref No: 07/8008** – proposal to locate one demountable dwelling with associated site works, septic tank and percolation area at Feddans, Castleshane, Co. Monaghan

*“ On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by, Cllr McAnespie, it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director’s report dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008”*

(ii) **Ref No: 07/8009** – proposal to locate two storey building comprising a 6 bay fire station, ancillary spaces, offices, a separate maintenance building and training tower, a new access road, associated works and landscaping at Annahagh, Monaghan.

*“ On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director’s report dated 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 ”*

The time being 1.00 p.m., it was agreed unanimously to extend the meeting beyond 1.30 p.m. to deal with Urgent Business.

**Urgent Business**

The Mayor referred to 5 items of Notices of Urgent Business, which had been submitted.

The Members agreed to take Urgent Business Motions (1) (Mayor Carville) and (2) (Sinn Fein Members) together as both related to Monaghan General Hospital.

(1) In the name of Cllr Gary Carville

**“That Monaghan County Council, noting with alarm recent reports regarding the further diminution of beds and services at Monaghan General Hospital,**

- (i) **rejects outright the plans by the Health Service Executive (HSE) to curtail and close further services in Monaghan General Hospital, supposedly in an effort to save money,**
- (ii) **calls on the Department of Health & Children and the HSE not to pursue these or any further attempts to curb services at Monaghan General Hospital but rather to retain and develop existing services**
- (iii) **re-affirms its total support for the retention and development of services at Monaghan General Hospital and for all efforts to achieve this,**
- (iv) **seeks an urgent joint meeting with An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, the Minister for Health & Children, Mary Harney TD and the Chief Executive Officer of the HSE, Professor Brendan Drumm, to impress**

**on them the serious implications for the health and lives of the people of this county as result of the consistent downgrading of services at Monaghan General Hospital**

**(v) calls on all the people of County Monaghan to, at this vital and important juncture in the campaign, give 100% support to any public demonstration of action in support of the hospital and opposition to the HSE plans.**

(2) In the names of Cllr Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McAnespie, B. McKenna and P Treanor:

**“ That this Council discuss the implications of the proposed cutbacks and further downgrading of Monaghan General Hospital contained in the internal memo of the H.S.E., dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2008.**

The Members held a lengthy debate on the recent revelations in the media in relation to further downgrading of services at Monaghan Hospital and its impact on the county. Members were critical of the HSE and its intention to further reduce services at the hospital over the next few months. At present only minor injuries are being dealt with in the hospital’s treatment room which has cost approx. €1.5m. The proposal to take Monaghan hospital off call was in contrast to the assurances given by the Minister and Professor Drumm that no services would be removed from the hospital until better services were in place. Members appealed to the public to support whatever action/protest is organised in support of the hospital. Some members referred to the Regional Health Forum which in their view, is a ‘talking shop’ and serves no useful purpose.

Cllr Carville’s motion was unanimously agreed. It was further agreed that the Oireachtas Members would be requested to ensure that the joint meeting being requested with An Taoiseach, Minister Harney and Professor Drumm is facilitated.

The Members agreed to take Urgent Business Motions (3) (4) and (5) together as they related to the situation at Grove Turkeys, Smithboro and the imminent loss of 130 jobs.

**(3) In the Names of Cllr B Kieran, Coyle, O’Brien, Gallagher and McNally**

***“Fianna Fail Members request the suspension of standing orders to discuss as a matter of urgent business the announcement by the Management of Grove Turkeys of the imminent loss of 130 jobs at the production facility in Smithboro”.***

(4) In the names of Cllrs McElvaney and Humphreys:

***“We request urgent business to discuss the devastating effect the loss of jobs will have on the local economy in the Clones area due to the announcement by Grove Turkeys that 120 workers will be made redundant and 85 farmers will be impacted upon”.***

- (5) In the names of Cllr Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McAnespie, B. McKenna and P Treanor:

*“Following the announcement on Friday 1st February, 2008, by Grove Turkeys Ltd, Smithborough, of the loss of 130 jobs, the Sinn Fein Councillors propose that Monaghan County Council hold an urgent debate on this issue.*

*We share the shock and disappointment of the workers facing redundancy, the 85 farming families who supply the plant and the wider community affected in Monaghan and Fermanagh.*

*We further propose that this Council write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Michael Martin, and ask him to carry out an investigation into the business dealing at this enterprise over the last 18 months, because we suspect that this company changed hands a little over a year ago, so that the workers would get a fraction of their redundancy entitlements.*

*We note the absence of legislation requiring “country of origin”, labelling of poultry makes it difficult to differentiate Irish from imported products, and propose that we write to the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Mary Coughlan, requesting her to immediately introduce this labelling legislation, so that these job losses can be averted”.*

The Members agreed to discuss Urgent Items 3, 4 and 5 together and to confine the speakers to Members of the Clones Electoral Area.

**Cllr Kieran proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded:**

- a. That Monaghan County Council set up a task force to support those that will be affected when the company implement their rationalisation in the areas of re-educating, re skilling, business start up advice and assist in seeking alternative employment.*
- b. That the Council seek a meeting with the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment Michael Martin TD to meet a delegation from the area as a matter of extreme urgency in order to give the area top priority in securing alternative manufacturing into the locality.*
- c. That this Council seeks a ban on all imported white meat that does not comply with the same regulatory controls and monitoring as those applied here in the interest of the safety of the consumer and sent to the Minister for Agriculture and circulated to all Local Authorities seeking their support e.g. a campaign on a par that was adopted to impose a ban on Brazilian beef and which was announced last week by Commissioner Markos Kyprianou is what is needed at this point in time.*
- d. Propose that that this Council request the government to introduce legislation, (yet not in breach of EU legislation) requiring country of origin labelling on food products to address this lack of information to the*



***consumer at point of purchase. Again sent to all Local authorities seeking their support.***

In proposing Motion (5) Cllrs Treanor and B. McKenna called on Minister Martin to carry out an investigation into the business dealing at this enterprise over the last 18 months and that we write to the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Ms. Mary Coughlan T.D., requesting her to immediately introduce legislation requiring “country of origin”, labelling of poultry, so that these job losses can be averted.

The County Manager said he supported the sentiments expressed by the Members and stated that Monaghan County Council would do everything they could to assist. Whilst he welcomed the suggestion of setting up a task force these had not proved successful in other areas in the past. He suggested that the Economic Development Sub Committee, which included representation from the IDA and FAS, might be the forum to deal with this. However, he would need terms of reference from which to work from as there were a number of different proposals coming forward from the meeting.

Cllr Kierans stated that he would be happy to have the Economic Development Sub- Committee discuss this item and withdrew his proposal for a task force.

Cllr Kierans motions (b) (c) and (d) were agreed.

***Cllr McElvaney proposed an amendment to Cllr P Treanor’s proposal - that the Clones Area Members, the Mayor and Mr. Adge King meet with representatives of Grove Farm Management, Employees and Growers first and that following this meeting that the Council would meet with the relevant Government Departments concerned in order to safeguard the jobs that currently exist with the Company.***

A vote by show of hands Cllr McElvaney's amendment resulted in 13 For, 7 against. The Mayor declared the amendment carried.

The substantive motion was put the meeting and was carried on a vote of 14 for 0 against, 6 abstentions.

***On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna proposed, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to write to Ms Michelle Gildernew, MEP, Northern Ireland highlighting the closures and the affects it will have on Northern Ireland suppliers.***

## **8. To fix date for Committee meetings:**

- (i) It was agreed to hold the Eirgrid Sub Committee meeting on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

- (ii) It was agreed to hold the Economic Development Sub Committee meeting on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 2.00 p.m. in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan.
- (iii) It was agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the N54/N2 Inner Relief Road and the N54/R188 link road on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 12.00 noon.
- (iv) It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Twinning Committee on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 at 12.30 in the Conference Room, Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan.
- (v) It was agreed to receive a presentation from the Chief Executives of the East Border Region Committee and ICBAN on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11.45 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. representatively.

**9. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group Meeting:**

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.*

**10. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:**

The Members agreed to note the reports from Cllr Treanor, Maxwell and Coyle in relation to their attendance at the Cross-Border Spatial Planning & Development Conference in Armagh and the L.A.M.A. Conference in Carlow

**11. Business as submitted by the County Manager.**

**Failte Ireland** - The County Manager advised the Council that Failte Ireland were seeking applications for funding for tourism based projects under the NDP 2007-2013 Tourism Product Development Sub Programme; Infrastructure. If any Member was aware of suitable projects which might be submitted to Failte Ireland for grant assistance, they should contact either himself or Ms. Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer.

**Disability Act** - The County Manager referred to the implementation of the Disability Act and its requirements in relation to the accessibility of public buildings. One such building which would be affected is the County Museum and he suggested that the Council receive a presentation from Mr Liam Bradley, Museum Curator at a future meeting. This was agreed.

**12. Presentation by Mr Nigel Russell, Waterways Ireland.**

Mr. Nigel Russell, Waterways Ireland gave a brief overview of the programme of work that Waterways Ireland intends carrying out along the Ulster Canal. They are currently conducting an initial assessment where they will contact landowners to establish ownership of land, bridges that need upgrading and plans for two proposed new locks. This project will be subject to an EU Open

Tender process. The project will stretch from Clones Town to Loch Erne and it is anticipated that it will take approx. two and half years to go through the planning stage.

Following the presentation Mr. Russell responded to queries from the Members.

The Mayor thanked Mr Russell for his presentation and wished the project well.

### 13. Questions.

**Cllr Pat McKenna asked:**

- a. When will the Council rectify the realignment of road markings on the main N2 at St. Mellan's GAA Club entrance? The council have recently marked the road which does not allow for a hard-shoulder or turning off lane into the junction at St. Mellan's.

**Reply: Road Design Staff of Monaghan County Council met on site recently with the Contractor who was responsible for the provision of road markings at this location. It was highlighted that an error had been made by the contractor in the layout of the road markings and has resulted in the omission of the hard-shoulder adjacent to St Mellan's GAA Club. The contractor has accepted this without dispute, and aims to rectify the road markings at this location in Early February, weather permitting.**

- b. When will this Council complete the formation of a new footpath leading from the new Housing Estate at Sruith an Mhuillinn, Emyvale to Emyvale Village?

**Reply: It is planned to complete this footpath as part of the 2008 works programme**

- c. Would this Council consider moving the pedestrian crossing on main street Emyvale from its existing location to an alternative and safer location?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council provided a pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Emyvale in 2006. The location was opposite to Market House Lane and the Post Office as this was deemed as the most central location in the village to have a pedestrian crossing. There are currently no plans to move the crossing from its present location, however subject to funding it is hoped to upgrade the crossing to a push button pelican crossing in 2008.**

**Cllr Gary Carville asked:**

- d. What is the current situation regarding the taking in charge by this Council of the Rosevale and Knocktornagh housing developments in Castleblayney?

**Reply: Developments known as "Rosevale" and "Knocktornagh", Castleblayney, Co Monaghan.**

**Rosevale - Bond for £60,000 in place until all works are completed by the contractor/developer and the County council notified accordingly.**

*Knocktornagh - Bond for €95,230 submitted on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and will terminate on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.*

*The Planning Authority has not received an application to have above housing developments taken in charge.*

*Mr. Mark Johnson, Senior Executive Engineer met with Eugene McKenna from Geda Construction Ltd two weeks ago regarding the adoption of sewers and pump stations. Mr McKenna has currently employed an electrical engineer to make ready the Pumping Station in readiness for adoption, with no target date in mind as of yet. A copy of the “Policy for taking estates in charge” was given to Mr McKenna.*

*Subsequent to receipt of a completed application form, certificates certifying that all services are in compliance with DOEHLG guidelines, CCTV survey of the sewerage and water systems, the Planning Authority shall inspect the developments and if found to be satisfactory in all respects, proceed to have development taken in charge.*

*This procedure will be carried out under Section 180(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, in addition to an order under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 – Declaration of Public Roads.*

- e. What are the numbers of applicants for housing received in the county during the years 2005, 2006, 2007, by age category and in particular,

**Reply:**

	<b>Monaghan County Council</b>	<b>Carrickmacross Town Council</b>	<b>Monaghan Town Council</b>	<b>Clones Town Council</b>	<b>Castleblayney Town Council</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>382</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1145</b>

- (i) How many single males over the age 55 applied for Local Authority housing?  
(ii) How many applicants were people aged 55 or over, living in rural areas, and who wished to move to housing in village or town settlements?

**Reply: It is not possible to extract a breakdown of the above information from the housing records without a major manual exercise requiring an examination of each file individually.**

- f. In relation to the Cremorne Way- Castleblayney-Clontibret By-Pass- completion of works and accommodation works:

- (i) Has there been any communication from the National Roads Authority in relation to the safety issues which have been raised?

**Reply: The safety issues were discussed with the NRA at a Steering Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Atkins, our consultants, have been asked to provide an**

*estimate of cost for providing lights at four junctions and to examine the possibility of easing the left turning exit from the new road at all junctions.*

(ii) When will improved signage for Castleblayney, Annyalla and Doohamlet be erected along the By-Pass?

**Reply:** *Two tourism information signs are to be erected for Castleblayney. One at the southbound approach to the Ballybay Road Interchange and one at the northbound approach to the Tullyvin Roundabout. This will be done within the next two months. There are no plans at present to provide additional signage for either Annyalla or Doohamlet.*

(iii) When will improved lighting at junctions be provided?

**Reply:** *If and when funding is approved the work will be carried out as soon as possible.*

(iv) Has a Schedule of Accommodation works for landowners been given to the contractor and what is the timeframe for the completion of same?

**Reply:** *Yes. The contractor's programme shows that the accommodation works will be complete by Mid-April.*

(v) How many landowners' cases remain outstanding and what is the current position with regard to settlement with landowners generally?

**Reply:** *15 cases remain outstanding out of a total of 114. Of the 15 cases outstanding 10 are under negotiation, 4 have been listed for IFA Assessment and 1 listed for Statutory Arbitration.*

(g) When will the new public lighting at Scotch Corner be turned on?

**Reply:** *The county council have some civil works to complete in relation to ducting and location of pots. These works will be completed in the next few weeks. It's a matter of the ESB thereafter to erect and connect the lights.*

(h) Will the Council provide public lighting at Garmany's Grove church, Formil, Drumacrib, Castleblayney?

**Reply:** *The County Council will seek a design and costing from the ESB for this area and it will be included on the programme for approval at the next Road Area Meeting.*

**Cllr Pádraig McNally asked:**

i. Has this Council completed its new landscape policy document which was promised to be finalised last autumn.

**Reply:**

- *Public consultation was carried out on the Landscape Character Assessment between 18 October – 16 November 2007 (Two submissions were received and forwarded to (Environmental Resources Management) ERM Consultants for consideration)*
- *Monaghan County Council received amended chapters 1-4, and a first draft of chapter 5 of the Landscape Character Assessment on 22 November 2007 from ERM Consultants.*

- *Planners met with the (Strategic Policy Committee) SPC on 24 October 2007 to outline and discuss draft Landscape Character Assessment*
- *Consideration of the above draft chapters and feedback from the SPC meeting was forwarded to ERM Consultants*
- *1 remaining consultation event has yet to take place. This event will be an information evening (hosted by ERM Consultants) held in the Hillgrove Hotel, will be advertised in the local press and shall take place within the next two weeks*
- *ERM will consider any comments and feedback from the above consultation event and forward the final draft of the Landscape Character Assessment to Monaghan County Council by mid February 2008*
- *On receipt of the final draft document from ERM Consultants, Monaghan County Council will forward copies to members for their consideration. The document will then be placed on the March Council agenda with a view to adopting the Landscape Character Assessment*

- j. Is this Council satisfied with the landscaping quality along the Carrickmacross by-pass, especially the area around the roundabout on the old N2 north of Carrickmacross.

*Reply.: The landscaping contractor is presently completing the landscaping on the scheme. When the work is complete our consultant will prepare a snagging list of all unsatisfactory work. With regards to the area around the roundabout on the old N2 north of Carrickmacross the council are not happy with the landscaping carried out. This will have to be addressed by the contractor.*

- k. When can we expect to see work commenced on our new Civic amenity Centre in Carrickmacross.

**Reply: The final date for the submission of tenders was 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008. A total of 28 tenders were received. Subject to confirmation of funding from the DoEHLG it is programmed that work will commence on site during April / May with a contract period of 8 months to completion.**

**Cllr Padraig McNally asked:**

- l. Who took the decision to erect crash barriers along the N2 from Carrickmacross to Tullyvaragh instead of the long established mounds which provided some level of noise limitation as well as limiting visibility into people's private yards and houses, without any consultation with either the area Councillors or local residents?

*Reply: Reply: TD19/04 of the National Roads Authority Design Manual for Roads and Bridges sets out the requirements for safety barriers on national roads with a design speed above 85km/h. The standards require the provision of an NRA approved safety barrier system where required - NRA approved safety barrier systems do not extend to earth bunds.*

*The earth bunds along this section of the N2 had been provided as an alternative to the traditional style of safety barrier as a cost reduction measure at the time of the road construction works. They were not intended to act as*

*a noise barrier or as screening. The bunds themselves had since compacted and weathered, and the slope of the bunds had shallowed. There was concern that the bunds may not act as a suitable restraint system in the case of a vehicle leaving the road. In the absence of a suitable NRA design standard for the provision of an earth bund safety barrier, remediation of the existing bund could not be undertaken to improve their performance in the case of an accident. It became apparent through consultation with the National Roads Authority that the safety of the N2 embankments from Carrickmacross to Tullyvaragh could not be ensured without the retro-fitting of an approved barrier system.*

*The Roads Department of Monaghan County Council sourced funding from the National Roads Authority to upgrade the earth bunds on the N2 with an NRA approved crash barrier system. To facilitate the erection of the safety barrier system, the existing earth bunds were removed.*

**Cllr Sean Conlon asked:**

- m. To improve the very deficient level of street lighting in the Milltown area, how soon can an assessment of current lighting and upgrading/new installation of same commence?

*Reply: Monaghan County Council has recently installed 10no. Streetlights in the Milltown Area in November 2007. This was completed under the Urban & Village Renewal scheme 2006 - 2007. Any additional street lighting in Milltown in 2008 will be subject to funding being available.*

- n. Due to the County Council governance over most of the main streets of Monaghan Town, how soon can a Roads Engineer from this Authority meet with the Town Engineer to design the necessary zebra crossings/safety measures that are badly needed to reduce serious pedestrian hazards that exist? Also, can a programme for implementation be similarly indicated?

*Reply: Meetings take place between the County and Town staff on an ongoing basis. This issue has already been raised and will be discussed further. However, any programme of work will be subject to the necessary funding being available.*

**Cllr Sean Conlon asked:**

- o. What is the timescale for the provision of a public sewerage scheme to service the Milltown area and what is the procedure and cost (based on current pricing) to the individual household in connecting to same?

*Reply: The provision of wastewater collection facilities in the Milltown Area is included in the proposed Monaghan Town Collection Network Scheme. At present, the Monaghan Town Collection Network scheme is at contract documents stage. Part 8 planning applications, land acquisitions and way leave negotiation will commence in 2008. The Contract Documents, when complete will require Departmental Approval followed by the Tender and Contract Award process.*

*The Construction period is likely to be approximately 30 months – 36 months. Projected completion date 2013.*

*The current sewerage connection contribution charge for a domestic unit is € 3,077.*

- p. On houses currently being designed for construction for both Town and County Council Housing Programmes, what environmentally sustainable and energy efficient measures that will contribute towards a zero carbon footprint, are being included? Have the Council applied to the Department for funding to implement such measures?

*Reply: Monaghan County Council continuously strives to improve environmental sustainability and energy efficiency in the houses it builds. The Council has installed insulation to a higher standard than required by the Building Regulations in all new houses over the past 5 years.*

*Monaghan County Council has recently installed solar panels in six affordable houses in Newbliss, as a small pilot project to achieve a higher Building Energy Rating. The Council is currently examining the various possibilities with regard to the use of alternative sustainable materials for various building elements including more thermally efficient windows, more efficient boilers and other such measures. The Council has received approval for funding for some of the measures described, such as the higher standard of insulation, and will be making specific applications for such funding in relation to future projects. Amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations will require improved energy efficiency measures in all new housing in 2008. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government funds 100% of the cost of construction of new social housing.*

**Cllr Pat Treanor asked:**

- q. What is the update position on the investigation of extending the Scotstown Sewerage Scheme down the Chapel road/Tydavnet road?

*Reply: It has been assessed by water services engineers; 2-3 No Pumping stations would be required to completely service the area along with an extensive piped collection system through the main road; will be included in application for department funding under 2009 allocation.*

- r. What is the breakdown of the latest EPA report on the quality of drinking water in the county?

*Reply: The overall rate of compliance in the County Monaghan Water Scheme in 2006 was 96.7% compared to 94.8% in 2005 according to the EPA's 2006 Drinking Water Report*

**Compliance with E-coli Standard**

*Public Supplies: There was one incident of E-coli incorrectly attributed to a public scheme. Pullis cottages supply is not a public scheme. It has since*



*been connected to Glaslough/Tyholland GWS and the problem has been solved.*

*GWS: Donaghmoyne G.W.S. was contaminated by E-coli.*

**Compliance with Chemical and Indicator Parametric Values**

*Public Supplies: There was good overall compliance with the chemical parametric values expected for Clontibret supply which is to be connected to the Group Water Scheme thus alleviating the problem.*

*There was satisfactory compliance with the Indicator Parametric in public water supplies except for aluminium in Clones, Monaghan and Stranooden. Extra vigilance will be exercised in monitoring and operation to eliminate these problems. Two schemes from a total of 13 had problems with turbidity indicating a high risk of Cryptosporidium being present. These plants will be reviewed and monitored.*

*GWS: The compliance was greater than the national average but further improvement is necessary to reduce the number of non compliance with the indicator parametric values.*

- s. What improvements are expected to be carried out the Newbliss/Threemilehouse/Monaghan road in 2008?

*Reply: The Council are proposing to carryout major reconstruction and drainage works on the R189 between Threemilehouse and Monaghan to alleviate the flooding at Kilnaclay. Additional road widening works may also take place between Newbliss and Threemilehouse, subject to funding being available*

**Cllr Carthy asked:**

- t. "In the interests of safety will the council agree to erect 'Children At Play' signs at Creevy Swinburne, off the old Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Road (old road no. 821)? When does the council believe that this signage can be put in place?"

*Reply: The provision of this type of signage at rural locations is deemed inappropriate for the following reasons:*

- *In accordance with Traffic Signs Manual such signs use is restricted to urban areas.*
- *These signs have been found to be ineffective and have no effect on driver behaviour*

- u. How many applicants for affordable houses has Monaghan County Council received? When does the council expect to provide affordable houses in the Carrickmacross area?

*Reply: Monaghan County Council has received 334 applications for affordable housing since May 2003. The Council have provided 101 affordable houses as follows:*

<i>Newbliss</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Ballybay</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Carrickmacross</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Castleblayney</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Doohamlet</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Emyvale</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Knockatallon</i>	<i>8</i>

*The Council allocated social housing tenancies to 20 of the applicants, 14 applicants were approved for social housing, 55 applications were refused or withdrawn and the balance of 131 applicants are on the affordable waiting list as follows:*

<i>Monaghan</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Castleblayney</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Carrickmacross</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Clones</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Ballybay</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Doohamlet</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Annyalla</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Clontibret</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Newbliss</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Inniskeen</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Glaslough</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Emyvale</i>	<i>2</i>

*There are no immediate plans to provide affordable homes in Carrickmacross.*

**Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:**

- v. When will Monaghan County Council erect public lighting at Drumhowan Community Centre, and Drumhowan Geraldine's G.A.A. Club facilities at Glean, Drumhowan, with the recent extension and refurbishment of the facilities which are very widely used by all age groups of the area? Public lighting is essential for the safety of all using the facilities.

*Reply: There are no current plans to provide public lighting in this area. However an estimate has been requested from the ESB for public lighting to establish costs. The provision of these and other public lighting schemes will be discussed at the next Road Area meetings.*

- w. Will Monaghan County Council examine what road safety improvement measures could be put in place at the junction of the Ballybay to Castleblayney road with the Ballintra Church/Drumhowan Road (R183-12 – LPO3200), as this is a very dangerous junction particularly for traffic turning off and coming on to the Ballybay/Castleblayney road?

*Reply: The County Council will examine safety measures at this junction; however it is anticipate that special funding may be needed due to the costs of land that may be required to provide appropriate safety measures.*

**Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:**

- x. Under the “Neighborwood Scheme”, operated by the Department of Forestry and available to local authorities to facilitate Community based groups, to carry out tree planting at the Department of Forestry facilities, how many schemes have been availed of by Monaghan County Council in the past and will Monaghan County Council now actively encourage community groups in the County to plant trees in their facilities under the newly revised Neighborwood Scheme?

***Reply: It appears that its many years since Monaghan County Council partook in this scheme but we will contact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with a view to see what opportunities we can avail of in the current year***

**Cllr Noel Keelan asked:**

- y. In relation to the upgrading and extension of the” Carrickmacross Sewerage Collection System and Plant:

(i) When will works commence on the ground, what area of the town environs will works begin.

***Reply: The Carrickmacross sewerage collection system contract is scheduled to commence on 18<sup>th</sup> February.***

(ii) What mechanism will be used to keep the general public and affected residents and the business community informed as to what is happening.

***Reply: A local liaison committee has been established with the first meeting being scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> February. The committee consists of:***

- Carrickmacross Town Councillor
- County Council and Town Council Staff
- Consulting Engineer
- Resident Engineer
- Contractor
- Chamber of Commerce.

**Cllr Noel Keelan asked:**

(iii) Is there a liaison person in place to answer questions and deal with any problems that may arise?

***Reply: The liaison person are either the Resident Engineer or the Council Acting Senior Executive Engineer.***

- z. In relation to Inniskeen Village, when is it expected to have the resurfacing of the roadways in Dun Ard Estate and Deery Terrace, carried out?

***Reply: The resurfacing of Dun Ard will be substantially complete by the end of January. The balance cannot be undertaken until services are installed by a third party.***

**Cllr Noel Keelan asked:**

- z (1). In light of the fact that Monaghan County Council is refusing an average of seventeen percent (17%), of all planning applications. Can the executive give an explanation for this very high refusal rate?

**Reply: *The refusal rate for planning permission has increased mainly due to two factors, the quality of applications as prepared by agents and the more prescriptive nature of the Development Plan. These issues are being addressed by briefing sessions for agents and will be monitored by the Director.***

- z (2). What plans have Monaghan County Council to carry out much needed works in the village of Lough Egish, given that public lighting, footpaths are almost non-existent especially from “Lavelle’s Hardware” to “Lough Egish Motor Factors” and also, are there any plans to resurface and re-line the Road in that area mentioned.

**Reply: *The R-180 is included in the application for funding in 2008. Allocations for 2008 have not yet been announced. The matter will be discussed at the Carrickmacross Area Roads meeting when allocations have been received.***

- z (3). In the interest of Road Safety, have Monaghan County Council in conjunction with the National Roads Authority “N.R.A.”, any plans to upgrade safety measures for right turning traffic on our National Primary Route “N2”, from Carrickmacross to Castleblayney. Trying to make a Right turn at any of the junctions is hazardous in the absence of a right turning lane.

**Reply: *Monaghan County Council will be undertaking traffic surveys on this section of road in the near future to see if the provision dedicated right turning lanes are justified at any of the junctions. It should be noted that in accordance with NRA’s DMRB the provision of right turning lanes shall not be provided where overtaking opportunities are restricted. Any works will be subject to the necessary funding being provided.***

**Cllr Jackie Crowe asked:**

- z. (4). Have Monaghan Co. Council plans in place to create much needed car parking spaces at Upper Bree, Castleblayney, by changing grass verge on the opposite side of the road (Industrial Park) into such spaces?

**Reply: *The County Council will examine the proposal but would recommend that these works if agreed will be carried out after the industrial link from the by-pass is operational as the traffic movement in this area will affect parking arrangements.***

- z. (5) What landscaping plans are been considered for the disused former N2 road opposite Tullyvin roundabout. Have noise levels been taken at this roundabout in relation to the affect on the adjacent homes?

**Reply: *Planting in the area of the old N2 will consist of low canopy woodland mix along with a grass maintenance strip.***

*As part of the design process for the Bypass Scheme noise levels were assessed at existing dwellings in the vicinity of the Tullyvin Roundabout to determine whether or not noise mitigation measures were required. A design was produced based on this assessment*

- z. (6). Will Monaghan Co. Council place Yellow boxes in the entry from Upper Bree to Bree housing estate to prevent illegal parking?

**Reply: The County Council will examine and monitor parking behaviour before placing a yellow box.**

#### 15. Votes of Sympathy:

**The Council agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the following:**

- Ms. Carmel Burns, Broomfield on the death of her brother, Kevin McKenna, R.I.P., a former Rate Collector with the Council
- Mrs. Margaret Doherty Belfast on the death of her husband, Alfie Doherty, R.I.P
- Mr. Seamus Grogan, Council employee, on the death of his mother in law, Mrs Betty Gormley, Cstleblayney

#### 16. Conferences.

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AMAI	<b>Spring Seminar 2008</b>	Trim Castle Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath	15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	Benny Kieran John O'Brien Owen Bannigan John Keenan Pat McKenna
Third Sector Forum	<b>Irelands Newest Immigrants ensuring participation in the 2009 European &amp; Local Elections</b>	The Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	21 <sup>st</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2008	Gary Carville Robbie Gallagher Seamus Coyle John Keenan Pat McKenna Owen Bannigan Vincent P. Martin Matt Carthy

Conferences (contd):

Colmcille Heritage Trust	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School</b>  <b>The Mutual Benefits of North-South Co-operation</b>	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Church Hill, Letterkenny	29 <sup>th</sup> February, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2008	Gary Carville Padraig McNally John O'Brien Owen Bannigan Heather Humphreys Hugh McElvaney
Association of County & City Councils	<b>Annual Conference 2008</b>	Roganstown Country Club, Swords, Dublin	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	Benny Kieran Robbie Gallagher Heather Humphreys Hugh McElvaney Pat McKenna Vincent P. Martin Brian McKenna
Erne Lakelands Tourism	<b>Sustaining Rural Development – A Cross Border Conference on Agriculture</b>	Cavan Crystal Hotel	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	Jackie Crowe Seamus Coyle Owen Bannigan

The meeting then concluded.

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

**Meara**

**Meetings Administrator**

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