

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the MTek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 4th February 2013 at 10.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr Hugh Mc Elvanney, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Bennett, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. N. Woods, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. D. Hurley, Senior Executive Planner and Ms. R. Mc Manus, A/Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: Adge King, Carmel Thornton.

At the outset the Mayor thanked the Council for its vote of sympathy extended to his wife and the family of her late nephew, Alan Toal, Smithboro. He also extended best wishes for a speedy recovery to Carmel Thornton, Meeting Administrator and Adge King, Director of Services.

It was agreed to discuss the section 140 notice placed before the Council as the second item on the agenda.

Vote of sympathy

With the unanimous agreement of the members, the Mayor agreed to deal with two votes of sympathy to the family of the late Garda Adrian Donohue before considering the Section 140 Motion.

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the wife and family of the late Garda Adrian Donohoe, RIP ,the Commissioner of An Gardaí Siochana and all members of An Gardaí Siochana, on the brutal murder of Detective Garda Donohoe, in the course of his duties and urge all with information that could lead to the arrest and conviction of all involved, to forward it to An Gardaí Siochana or the Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Co Manager on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Monaghan Local Authorities also wished to be associated with the vote of sympathy.

The meeting was then adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Garda.

The meeting re-convened at 10.30am

1. To consider Notice received by the County Manager on 21st January 2013 under Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The following is a copy of the text of the said Section 140 Notice:

We, members of Monaghan County Council, by resolution hereby issue a requisition to the County Manager under Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001 to:

Refrain from increasing the rent payable by local authority tenants as a result of the government's property tax (Home Tax)

The Co. Manager advised the members that details in relation to the local property tax had not been finalised. A mechanism has not yet been decided on whether it will be passed on to tenants. The Co. Manager advised the members that he considers that it is premature to consider the motion at present in view of this and that if regulations are brought into force he will be obliged to obey the law.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Carthy, seconded by Cllr. McKenna. and a roll call vote was requested, which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, McKenna, Mc Nally, O'Brien, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor **Total 13**

Against: Cllrs. Bannigan, Carville, Maxwell, Mc Elvaney, McPhillips, Murray, **Total 6**

The Mayor declared the motion carried. The members requested that the decision be circulated to other Councils and to the CCMA.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th January, 2013, be confirmed

3. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Minister for Education & Skills in relation to SUSI and the student grants systems
- Letter from the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the financial savings associated with the reform of Local Government
- Letter from the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the application of property tax to local authority homes
- Letter from the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to staffing at polling stations
- Letter from the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to funding to the Clones Regeneration Partnership
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to country of origin labelling of chicken products
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport in relation to a resolution passed at January Council Meeting
- Letter from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the Heritage Council
- Letter from the Minister for Justice & Equality in relation to frontline emergency workers
- Email from Donaghmoynne Ladies in relation to the Civic Reception held in January
- Resolution from Limerick County Council in relation to banks in which the State holds majority shareholding

- Copy of Notice of Motion from Ennis Town Council regarding payment of rates on the constituency offices of TD's & Senators

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the fluoridation of public water supplies
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport in relation to the N2 road project
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to establishing a Poultry Council and Ombudsman
- Letter from the National Asset Management Agency in relation to remedial works (as per the recently published report by Denis Williams)
- Letter from the NRA in relation to the speed limit on the N54 Monaghan / Clones Road at Tullygrimes
- Motion from Clare County Council in relation to the cost of water on voluntary bodies

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

Arising from a resolution circulated by Limerick County Council on the 23rd January 2013 On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Limerick County Council which calls on the Government to ensure, by the most appropriate means, that banks in which the State holds majority shareholding should be governed by State nominated directors with the power to direct decision-making in the working of the bank, including determining the salaries and pensions for bank employees and that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to remove the current public interest directors on banks with state shareholding and to replace them with people who will genuinely act in the interests of the people of Ireland.

Following on from a Motion received from Clare County Council and on the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed, that in view of the excessive burden placed on sporting community and voluntary sections in relation to the cost of water, that this Council request the Minister of Environment to allow Monaghan County Council lessen the cost on these voluntary bodies by putting in place some legislative process at Government level.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that this Council call on the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Health to meet a deputation of Monaghan County Council in relation to the serious issue of labelling and quality of products – beef, chicken and pork being imported into this country and ask the Minister, how many inspections have there been on factories or outlets where imported chicken have come in over the last 3 years.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan T.D., to immediately, recommence the funding to Clones Regeneration Partnership, for the position of project co-ordinator as initiated by former Minister, Eamon O'Cuiv T.D.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the NRA requesting that in view of the fact that lands at Tullygrimes on the Clones Road are zoned for industry and proposals for eight industrial incubator units are in place, that the NRA reconsider their refusal to extend the 60km limit on the N54.

It was agreed to write to Ms. Anne McDermott, Project Manager, Network Operations, NRA to invite her to attend a meeting with the Council.

In relation to the speed limit at Tullygrimes it was agreed that the roads SPC should examine the issue.

Cllr Conlon then agreed to the removal of his motion No. 17 (5) on the Agenda.

Urgent Business:

At this point, the Mayor advised the Members that he had received six notices of urgent business as follows:

The Mayor put the proposal to deal with the 6 notices of urgent business to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 19 for.

i. Notice in the names of Cllrs O'Brien, Coyle, McNally and O'Hanlon

That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Simon Coveney T.D., and the Government, to liaise urgently with senior management of AIBP, to safeguard and protect the 140 jobs, and associated employment at the Ballybay based, Silvercrest processing facility.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 19 for, 0 against

ii. Notice in the name of: Cllr Bannigan, Cllr Maxwell, Cllr McPhillips, Cllr McElvaney, Cllr Murray

To seek a meeting with the management of AIBP in order to discuss the future of the Silvercrest factory and the protection of employment.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 19 for, 0 against

iii. Notice in the name of: Cllr McNally, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Coyle, Cllr O'Hanlon

This Council calls on the Minister for Justice, Alan Shatter T.D. to immediately put plans in place to reopen Templemore Garda Training College. Given that it takes upwards on 2 years to train a member of the Gardaí, it is imperative that this happens in order to boost morale in An Garda Síochána. Allowing for 24 months time lag the present level of Gardaí will be seriously depleted at a time when most serious crime is on the increase.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 19 for, 0 against

iv. Notice in the name of: Cllr McNally, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr O'Hanlon, Cllr Gallagher

That this Council condemns the axing of the dedicated Garda Drugs Unit in the Cavan/Monaghan Division. The disbandment of the Divisional Drugs Unit after 14 years in operation is another major blow to law and order in this region. We call on Minister Alan Shatter, T.D. to reinstate this Drugs Unit immediately.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 19 for, 0 against

- v. **Notice in the name of: Cllr Bennett, Cllr Carthy, Cllr Conlon, Cllr Crowe, Cllr Keelan, Cllr McKenna, Cllr Treanor**

Monaghan County Council notes last week's revelations that Minister James Reilly personally approved capital funding for hospitals in Kilkenny and Wexford.

That we hereby again call on the Minister for Health, James Reilly, to deliver upon his pre-election promise, made personally to the people of Co. Monaghan on the steps of the county courthouse, to approve the necessary funding in order to restore and develop services at Monaghan General Hospital.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 19 for, 0 against

- vi. **Notice in the name of: Cllr McNally, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Coyle, Cllr O'Hanlon, Cllr. Gallagher**

This Council supports the Irish Nurses Organisation in boycotting the recently announced scheme to employ 1,000 nurses at a pay level 20% below the normal starting salary as this will only lead to further emigration of our newly trained nurses thus leaving our Hospitals further under staffed.

This Council writes to the Minister for Health, Mr. James O'Reilly T.D., calling on him to immediately instruct the HSE to cease this scheme forthwith.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 14 for, 4 against, 1 abstained

4. **To approve the raising of a loan of €2 million for the Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme**

On the proposal of Cllr. Aiden Murray, seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was agreed to approve the raising of a loan of €2 million for the Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme.

5. **To arrange a date to consider the Manager's Report on Submissions in Respect of the Draft County Development Plan Amendments and the making of the County Development Plan 2013-2019**

It was agreed that the Council will meet on 18th February, 2013 between 10.00a.m. and 1.00p.m to consider the report.

6. **To arrange a date for the next meeting of Lough Muckno Sub-Committee**

It was agreed to meet on 18th February, 2013 from 9.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. The Manager brought to the member's attention that the Golf Club has surrendered their lease.

It was also agreed to convene a Coiste Gaeilge meeting on 18th February, 2013 from 1.00p.m to 1.30 p.m.

Items 7 and 8 were deferred until later in the meeting

- 9. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21 January, 2013.**

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna and seconded by Cllr. O'Brien it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21st January, 2013, be confirmed

- 10. To receive Minutes of meeting with Enterprise Ireland/IDA held on 15th January 2013**

On the proposal of Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr. Bannigan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th January, 2013, be confirmed.

- 11. To receive Minutes of sub-committee meeting in relation to Local Government Reform**

The minutes of the Sub Committee meeting held on 15th January, 2013, were noted.

- 7. To receive presentation from Mr. B. Smith, County Veterinary Officer**

A presentation on the Council's Veterinary Services was made by Brendan Smyth, County Veterinary Inspector. Members then asked questions and complemented Mr. Smith on his management of the service.

- 8. Section 85 Agreement between Monaghan County Council, Cavan County Council and Louth County Council – To allow food safety control duties carried out by officers from each of the three authorities to ensure cover during periods of absence, and assistance in terms of workload.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon seconded by Cllr. Bannigan it was agreed to enter into a Section 85 agreement between Monaghan County Council, Cavan County Council and Louth County Council.

Urgent Business

The members agreed to send their best wishes to Garda Martin McKenna on his recent retirement from the force.

On the proposal of Cllr. McNally, seconded by Cllr. O'Brien, it was agreed that this Council support the Irish Nurses Organisation in boycotting the recently announced scheme to employ 1,000 nurses at a pay level 20% below the normal starting salary as this will only lead to further emigration of our newly trained nurses thus leaving our Hospitals further under staffed and that this Council writes to the Minister for Health, Mr. James O'Reilly T.D., calling on him to immediately instruct the HSE to cease this scheme forthwith.

12. It was agreed to defer item No. 12 - Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector to the next meeting

13. Business submitted by County Manager

Housing applications

The Co. Manager advised that it is proposed to process housing applications centrally to increase efficiency. Applications are currently being processed in the County Council and four Town Councils.

Roads Allocations

The Discretionary Maintenance Grant for Regional and Local Roads for 2013 is €1,471,710. The members have discretion to allocate up to 7% of the allocation to Local Improvement Schemes in the area.

After discussion, it was agreed that the allocation remain as notified in the Department's circular letter.

On the proposed of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar to provide a separate allocation towards the Local Lane Improvement Scheme, given that there are over three hundred laneways on the council waiting list at present.

Update on the Ulster Canal

In relation to the Waterways Ireland planning application, Monaghan County Council is currently awaiting a response from the Planning Service Northern Ireland on transboundary issues. A response is expected in March which should enable a decision to issue.

14. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meeting held on the 7th January 2013.

Memorandum of Understanding with Armagh City Council

Cllr Keelan outlined his attendance at a recent meeting with Armagh City Council. He considered it a useful meeting. Armagh City Council is positive about entering into a memorandum of understanding with Monaghan County Council on issues like the re-opening of the Ulster Canal. Cllr Keelan recommended that this Council enters into a memorandum of understanding with Armagh City Council as proposed. Cllr. Maxwell proposed that a meeting be arranged in April 2013.

Road Area Meetings

The following dates for the Road Area Meetings were agreed:

- a) Castleblayney Road Area Meeting
Monday 25th February 2013 in Castleblayney Town Council at 2pm
- b) Clones Road Area Meeting
Tuesday 26th February 2013 in Clones Town Council at 9.30am
- c) North Monaghan Road Area Meeting
Wednesday 27th February at 9.30am M Tek 2 Training Room, Monaghan
- d) Carrickmacross Road Area Meeting
Friday 1st March at 9.30am in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross

Conference to be held in Monaghan on 27th February 2013

Mr. P. Clifford outlined the details of a e-Commerce Conference hosted by the I.T Forum, which is aimed at small retail businesses that would take place on 27th February, 2013 in the Nuremore Hotel., Carrickmacross.

Civic receptions

On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr. McKenna it was agreed to hold a civic reception for the Rugby Team from Miramichi Valley High School, Canada on 14th March, 2013.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mc Elvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed to hold a civic reception for the Papal Nuncio during his visit to Iontas Centre, Castleblayney on Tuesday 26th February, in conjunction with Castleblayney Town Council.

Emyvale Road

Damien Treanor responded to a query in relation to the possibility of opening the N2 Monaghan-Emyvale Road at the weekend.

Invitations to issue to Stephen Harper, Canadian Premier, and U.S. President Barack Obama

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr. McElvaney, it was agreed to extend an invitation to Stephen Harper, Canadian Premier to visit Monaghan, during his visit to Ireland for the G8 Summit meeting this summer. The invitation to the Canadian Premier to issue through the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Elvaney, seconded by Cllr. Coyle it was agreed to extend an invitation to Barack Obama, US President, to visit Monaghan, during his visit to Ireland for the G8 Summit meeting this summer.

15. To receive Presentation on the Ulster Canal Greenway Project

Carol Lambe, Administrative Officer, introduced Eamon Doherty, URS who has prepared the proposal, site plans and location maps for the proposed Monaghan Cycle Greenway

Mr. Doherty outlined his presentation on the project supplemented by replies to members questions by Jonathan Condell, Assistant Town Engineer and Carol Lambe, Administrative Officer, Community and Enterprise Section.

16. Questions

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

1. In relation to the "Fix Your Street" website (www.fixyourstreet.ie) allowing the public to report issues directly to the Council regarding local difficulties such as poor light, graffiti, illegal dumping, road deficiencies, and many other maintenance issues when will this scheme be rolled out by Monaghan County Council?

Reply: The "Fix Your Street" reporting system for County Monaghan has been in operation since 1 January 2013. The site can be accessed at www.fixyourstreet.ie or at Monaghan County Council's website www.monaghan.ie

16. Questions (contd.)

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

2. In relation to the proposed realignment works on the N12 Monaghan to Middletown road at the Piper's Bridge, can the Council confirm if we have received any funding for these works in the National Road allocation? If so, can the Council indicate what works it proposes to carry out in the current year and will the funding received enable the realignment to be completed in full?

Reply: *The National Roads Authority have notified the Council of a grant allocation of €200,000 for this location. This year it is intended to complete land acquisition, carry out fencing and site clearance works. The Council intend to develop the scheme design and apply for further funding to carry out realignment works in 2014.*

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

3. Due to the N2 Coolkill East to Corracrin Road Realignment Scheme, considerable diverted traffic will be accessing local roads through the Tydavnet and Glaslough areas for a 5 month period. Will regular monitoring and necessary road repair/strengthening occur to ensure surfaces on these minor roads are maintained?

Reply: *The Contractor proposes as part of his traffic management plan to monitor diversion routes regularly and to carry out maintenance in accordance with the requirements of the Contract.*

Cllr P. McNally asked:

4. How many applicants are presently on our LIS list?

Reply: *There are 190 applications listed in total. The distribution per electoral area is as follows:*

<i>Clones</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>North Monaghan</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Castleblayney</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Carrickmacross</i>	<i>39</i>

5. (a) Has this Council finalised its emergency plan?
(b) Is it available for the Members today?

Reply: *The Council is currently finalising the plan following discussion of elements of the plan with the Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee. The final plan will be presented to the Members in April.*

6. Has this Council received any response from the Department of Environment / NRA re making all junctions safer along the N2, especially the junction adjacent to Donaghmoyné Church, school and GAA pitch?

Reply: *The Council have received notification of an allocation of €60,000 to carry out safety improvements at the following junctions along the N2 from this location up to the N2 Castleblayney By-pass:*

*N2 / L8130 Aghadreenan Junction
N2 / L4110 Aghnafarcán Junction
N2 / L8152/L4510 Lisdoonan-Donaghmoyne Crossroads Junction.*

Measures proposed include the provision of right turning lanes or nearside overtaking lanes. The works are planned to take place in the third quarter of 2013.

7. In light of the numbers of people unemployed will this Council consider reducing development charges where the developer intends creating additional jobs or maintaining existing jobs?

Reply: New guidelines in relation to Development Contribution Schemes have been issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. A new draft Development Contribution Scheme is currently being prepared and will be considered by the Planning and Development Strategic Policy Committee, Corporate Policy Group and full Council meeting during the first half of 2013.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

8. Will Monaghan County Council, in conjunction with Respond! Housing Association and Carrickmacross Town Council carry out an inventory of all houses at Tailte An Chlochair/ Convent Lands, Carrickmacross with a view to determining the excess levels of Dampness at each dwelling and if the Council will put in place a programme of works to resolve any identified problems?

Reply: Monaghan County Council owns 55No. of the 170no houses at Convent Lands, Carrickmacross that were built between 2003 and 2006. During the past 18 months several complaints were received regarding “damp” in Council owned houses at Convent Lands. On investigation it has been discovered that the “damp” referred to in all of the complaints to date has been caused by condensation. It has been found that condensation is occurring in localised areas in the corners of rooms and at ceiling wall junctions where it is contributing to the growth of mould. The excessive condensation has a number of causes including clothes being dried on radiators and steam from cooking and water vapour after showers and baths not being removed rapidly by opening windows. The information below may help some occupiers to deal with condensation in their homes. In any cases where the measures below do not prove effective the tenants should notify Housing Section.

What can you do to reduce condensation?

1. Produce less moisture

- Dry your washing outside the property whenever you can. You can also hang it in the bathroom, keeping the door closed and the window wide open.*
- Never use portable gas bottles or paraffin (flueless) heaters.*
- Permanently vent your tumble drier to the outside of your home, using a suitable kit recommended by the manufacturer of the appliance.*
- While cooking, always cover saucepans (simmer don't boil) and don't leave kettles boiling.*

2. Ventilate well to remove moisture

- **When a room is in use, keep a small window and/or a trickle vent open**
- **Ventilate bathrooms and kitchens (use extractor fans where fitted)**
- **Keep bathroom and kitchen doors closed even if they have extractor fans.**
- **Ventilate cupboards and wardrobes - do not overfill wardrobes - let the air circulate freely inside. For the same reason, cut holes in the back panel of the wardrobe and move it 50mm away from the surrounding wall. If possible, locate wardrobes against internal partition walls.**

3. Heat your home

- **A constant, low-level form of heating provides the most economical form of heat and reduces the likelihood of condensation**

4. Remove the mould

- **Treat and remove the mould - there are various products on the market that will help such as fungicidal products available in DIY stores.**
- **Wipe down windows, frames and other affected areas with a fungicidal (mould-killing wash). Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely. Dry-clean mildewed clothes and shampoo mouldy carpets.**

9. In welcoming the €60,000 provided by the NRA towards road junction treatment along the N2 Castleblayney to Carrickmacross Road, will the Council outline the junctions in which works will be carried out in 2013, the nature of the works in each case and the expected timeframes?

Reply: The Council has received notification of an allocation of €60,000 to carry out safety improvements at the following junctions:

N2 / L8130 Aghadreenan Junction

N2 / L4110 Aghnafarcán Junction

N2 / L8152/L4510 Lisdoonan-Donaghmoyne Crossroads Junction.

Measures proposed include the provision of right turning lanes or nearside overtaking lanes. The works are planned to take place in the third quarter of 2013.

10. When will Monaghan County Council carry out works at the Aghvilla junction on the N2 north of Carrickmacross to facilitate additional traffic movements at said junction?

Reply: The works are planned to take place in the third quarter of 2013.

11. What works will the Council carry out to prevent the continued flooding at the play-park at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross and to restore the playing field to an acceptable condition? When is it expected that this work will be completed?

Reply: The Council will carry out remedial drainage works when weather conditions improve to minimise damage to the grass surface.

16. Questions (contd.)

12. Following approval by Monaghan County Council of planning permission for a Group Home for women with physical/ sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross will the Council outline the remaining stages in development and an expected timeframe for this project to be completed?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is in the process of submitting a final pre-tender submission to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. This submission will be made by 8th February 2013.*

It is proposed to procure this project via a two stage restricted procurement process.

Stage 1 will consist of the placing of adverts seeking expressions of interest from contractors in early March 2013. The return date for the expression of interest will be mid April 2013. During this time, the Councils Design Team will be progressing the detailed design of the facility and also finalising submissions for Fire and Disability Access Certificates.

Stage 2 will consist of the issuing of tender documentation to preselected tenderers. This will occur in mid May 2013. Subsequent to receipt of tenders and the analysis of same, it is programmed that the Council will be seeking Departmental approval to appoint contractor by early July 2013.

Once Departmental approval has been obtained, the issue by the Council of notifications to unsuccessful tenders and the compliance of the contractor with all precontractual requirements such as provision of bond etc, construction can then commence. This is programmed for early September 2013. Construction programme is estimated to be 12 months.

Cllr A. Murray asked:

13. Re: Littering
- (a) How many people did Monaghan Co Council issue fines for littering in 2012?
Reply: *119 fines were issued by Monaghan Co Council in 2012.*
- (b) How many prosecutions were initiated for littering in 2012?
Reply: *There were no prosecutions initiated in 2012.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

14. Would the Council consider seeking further funding from the Department to progress outstanding issues with regard to unfinished estates in the county?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has sought funding in respect of the four "Category 4" Developments located within the County. Funding has been awarded and remedial works carried out in respect of three of these (Wylies Hill, Ballybay; Chapel Court, Carrickroe; & Forest Walk, Monaghan Town). An application for funding to carry out remedial works at The Alders, Ballybay is currently with the Department for consideration.*

Funding is not currently available for any other category of unfinished housing development.

16. Questions (contd.)

15. In the light of new Contribution Guidelines to Prioritise Jobs, Investment and Sustainable Development from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government - features of which include a requirement for planning authorities to establish reduced rates of contribution for projects such as developments in town centres and industrial development particularly with regard to prioritising job creation and economic investment - what effect will this have with regard to development and contributions in Monaghan?

Reply: *New guidelines in relation to Development Contribution Schemes have been issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. A new draft Development Contribution Scheme is currently being prepared and will be considered by the Planning and Development Strategic Policy Committee, Corporate Policy Group and full Council meeting during the first half of 2013.*

16. Can the Council provide clarity with regard to the proposed procedure for septic tank inspections and guidelines for householders with regard to how to determine whether their septic tank is functioning properly and whether they will need to upgrade?

Reply: *The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing a National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems as required under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012. Domestic waste water treatment systems can and do cause pollution when they are not properly sited, installed or maintained.*

The National Inspection Plan will incorporate a twin track approach using citizen engagement strategies as well as the more traditional inspection strategies.

The aim of the Inspection Plan is to make sure that:

- *Engagement takes place with a range of stakeholders to explore effective education strategies;*
- *Information is available to owners of domestic waste water treatment systems regarding their responsibilities and how to operate and maintain their systems;*
- *Information is supplied in multiple, easy to understand formats such as leaflets, video and web-based 'frequently asked questions';*
- *Incentives are used such as lower probability of inspections for registered sites;*
- *Adequate treatment of domestic waste water is in place;*
- *Treatment systems are adequately operated and maintained;*
- *Risks to human health and the environment are identified and managed;*
- *Wastewater sludges from domestic wastewater treatment systems are managed appropriately.*

The Inspection Plan will be carried out for the most part by local authorities. The plan will commence in 2013, with the initial focus on engagement and incentive strategies. These strategies will involve working closely with householders and other stakeholders to ensure that those who are responsible for domestic waste water treatment systems know how to comply and are encouraged to do so. Risk-based inspections will also commence in 2013.

A risk-based approach

Risk-based means putting our resources where the risks are highest to human health and the environment. The Inspection Plan will focus particularly on areas where the potential risk to public health and valuable water resources are higher.

Citizen engagement

Raising awareness and working with interested parties

The EPA and local authorities will talk to interested parties and particularly groups that represent the rural community, such as Irish Farmers' Association, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association, Irish Country Women's Association, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, as well as Non-Governmental Organisations such as Irish Environmental Network, SWAN, An Taisce and others. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, in conjunction with the EPA and local authorities, will also undertake a series of activities to create awareness in order to increase compliance related to the operation and maintenance of domestic waste water treatment systems. Assistance will include dissemination of information for householders through leaflets, newspaper articles, videos and dynamic website pages. Technical guidance will also be made available on the EPA website.

To determine if an individual's 'septic tank' is functioning to the required standard prior to any inspection the householder can consult the 'CODE OF PRACTICE – Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. < 10)' This publication is currently on the EPA's / LA's Website.

17. As the route of the Monaghan bypass is used extensively by walkers and cyclists would the Council contact the NRA in relation to taking measures to make the route safer for all road users?

Reply: The Council will contact the NRA regarding this matter.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

18. In relation to county Monaghan, what is the operational status of the 'fixyourstreet.ie' website that enables citizens to report road, lighting, environmental and other issues requiring local authority response within two working days? Are additional funds being allocated by the Department to address the deteriorating roads in the county?

Reply: The "Fix Your Street" reporting system for County Monaghan has been in operation since 1 January 2013. The site can be accessed at www.fixyourstreet.ie or at Monaghan County Council's website www.monaghan.ie

Road grant allocations were notified to Monaghan County Council on the 22nd and 25th January for national roads and rural and local roads by the NRA and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport respectively. The Council are not aware of any notification in relation to additional funding.

19. In the absence of any specific programme by Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland that will result in cost saving LED street lighting being installed throughout the county, will this local authority take the initiative and explore with industry experts the feasibility of such a programme and potential savings that will result by using this advanced energy efficient technology?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council are participating in a working group on public lighting that has been established by SEAI. This working group has developed a road map to overcome the barriers, including the current tariff structure, and best available technology that exist, to delivering energy efficient public lighting. The Council recently signed a contract to ensure that the best price possible per kilowatt hour for public lighting was achieved.*

Cllr C. McPhillips asked:

20. The R188, Monaghan to Cootehill Road travels from the North Monaghan area and comes into the Clones Area at the Beaghkearns junction approximately. This road is currently in excellent condition up until the said junction but the road from Beaghkearns up to Corcaghan is now showing signs of serious wear and has been in need of patching in recent weeks. The road is also prone to holding surface water in this area. Can Monaghan County Council please advise when works were last carried out on this section of road? What works does Monaghan County Council intend to carry out to repair the road in the future and when approximately might these works occur?

Reply: *Major resurfacing works were carried out on this section of road over 14 years ago, with routine maintenance being carried out when necessary in the intervening years. Maintenance patching has been carried out recently and it is proposed to carry out strengthening patching to the worst affect areas in the near future following a pavement survey.*

21. It was recently reported that one of our border county neighbours, namely County Louth recorded a 40% decrease in diesel laundering instances in 2012 as compared to 2011. Can Monaghan County Council provide similar comparative figures for County Monaghan?

Reply: *During 2012, Monaghan County Council dealt with 97 separate incidents of diesel laundering dumping which represents an increase of over 260% in comparison to 2011 which saw 37 such incidents. Again the vast majority of these incidents occurred in the Castleblayney and Carrickmacross electoral areas and particularly in and around the Oram and Donaghmoyne areas. During 2012 in the region of 500,000Kg's or 500 Tonnes of material were dealt with by Monaghan County Council. During 2012 Monaghan County Council recouped over €352,000 from the Department of Environment to cover the costs incurred in dealing with this problem up until October 2012. A further claim will be made to the Department shortly to cover costs incurred during November and December 2012 and January 2013. As of January 28th 2013 Monaghan County Council has already dealt with a further 7 incidents of diesel wash dumping that have occurred since the beginning of 2013.*

Regarding Louth County Council, although there was a 26% decrease in the quantity of diesel wash discovered in 2012 from 2011 the number of diesel wash dumping incidents actually increased in 2012 to 119. During 2011 there were 90 incidents in Louth but the higher tonnage figure for 2011 can be attributed to the fact that 17 trailers loads of wash were handled in 2011 whilst in 2012 this dropped to 6 trailer loads.

16. Questions (contd.)

22. Can Monaghan County Council please confirm how much funding was received from this year's Local and Regional Roads funding allocation from Central Government for works on the Threemilehouse to Newbliss road? Does Monaghan County Council intend to add to this funding from its own resources? How much work will be carried out to this road in 2013 on foot of this funding?

Reply: *An allocation of €350,000 has been received in 2013 from the Department of Transport in relation to road improvements on the R189 Threemilehouse to Newbliss Road. It is hoped that the allocation will allow for the improvement of a 1.5km section of the road towards Greenan's Cross. The County Council do not have any additional funds available to add to the project.*

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

23. In relation to Bawn, will Monaghan County Council consider extending the public lighting and footpath from the Church Cross, along the regional road R162 out to the new handball alley, in the interest of public safety?

Reply: *There is no funding available for these works.*

24. Has any further progress been made by Monaghan County Council, working in tandem with Louth County Council, to secure formal village status for Killanny, given that in the area there is a school, church, shop, busy state of the art Community Centre, newly formed Boxing Club and recently opened children's play park. Village status would be welcomed by the community and it would also enhance the great work being done by the Community Development & Sports Association.

Reply: *That part of Killanny which is located with County Monaghan is considered to be a Tier 6 settlement in the draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 – 2019. Subject to adoption, the related polices contained within the Plan, which provides for small scale development, will apply*

Killanny is not currently designated as a settlement in the Louth County Development Plan 2009 – 2015. The statutory review of the Louth Plan is due to commence at the end of 2013. A settlement strategy will be prepared as part of that review and will be progressed through the relevant periods of public consultation, as required by statutory provisions relating to the preparation of development plans. Monaghan County Council will be formally consulted as part of this review.

25. In relation to Inniskeen village, what progress has been made regarding the taking-in-charge by Monaghan County Council of the newly constructed footpath and public lighting adjacent to the pitch & putt, given that this work was planned and carried out by the combined efforts of the Inniskeen Community Groups on a voluntary basis and given that all the engineering reports have now been completed; when is it hoped to have the public lighting switched on?

Reply: *The Council is in the process of taking these works in charge. When this process is completed Monaghan County Council will be responsible for public lighting.*

18. Votes of sympathy

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the following:

The family of the late Bridie McAree, wife of former Councillor Stephen McAree.

John Quinn, Council staff on the death of his mother.

The husband, children, parents and extended family of the late Michelle McCabe, Kilkitt, Shantonagh

19. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed:

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
IBIS	Tolerance and Diversity in Ireland North and South	UCD Research Boardroom, University College Dublin	14th February 2013	Sean Conlon Aidan Murray Owen Bannigan
AMAI	AMAI Spring Seminar 2013	Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co Wexford.	15th – 16th February 2013	Brian McKenna Seamus Coyle
ICBAN	Community Planning	Ranfurly House, Arts & Visitor Centre, Dungannon.	22nd February 2013	Brian McKenna
24 th Colmcille Winter School Conference	Will the Euro - - - - - The Single European Currency Survive	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchill, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.	22nd - 24th February 2013	P.J.O'Hanlon Robbie Gallagher Gary Carville Aidan Murray
Mid-West Regional Authority	Economic Recovery	Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co, Tipperary.	28th February -1st March 2013	Cathy Bennett Padraig McNally John O'Brien Seamus Coyle Gary Carville David Maxwell Owen Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Paudge Connolly

ACCC	Local Government Reform	Tower Hotel Waterford	7th – 8th March 2013	Brian McKenna David Maxwell Gary Carville
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The meeting then concluded at 3.30pm