

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building,
Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 6th February 2006, at 10 a.m.**

Chair: Cllr P Treanor, Mayor

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

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(a) On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Minutes of the Draft Budget Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2005, be confirmed.

(b) On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Minutes of Adjourned Budget Meeting held on Monday 19th December 2005, be confirmed.

(c) On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd January 2006, be confirmed.

(d) On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Minutes of Adjourned Council Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2006, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to Members:

- Managers Order No. 06/23 – Development Contribution Charges
- Mr. Dick Roche, T.D. Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the 2006 L.I.S. allocations.
- Letter from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to using PPS numbers in compiling the Register of Electors.
- Letter from Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a letter in connection with the Shared Ownership Scheme.
- Letter from Mr. John O'Donoghue TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism regarding a request for a meeting with the Minister to discuss the Ballybay Wetlands Project.

- Letter from the Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D.
- Letter from the Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D., regarding Monaghan General Hospital and the Health Service Executive delivery of services.
- Letter from Seymour Crawford, T.D. in relation to a letter he received from Mr. Dick Roche, T.D. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government re: EU Co Financed Specific Improvement Grants Scheme.
- Letter from Bishop Joseph Duffy thanking Monaghan County Council for hosting an exemplary reception for the Armenian Bishop.
- Letter from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretariat regarding the establishment of the All Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities Forum that seeks to secure assurance from the Northern Ireland Secretary that no nuclear stations will be built in Northern Ireland.
- Letter from the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, John O'Donoghue TD, regarding a request for a meeting with the Minister to discuss the Ballybay Wetlands Project.
- Letter from the Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D. regarding a resolution passed by Monaghan County Council to allow representation from Community and Voluntary sectors onto the Regional Health Forums.
- Letter from Rosalie Smith Lynch, FOI Manager at the HSE regarding a FOI Request from Monaghan County Council.
- Letter from Fáilte Ireland re. National Development Plan (NDP) 2000 – 2006, Tourism Product Development Scheme.
- Resolution received from North Tipperary Council regarding rejection of the Hanley Report.
- Correspondence from Enterprise Ireland in relation to New Enterprise Ireland Community Enterprise Centre Scheme 2006.

The County Manager drew the Members attention to the correspondence which had been circulated from Failte Ireland and from Enterprise Ireland and advised that these schemes may be of interest to local communities.

Castleblayney Wastewater Treatment Scheme:

In response to a query from Cllr Carville in relation to the Castleblayney Wastewater Scheme - the brief for which Cllr Carville stated had not gone to the Department of Environment - Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services said that the draft brief had been forwarded to the Department on the 14th December 2005. The Department Inspector had indicated in January that he had approved the scheme, however the Council had not received written confirmation.

Nuclear Power Correspondence

The Members considered the terms of the draft resolution on new nuclear construction circulated by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretariat

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed to adopt the motion from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretariat and to ask them what membership constitutes and is there a membership cost.

Bord Fáilte and Ballybay Wetlands Project:

The Members discussed the letter received from the private secretary to the Minister for Arts Sport & Tourism declining to meet a deputation from the Council to discuss this project.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to seek a meeting with the Minister O'Donohue regarding the Ballybay Wetlands.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to again write to Fáilte Ireland requesting a meeting and also to enquire if there was any funding for the Ballybay Wetlands Project under the Tourism Development Scheme.

Roads Grants

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to place the road grants allocation on next months agenda.

Development Charges

Cllr McElvaney referred to copy of Manager's Order No. 06/23, in relation to the Development Contribution Charges, which had been circulated. He proposed that the contribution for car parking be reduced from €2,082 to €1,082. Cllr Keenan seconded the proposal

Paul Clifford, Director of Services said that this charge only applied to developers who could not provide car parking spaces. If applicants had their own land available for car parking this charge would not apply. He stated that legislation provides that the Council must increase the development contribution charges in line with the wholesale price index. The scheme presented is a reflection of a scheme adopted by Members in 2004.

The Mayor put Cllr McElvaney's motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted as follows

For: 2 Against: 18

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

Minister Dick Roche - visit on Monday 13th February

The Mayor, P.Treanor said that he had requested that the Members meet with Minister Dick Roche regarding the Hospital issue, when he visits Clones on the 13/02/06. He referred to the decision taken at a previous meeting to protest at such events if a positive response was not forthcoming from Minister Roche. He would liaise with the party whips in the matter.

Cllr B. McKenna said that they should also seek to speak to the Minister about the LIS Scheme and should include this with the hospital issue.

Correspondence from the Minister for Health

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Carville is was agreed to write again to the Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D, to ask her what she was responsible for.

Castleblayney/Monaghan Bypass

In response to a query from Cllr Carville in relation to the lack of activity on the Castleblayney By-Pass Mr. Fallon, Director of Services said that the contract for the Castleblayney bypasses is a design and build contract and an indicative design was supplied at the start of the contract. The Design Consultants have been on site and extensive trial excavation works have been carried out. The Councils Design Consultants Akins will also examine the project. Extensive excavation work is not normally done this time of year because good weather can not be expected. Excavation work will begin soon and some fencing work has already been carried out. The completion date for the project is 21 months from November 2005.

In response to a query from Cllr Carville regarding the taking of stone from a local quarry facility that is not yet in operation the County Manager stated that it would not be prudent to comment on this matter as the quarry is the subject of a current planning application.

Mr. D. Fallon stated that the Monaghan By-Pass is expected to be completed by August 2006. The project is slightly behind schedule and the contractor has been requested to make good progress from now on.

Cllr Carville asked were the Members aware that the IFA had issued letters asking landowners to allow GAMA onto CPO lands only, additional lands would be required and if goodwill is not there it would be difficult. A report was needed on this issue.

The County Manager advised that details of the most recent offers have been sent to the NRA. A number of farmers have made separate deals with GAMA.

Lough Muckno

In response to a query from Cllr McElvaney the County Manager said the Council had received a letter from our solicitor confirming that Harinbrook had insurance cover on the adventure centre at the time of the recent fire. The Council had contacted Irish Public Bodies in relation to insurance cover on the remaining building.

3. To approve Section 183 Notices – Disposal of land at Clonkeencole, Clones

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed to approve the disposal of .0767 acres of land at Clonkeencole, Clones, Co Monaghan to the Health Service Executive for the consideration of €5,078.96 in accordance with notice dated 24th January, 2006 under the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. Part VIII - Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

(i) 05/8016 – Housing

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Directors report 20th June, 2005 – 05/8016 - Application for permission for construction of a demountable dwelling house with associated site works, septic tank and percolation area at Coolatragh, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan.

(ii) 05/8010 – Housing

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Directors report dated 20th June, 2005 – 05/8010 - Application for the development of a 3-bedroom single storey dwelling house with associated septic tank and percolation area in Faulkland, Glaslough.

(iii) 05/8017 – Housing

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Kieran's it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Directors report dated 27th July, 2005 – 05/8017 - Application for the development of a demountable dwelling house with associated site works, septic tank and percolation area at Druminane, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan.

(iv) 05/8021 – Water Services – Inniskeen Waste Water Treatment Plant

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded that the Council approve the proposed development as per Directors report dated 02nd February, 2006 – 05/8021 - Application for permission for extension to Inniskeen Waste Water treatment works comprising: new above ground tanks and access gantry, high level sand filter, plant and caretaker building, new entrance, palisade fencing to be provided around treatment plant and associated site works at Lacklom, Inniskeen, Co Monaghan

A discussion took place on item (iv)

Cllr Keenan proposed that a 1.8m soil bank with a wooden fence be erected around the site and that the landowners were agreeable to erecting the fence themselves.

Cllr McNally said that the landowners, the McArdle's wanted to increase the soil bank to 1.8 meters if there was land available.

Cllr Keelan said that it would be of no extra cost to the Council, as the McArdles said that they would erect the fence themselves.

Paul Clifford, Director of Services said that he had agreed to meet with the landowners and erect 1.5 soil bank. He said that there was limited space within the site. Only room for 5 metres of planting. They were going to put in screening of 3 rows of trees; they would try to meet the landowner's requests.

Dan Doody, Senior Engineer, Water Services said that he did not have a problem with a 1.8 metres fence, but it would be the landowner's responsibility to maintain the fence.

Paul Clifford said it was up to the members to make the decision

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Directors report dated 02nd February, 2006 – 05/8021 including an amendment that a 1.5m high wooden fence be constructed on top of a 1.8metre high berm along Mr. McArdle's boundary.

(v) **05/8015 – Planning Services**

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Directors report dated 27th January, 2006 – 05/8015 - Application for permission to install a co-location facility to facilitate the connection of telecommunication operators into the proposed Castleblayney Broadband Metropolitan Area Network.

5. To fix dates for the following meetings:

(i) **To discuss the Draft County Development Plan**

The Members agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss the draft County Development Plan on Wednesday 1st March 2006 in the Mtek Building.

(ii) **Road Area Meetings**

The Area Roads Meetings were arranged as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Time / Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Clones	14/02/06 @ 10:00am	Clones Town Council
Castleblayney	15/02/06 @ 9:30am	Iontas Centre Castleblayney
North Monaghan	20/02/06 @ 10:00am	County Offices.
Carrickmacross	24/02/06 @ 11:00am	Inniskeen

(iii) First meeting of Neagh Bann Advisory Council

David Fallon said a meeting of this committee would be arranged shortly. The Neagh Bann Advisory Council included representatives from Co. Louth, Co. Meath, Co. Cavan and Co. Monaghan.

6. Taking Estates in Charge:

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Services Planning referred to the report circulated in relation to this item. Section 180 of the Planning Development Act 2000 came into operation on the 21st January 2002 and applies to permissions granted under Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and under Section 26 of the Planning Act 1963. He stated that Section 180 provides for the taking in charge of a development comprising of two or more houses, the provision of new roads, open spaces, car parks, sewers, watermains or drains all of which have been completed to the satisfaction to the Planning Authority and in accordance with the conditions of the permission granted. The Planning Authority may by the request of the developer or the majority of the qualified electors who are owners or occupiers of the houses involved, take the estates in charge.

Section 180(4) of the Act also requires that an order be made under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 (Declaration of Public Roads) to take into charge any open spaces, car parks, sewers, watermains or drains within the attendance grounds of the development. The Council has not received any applications to take estates in charge for permissions granted under Section 34 of the Act of 2000 but has received seven applications to have estates taken in charge under Section 26 of the 1963 Act. He outlined the procedure that had to be followed when Taking Estates in Charge. A Public Notice is placed in the newspapers. A period of at least one month is allowed for inspection of the proposals and a further two weeks for the making of objections or representations. The making of the order declaring a road to be a public road and the consideration of representations on such proposals are reserved functions.

Cllr Carthy requested that Members be circulated with the criteria required for Taking an Estate in Charge.

In response to queries from the Members Mr. Clifford said that if the County Council did not move within seven years and residents applied to have their Estate Taken In Charge, the Council would have to take them in Charge. A bond is taken from the private developers for each house; that was the only guarantee that funds would be available to complete developments. He said that some estates do not want to be taken in charge after seven years. Part V estates are treated like any private estates i.e. they are in the control of Management Companies until the estate is taken over by the Council. The Council is responsible for the green areas and roads and footpaths.

It was agreed to place the declaration of public roads as an item on the agenda for the April meeting.

7. **Review of County Development Board Strategy**

Carol Lambe from Community and Enterprise gave a presentation on the review of the County Development Board Strategy. The original strategy was adopted in 2002 and was a ten-year plan for the County. There were three hundred and forty actions under twelve headings. At the request of the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, a complete review of the Strategy was carried out in 2005. The review revealed that one third of the actions had been delivered in the first three years of the Strategy. The Dept. also requested that the CDB select a small number of priority actions on which the member organisations will co-ordinate delivery over the next three years. The final list of priorities were agreed by the Board in December 05 and will be published in the Review document, which will be launched in April 2006. Each priority action has been selected on its potential to enable collaboration by a number of agencies in its delivery. CDB partner organisations have undertaken the lead role in driving each action, thus enabling the County Development Board to act as a support agency rather than taking the lead. The increased focus on collaboration and the partnership approach to delivering the actions represents a deepening of the CDB process.providers are involved. This allows an integrated and co-ordinated approach.

The Mayor thanked Carol Lambe for her presentation.

Cllr B. McKenna said that whilst the Council was represented on the County Development Board he felt that feed back to the Council from the Board was poor. He suggested that maybe the Chairs of the SPC's should report back on what is going on with the Board.

Cllr Kieran's agreed with Cllr B. McKenna and suggested that a presentation could be carried out on a yearly basis.

8. **Local Sports Partnership**

The County Manager referred to the correspondence circulated from the Irish Sports Council enclosing a copy of the final report on the "Review of the Local Sports Partnership Programme". The report recommended that all future LSP's should be set up as sub structures of the County Development Board or local authority. He suggested calling a meeting of the interim steering committee to progress this matter.

(a) Cllr Treanor proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded that since the Interim Steering Committee had put together the application that they are allowed to develop as a sub-committee of the County Development Board to progress the setting up of the Local Sports Partnership

Cllr McElvaney proposed an amendment;

“ That we go ahead as originally agreed – jointly between County Council and V.E.C. Failing that, the report to the Minister for Sport, not the County Council,

recommends establishment under the CDB or local authority. If we are not doing jointly with VEC then I propose we establish LSP directly under County Council”

Cllr McNally seconded Cllr McElvaney’s amendment.

Cllr McElvaney referred to the report by Fitzpatrick’s Consultants who gave their recommendations to the Minister of Arts, Sports and Tourism. The Minister did not offer any advice on how to establish Sports Partnerships. There were sixteen in total, thirteen independent companies and three established under the County Development Board.

Cllr Carthy said that this report left things in limbo. The structure should have been agreed before the report was issued. Other counties had received up to one million euro towards Sports Partnerships. There was a serious lack of sporting facilities in Co. Monaghan and he proposed that the LSP should be established without further delay. The County Development Board is very representative; they should set up with the VEC if they co-operate or go it alone if they don’t.

Cllr McNally seconded Cllr McElvaney’s proposal. He supported Cllr Carthy's proposal. They should go ahead without delay with the VEC. The only people losing out were the people of the county. He supported the motion that they should go with the VEC and failing that goes it alone.

Cllr B McKenna said that if members supported Cllr McElvaney's proposal the people of County Monaghan would have to forgo the establishment of the Sports Partnership. This proposal came out of the County Development Board.

The County Manager said that they would have to go forward as outlined by the Sports Council. The process was initiated and administered by the County Development Board. The VEC had not been on board with this proposal until a grant of €10,000 had been allocated and then serious problems arose as to who should administer it. The County Development Board should now call a meeting of the Interim Committee and hand over responsibility for running the partnership. The Sports Partnership would be administered by whatever regime the committee decides to put in place for themselves.

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr P. McKenna seconded that the Council adjourn taking a decision in the matter until the next meeting of the Council so that the VEC will have an opportunity to discuss the matter at it’s meeting on 13th February.

Cllr Bannigan’s motion was agreed.

9. Nitrates Directive Briefing

David Fallon, Director of Services circulated a summary of the main provisions of the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2005 as prepared by the Environment Section. The purpose of the regulations is to provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources. Primary emphasis is

on the management of livestock manures and other fertilizers. The Regulations will be implemented on a phased basis from February onwards. The document outlined the main provisions of the regulations in relation to –

- Farmyard Management
- Nutrient Management
- Prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities
- Application of fertilisers.
- Requirement for farmers to maintain detailed records for inspection

Under the regulations the Council will be required to monitor surface and groundwater; carry out inspections of farm holdings and consult and co-ordinate with other public bodies.

He stated that the regulations are quite detailed, particularly in relation to nitrogen and phosphorus limits. Implications for Monaghan farmers may be quite significant and the outcome of any derogation sought will be important. The implementation of the regulations will require a review of local authority resources.

A debate followed during which Members expressed the views that the Nitrates Directive is not workable. The weather in the last month has meant most slurry tanks have been emptied safely without danger of run-off. The Minister had said that Teagasc had given the wrong advice, why did he sign the Directive then, and why was Minister Coughlan not involved. The farming bodies have to ensure that a framework is provided that does not affect the future viability of farming. There needs to be a commitment for a 70% grant scheme for storage facilities and a derogation is required on nitrogen and phosphorous levels.

Cllr McElvaney said that this Directive was the death knell for many farmers. He proposed that they did not co-operate with this proposal.

This discussion was concluded to allow the Environmental Resources Management Consultants make a presentation to the Council.

13. Presentation by Environmental Resources Management Consultants

The Mayor welcomed Eileen O'Connor, Sean O'Riordain and Michael Critchley from ERM Consultants and invited them to address the meeting.

Ms. Eileen O'Connor stated that the firm had been engaged by the Council to prepare a landscape assessment of the county. This landscape character assessment and mapping were in line with guidelines set out by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The purpose of the assessment is to assist or guide future decisions on sensitive siting and design of developments. She outlined the methodology involved in undertaking the assessment. In addition to this presentation there would be ongoing consultation with the planning department during the course of the assessment. There would

be interviews with stakeholders; workshop/information meeting with public and a final presentation to the Members

Following the presentation, Ms. O'Connor and Mr. O'Riordain responded to the issues raised by the Members. Mr. O'Riordain stated that a number of local authorities had completed this process. ERM will have regard to the concerns expressed by the Members. He explained that sometimes there is a need for outside input to show people what is important in their local communities.

Mr. Adrian Hughes Planning stated that the process was set down in the Department of Environments Guidelines for Sustainable Rural Development. The results of the landscape assessment would be absorbed into the Development Plan - it was unlikely that this process would be completed before the adoption of the new County Development Plan but Members would have the opportunity to consider it, as it would be presented as a variation to the Development Plan. This report will identify suitable or unsuitable areas for developing such things as wind farms. The assessment was not about stopping rural housing; it was about making informed decisions. The adoption of this rests with the Members and reflects the view of the people living on the ground.

A number of members requested that the cost of the process be advised to the Council.

14. To receive presentation from Customs and Excise:

Deputy Mayor Seamus Coyle took the Chair after lunch. He welcomed the following staff from the Customs & Excise Anti Evasion Team - Donal Hall Assistant – Principal Officer, Patricia McCormick – Higher Executive Officer and John Heffernan – Executive Officer and thanked them for agreeing to attend the meeting. He invited them to address the Council.

Donal Hall said that during the period 2002 -2005 within the BMW region there were twenty-six illegal laundries uncovered with 720,000 litres of product being seized – the revenue at risk was approx. €20 million. He said that there had been five successful prosecutions. In 2005 there were 127 detections of laundered fuel with penalties of €155,000 being imposed. Laundered diesel yields .55 cents per litre. Enforcement is difficult. There are roadside checks; in 2005 they carried out 7000-road side checks. Of this there were 300 detections and 85 prosecutions, 79 convictions. They work with the Gardai but also need the co-operation of the public. When they discover a laundry they remove all items and anything that cannot be removed will be rendered useless. They inform the County Council so that waste residue can be removed and disposed of safely.

Following the presentation Mr. Hall responded to the queries raised by the members. In addition he stated that their work doesn't end when a lorry is stopped – there is significant follow up afterwards. He appealed to the public to come forward with information if they notice anything suspicious in their area.

David Fallon, Director thanked the Revenue staff for their presentation and said that it costs the Council about €1 million a year to safely deal with the highly toxic wash which has to be shipped to Germany. This material can have a terrible impact on water supplies. About 150,000 litres of highly toxic waste was found in Co. Monaghan in 2005.

The Deputy Mayor again thanked the Customs and Excise staff for their informative presentation.

15. To receive deputation from Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme

The Deputy Mayor welcomed M/s Donal McDaid, John Gilsenan and John Morris representing Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme and invited them to make a presentation to the Council.

Mr . McDaid began the meeting by saying that it was important that all problems are resolved through talking. They based their argument on fair play and economics.

Donaghmoyne had over fourteen hundred households but Donaghmoyne itself was serving seven thousand people. Donaghmoyne produces and provides more water than the town of Carrickmacross and Castleblayney together. There was 170 miles of public piping and 700,000 gallons produced per day. The present worth of Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme was twenty four million euros. It was run and managed by a voluntary board and was Co-op registered. It delivered to homes, farms and business and had been established twenty-six years ago. For the first sixteen to seventeen years of its existence there was little or no money for any upgrading.

There was then a by election in Dublin from which the decision was born for the development of a National Federation of Group Water Schemes. There was a partnership arrangement between Monaghan County Council, the Department of Environment and the Group Water Schemes and Donal McDaid himself was a member of the board. He was a representative on the first Monitoring Committee. It was fair to say that no one tried as much as he had to create this partnership. He was appointed IFA national's representative.

While all this was going on a member of the Galway Water Scheme made a complaint to the EU about water quality. Ireland was found to be in breach of the EU Directive. Monaghan became one of the pilot Counties to be given a group bundle. Donaghmoyne was very active in forming the bundle. It was true to say that only for two undertakings being given it would never have got off the ground:

1. Up to four Schemes could leave after the bundle
2. If they did leave, that they would not be disadvantaged.

This undertaking was given by Jim Ganley from the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Donaghmoyne GWS decided, on one issue and one issue only, that they would not take part. They thought that they would be cross subsidising other schemes. They felt that it was not economical. They decided to let it be known that they would not enter the bundle. The partnership broke down. 14 Schemes were tendered, three for Monaghan County Council and eleven Group Water Schemes. A bidder was selected. The Bid was accepted on behalf of 14 schemes.

Eventually someone decided to speak to Donaghmoyne Members in Castleblayney. He did not know who called the meeting. The meeting was not called by the Donaghmoyne GWS or Monaghan County Council.

Donaghmoyne GWS called a public meeting. They called outside agencies to hold the meeting, five hundred people showed up, that was one-third of their members. There were people trying to break the trust between the Donaghmoyne Board and its members. The vote was based on Donaghmoyne membership. The day before the meeting, senior Members of the Federation spent the day trying to get people to go against Donaghmoyne, however 81% voted in favour of Donaghmoyne, there was 1 spoiled vote and 18% against.

Donaghmoyne then proceeded to appoint Consultants to invite tender documents. They appointed Doran Consulting from Belfast, it was an open system; it was a direct mirror of what happened in bundle projects, the only difference from the bundle is that they have not got approval from the federation.

They eventually got a tender. The reason Donaghmoyne left the bundle was because it was bad value for money. The tender was received and accepted. If they had accepted Bowen Vivendi they would have paid 22.88cent per cubic meter and Bowen Vivendi would have charged them 21% VAT and eventually the VAT would have been at 27%. These figures were based on 2005. Their tender was at €732 per day, if they had gone with Bowen Viendi it would have been €33.50 per day.

During the process of negotiations after the preferred bidder was accepted, it was decided a different process of leaving fixed costs and variable cost for producing water be followed. This resulted in a slight increase for Donaghmoyne, however if they were in the bundle this would be €51.86 per day.

Donaghmoyne achieved three bidders; they went to the market place. The cost per day was €71, saving €480.50 per month and €175,000 over twenty years.

The contract with Bowen Vivendi would cost 3 ½ million euros. People said that cost of building the plant was very high. The plant offered by Bowen Vendi had a maximum capacity of 2,280 cubic litres per day, and a maximum production of 16,640 mega litres over its lifetime at a cost of 58.28cents.

Donaghmoyne's bid was for 1.49 million euros. The plant would produce 4,000 cubic litres a day, over 20 years 29,200mega lit at a cost of €29.00, inflation not included.

The second tender they received was from Bowen Vivendi, the difference between them and the winner was only €80,000; they were very close to getting the tender.

At the meeting in Castleblayney he gave an undertaking to the people that he would produce water at 72 cent per 1,000/gals and this was achieved. The Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme is the biggest business in Donaghmoyne and serves 99% of the Donaghmoyne community and parts of Inniskeen and Castleblayney.

Deputy Chair, Cllr Seamus Coyle stated that they would only be putting questions to the representatives.

Cllr Keenan stated that he had a vested interest in Donaghmoyne and would not be taking part in discussions.

Cllr McElvaney said that Cllr Keenan had no financial interest therefore no vested interest so he could discuss and vote if he wished.

The Manager said that it was up to Cllr Keenan.

Questions Asked

Cllr Maxwell asked was there no grant assistance promised for filtration and how could Donaghmoyne produce water at .67 cents? He asked how much were the Council paying under the bundle.

Mr McDaid said that they had no grant assistance for filtration. He also said that he knew of some schemes that were paying as much as 1.93 cents.

Director of Services, Paul Clifford answered that different schemes had different figures, it depended on the scheme and the size - the larger schemes paid less.

Cllr Kieran's said that they had met with a deputation from Donaghmoyne on the 13th October 2005, if no difficulties had come about would they have been pleased?

Cllr McNally said that it was important that the end user knew the state of play; he was amazed when people asked when are we going to get clean water? The Scheme had committed to producing clean water, also the fact that they had to borrow money, would this not affect their delivery cost?

Cllr Bannigan said that the Department had given a commitment that no one would be affected if they withdrew from the bundle. It was a disgrace what happened, He asked did Monaghan County Council accept the proposal on behalf of Donaghmoyne even when they withdrew, who decides the inflation rate for water, the price is already gone up by 27%, is the filtration the same as that in the bundle?

Donal McDaid said Donaghmoyne plant was designed undersize; the cost per cubic metre was €48. The only reason they did not meet the procurement criteria

was because the Local Monitoring Committee did not accept them going alone. In relation to cost of water he was giving a public undertaking that at the end of the day they would get grant aided. The price of water to Donaghmoyné assuming they have to raise the money themselves will be half the cost of any other bundle.

He said that Monaghan County Council wrote a letter and that letter-accepted the tender for fourteen schemes in the bundle. He said he didn't think Bowen will bring legal proceedings but the option is there. Inflation was at 27% for schemes, he was aware that one of the schemes was paying €1.93 per 1,000 gallons and Donaghmoyné had a price for .67cents.

The filtration system was a membrane filtration, a dissolved air filtration. 80% of the waters worldwide had cryptosporidium and the system will not handle the bug, if it is identified. There is an add on membrane filtration in the bid they received. It included this.

There was a mandate among members not to join the bundle. Grant aid conditional on joining a bundle, is not acceptable. If they did not filter the water they would have EU legislation to deal with, and heavy penalties. Difficulties with procurement lay here.

Cllr Martin said could Mr McDaid be guaranteed fair play today, freedom of initiative. The document here says prior approval to technical specification is required. He asked where do Donaghmoyné fall short of bundle?

Cllr McElvaney said that John Gilsenan, John Morris and Donal McDaid were all welcomed. He was of the opinion that they were victimised by Monaghan County Council. He occasionally raised the issue of Donaghmoyné during Council meetings. The figures strengthened the private scheme. He is more concerned about what Monaghan County Council is charging for water. He asked Donaghmoyné do they have an application for grant aid in the Department and how much is it for and have they informed the Water Monitoring Committee of every step and have they received support. He was alarmed that Monaghan County Council accepted a tender for the Donaghmoyné group, when they withdrew from the bundle. Did those in the Monitoring Committee support his approach in relation to grant aid from the Department or did they ignore him totally? He admires the work they do and wants them to get a fair crack of the whip.

Cllr Carville said that the figures are damning of the Bundled Scheme and the way Donaghmoyné have been treated. Grant aid; is it a matter for this Council or the Department for grant aid to be activated?

Cllr B. McKenna said he did not see the point of this meeting. They have been down this road before. Government policy had changed and they had insisted on going down the route of DBO's. Donaghmoyné were advised on a number of occasions on what route to take. He had called the Castleblayney meeting as Chairperson of the Local Water Monitoring Committee. He had called it as he was trying to encourage Donaghmoyné to stay in the bundle. He wanted them to know what exactly they were leaving if they left the bundle. He wanted them to know what was on offer. There had been a number of meetings with the Minister

Dick Roche over funding and the procurement procedure. Proper procurement procedure was not followed and that was the problem. We have to abide by the Government guidelines. It was not for members in the chamber to make that decision. There was no change in position as outlined in the Departments letter of 15 November 2005.

The last meeting with the Department was on 13 October 2005. Donaghmoynes had acknowledged at this meeting that they had not followed procurement policy and he asked why are we playing to the people of Donaghmoynes. He stated that his was one of the votes that put Donald McDaid in the chair of the Local Water Monitoring Committee. Donaghmoynes was entitled to their opinion however the department viewed it differently. The view that Donaghmoynes has been victimised was untrue. Up to 2002 they had received over 300,000 euros from Monaghan County Council in grant-aid and three quarter of a million euros in subsidies. Monaghan County Council did not hold back on any money they also gave money for the building of the reservoir. The procurement procedure policy changed during this process.

Director of Services Paul Clifford said that he could not challenge the figures presented here by Mr. McDaid. They were unsubstantiated and differed from those published in the local press. The alleged inflation of 27% on the tender price referred to the date the tender was accepted in September 2001. Inflation is calculated by a strict formula, with reference to the Wholesale Price Index and cost of energy. It was reasonable to expect that there would be an energy-based inflation from 2001 to 2006.

He stated that Monaghan County Council could not process Donaghmoynes' application. They had withdrawn from the bundle in September 2001 after the tenders were opened.

The Department's Circular 17/02 had changed Government policy. This was set down in Terry Allen's letter. If they did not comply with the grant scheme requirements, you cannot draw down funding.

They are the only group that is not supplying water that meets the EU directive is Donaghmoynes. There are still boiling notices in place on Donaghmoynes GWS. Monaghan County Council did advertise and accept tenders for fourteen plants, they had no other choice. The tender was based on fourteen plants. There was a fixed and volumetric cost of water over the ten groups and three council schemes. Donaghmoynes' withdrawal had an effect on the other thirteen plants. The fixed costs tendered for Donaghmoynes are now paid by other thirteen plants.

On the 6th February 2004 and the 3rd of July 2005 the Local Monitoring Committee asked to meet with Donaghmoynes GWS. Instead Donaghmoynes went directly to the Department.

The County Manager said that Government procurement procedures and EU Directives are very specific. When public tendered contracts are awarded the procurement rules have to be very strictly applied. The Department's position

was spelled out in Terry Allen's letter dated 15 November 2005. Monaghan was a pilot scheme. There were problems all over the Country with water quality. The Government decided the best way forward and the best value for money, benefiting from economies of scale was through the bundle system. Small schemes were not economical. The Department had to ensure that public money was spent well.

Monaghan County Council and the Monitoring Committee tried to develop a mechanism that was best for Donaghmoynne but Government regulations had to be adhered to.

Cllr McElvaney said that the Council had no right to look at private companies files.

Donal McDaid said that some day there would have to be a resolution. Every dispute has to be settled by talking, Donaghmoynne were not giving up the fight even if they had to pay for it, they would produce water a half the cost. Yes, he agreed Donaghmoynne is costing every GWS member or household two cents a day extra because Donaghmoynne is not in the bundled scheme. They were getting everything they were entitled to.

They met with Minister Dick Roche for one hour, in the presence of Owen Devlin, Seymour Crawford and Francie O'Brien and he was very helpful. The Minister said there had to be a way found for grant aid. The Minister said privately to him that "his officials are hell bent on not funding Donaghmoynne, I will have to find a way." Senator O'Brien said that Donaghmoynne would get grant aided.

Cllr McElvaney said that he would state publicly that he would not accept government policy. They would have to find a resolution. He asked Donal McDaid what is it that Donaghmoynne Group Water Scheme requires from Monaghan County Council?

Donal McDaid said that this Council should propose that Monaghan County Council should write to the Department to find a way around to get grant aid for the plant.

At this point the Donaghmoynne delegation withdrew from the meeting.

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Carville seconded that as a result of presentation today, the Council should write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Minister requesting that a way be found to ensure Donaghmoynne Group Water Scheme gets grant aid.

Cllr B. McKenna said that T.J. O'Connor & Associates should be appointed to give comparative figures. He proposed that T.J. O'Connor & Associates be invited here to give a report to the Council. Donaghmoynne gave different figures from those which was in the papers a few months ago. He requested access to tender documents submitted to Donaghmoynne Group Water Scheme and that T.J. O'Connor & Associates be invited to submit a report to give fair play to both sides.

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr Treanor seconded that the Council ask Donaghmoynce Group Water Scheme to make their tender documents available to T.J. O'Connor & Associates to allow them examine them and to make a presentation to Monaghan County Council so that comparisons can be made.

Cllr Maxwell said that Donaghmoynce tendered for the plant themselves and did not go down the official route by sending tenders to the local authorities and could produce water at .67 cents. How could they go about getting funding?

Director of Services Paul Clifford said that they would have to join a bundle. It was too late to join Monaghan's bundle. He could not verify the figures Donaghmoynce gave. The figure of €3.70 mentioned earlier was for water out of a tap, the finished product, the figure of .67 given by Donaghmoynce was for raw water. He said he did not know what Donaghmoynce were basing their figures on.

Cllr McNally said that too much of a discussion rather than a question and answer session had taken place before the delegation left. The Council had let themselves down to some extent. The scheme was a victim of one thing - a policy change by the Department. It was unfortunate that people are using this situation to get at officialdom and officials in the Council. He was been asked on a daily basis what was he doing to force Donaghmoynce to produce good water. Donal McDaid had stated that his scheme would produce water at half the cost. There were ten other water schemes in the county that the Council had encouraged to enter the bundle and they might be asking themselves why did we not do the same and go it alone. He agreed with Cllr B. McKenna that like should be compared with like and they needed a balanced set of figures to do this. If they needed T.J. O'Connor & Associates to explain why there was a difference in cost, invite them.

Cllr Martin said that they should analyse the Public Procurement procedures and that they should seek legal advice on the issue if necessary.

Cllr B McKenna said that if the procurement procedures had been followed, there would be no need to for all this.

Voting:

Cllr McElvaney called for a Roll call vote on the two proposals, which resulted as follows:

Cllr Bannigan's proposal:

For	Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphrey's, Keelan, Keenan, Kierans, Martin, Maxwell, McAnespie, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, McNally, O'Brien, P, Treanor.	Total 19
------------	--	-----------------

Against: None

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion carried.

Cllr B. McKenna's proposal:

For Cllrs Carthy, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Kierans, Martin, McAnespie, B. McKenna, McNally, O'Brien, P, Treanor.

Total 12

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Humphrey's, Keenan, Maxwell, McElvaney, and P. McKenna.

Total 7

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion carried.

16. Questions:

1. Cllr Padraig McNally asked:

- (a) "Will this Council seek funding from the NRA to have all junctions along the N2 made safe by the provision of a shadow island?"

Right turning lanes are provided at junctions with Regional Roads and where the volume of traffic using the local road warrants it.

A Right turning lane is being provided at Brackagh (Ministers cross) in 2006.

Otherwise road markings without a dedicated right turning lane and with or without nearside overtaking opportunity marking is used where deemed necessary.

- (b) "Will this Council, by way of public advertisement in all local Newspapers, seek land for housing and industrial use?"

The Council has in the past advertised for land for housing. This matter can best be addressed when the review of the Development Plan is completed so that any offers received can be assessed against the zonings set out in the plan.

- (c) "What is the up to date position regarding the proposed P.P.P. project on the Convent lands Carrickmacross?"

- (d) "When can we expect to see the new Library, Civic Offices and OPW building in Carrick across, which will accommodate the decentralisation programme?"

This project, which includes the provision of Civic Offices, Library and O.P.W. offices, is currently in the second phase of the procurement process, which should be completed in a number of weeks. It is not possible to give an indication of when these buildings will be completed until the procurement process is completed and a contract signed with the successful bidder.

- (e) “Has this Council got any plans to develop local Authority houses in Corduff, Donaghmoynne, Carrickasedge and Killanny in order to house housing applicants from these areas?”

The Council has no proposals at present to develop housing at these locations.

2. Cllr Matt Carthy asked:

- (a) “What plans does the Council have for allowing our housing tenants to pay rents and loans on-line? If and when this facility is provided, will it be available to Town Council tenants?”

Monaghan County Council currently provides the following methods of payment for tenants and borrowers;

- ***Household Budget Scheme** – deduction from social welfare payment which is transferred electronically to the tenants/borrowers account*
 - ***Bill Pay** Payment can be made at any Post Office using a Bill Pay card. Payment is then transferred electronically to the tenants/borrowers account*
 - *Tenants can pay rent weekly to a Revenue Collector who calls to the house.*
 - *Wages deduction (if employer and employee consent)*
 - *Standing Orders/Bank Giro/Direct Debit which will be transferred electronically to the tenants/borrowers account*
 - *Cheques/Postal Orders/ (no cash) through the postal system.*
- (b) “What plans does the Council have to clean-up and carry out enhancement works at Convent Avenue, Carrickmacross?”

This is part of the Convent Lands development area. The Council has received funding for surfacing and lighting of a section of this avenue and are currently waiting for the ESB to erect the lights. It is further intended to enhance and improve this avenue as a key pedestrian and amenity route.

- (c) “What is the expected timeframe for the extension of footpaths, public lighting and reduced speed limits on Magheraboy Road, Carrickmacross?”

The developer of the Foxfield development has a number of outstanding conditions that have not been completed to date, including street lighting and footpaths on this road. The Council have been in contact with and met the developer to ensure these works are completed as expediently as possible. The relocation of the speed limits will need to be discussed and approved by the Speed Limits Committee.

3. Cllr Brenda McAnespie and Cllr Brian McKenna asked:

- (a) “In view of the ongoing intimidation and abuse of residents in the O.P.D. dwellings at Cois Locha, will this Council consider erecting CCTV cameras to counteract this anti-social behaviour?”

The Council has arranged for some works to be carried out at this location, which may alleviate the problem locally. There is a bigger issue that needs to be addressed which

will require the local community to be involved. It is not our intention to erect CCTV cameras at this location for the moment.

- (b) “What progress has been made in regards to the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Emyvale?”

A Zebra Crossing is proposed for the main street in Emyvale. A contractor was appointed in November to supply and fit the Belisha Beacons. This work should be completed within two months.

4. Cllr Pat Treanor asked:

- (a) “During the Spring Clean-up this year, will the County Council facilitate the Collection of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), throughout the county? How will this be done?”

Monaghan County Council will examine the methods available to facilitate the collection of WEEE during Spring Clean week. The process of coordinating the collections may require the cooperation of Community Groups involved in the Spring Clean, and we will have to consult on the issue. It is felt that a pilot scheme in one area may be beneficial as a first step, in order to identify the quantity of WEEE that is out there and the logistics of collecting this material.

- (b) “What actions can the Council take to ensure that Developers are forced to finish a development, fulfil all Planning Conditions, and don't leave residents to live on a building site without light, landscaping, footpaths, etc.?”

It is the policy of Monaghan County Council to investigate every claims and reports of unauthorised development and non-compliance with conditions of planning permission. Upon completion of the initial investigation a decision to act in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Enforcement) is made.

In addition, where an appropriate cash deposit or insurance bond has been conditioned in the planning permission, it is the policy of the Council to appropriate this sum to carry out any unfinished works. All current permissions for housing developments require roads, footpaths, sewers, public lighting and open spaces to be completed in accordance with to the standards laid out in the Council policy document “Taking in Charge – Policy for Private Housing Developments” (see www.monaghan.ie/planning).

Enforcement action can only be taken after the expiry of the appropriate period – that is five years after the grant of permission.

5. Cllr Benny Kieran asked:

- (a) What plans have Monaghan County Council to facilitate
- (i) “car parking at Rockcorry National School to alleviate traffic congestion caused by the narrow nature of the road outside the school and thus avoiding the possibility of an accident at peak times.”

Monaghan County Council is aware of the parking situation at the school and a proposal was put forward to alleviate it by constructing a small car park within the school grounds. Difficulties with the provision of the ground by the school resulted in the proposal not going ahead. It is proposed to look at an alternative arrangement in which a limited number of spaces could be provided by altering the footpath adjacent to the school. Discussions are to take place at local area engineering level with the school and other interested parties.

- (ii) “provision of warning lights at Rockcorry National School”

An allocation has been approved under the Clar programme for the provision of school warning lights at Rockcorry National School in 2006

- (b) What plans have Monaghan County Council to
 - (i) “Widen the road and provide a footpath from the village of Smithboro to Grove Farm to accommodate the workforce who walk to this plant.”

There are no plans at present for the provision of a footpath from Smithboro Village to Grove Farm. It is proposed to include this project in the submission for the 2007 LCARM scheme.

- (ii) “resurface the Main Street in Smithboro from the Skule Inn to Rehills Garage.”

An allocation of €400,000 has been received in 2006 from the NRA to carryout surface restoration on this section of the N54; works are due to commence in April.

Cllr Benny Kieran asked:

- (c) In relation to the village of Newbliss, what plans does Monaghan County Council have to:
 - (i) “Provide a litter warden, Council worker or road sweeper to visit on a weekly basis; provide can and bottle banks in the village and provide for regular emptying of the village litter bins.”

Monaghan County Council has no plans to provide a dedicated litter warden or council worker to call to Newbliss on a weekly basis. It is proposed to have the road sweeper call every 2 weeks to the village. The emptying of litterbins is being carried out by the local community workers with the County Council paying for the disposal of the litter. Discussions are ongoing in relation to the provision of a bottle bank in the village.

- (ii) “Extend footpath from village to both Churches at Killeevan and extend lighting footpaths and speed controls on all approach roads to the village.”

Monaghan County Council has no plans to extend the footpath from Newbliss to the Churches at Killeevan, as they are approximately 2.5miles from the build up area of the village. The provision of a footpath at this location over such a long distance is

impractical and could lead to a traffic hazard for motorists using the R183. Footpaths and lighting have recently been installed on the Scotshouse Road and it is proposed to carryout similar works on the remaining approach roads subject to available funding.

- (iii) “Provide a bus shelter at a new location - previous one not available.”

Discussions are to take place at local level with interested parties to identify a suitable new location.

6. Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

- (a) “As the road from Killyneil to Castleshane is seeing a massive amount of extra traffic since construction of the Monaghan Bypass began and is now in a dangerous state. Would the Council as a matter of urgency and in the interests of safety take steps to rectify the excess wear and tear on the road surface on that road?”

This road was completely resurfaced in 2000. Over this last 6 months it has deteriorated badly and we have repaired a lot of potholes recently.

However there is no specific funding for this road in 2006. The Council will continue to carry out repairs as necessary

- (b) “What is the present situation regarding the Emyvale bypass, when does the Council envisage work will be commenced and when can we expect the work to be completed? “

A review of the traffic assessment and environmental studies previously carried out on the scheme was commenced in 2005. Subject to the necessary resources being available in the current year it is anticipated that these studies will be concluded and that the final CPO documentation will be prepared for submission to the National Roads Authority for approval.

7. Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

- (a) “With the completion of excellent works on the laying of the footpath on the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay:

- (i) “When will public lighting be put in place?”

The ducting and civil works are in place for the provision of the public lighting. The County Council is awaiting a programme of works from the ESB for its installation.

- (ii) What procedures/actions must the local residents put in place to join or access the town sewerage scheme and what assistance is available?”

The residents will need to formulate a Group sewerage scheme to provide a pumping station and associated civil works in order to connect to the public sewer. As part of the roadworks in the area the County Council constructed a collection pipe network that would greatly benefit a group scheme in this area. In relation to grant assistance guidance can be sought from Water Services where the maximum grant payable is 75% of the cost of the works up to a maximum of €2,031.00.

- (iii) “Does Monaghan County Council currently have any plans to extend the footpath to the entrance to Pearse Bros. G.A.A grounds?”

There are no plans to extend the footpath to Pearse Bros. GAA grounds at present.

- (b) “What additional safety measure’s could Monaghan County Council put in place at the junction of the Monaghan Road, Ballybay and the L507400 known locally as the pound or the junction of the “old Keady Rd” with the Monaghan Road? “

The County Council propose to examine this junction with a few to providing additional safety measures. Additional measures such as additional signage, road markings and the access onto the R162 from the LS07400 will be examined

8. Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- (a) “What is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the Carrickmacross / Dundalk Regional Route R178. What plans have the Council to realign this roadway around the very dangerous Essexford Bridge?”

There are no definite plans at present to upgrade the Regional Road R178 between Ballykelly and Ballymackney. Such a scheme will require intercounty co-operation with Louth County Council. It is intended to have a meeting between officials from both counties early in the New Year with a view to carrying out work in 2007 or 2008. The whole project would cost in the region of €20m and will need Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government funding.

- (b) “What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of much needed footpaths and public lighting along the Magheraboy road and out past the entrance to the Foxfield estate in Carrickmacross. The provision of these utilities was a condition placed upon the developer?”

The developer of the Foxfield development has a number of outstanding conditions that have not been completed to date, including street lighting and footpaths on this road. The Council has been in contact with and met the developer to ensure these works are completed as expediently as possible. The relocation of the speed limits will need to be discussed and approved by the Speed Limits Committee.

- (c) “What plans have Monaghan County Council in relation to the upgrading of the Donaghmoynne Road approach to Carrickmacross town?”

- (d) “Has the Council any plans to deal with the serious flooding problem at the Donaghmoyn Road/Cloughvalley junction which is affecting the Railway Court/Railway Drive housing development?”

Monaghan County Council has included this road for funding from the Department of the Environment in 2006. Works necessary include; footpaths, kerbs, lighting drainage and road pavement restoration.

Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- (e) “Given that the North East Waste Management Plan is still under review, can we at this stage, say with certainty that the proposed Recycling/Civic Amenity Centre will go ahead for Carrickmacross? What about proposed centre for Monaghan Town?”

The design for the recycling centre for Carrickmacross is ongoing and contractors have been appointed to carry out site investigations in order that we can complete the detailed design for the facility. Until the new Regional Waste Plan is adopted, it is not possible to say with certainty that any facility will go ahead, but the need for additional facilities has been identified in the draft plan, and guidelines for choosing locations were included.

9. Cllr Heather Humphreys asked:

- (a) “What is the present position regarding safety improvements to the dangerous junction on the R183 at Killyraggy Cross?”

An application was made in 2006 for major safety improvements at this junction under the LCARM scheme. An allocation has not been received to date and it is proposed to install additional signage and road markings as a temporary measure.

- (b) “What plans have Monaghan County Council to upgrade the section of the R183 from Swann’s Cross to Newbliss.”

Monaghan County Council proposes to seek funding for the upgrading of this road in 2008 under the EU co-financed programme, as work on the R187 Monaghan to Roslea Road is due for completion in 2007.

18. Conferences

Conference Budget 2006	€136,500
Expenditure to date	€
Balance remaining	€136,500

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Approx. cost per member	Members Selected
Bmf Business Services	All-Island Infrastructure Investment Conference 2006	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk	10 th February 2006	€560	Benny Kieran

Enterprise Kiltullagh Ltd	21 st Century Infrastructure for 21 st Century Tourism	The White House Hotel, Ballinlough, Roscommon	16 th February 2006	€560	Jackie Crowe Gary Carville John Keenan
Wicklow County Tourism	Tourism Conference & Workshop	Marriott Hotel, Druids Glen, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow	15 th & 16 th February 2006	€560	Pat Mc Kenna Hugh Mc Elvaney
Colmcille Heritage Trust	17 th Colmcille Winter School 2006	Gratan, Churchill, Letterkenny	24 th – 26 th February 2006	€650	Gary Carville Owen Bannigan Pat Mc Kenna Hugh Mc Elvaney Padraig Mc Nally Seamus Coyle
Care Alliance Ireland	Annual Seminar	Chief O’Neills Hotel, Smithfield Village, Dublin 7	1 st March 2006	€260	Vincent P Martin
Cork County Council	Annual Mayors Conference	Castle Hotel, Macroom, Co. Cork	2 nd March 2006	€760	Pat Treanor David Maxwell Pat Mc Kenna Owen Bannigan Hugh Mc Elvaney Seamus Coyle John O’ Brien
Kadenza Consultancies	“The Councillor & Civic Leadership”	Raheen House, Raheen Road, Clonmel, Tipperary	3 rd & 4 th March 2006	€780	Vincent P Martin H. McElvaney John Keenan Owen Bannigan H. Humphreys John O’ Brien Padraig Mc Nally
Assoc of County & City Councils	Annual Conference	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk	9-11 th March 2006	€550	Brian Mc Kenna H. Humphreys
* Dundalk Chamber	Enviro Business 06	RDS Dublin	8 th & 9 th March 2006	€980	Vincent P Martin Benny Kieran

19. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to

- - The Inniskeen Men’s Senior Football team on reaching the All-Ireland final in the Intermediate Club Championship.
- - Danielle Mulligan, Monaghan Phoenix on winning the girl’s U11 All-Ireland B Cross Country Championships.
- - Gary Askin, Glaslough Harriers on winning gold in the Boy’s U17 race.
- - The Glaslough boy’s U19 team on winning gold in the team event.
- - Patrick Cassidy on winning the Ulster Intermediate Cross Country title.
- - Ruaidhri O Rourke on winning a bronze medal in the World Racketball Championships.
- - James Maguire, Clones on his excellent achievements in the motorcycle field.
- - Truwood Ltd on achieving the “Excellence Through People” award.
- - Ann Byrne, Prince Edward Island who celebrated her 109th birthday recently

Cllr Martin referred to the death of Peter Kavanagh (brother of Patrick Kavanagh) in Manhattan, New York and proposed that the Mayor be represented at the funeral.

