

**Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr G Carville, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. Pdraig Maguire, Executive Planner, Mr Alan Hall, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Rosemary McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllrs O'Brien and Martin.

The Mayor welcomed the Members, Staff and media to the first Council meeting of 2008 and wished them a happy and peaceful New Year.

**1. Minutes**

- (i) On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007 be confirmed.
- (ii) On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the budget meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007 be confirmed.
- (iii) On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the budget meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 be confirmed.

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from Ms. Christina Cassidy, Ballybay Wetlands Centre, dated 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 regarding an invite to Monaghan County Council Members to participate in Water Watch, EU which is been set up to attract Interreg 4c funding into this region.
- Letter from Mr. Dave Walsh, Principal Officer, DoEHLG dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, in relation to the Implementation of Ministerial Direction under Section 31 of the Planning & Development Act 2008 relating to Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013.
- Copy of Managers Order No E152/07 from County Manager, Declan Nelson, dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 regarding landfill fees that will be in

operation from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 detailing charges for waste generated inside and outside County Monaghan.

- Letter from County Manager, Declan Nelson, dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 regarding WS 275/07, Water & Waste Charges, 2008, schedule of charges that shall apply under Section 7 of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) act 1962 for water and waste water services provided by Monaghan County Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008.
- Letter from Mr. Tom Corcoran, Assistant Secretary, Water & Natural Heritage Division from the DoEHLG, dated 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding Donaghmoynne Group Water Scheme's application for grant assistance under the Rural Water Programme.
- Letter from Mr. Joe Allen, Local Government Policy Section, DoEHLG dated 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 regarding the Ethics Framework for Local Government detailing the regulations and how to set out the Annual Declarations.
- Letter from Mr. Aidan Corcoran, Manager Transmission Projects, EirGrid, dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding a resolution forwarded from Monaghan County Council requesting that the Council write to EirGrid and the Regulator urging EirGrid to place the power lines underground.
- Letter from Mr. Kieran Coughlan, Secretary General and Clerk of the Dail, dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding a "roll call" vote on a motion of no confidence for Minister for Health Mary Harney, TD.
- Letter from Mr. Paul Flanagan, Private Secretary to Minister Mary Harney, T.D., dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 in reply to a request from the Member for the Minister to meet with a deputation from Monaghan County Council.
- Letter from Mr. John Conroy, Private Secretary to Minister Martin Cullen, T.D, Minister for Social & Family Affairs, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007 regarding Child Benefit as a universal payment.
- Letter from Mr. Philip Melville, on behalf of Minister Martin Cullen, T.D., Minister for Social & Family Affairs, dated 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding Child Benefit as a universal payment.
- Letter from Mr. Sean O'Raghallaigh, Oifigeach Cunta Gaeilge, dated 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 promoting the use of Irish at meetings of the Council.
- Letter from Mr. Vincent Norton, Executive Manager, Dublin City Council, dated 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding a resolution passed by Monaghan County Council in relation to reversing the Habitual Residency conditions which must be met by certain people seeking certain social welfare payments including Child Benefit.
- Letter from Ms. Martina Kearney, Private Secretary to Mary Coughlan, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding the Farm Improvement Scheme.
- Letter from Ms. Martina Kearney, Private Secretary to Mary Coughlan, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding Farm Waste Management Scheme.
- Letter from Ms. Sinead McGuigan, Private Secretary to Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D., dated 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 acknowledging receipt of a resolution from Monaghan County Council in relation to St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre.

- Letter from Mr. Eddie Kiernan, Private Secretary to Mr John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, dated 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 in relation to Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme for older people and persons with a disability.
- Letter from Mr. Jim Mullery, Chairman, County Monaghan Partnership, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007 regarding the Cohesion process of two local development programmes, Local Development Social Inclusion Programme and the Rural Development (Leader) Programme.
- Letter from Ms. Sinead Ryan, Private Secretary to Mr Dermot Ahern, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs, TD, dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 in relation to the Falun Gong Practitioners in China.
- Letter from Mr. Eamon O’Cuiv, TD, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2007 in relation to a request from Monaghan County Council to meet with Minister for Health, Mary Harney, T.D.
- Letter from Mr. Eamon O’Cuiv, TD, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council in relation to the CLAR funding for the Local Improvements Scheme.
- Letter from Ms. Annamarie McNally, National Roads Authority, dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 in relation to traffic calming maintenance contract and an increase in the number of routine visits from four to six per annum plus a copy of a letter previously sent in relation to this query, dated 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2007.
- Letter from Mr. Martin Walsh, County Secretary, Waterford County Council, dated 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 in relation to a Notice of Motion forward from Monaghan County Council regarding Vol Thomas Kent remains been re-interred in a more appropriate location.
- Letter from Mr. Martin Walsh, County Secretary, Waterford County Council, dated 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 in relation to a resolution passed by their Members calling on the Government to immediately ban the importation of Brazilian Beef.
- Letter from Mr. B. Doyle, Meetings Administrator, Clonmel Borough Council regarding a Notice Of Motion which calls for the introduction of a clamping system for people who are parking in disabled persons car parking spaces.
- Letter from Ms. Anne Brett, A/Senior Executive Office, Corporate Affairs, Galway City Council, dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 regarding a Notice of Motion calling the Minister to ban all detergents etc containing phosphates.
- Letter from Ms. Breda Duggan, A/Town Clerk, Macroom Town Council, dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 regarding a Notice of Motion calling on the Minister for Health to introduce a system of reporting in the Health Service.
- Letter from Archbishop of Armagh, Cardinal Sean Brady, dated December, 2007, thanking the Members for their expression of congratulations on his nomination to the College of Cardinals.
- Letter from Mr. John O’Mahoney, Meetings Administrator, South Tipperary County Council regarding Notice of Motion relating to the system operating for cyclists at roundabouts and where traffic calming measures have been put in place, from a safety viewpoint.

## **Implementation of Ministerial Direction under Section 31 of the Planning & Development Act 2008.**

Cllr Bannigan said the Ministers decision to implement the Ministerial Direction under Section 31 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 in respect of Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 especially in relation to the amending of residential zoning areas by the Minister was misinformed. Parts of the zoned area in Castleblayney and Monaghan Town are now classified as areas under strong urban influence while in reality their population rise has been limited.

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

*“That this Council invites all Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas members to a briefing session on the anomalies that exist in the Ministerial Directive and we seek their support against the Directive when it comes before both Houses”.*

In response to queries from Members Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner stated that the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council must adhere to the Ministerial Directive, however the Members may debate the issue. He said that the members submissions regarding the County Monaghan Development Plan asked the Minister to revise the designated Areas under Strong Urban Influence, contained in the Ministerial Directive of 22 July 2007, around Monaghan and Carrickmacross towns back to the original three kilometre radius and to remove the area designated under Strong Urban Influence around Castleblayney, as adopted by the members of Monaghan County Council on 20 March 2007.

## **Resolution from Waterford County Council**

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to adopt Waterford County Councils Resolution in relation to calling on the Government to immediately ban the importation of Brazilian Beef.*

## **EirGrid**

**On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to write to EirGrid seeking answers to the following questions:**

1. List of high tech. industries in the North East that are in danger of leaving the region if this project does not proceed.
2. Proof from EirGrid that the I.D.A have identified a shortage of power as an obstacle to attracting high tech industry into the North East Region and especially in Co Monaghan.
3. How much of a reduction can the consumers of the North East expect if the proposed power line is constructed?
4. Will the benefits to the Consumer be confined to the North East or will the whole National Grid benefit. (Benefits are reduced costs, more reliable supply and retaining and attracting high tech industry).
5. Provide Monaghan County Council with the most recent Transmission Forecast Statement that is available.

6. A comprehensive list from Eirgrid of the areas where power failure is most likely to occur due to demand exceeding supply.

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to write and invite Seán Ó Cuireánn, Coimisinéir Teanga to give a presentation on the implications of Acht na Teanga during the 'Diospoireacht as Gaeilge' at the March Council meeting and that this presentation take place after the tea break.*

*Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded holding this presentation after lunch instead.*

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Maxwell's amendment resulted in 8 for, 9 against. The Mayor declared the motion defeated

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Treanor's proposal resulted in 12 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

#### **Habitual residence condition:**

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed that the Council write again to Minister Cullen, T.D. asking him to review the Habitual Residency Clause as it applies to Social Welfare Payments.

Cllr McKenna requested that the Council highlight the cases of Irish citizens who encountered difficulties when claiming benefits.

#### **Community Childcare Subvention Scheme**

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to write again to Minister Brendan Smith.T.D., in relation to the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme, which had issued from Office of the Minister for Children to the County Childcare Committees.

#### **CLAR/Local Improvement Scheme**

In response to a number of queries Michael Fitzpatrick said he had highlighted to the Members at the December Council meeting, the difficulties in trying to identify and complete lanes in such a short space of time to ensure all Clar/LIS monies were drawn down. Roads Staff and Roads Engineers identified lanes for improvement; letters were issued to applicants to ensure contributions were paid. Work schemes were prepared and submitted to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs for approval. Approval was received from the Department via email and will total €470,000. As directed by the Members the lanes were completed based on level of preparation and receipt of contribution prioritised and not in chronological order. It is necessary to have works completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> February, 2008.

### **Ballybay Development Association**

*Cllr Crowe proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that Monaghan County Council forward a letter of commitment in support of the Ballybay Development Association application to participate in the Water Watch EU project.*

The County Manager stated that he had only received a copy of Ballybay Wetlands application to participate in the Water Watch EU project on Friday last. He was not in a position to recommend a course of action to the Members as he would have to examine the proposal in detail.

Cllr Bannigan urged the members to support the project, as without the support of the Council, the Ballybay Wetlands application would not be approved. He urged the Members to allow the Manager to investigate the project and decide whether or not to issue the letter of support which is required to meet the submission deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup> 2008. He stated that the decision for a financial contribution can be taken later and if the Members decide that it be taken out of the financial commitment already allocated to the Ballybay Wetlands project then so be it. Cllrs Crowe and Coyle also spoke in favour of the proposal.

After a lengthy debate on this proposal the Mayor, Gary Carville asked if the Members were in agreement with the proposal to send a letter of commitment to this Water Watch EU project, this would include committing €30,000 (€10,000 per annum 2008-2010 towards the programme).

*A vote by show of hands on Cllr Crowe's proposal resulted in 17 for, 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the motion carried.*

### **Macroom Town Council**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to support Macroom Town Councils Notice of Motion which calls on the Minister for Health to introduce a system of reporting in the Health Service which will ensure that when problems arise, they are brought to the attention of the relevant persons, up to and including the Minister and that the response is pro-active rather than re-active.*

### **Clonmel Borough Council**

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to write to support Clonmel Borough Council's Notice of Motion calling for an increase on the existing fine of €80 to €500 for persons parking illegally in a disabled person's parking space.*

### **Water/Wastewater/Landfill charges:**

In response to a number of queries to the County Manager regarding charges for Water/Wastewater and the Landfill the Manager advised the members that Managers Order had been made to bring revised charges into effect. He referred

to Manager's Orders E152/07 and WS 275/07, copies of which had been circulated at the meeting. He stated that the making of water charges is an executive function of the County Manager. The Schedule of Charges was made before January 1<sup>st</sup> as the charges must be brought into effect on that date.

### **Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme**

Cllr McElvaney proposed that the Council write again to Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting them to meet with a delegation from Monaghan County Council to discuss Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme application for grant assistance under the Rural Water Programme. This was agreed

### **Local Government Fund**

The County Manager advised the Members that the Council had received notice that the Local Government Fund had been increased by 5.67 % on last year's figures. He stated that the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government have made it clear that they will not subsidise any Local Authority who will not raise adequate funds from their own resources to fund services.

The consequent adjustments necessary in the Council's financial accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008 will be reflected in the 2008 Annual Financial Statement. It was not necessary to alter the budget figures. Increased revenue will accrue under Programme III and V as a result of the revised changes introduced by the County Manager.

### **Cavan Monaghan Leader/Co Monaghan Partnership**

Mr. Adge King, Director outlined the background to the "Cohesion" process and the implication of this for County Monaghan. The Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs has drawn up a schedule of actions/steps leading to the formation of the "new" cohesion structures. This includes requisition from different agencies and organisations to nominate members on to the new structure. The overall structure of which has been set out by Department of Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. A specific process is required to be followed in relation to the nominee of the Community and Voluntary Sector. The difficulties forming the cohesion process nationally and county wide was raised and the impact of these difficulties on the rolling out of the programme nationally.

### **Ethics & Political Declarations:**

Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator informed the Members that they had been issued with the annual declaration forms under the Ethics & Political Donations Regulations. She requested that Members complete the forms and return them before the prescribed dates i.e. 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008 (Ethics declarations) and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 (Political Donations declarations).

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

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the detailed report which had been circulated in relation to the proposal to vary the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 through a relaxation of the existing policy on ribbon development.

Cllr Bannigan stated that he wished to have regard to the submission of the National Roads Authority which indicates the importance of the protection of the national roads network. He proposed that the proposed variation be modified, by the inclusion of the following:

*“ A relaxation of Ribbon Development policy on regional and local roads will be considered where planning permission is sought on the grounds of meeting the housing needs of a landowner or a member of his/her immediate family where no other suitable site is available on the entire landholding (family homestead). The Planning Authority will apply an occupancy condition for a period of 7 years”*

For the purposes of this section, the following definitions will apply:

***Housing Need*** – *Housing need shall be established where the applicant meets one of the policies RH1 – RH7 as outlined in section 3.5.1 of the Development Plan.*

***Ribbon Development*** – *is 5 or more houses on any one side of a given 250 metres of road frontage where they are visually linked.*

***No other suitable site is available on the landholding*** – *in assessing a planning application, the Planning Authority will consider all lands within the ownership of the applicant and/or their immediate family. A dwelling will only be granted where there are no alternatives available.*

*The Rural Planning Guidelines were meant to be positive Guidelines towards facilitating people from the area and with roots in the area, to be able to live in the area. This variation is necessary in order to comply with the spirit of the Rural Planning Guidelines. The Rural Planning Guidelines state: ‘People who are part of the rural community should be facilitated by the planning system in all rural areas’.*

He stated that the reasons provided by members for the proposed variation are as follows:

- Strict interpretation of Ribbon Development from the Rural Planning Guidelines were never intended.
- The Rural Planning Guidelines were meant to be Guidelines and not strict policy
- Ribbon Development definition needs to be relaxed in some instances, where landholders and their immediate families are prevented from



building a house and living in the area, where they have tradition roots in the area.

- This policy will only apply where no other suitable sites exist on the land holding and where the proposed development complies with all aspect of good planning
- The use of a residency condition on any grant of permission will prevent speculation.

**Cllr McElvaney seconded Cllr Bannigan’s proposal.**

The Mayor put Cllr Bannigan’s proposal to the meeting which was agreed unanimously, on a show of hands vote.

Cllr Bannigan thanked Mr. Adrian Hughes, Mr. Padraig Maguire and the Planning Staff for their assistance with this variation process.

**4. New Council Offices project:**

The County Manager advised the Members he was proceeding with this project in accordance with the decision of the Council in July 2007. There are a number of issues in relation to the New Council Offices project including:

- (i) Valuation of Machinery Yard
- (ii) Potential re-location of Machinery Yard
- (iii) Preliminary Technical Study and Procurement Issues
- (iv) Finance

**5. To consider Museum Policies as part of the Accreditation process:**

The Members considered The Collections Policy, The De-accessioning Policy and The Care of Collection Strategy Action Plan which had been revised in accordance with suggestions by the on site assessors for the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland –

*On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council approve the amendments made to the following policies as suggested by the on site assessors for the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland:*

- **The Collections Policy**
- **The De-accessioning Policy**
- **The Care of Collection Strategy Action Policy**

The Members complimented the Museum Staff on their excellent work which was reflected in the increase in visitors to the Museum.

**6. To adopt the draft Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005-2008:**

The Members considered the draft Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005-2008:

*On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to adopt the draft Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that this Council instructs the Executive to secure a site(s) for transient halting sites in the mid/south Monaghan area.*

The Members paid tribute to the excellent work being done by the Housing Staff and the Committee in relation to the Traveller Accommodation programme.

**7. To agree a schedule of dates for Strategic Policy Committee meetings:**

Following a brief debate on this item during which a number of members expressed the view that this should be left to the individual committees, it was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the Corporate Policy Group meeting which was scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.

**8. Conferences Budget 2008:**

*Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded that the Conferences Budget for 2008, €147,000, be divided equally among the twenty Councillors.*

A roll call vote on Cllr B McKenna's proposal resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, Kieran, McAnespie, B McKenna and Treanor. **Total 7**

**Against:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keenan, Maxwell, McElvaney, P. McKenna and McNally. **Total 10**

**The Mayor declared the motion defeated.**

**9. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.**

**Monaghan Walkways**

Following a brief debate on this item it was agreed that the Waywalks Project be an item on the March agenda and that a report on the matter be prepared to include the following:

- (i) Aims and objectives of Walkways
- (ii) Finances needed to ensure programme is complete
- (iii) The position in other local authorities.

## **Carrickmacross Aces**

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick said the Carrickmacross Aces club were applying for funding under the Sports Capital Grants Scheme and are asking the Council to support this application and give a commitment of funding to the project. Failure to do this would result in their application being rejected. Commitment to this would include financial support of €40,000 towards funding this project.

*Cllr Keenan proposed making a decision on this item today.*

*On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher the Members agreed to refer this item to the Corporate Policy Group for further consideration and allow them to decide if the Carrickmacross Aces project should be supported by the Council.*

*On the approval of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Fianna Fail party be permitted to nominate a member to deputise for Cllr O'Brien (who is on leave) at the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group.*

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

The Members agreed to note the reports from Cllrs Treanor, McElvaney, Crowe and Coyle in relation to their attendance at the Drogheda Cross Border Focus and the National Tourism Conference in Ennistymon.

### **11. Matters Arising out of Minutes:**

Matters arising out of the minutes were responded to by the County Manager/Directors of Service.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that this Council requests the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to refund any school that paid their water bill in 2007 (where the sum paid exceeded €3 per student). This is to ensure that all schools are treated equally."*

### **12. Business submitted by the County Manager:**

There was no business submitted by the County Manager.

### **13. Questions**

**Cllr Gallagher asked:**

- (a) Would the Council and the County Enterprise Board, in light of the news that three Ministers, Minister for Education Mary Hanafin, Minister for

Enterprise, Trade and Employment Michael Martin and Northern Assembly Minister, Reg Empey at an informal cross border meeting, recently announced plans for a skills conference along the border sometime in 2008, write to and lobby the aforementioned Ministers and their Departments and press the case for locating that conference in Monaghan?

***Reply: If the Council Members wish to agree to this proposal, this could be actively pursued.***

- (b) Would the Council consider organising a business promotion breakfast in Dublin along the lines of that recently organised by Donegal/Derry where people based in Dublin or elsewhere who have or might invest in Monaghan would be invited?

***Reply: The Councils Economic Sub Group have recently met and discussed the Economic opportunities for the county into the future. The committee is currently undertaking a revision of the economic activity in the county and will be putting forward a number of proposals as to how the future economic development can be accelerated and promoted.***

**Cllr Benny Kieran asked:**

- (c) Would the Council erect a pedestrian crossing in the village of Threemilehouse, so that children and adults can cross the main thoroughfare safely?

***Reply: This request will be examined by our Engineering Staff and a report brought before the Roads Area Committee for consideration.***

**Cllr Carville asked:**

- (d) Will the Council provide additional lighting on the Carrickaderry-Lisglasson road at Clontibret village in view of the increased housing and increased number of pedestrians using this road?

***Reply: This request will be costed and considered in the preparation of the public lighting programme for 2008.***

- (e) Has the NRA replied to Monaghan Co Council's request to have filter lanes provided for vehicles turning onto or off the Castleblayney By-Pass (Cremorne Way) and what action is proposed?

***Reply: Our Consultants have been requested to examine the feasibility of finding filter lanes within the existing land take and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the steering committee.***

**Cllr Carthy asked:**

- (f) When will the council erect fencing around the perimeter of the Convent Lands adjacent to Farney Street, Carrickmacross?

**Reply:** *The Council will examine the costs of procuring the fencing and, subject to the necessary funding being secured, will arrange to have the work completed as soon as possible thereafter.*

- (g) What are the outstanding issues that need to be addressed before the Council will take in charge the Foxfield and Woodvale housing estates in Carrickmacross? When is it envisaged that the council will take these estates in charge? Will this include the water services in these estates?

**Reply:** *Before these developments can be taken in charge the roads, open spaces, car parking area, sewerage (including the pumping station), watermains and drains must be completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority and in accordance with the permission granted.*

**Water Services:**

*Letters were issued to the developers and the architect in June and September 2007, outlining the finding of the CCTV survey of pipelines and listing the recommended remedial measures. The developer has carried out work and is expected to complete it in February 2008. The pumping station also has to be tested prior to taking in charge.*

**Footpaths/Public Lighting**

*Footpaths and public lighting at Foxfield Housing Development are completed to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority but 3 more poles have to be removed and relocated.*

**Roads**

*The developers have to address a subsidence problem on a section of roadway in the Foxfield Development. The bond is in place and may need to be extended.*

**Cllr Carthy asked:**

- (h) How many planning applications were received by Monaghan County Council in 2007?

**Reply:** *2371 to the end of November*

**Of these how many (in numbers and percentages) were:**

- *Granted – 1852, 78.1%*
- *Refused – 422, 17.8%*
- *Withdrawn – 97, 4.1%*

(i) How many houses does the Council intend to allocate in each electoral area in 2008?

*Reply: Monaghan Local Authorities anticipate that up to 206 new additions to local authority and voluntary housing stock will be allocated in addition to an estimated 30 casual vacancies from existing stock giving a total of 236 units.*

(i) of these how many will be 2, 3 and 4 bedroom?

Monaghan County Council	Location	4 Bed	3 Bed	2 Bed	Group Home
	Bawn	0	4	4	
	Annyalla <b>Part V</b>	0	4	0	
	Ballybay <b>Part V</b>	0	2	0	
	Ballybay <b>Part V</b>	0	5	5	
	Conabury <b>Part V</b>	0	5	0	
	Conabury (Purchases)	0	3	0	
	Newbliss	0	2	6	
	Rockcorry <b>Part V</b>	0	0	4	
<b>Mon. Co. Co.</b>	Rural dwelling	0	0	1	
	Demountable units	0	0	2	
	Estimated new and second hand purchases	0	18	0	
<b>Town Councils</b>					
Monaghan	Knockroe <b>Part V</b>	0	13	0	
	Latlurcan <b>Part V</b>	0	36	0	
	Estimated new and second hand purchases	0	10	0	
Carrickmacross	Estimated new and second hand purchases	0	10	0	
<b>Town Councils</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>4 Bed</b>	<b>3 Bed</b>	<b>2 Bed</b>	<b>Group Home</b>
Castleblayney	Estimated new and second hand purchases	0	7	0	
Clones	O'Neill Park	0	0	12	
	Ard Cluain (Purchases)	0	4	0	
	Millbrook <b>Part V</b>	0	1	0	
	Cara Street <b>Part V</b>	0	3	0	
	Liseggerton <b>Part V</b>	0	4	0	
	Annalore St. <b>Part V</b>	0	10	0	
<b>Voluntary Housing</b>					
Oaklee Trust	Mullaghmonaghan			24	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>7</b>

**Cllr Carthy asked:**

(ii) Will the Council build houses at the land adjacent to Convent View in 2008?

***Reply: It is anticipated that a Part VIII Planning Application will be prepared and submitted by Carrickmacross Town Council in respect of the site as soon as design drawings and layouts are available in 2008.***

**14. Notices of Motion:**

(a) The Members agreed that Cllr Martin should resubmit his notice of Motion in relation to the traditional voting system.

***(b) Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded***

***“ That this Council take a policy decision not to increase the rent annually on O.A.P. tenants ”***

In proposing and seconding the motion Cllrs B McKenna and Treanor stated that a lot of Old Age Pensioners were facing financial difficulty. They would receive an increase in their pension but subsequently their rent and all other living costs would also rise and he was asking that this Council take the decision not to raise their rents annually. An increase of € can be a huge burden on an elderly person. A number of members spoke in favour of the motion.

Responding to the debate Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Housing stated that the Council relies on its rental income to maintain the housing stock. The Local Authority is obliged to review its rent annually but this does not necessarily mean increasing each rent. The differential rental scheme is applied to all local authority tenants and if people are facing difficulty they are treated sympathetically. The rental scheme was reviewed two years ago and the rent charged represents around fifteen per cent of a household income. He indicated that he would issue members with a report on the income thresholds under the rental scheme.

The Mayor put Cllr McKenna's motion to the meeting and it was passed unanimously.

**15. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations**

***The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to***

- Mr & Mrs Kieran Carey, Derrycrussan, Scotstown on the death of their son, Michael.
- Mr. Dominic Meehan on the death of his nephew, Michael Carey
- Mr & Mrs Brendan McSkeane on the death of their son, Conor
- Mr & Mrs Hugh Keenan and Mr & Mrs Patrick McSkeane on the death of their grandson, Conor
- Mrs Dympna McKernan, Clones on the death of her husband, Michael

- Cllr Donal Sherry on the death of his sister, Kathleen Treacy, Greagh, Scotstown
- Mr. Brian Cowan, T.D., Tanaiste and Minister for Finance on the death of his uncle, Michael
- Mr. Paul Gibbons, EHO on the death of his father, David Gibbons, Castleblayney
- Mrs. Rosaleen O’Hanlon on the death of her brother, Danny Mooney, Broomfield

***The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to***

- Monaghan Harps GAA on winning the Intermediate Football League recently
- Éire Óg GAA on winning the Junior Football League recently

**16. Conferences**

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

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members Selected</b>
ICLRD	<b><i>Cross-Border Spatial Planning &amp; Development: Fostering Co-operation</i></b>	<i>Armagh City Hotel, Armagh</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> January 2008</i>	Pat Treanor Seamus Coyle Hugh McElvaney
Woulfe Event Management	<b>Seminar on Crime</b>	<i>Greenhills Hotel, Limerick</i>	<i>24<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008</i>	Hugh McElvaney Pat McKenna John Keenan Robbie Gallagher Padraig McNally Matt Carthy
Antrim Tourism Conference	<b><i>“Forty Shades of Green Tourism”</i></b>	<i>Dunadry Hotel, Muckamore, Dunadry, Co. Antrim</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008</i>	Gary Carville Pat McKenna John Keenan Own Bannigan John O’Brien Sean Conlon
Mid-West Regional Authority	<b><i>“Planning for Renewable Energy”</i></b>	<i>Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick</i>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008</i>	Vincent P. Martin Gary Carville David Maxwell Own Bannigan Heather Humphreys Seamus Coyle Benny Kieran Noel Keelan

The meeting then concluded.



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Meara Meetings Administrator**

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