

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building,
Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 4th July, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

Chair: Cllr S. Coyle, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. McNally, A/Head of Finance, Mr. K. McNally, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7th June, 2011

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th June, 2011 be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 20th June, 2011

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20th June, 2011, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to additional funding for regional and local roads.
- Letter from Monaghan Town Council in relation to the issue of illegal poaching of coarse fish in the county.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Finance in relation to the Universal Social Charge.
- Letter from the Irish Heritage Festival Committee, Prince Edward Island inviting the Council to be represented at the Irish Heritage Festival from 25 – 31 July 2011.
- Letter from the Rev. John McDowell, Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, thanking the Council for its good wishes on his recent appointment.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council accept the invitation from the Irish Heritage Festival Committee, Prince Edward Island and that it be represented by the Mayor and an official/Deputy Mayor.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance enquiring why he was opposed to the introduction of the Universal Social Charge, when in opposition prior to the General Election, but is now supporting its introduction.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon seconded by Cllr S. McKenna it was agreed that the Council write to the Rossmore Angling Club seeking support and comments in advance of a meeting which may be forthcoming with the Minister in relation to the illegal poaching of coarse fish in the county's waterways.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council write to the law enforcers, namely An Garda Síochána, Wildlife Rangers, Department of Justice, Department of Tourism and the bailiffs for the county, asking them to deal with the problem of illegal poaching of fish stocks.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council write to the Inland Fisheries Board requesting that signage at lakes relating to fishing rules, is displayed in as many languages as possible.

3. To consider County Manager's Reports on submissions made in respect of Issues Paper and Strategic Issues Paper for Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019

Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner presented to the members both Manager's reports on submissions received in response to the publication of the Issues Paper and the Strategic Environmental Issues Paper relating to the review of the current County Development Plan and the preparation for the County Development Plan for the period 2013-2019. Mr Hughes briefly outlined the contents of both reports drawing the members attention to the details of the consultation process, the organisations directly consulted, the role of the elected members in making the development plan, the Manager's response to the issues raised at these meetings, the submissions made, and the Manager's response to the issues raised within each submission. He advised that the Manager would be seeking directions from the members in relation to the preparation of the draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 at the Council meeting in September. He stressed that any directions to the Manager should be strategic in nature and must not relate to zoning of specific parcels of land.

Cllr P. Treanor referred to a recent comment by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that he was unable to give a commitment to funding in relation to the Ulster Canal. Cllr Treanor expressed his concern at the comment as the Minister's predecessor, Eamon Ó Cuiv T.D. had given assurances that funding for the canal project had been ringfenced.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Arts, Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht

- (i) expressing the Council's alarm and dismay at the uncertainty surrounding the provision of funding for the restoration of the Ulster Canal Project and*
- (ii) seeking a commitment from the Minister to the necessary funding being provided and a proposed timeframe for the completion of the project.*

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

- (i) To consider granting permission for the easement, realignment, improvement and overlay of the N2 National Primary road - Monaghan to Emyvale - and all associated ancillary works (Ref 11/8004)

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning informed the members that this item was being withdrawn from the agenda. Mr. Clifford stated that the consultation process had to re-commence because the original timeframe was not sufficient – the consultation period should have been six weeks instead of four weeks. The matter will be brought back to the Council at the September meeting.

Cllr B. McKenna referred to a report in a recent edition of the Northern Standard which stated that Deputy Sean Conlan had called on the Taoiseach and the Minister for Transport to halt the N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland Border Road Scheme. Cllr McKenna said it was the first time he had heard of a Dail Deputy refusing money coming into the county. He requested that the matter be placed on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting with the Oireachtas members. This was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council write to the Oireachtas Members seeking their support for the progression of the N2 Monaghan – Northern Ireland border road realignment project.

5. To consider Section 183 Notices, as follows:

(i) Disposal of 0.16 acres of land at Mulladuff, Smithboro

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. McKenna it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.16 acres of land at Mulladuff, Smithboro to Peadar Mackle, Mulladuff Filling Station,

Smithboro, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 15th June, 2011 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

(ii) Disposal of 0.215 acres of land at Candlefort, Inniskeen

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. McNally it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.215 acres of land at Candlefort, Inniskeen to Sinead Hilliard, 31, Dunard, Inniskeen, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 20th June, 2011 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

6. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20th June, 2011.

(i) To approve Arts Partners Grants 2011

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following Arts Partners grants for 2011 –

1.	The Garage Theatre	11,000
2.	Clones Film Festival	8,000
3.	The Flat Lake Festival	8,500
4.	Féile Óriel	5,000
5.	Castleblayney Arts & Resource Centre	15,000
6.	Patrick Kavanagh Centre	9,000
7.	Scoil Cheoil na Botha	3,000
8.	Carrickmacross Festival	1,500
9.	Féile Patrick Byrne	2,500
10.	Castleblayney Drama Festival	1,500

(ii) To approve grant allocations under the Community Development Fund

The Meetings Administrator advised that item 2 of the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting should be amended to include the following

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the amount of grant recommended for the Phoenix Athletic Club be increased by €400.

This was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the allocation of grants under the Community Development Fund 2011, as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group, be approved.

On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that those allocated grants under the Fund be requested to avail of local businesses and service providers.

(iii) To adopt minutes of CPG meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20th June 2011, as amended, be confirmed.

7. To receive Annual Report on the activities of the Joint Policing Committees for 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Annual Report on the activities of the Joint Policing Committees for 2010 be noted.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr S. McKenna it was agreed that the Council write to the Garda Inspectorate Office seeking an update on what funding is available for Joint Policing Committees for community and your-related initiatives that would enhance community safety and policing.

8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Bannigan, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Keelan, McElvaney and B. McKenna, in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- The Future of Irish Politics, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
- BMW Regional Assembly Annual Conference, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
- RJK Energy Symposium, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.
- Rattoo Heritage Society Annual Conference, Tralee, Co. Kerry
- Tipperary Peace Convention, Ballykisteen, Co. Tipperary
- Ulster GAA Good Relations Forum, Armagh, Co. Armagh.
- Housing Practitioners Conference, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
- Inaugural Water Metering Summit, Croke Park Centre, Dublin.

9. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council write to the Irish Farmers Association outlining its concerns that Eirgrid is using the Code of Practice agreed between the IFA and the ESB (1985 Agreement) and that Eirgrid is in breach of this agreement which specifically stated that no surveying work would be undertaken on any land until after planning permission for a development had been obtained. The Council calls on the IFA to take action to deal with this matter.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to EirGrid asking for a response on comments made by Cllr Bannigan in relation to the Code of Practice.

Cllr Bannigan requested that a letter be issued to the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government asking if he fully endorsed, without reservations, the unambiguous statement made by Eirgrid at a recent Council meeting that it was simply impossible for the level of emissions, associated with power-lines, to cause cancer? It was agreed that such a letter be issued.

10. Business submitted by County Manager

Development Contributions Allocations sub-Committee: It was agreed that a meeting of this committee would be held on Tuesday 6th September 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

Student Grant Scheme 2011:

The A/Manager advised the members that the Student Grant Scheme 2011 had been issued by the Department of Education and Skills. Ms. C. Thornton, Administrative Officer Corporate Affairs, outlined the main changes to the scheme and responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Education and Skills calling on him to reverse the changes to the Student Grants Scheme 2011 particular in relation to the increase in the student contribution and also the increase in mileage limit required to qualify for the non-adjacent rate of grant.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Education and Skills calling for him to reverse the decision to apply the new mileage limits to existing third level students as this will place additional hardship on these students.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Minister for Education and Skills be requested to provide sufficient resources to ensure that there are no delays in processing grant applications when the new grant awarding body is in place in 2012.

Unfinished housing developments:

In response to a query from Cllr O'Brien, the A/County Manager stated that no funding had been advised to the Council in respect of unfinished work at the Wylies Hill development in Ballybay.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council write to Deputy Heather Humphreys and Deputy Willie Penrose, asking them to clarify the funding allocation to Monaghan County Council for unfinished housing developments.

Payments to sub-contractors:

Cllr McNally raised the issue of a sub-contractor who erected fencing on the Carrickmacross Civic Amenity site and had not been paid for this work. The Acting Director, Mr. D. Treanor stated that this was a matter between the main contractor and the sub-contractor.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of Finance seeking the introduction of legislation to protect sub-contractors in situations where the main contractor is withholding payment.

11. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 7th and 20th June, 2011.

Matters arising out of Council meetings held on 7th and 20th June were responded to by the appropriate official.

12. To receive presentation from Lough Muckno Community Partnership

The Mayor welcomed Declan Connolly, Joe Brennan, Pat Merrick, Patrick McFadden and Jeff Quinn from the Lough Muckno Community Partnership.

Mr. Declan Connolly thanked the Council for the opportunity to address it.

The Group then proceeded to outline the aims and objectives of the Partnership. They recognise the need for an organised and structured method of managing the Muckno park for an on behalf of the Council as the owners of the proposed. The group have met with the Gardai, Town Council, Coillte, Tourism Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Tidy Towns and the Ski Club and have received their support for the formation of a locally based committee to oversee and manage the day to day activities in Muckno Park to include a voluntary warden system. The Community Partnership, whilst recognising that Monaghan County Council will retain primary status in directing policy as owners of the park, would work on behalf of the Council to ensure that the park is managed in an efficient and sustainable manner. Such a proposal may require official sanction in the form of a lease or other approval in order to progress it and also to avail of any funding that may be available in the future. The Partnership is purely voluntary in nature and will require some small financial and logistical support in order to operate on a sustainable level into the future. Copies of the Strategic Direction Plan prepared by the Partnership were circulated to the members for consideration.

Following the presentation, a number of members expressed support for the objectives outlined by the Community Partnership. Cllr B. McKenna pointed out that he would be resistant to any formal lease being entered into because of the legal situation the Council was currently involved in as a result of a previous lease.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager stated the Lough Muckno estate was in the ownership of Monaghan County Council and any decisions in relation to it would be taken by the County Council. He stated that the Council is trying to extricate itself from various leases and there will be no new leases entered into until such time as the full ownership is back with the County Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council's sub committee meet with the Lough Muckno Community Partnership and revert back to the Council with a formal proposal.

13. To receive presentation from Presidential Election Candidates

- (i) *Sean Gallagher*
- (ii) *Mary Davis*

The Meetings Administrator advised the Council that Mr. Sean Gallagher had contacted the Council to apologise that he was unable to attend the meeting. She confirmed that Senator David Norris had also been invited to attend the meeting but had declined the invitation due to a prior engagement.

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Mary Davis to the meeting and invited her to address the Council.

Ms. Davis thanked the Council for the opportunity to address the Members. She then proceeded to outline her reasons for seeking a presidential nomination and asked the Council members to support her in her bid to become the next President of Ireland.

Following her address, the Mayor thanked Ms. Davis and stated that the Council would give thorough consideration to her request. He wished her good luck in the future. Ms. Davis then withdrew from the meeting.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager advised the Members that, in accordance with the Presidential Elections Act 1993, the Council could not formally nominate a candidate to contest the forthcoming Presidential election until after the making of the Presidential Election Order. This Order is not expected to be signed until September 2011.

Cllr P. Treanor stated that whilst he acknowledged legislation in relation to this matter it was important that a candidate relying on local authority support would have some indication of whether or not they were in a position to be nominated when the election was called.

Cllr P. Treanor proposed that to ensure a choice is given to the electorate of Ireland, that Monaghan County Council indicates an intention to support Ms. Mary Davis when the Presidential Order is passed, later in the summer. Cllr Connolly seconded the proposal.

The Mayor put Cllr P. Treanor's motion to the meeting.

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, McNally, O'Brien, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 14**

Against: Cllr McElvaney **Total 1**

Abstained: Cllrs Carville, Maxwell, McPhillips and Murray. **Total 4**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to the office of An Taoiseach requesting him to pursue a legislative path that would eventually see voting rights in the Presidential election extended to all citizens on the island of Ireland.

14. Questions:

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

1. With regard to the ongoing challenge of dealing with litter on our roads and in residential areas would the Council consider developing and rolling out a scheme similar to the 'Adopt a Road Scheme' currently underway in Cavan?

Reply: *Currently the environment section has no plans in this regard and it is not something that is currently in the Litter Management Plan 2010-2012. There is a similar scheme where local communities are encouraged to adopt a local bring bank and money and skips is given to local community groups who organise clean ups of roads. The Environment Section will contact Cavan County Council to get their views on their scheme.*

2. Would the Council consider adopting a scheme similar to Louth County Council which has become the first local authority to issue leaflets to motorists renewing their road tax warning of the heavy penalties for littering? Motorists must learn to take littering seriously and be aware of the penalties.

Reply: *This is not something that is in the Litter Management Plan 2010-2012. Monaghan County Council will make contact with Louth County Council with regard to this scheme. However it must be noted that a large proportion of people now renew their tax online. Monaghan County Council also have a stock of car bin tidies that are sold at a discounted price to motorists and have also placed adverts specifically aimed at motorists in the local press during Spring Clean in 2010 and 2011.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

3. Will Monaghan County Council erect 'Dangerous Bend' signs and 80km speed signs on the LS05190 Tydavnet – Monaghan Road, in the interest of road safety?

Reply: A dangerous bend sign and the 80km speed limit signs are now erected on this road at Tydavnet village.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

4. Will the Council give an up-to-date report on progress regarding the proposed Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities in Carrickmacross? When is it expected that this Home will be completed?

Reply: The Approved Housing Body called Respond now has responsibility for design and construction and the Council has agreed to Respond's fee proposal for same. Respond is to submit revised plans before the end of June for review by the H.S.E. and Council. Meetings with the Planning Department are also taking place to discuss a forthcoming planning application, etc.

It is envisaged that the planning application, procurement process and further Department Approval required to move to the construction phase will take up most of 2011. If the project is commenced on site at the end of 2011 or early 2012 with a 12 month construction phase that would give a possible completion date of late 2012 or early 2013 depending on planning, procurement, Department Approval and duration of construction contract.

5. Will the Council give a report on works carried out to date on the Killgally Road, Upper Magheracloone (Road no. LT48011) and any plans for works in the coming year/s following on from representations from local residents in this area?

Reply: A section for this road from the Drumcondra Road to the quarry was over-layed with a new macadam surface last year. Further works on this road are not currently planned under the multi-annual Restoration Improvement Grant programme.

6. Will the Council agree to ensuring the provision of additional car parking spaces at Cloughvalley estate, Carrickmacross (in the vicinity of the new houses currently being built), considering there are already severe parking limitations in this area and it is likely that this problem will intensify once the new houses are occupied?

Reply: The Council is investigating the possibility of providing additional parking spaces as part of the housing project under construction at Cloughvalley. It is envisaged that it may be possible to provide as many as five or potentially seven additional parking spaces as part of the housing project. The Council will endeavour to provide as many additional spaces

as possible within the confines of the site under construction without compromising planning and road safety.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

7. When is it expected that additional public lighting will be in place at Rock Chapel, Magheracloone?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has installed the ducting and sockets for the lighting columns. It is expected that the public lighting contractor will have the columns, lanterns and electrical equipment installed in the next four weeks after which the lights will have to be connected to the supply network by the ESB.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

8. In the recent assessment of unfinished housing developments undertaken by the Planning Section of Monaghan County Council, were the derelict terraced dwellings (painted yellow) that are part of the Millbrook development at Milltown taken into consideration and will they be monitored on health and safety grounds accordingly?

Reply: *The dwellings are located outside the development at Milltown and as such were not considered in the assessment of unfinished housing developments.*

9. To accommodate the dozens of dwellings dependant on septic tanks in the Milltown and Telayden areas, has there been consideration given by Council, or is there potential for, installation of public foul and storm water drainage systems in this part of town.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has prepared a Preliminary Report on the Monaghan Town Collection Network. The report discusses the results of an assessment of the waste water and surface water collection systems currently serving Monaghan Town.*

Under the Preliminary Report, Monaghan County Council propose to lay a small network of sewers in the Milltown area, which will then flow under the Blackwater River to a proposed new pumping station constructed in lands just south of the river. Flows from the pumping station are proposed to be conveyed to a new sewer on High Street adjacent to the entrance to the County Hospital.

However, Monaghan County Council intends to phase the works identified in the Preliminary Report. The current priority under the scheme is to relieve currently overloaded sewers (pinch-points on the network). The Old Cross Square advanced works, scheduled to go to tender in September is the next phase in the overall project and the works are included in the current Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 as a ‘Contract to Start’.

Further phases, including the provision of a wastewater collection network in the Milltown and Telayden areas will be advanced under subsequent Water Services Investment Programmes.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

10. Will the Council undertake to replace the signage that was up until recently located on the N2 at Moybridge highlighting our county's twinning agreement with Prince Edward Island and Miramichi, Canada?

Reply: *The Council will contact the National Roads Authority regarding this matter.*

11. Will the Executive and planning staff that have been negotiating with developers WJ Dolan and their creditors give an update as to what further steps have been taken that will result in a schedule of works of overdue remedial measures for the Latlurcan Estates on the Castleblayney Road?

Reply: *The planning authority is involved in ongoing negotiations with representatives of the developers and their financial institution. It is anticipated that a schedule of works, detailing what remedial works are to be carried out, including an implementation timeframe, shall be submitted in the immediate future.*

Cllr A. Murray asked:

12. What response has the Council had from the public to its request for information on areas of poor Broadband coverage in the county and when is the closing date for the public to contact the Council on this matter?

Reply: *To date approximately 70 submissions have been received by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in response to Rural Broadband Scheme.*

The closing date for the scheme is 29th July 2011.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

13. In view of the fact that 2 articulated trucks recently overturned on the Corlatt roundabout N2 Monaghan are there any plans to discuss improving safety at this roundabout with the NRA?

Reply: *There are currently no plans to implement additional safety measures at this location. The matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Road Area Committee Meeting.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

14. In relation to meeting on Thursday 16th of June with the Minister for Health Dr James Reilly TD by a delegation from Monaghan County Council what specific reassurances were given in relation to future delivery of Mental Health services from St Davnet's Hospital in Monaghan?

Reply: *As the number of places allocated by the Minister for Health did not allow a Council official attend, it will be a matter for the members of the deputation (Cllrs Crowe, Maxwell, B. McKenna and Coyle) to outline the details of this meeting.*

15. In view of the fact that Monaghan County Councillors recently voted to waive the County Development Plan to ensure the granting of a planning permission for a development which would lead to the potential employment of 250--500 persons in Monaghan and which was subsequently over ruled by An Bord Pleanala on foot of an objection from the NRA, what plans has Monaghan County Council to submit a proposal to the NRA to extend the 50KPH speed limit by a nominal distance on the N54 at Tullygrimes Clones Rd Monaghan thereby overcoming possible future objections from the NRA?

Reply: *It is a reserved function of the Council to make a decision to submit a proposal to extend the speed limit, however prior approval of the N.R.A. is required in relation to speed limits on national routes.*

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

16. In light of recent media reports in relation to radon gas, have we a problem with radon gas in Co. Monaghan; is it mandatory for people carrying out a construction project to put in place a radon barrier and sump?

Reply: *In areas of the County where Radon levels above the reference level indicated in Technical Guidance Document C a Radon Barrier must be installed in addition to a radon sump. The radon sump is a facility for extracting radon should a dwelling, on completion and when tested indicate radon levels above the reference level*

Technical Guidance Document C indicates radon reference levels above for both dwellings and places of work which of the Building Regulations recommends that measures be taken to protect new dwellings from radon entry from the ground. The only area at present which exceeds the 10% of homes above the reference levels of 200Bq/m³ is found in the Donaghmoynne/Broomfield area of County Monaghan. The RPII (Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland) inform us that even in areas where their map would indicate a low probability of having high radon levels above the reference level other areas may be affected.

Cllr. N. Keelan asked:

17. When will a notice of substantial completion be issued to the contractor carrying out the upgrading of our sewerage and water network in Carrickmacross; when will the disruption come to an end in and around Carrickmacross as a result of the ongoing works?

Reply: Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme Pipelines Contract will be substantially complete in August 2011. The contract provides for a further twelve month maintenance period, during which the appointed contractor will complete all snag items. The twelve month maintenance period commences on the date of substantial completion.

18. In relation to the having ESB and Telecom poles removed in order to facilitate Monaghan County Council carry out road works etc., what is the average time it takes to have this work carried out by both utility providers; what is the average cost of having an ESB or Telecom pole removed?

Reply: Waiting times and costs for these works vary depending on the nature of the works and the utility provider. From recent estimates it would suggest that the cost to move a timber pole would typically be between €4,000 and €6,000.

19. How many people are currently on our housing list for the Carrickmacross town area; how many families have been housed under the Rental Accommodation Scheme in the Carrickmacross area; how many families have been housed under this scheme in the county?

Reply: On the 27th June 2011 there were 331 applicants on the Carrickmacross town housing waiting list. 24 families have been housed under the Rental Accommodation Scheme in the Carrickmacross area. 209 applicants have been housed under this scheme in the County

20. In relation to the 350-400 homes that may now be able to connect to our new sewerage collection network in Carrickmacross, when will letters of offer be sent to these residents offering a 50% reduction in the cost of a sewerage connection?

Reply: A 50% discounted connection charge will be available to existing houses on septic tanks, for a limited period of 6 months, following the completion of the civil and mechanical / electrical contract. Monaghan County Council will advertise the scheme before the year-end, with information and advice on the discounted connection charges applicable and the closing date for receipt of applications.

The current cost of a connection to the public sewerage scheme is €3,090 per residential unit.

Cllr. Brian McKenna asked:

21. When will the “Residents Only Parking” signs for Gort an Caibléir in Emyvale be erected given that they were received almost two months ago?

Reply: *This sign has been erected.*

22. When will construction of the 4 bedroomed house in Main Street, Emyvale commence at the site of the Council house which was damaged by a lorry and subsequently demolished?

Reply: *Construction of the 4 bedroom house in Main St. Emyvale commenced on Wednesday 29/06/11.*

23. When is it anticipated that the preferred route corridor for the Clontibret to Moybridge road will be brought before a full meeting of the Council?

Reply: *It is anticipated that the preferred route corridor will be presented at the November Council meeting.*

15. Notices of Motion:

Cllr P. McNally proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded -

1. *That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan TD to introduce legislation that would allow tenants in houses belonging to voluntary housing agencies purchase their homes in the same way as tenants of local authority housing while at the same time allowing the said agencies to keep a number of OPD type housing in line with the local authorities. The monies raised from the above should be given back to the agencies to allow them to develop more housing.*

A vote by show of hands on Cllr McNally’s motion resulted in 15 for nil against, 4 abstentions. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Cllr P. McNally proposed, Cllr O’Hanlon seconded and it was agreed:

2. *That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment to allow local authorities to take social welfare payments into consideration when tenants are attempting to purchase their homes under the new 45% reduction scheme and under any other circumstances.*

Cllr McNally requested that motions 15(1) and (2) be forwarded to the Oireachtas Members and asking that they be raised in Private Members time in the Dail. He also requested that they be circulated to all other County Councils.

15. Notices of Motion (contd):

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr McNally seconded and it was agreed:

3. *That Monaghan County Council recognises that Mannan Castle Golf Club in Donaghmoynne is a superb, community-run facility that is frequented by locals and visitors alike. We also recognise that it is facilities like this that will help create a dynamic tourism industry in our county. In order to assist the club in its development Monaghan County Council agrees to erect additional directional signage to this facility and to request Louth County Council to do the same in appropriate areas of that county. That the council also place a 'cul-de-sac' sign on the private road on which the clubhouse is located.*

16. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Clones Community Forum be congratulated on having the National Famine Commemoration 2011 held in Clones.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council congratulate all those associated with the Forge In festival held in Monaghan town recently.

17. Conferences

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
Superior Training Ltd.	Irish Language Course for Councillors	Seaview Hotel Gweedore Co Donegal	15 th – 17 th July 2011	H. McElvaney O. Bannigan G. Carville P. Treanor P.J. O'Hanlon J. O'Brien
The 31st Annual MacGill Summer School	Transforming Ireland 2011-2016: The First Hundred Days, The Next Five Years	Glenties Co Donegal	24 th -29 th July 2011	G. Carville H. McElvaney A. Murray S. Conlon P. McNally R. Gallagher P. Connolly

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
20th William Carleton Summer School	Should Historians still read Carleton?	Corrick House Hotel, Clogher Co. Tyrone	1 st – 4 th August	G. Carville J. Crowe J. O'Brien PJ. O'Hanlon
Humbert Summer School	Catholic Church Reform/Can the EU survive the Euro crisis	Harlequin Hotel Castlebar Co Mayo	19 – 22 nd August, 2011	D. Maxwell O. Bannigan A. Murray N. Keelan R. Gallagher P. McNally

The Mayor wished all present an enjoyable and relaxing summer break. The meeting then concluded.