

**Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr M. Carthy, Mayor

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

Mr. Declan Nelson, Co. Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr Drew Hurley, Mr Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. Con McCrossan, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Ms Roisin Nic An Iarla, Assistant Engineer, Mr Martin Murray, Senior Engineer, Ms Eilish McShane, Ms Rosemary McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Gallagher and Maxwell.

**Item 3 – Presentation from EirGrid**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Dermot Byrne, Chief Executive, EirGrid, Mr Andrew Cooke, Director, Grid Development & Commercial, EirGrid, Mr Tomas Mahony, Senior Project Manager, EirGrid, Mr John Gartland, EMF Specialist, ESB International and Mr Michael Kelly, Communications Manager to the meeting. He also welcomed representatives of the Pylon Pressure Group who were attending as observers.

Mr Dermot Byrne gave the Members a brief overview of EirGrids proposed Cavan – Tyrone 400 kV Project detailing the following:

- Rising Population in Co. Monaghan, from 2001 – 2006 it rose 6.5% and Electricity Consumption from 2001 – 2006 rose by 21% and over the next 20 years the overall demand for electricity is projected to grow by 70 – 80%.
- Construction of Cavan – Tyrone 400kV Project, 80 km of 400kV line with two new 400kV substations (NIE & EirGrid).
- Consultation Process started in October 2007 and to date 11,000 separate communications have been made.
- Issues raised during consultation include: Under grounding, Health Concerns, Planning Process, Visual Impact and Compensation.
- Where are we now: There are 3 proposed corridors with indicative line route, EirGrid have made no decision on a preferred option.
- Summarising he stated that the proposed project -
  - Provides security of supply to Monaghan, supports growth and development
  - Supports growth and development
  - Facilitates the Single Electricity Market and promotes competition
  - Fuel savings & less emissions
  - Facilitates integration of renewable energy
  - The North – East and Co. Monaghan needs this project.

The Mayor, Matt Carthy thanked EirGrid for their presentation.

Following the presentation the EirGrid representatives responded to queries from the Members.

Mr Dermot Byrne said in conclusion they hoped to continue the consultation process and would like to meet with the elected representatives on an ongoing basis.

In concluding the debate, the Mayor thanked EirGrid for the presentation and the North – East Pylon Pressure Group for attending in an observation capacity. He said the views of the elected Members as public representatives had been reflected and it was evident from today's presentation that there large scale opposition to this project. EirGrid will encounter challenges against this project from the wider community and the political parties.

**(1) Confirmation of Minutes**

- (a) On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2008 be confirmed.*
- (b) On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 be confirmed.*
- (c) On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the minutes of the Adjourned Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 be confirmed.*

**(2) Correspondence**

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

- Letter from Mr Aidan Corcoran, Manager Transmission Projects, Eirgrid in relation to a resolution passed by Monaghan County Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 in relation to public consultation.
- Letter from Ms Tomas Mahony, Project Manager, Eirgrid informing Monaghan County Council of their request to the North East Pylon Pressure Group to correct the information which was supplied to TD's and Senators last week.
- Letter from Deputy Margaret Conlon, T.D., acknowledging receipt of correspondence sent from Monaghan County Council regarding calling on Deputy Conlon to support a call for the repeal of the Strategic Infrastructure Act.
- Letter from Mr William Long, Assistant Clerk to the Committee of the Environment, Northern Ireland Assembly regarding the North South Electricity Interconnector.
- Letter from Deputy Seymour Crawford, T.D., acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Monaghan County Council regarding the health services under the North East Transformation Plan.

- Letter from Mr Ray Mitchell, Director, Regional Health Office, Health Service Executive in relation to arranging a briefing session between the HSE and Members of Monaghan County Council on health services in the county.
- Letter from Deputy Margaret Conlon, T.D. in relation to a request from Monaghan County Council seeking a meeting with the HSE and their subsequent response.
- Letter from Mr Stephen Mulvany, Hospital Network Manager, Health Services Executive regarding the arrangement of post mortem services.
- Letters from Dr. Martin Waters, Coroner, North Monaghan and Dr Mary Flanagan, Coroner, South Monaghan acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Monaghan County Council concerning post mortem services in Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council requesting an extension to the 2008 deadline for completion of works under the Farm Waste Management Scheme.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr Brendan Smith, T.D. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding the revision of the Standard Costings used to calculate grants under the Farm Waste Management Scheme.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Micheal Martin, T.D. acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council concerning the plight of Ms. Ingrid Betancourt who is been held hostage by Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, (FARC).
- Letter from Ms Catherine Fox, Programme Co-ordinator, Blackwater Regional Partnership requesting an opportunity to attend a meeting of Monaghan County Council to highlight the work that the Partnership has carried out in the Blackwater Region.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Monaghan County Council concerning the seeking of a derogation from the EU Commission to allow the closing date for the Farm Waste Management Grant Scheme to be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr Eamon O Cuiv, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to CLAR funding for Local Improvement Scheme.
- Letter from Mr Eamon O’Cuiv, T.D. acknowledging receipt of correspondence from Monaghan County Council in relation to CLAR Funding for Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and listing the approved allocation to each Local Authority.
- Letter from Ms Rachel Doherty, Failte Ireland requesting an opportunity for the new Chairman of Failte Ireland North West, Mr Paschal Mooney to attend a Council meeting to meet with the Members of Monaghan County Council.
- Letter from Mr Brendan Smith, T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food thanking the Members for their vote of congratulations on his appointment as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a letter sent from Monaghan County Council calling on Minister John Gormley, TD, to allow local authorities to decide housing policy in their respective areas.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr Michael Finneran, T.D. Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas acknowledging receipt of a letter sent from Monaghan County Council concerning a resolution passed by the Members calling on Minister John Gormley, TD, to allow local authorities to decide housing policy in their respective areas.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to Mr John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council in connection with the Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme for Older People.
- Letter from the Office of Public Works concerning a letter received from Monaghan County Council regarding decentralisation of public services offices.
- Letter from the Fort Augustus Irish Descendants Association thanking the Council for the donation which the Council made to the restoration of the Statue of St Patrick at Fort Augustus.
- Letter from Town Clerk, Monaghan Town Council asking to host a joint Reception in honour of the new Chilean Ambassador to Ireland, Ms. Cecelia McKenna.
- Letter from A/Town Clerk of Listowel Town Council in relation to a resolution passed by the Council calling on local authorities to support a resolution for the introduction of a policy in all our future housing stock for our elderly/living alone be fitted with a peep hole in their front doors.
- Letter from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in relation to a resolution passed by the Council calling on local authorities to support a resolution expressing concern at the introduction of “Fixed Odds Betting Terminals”.
- Letter from Offaly County Council in relation to a resolution by the Council calling on Minister Mary Harney, T.D, Minister for Health and Children to increase the subvention payment for people in private nursing homes to reflect the current costs of patient care”.
- Letter from Offaly County Council in relation to a resolution by the Council calling on Minister Dermot Ahern, T.D. Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform to disseminate the text of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability and request the speedy ratification of the Convention and the optional protocols”.

### **Farm Waste Management Scheme.**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr McNally it was proposed “That this Council writes to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Brendan Smith, T.D., and to the E.U. Commission in both Brussels and Dublin to ask that in view of the serious dependence of the farming sector on the Farm Waste Management Scheme and the work that is available and approved and in view also of the need for support to the building industry due to the*

*economic recession, that the Government and the EU review the deadline for completion of works under the scheme so as to get an extension to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009. That the Council seeks a meeting on the matter with Minister Brendan Smith, T.D and writes to each M.E.P. seeking them to raise the matter at EU level.*

### **Blackwater Regional Partnership**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed to invite the Blackwater Regional Partnership to attend the September Council meeting and give presentation to highlight the work that the Partnership has carried out in the Blackwater Region.*

### **Civic Reception - Chilean Ambassador to Ireland**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to host a joint Reception with Monaghan Town Council in honour of the new Chilean Ambassador to Ireland, Ms. Cecelia McKenna*

### **Resolution by Offaly County Council**

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to support a resolution passed by Offaly County Council calling on Minister Mary Harney, T.D, Minister for Health and Children to increase the subvention payment for people in private nursing homes to reflect the current costs of patient care.*

### **Clar/Local Improvement Scheme Correspondence**

Cllr Treanor proposed contacting other Local Authorities to verify the date they were informed of their 2007 annual allocations, their total allocation and the amount of works completed by years end.

#### **4. Social Housing Investment Programme – 2008 allocation**

Ms. Rosemary McManus, SEO Housing circulated an updated report on the Social Housing Investment Payment – 2008 allocations for noting.

Cllr Humphreys requested that her disappointment be recorded at the fact that Monaghan County Council had received the second lowest allocation in the country.

Ms. Mc Manus, in response, advised that a separate allocation was also given to each of the four Towns Councils giving an overall Housing Capital Allocation of €13.5m to Co. Monaghan.

The Members agreed to note the report.

### ***Urgent Business***

The Mayor referred to 1 item of Notices of Urgent Business, which had been submitted.

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

*“In light of the recent report by the Historical Enquiries Team into the shooting of Aiden McAnespie at the Aughnacloy border checkpoint on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1988 that this Council calls on the Government to allow Aiden’s family access to the Crowley Report in relation to the circumstances of his death”.*

Cllr B McKenna said the family of Aidan McAnespie, who was shot dead by a British soldier at the Aughnacloy border checkpoint in February 1988 were calling on the Government and the Department of Justice to release the report carried out by the then Deputy Garda Commissioner Eugene Crowley. This report was ordered by the Irish Government after the shooting. However this report was never published and the Government had stated there would be confidentiality issues. The McAnespie family want access to the report even in a format where witness’s names remain anonymous or alternatively the Department of Justice can contact any witness and asked would they be willing to have their names published.

*On the proposal of Cllr McAnespie, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that that Monaghan County Council write to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Dermot Ahern, T.D., requesting that contact be made with all witnesses referred to in the Garda Report into the death of Aiden McAnespie, asking them to waive their right to confidentiality, so that the report may be released to the McAnespie family. Alternatively, that the names of witnesses mentioned in the report be blacked out and that the edited report be released to the family”.*

*It was agreed that this resolution be forwarded to all local authorities.*

#### **5. To consider Material Contravention to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013.**

Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the detailed report circulated to the Members in relation to an application for planning permission from Mr. Barry Hughes for development at Corragarta, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan (Ref 08/393). He referred to the Section 140 notice, signed by the five elected members of the Castleblayney Electoral Area which had been submitted on 22 May 2008 directing the County Manager to grant permission for the proposed development. In accordance with Section 34(6) (c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the County Manager made a declaration stating that, in his opinion, the development would contravene materially the Development Plan. A copy of the declaration was forwarded to each elected member on 28 May 2008 – this declaration caused the Section 140 notice to be of no further effect.

In accordance with Section 34(6)(i) of the Act, the Planning Authority advertised the proposed material contravention in the Irish Independent on 4 June 2008 and advised that any submission or observation received during the prescribed period would be duly considered by the authority.

The subsequent Planning Report recommended that the proposed material contravention should not be passed by resolution. It also recommended that planning permission be refused for the following reasons.

1. The proposed development is accessing via an existing laneway onto the National Secondary Road N53 at a point where the general speed limit applies and it is a policy of the Monaghan County Development Plan to “*prohibit the creation of a new access or the intensification of use of an existing access onto National Routes in the general speed limit area*”.
2. Policy RD22 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 states that “*The Council will resist development that would create or extend ribbon development*”.

*Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that the Manager’s Report be rejected and that the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 be materially contravened to allow the granting of planning permission to Mr. Barry Hughes for a development at Corragarta, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan.*

The Mayor Matt Carthy indicated that he was putting the motion to the meeting. He advised that in accordance with the section 34 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 that the motion required the consent of not less than three-quarters of the total number of the members of the planning authority (i.e. 15 members).

**A roll call vote on Cllr Bannigan’s proposal resulted as follows:**

**For:** Cllr Bannigan, Carthy, Coyle, Crowe, Keelan, McAnespie, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, O’Brien and Treanor. **Total 11**

**Against:** Cllr Humphreys, Keenan, Kieran, McNally. **Total 4**

**Abstention:** Cllr Martin

**The Mayor declared the motion lost as it did not achieve the necessary consent from three-quarters of the members.**

## **6. Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2008 – 2012**

Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the Manager’s Report on the Draft Scheme of Development Contributions which had been prepared in accordance with Section 48(4) and (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and which had been circulated to the Members. He referred to the

extensive consultation that had taken place over the last five months and which had incorporated consultation with the Strategic Policy Committee, the Corporate Policy Group the County Development Board and the Monaghan Community Forum. He also referred to the additional meetings that had taken place with the elected representatives at regular intervals and he paid tribute to the members for engaging significantly in this process.

Mr. Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner then outlined the recommendations contained in the Manager's Report in detail.

*On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to suspend standing orders to allow all Members participate in the debate on the Draft Scheme of Development Contributions.*

*Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr P McKenna seconded that the Draft Development Contribution Scheme, as presented, be rejected.*

**A roll call vote on Cllr McElvaney proposal resulted as follows:**

**For:** Cllr Humphreys, McElvaney, P. McKenna. **Total 3.**

**Against:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Martin, McAnespie, B. McKenna, McNally, O'Brien and Treanor.  
**Total 14**

**The Mayor declared the motion defeated.**

*On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that all Derelict properties in both Town and Rural areas fall into Recommendation 2 of the Manager's Report.*

In response the County Manager stated that a mechanism is required to implement this proposal.

Mr. A. Hughes stated that a definition of what constitutes a "derelict" property was required. It was stated by the Members that there was a definition set out in the County Development Plan in relation to derelict properties.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to replace the word "Civic" under Appendix 3 - Levels of General Development Contribution, with the word "Community".*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the new Development Contribution Scheme be implemented with effect from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that Recommendation Nine be amended to provide for the inclusion of two representatives from the Monaghan Community Forum on the Development Contributions Allocation Sub-Committee.*

*Cllr Martin proposed that if the Draft Development Contribution Scheme is adopted today, that a significant portion of all future development levies will be ring fenced into a long term fund for the provision of railroad transportation to service crucial county infrastructure.*

**The Mayor declared that he was not putting the motion to the meeting as no member had seconded it.**

*Cllr Martin proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded that the amount of development contribution to be levied on each over ground electricity pylon, carrying power of 400 kV or above, be increased to €200,000 per pylon.*

**A vote by show of hands on Cllr Martin's proposal resulted in 9 for, 0 against, 6 abstentions. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.**

*Cllr Martin proposed removing the proposed €25,000 levy per wind turbine be removed from the scheme entirely.*

**The Mayor declared that he was not putting the motion to the meeting as no member had seconded it.**

*Cllr Crowe proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded that if the Development Contributions Scheme is adopted that the levels of general development contribution under Category 5 - Civic, Recreation and Amenity Facilities for rural Residential development and Category 6 - Civic, Recreation and Amenity Facilities for Residential development within defined settlements, would be payable over a two year period, where required.*

**A vote by show of hands on Cllr Crowe's proposal resulted in 7 for, 9 against. The Mayor declared the proposal defeated.**

**Adoption of Draft Scheme:**

Cllr Kieran proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded that the Draft Scheme of Development Contributions, as amended, be adopted

**A roll call vote on Cllr Kieran's proposal resulted as follows:**

**For:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, McAnespie, B. McKenna, McNally, O'Brien and Treanor. **Total 14**

**Against:** Cllr Humphreys, Martin, McElvaney and P. McKenna. **Total 4.**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

## 7. Approval for borrowing for Capital Programme 2008-2010

*On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to approve borrowings for the Water Services Capital Programme 2008- 2010 in the following amounts -*

Scheme	Total Estimated Cost €	Estimated Borrowing Requirement	
		%	€
Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme	7,200,000	45%	3,300,000
Carrickmacross Waste Water Collection Network P & S Civil Works	15,500,000	20%	3,100,000
Carrickmacross Waste Water Treatment Plant	11,100,000	64%	7,100,000
Old Armagh Road SLI	2,800,000	60%	1,600,000
North East SLI	5,800,000	60%	3,500,000
O' Neills Farm	600,000	100%	600,000
Castleblayney Water Stage 2	3,000,000	30%	1,000,000
Castleblayney, Clones Ballybay, Bundled Sewerage Schemes	20,000,000	35%	7,000,000
Monaghan Main Drainage Advance Contract	3,500,000	25%	900,000
Monaghan Main Drainage	24,000,000	25%	6,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93,500,000</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>34,100,000</b>

## 8. Draft Annual Financial Statement 2007 and approval of over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account.

*On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to approve the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2007 and to approve over expenditures and transfers to Capital Account as follows*

### Transfer to Capital Account

Loan Repayment Reserve	€1,256,287
Other Transfers Provided in Budget 2007	€1,119,180
Machinery Yard Surplus	€83,020

<b>Over - Expenditures:</b>	<b>Expenditure (Over)/Under</b>	<b>Income Over/(Under)</b>	
Programme	<b>Estimates</b>	<b>Estimates</b>	<b>Net Position</b>
Group	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Housing and Building	(€62,942)	(€412,498)	(€475,440)
Road Transportation and Safety	(€3,266,437)	€2,975,422	(€291,015)
Agriculture, Education, etc	(€1,047,419)	€976,239	(€71,180)

## **9. Presentation by Comhairle na nÓg**

The Mayor welcomed Ms Fiona McEntee, Youth Development Officer, Michael McPhillips (Chairperson), Christina Duffy, Nicola Thornton, Deirdre Mullan and Maeve O'Neill representatives from Comhairle na nÓg to the meeting.

Ms. Fiona McEntee, Youth Development Officer, outlined the role and activities of Comhairle na nÓg. She said that the organisation encourages young people to become active in their local communities and partake in organised activities. A short ten minute video presentation was made highlighting Comhairle na nÓg activities, followed by a question and answer session between Comhairle na nÓg participants and the Members of the Council

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to write to the Minister for Children, seeking long term funding for the Council's Comhairle na nÓg programme.*

The Members commended the work of Comhairle na nÓg and thanked them for a very informative presentation.

## **10. Draft Bye-law for the Collection, Storage and Presentation of Waste**

Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Environment referred to the proposed draft bye laws for the collection, storage and presentation of waste which had been considered by the Environment Strategic Policy Committee. He recommended that the draft bye-laws be placed on public display and that submissions be invited from the public.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. McNally, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the draft Bye-laws for the collection, storage and presentation of waste as outlined in the report by Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Services be placed on public display.*

## **11. Matters Arising from Corporate Policy Group**

### **Environmental and Recreation Fund 2008:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to approve the allocation of grants under the Environmental and Recreation Fund 2008 as outlined in the report of the Environmental Awareness Officer, dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.*

### **Community Development Fund 2008.**

*It was agreed that the Council approve the grant allocations under the 2008 Community Development Fund as outlined in the report prepared by Ms. Bernie O'Rourke, CEDO.*

### **Iontas Centre funding**

*It was agreed that a decision on the request for continuing funding from the Iontas Centre be deferred until the preparation of the Annual Budget 2009.*

### **Clones Erne East Partnership**

*It was agreed that the Council write to the Clones Erne East Partnership seeking a work programme for the period covered by the interim funding allocated by the Council.*

### **Blackwater Regional Partnership**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna it was agreed to that an allocation of €2000 be made to the Blackwater Regional Partnership towards the Blackwater Classic Angling Competition and workshops.*

## **12. Monaghan Furniture Show Organisation**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna it was agreed to approve an allocation of €5,000 to the Monaghan Furniture Show Organisation in respect of its annual furniture promotion trade show.*

The Co. Manager, Declan Nelson said that the organisers of the Monaghan Furniture Show were examining the possibility of alternating the show venue throughout the county.

## **13. To approve Higher Education Scheme 2008/2009**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that Monaghan County Council request the Minister for Education and Science to ensure that the Higher Education Grants Scheme is issued as early as possible each year to facilitate early approval and administration of the scheme by the local authorities and V.E.C.'s. "*

## **14. To receive Minutes of the following meetings:**

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to approve the minutes of the following meeting:*

- (a) Minutes of An Coiste Logainmneacha meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.
- (b) Minutes of An Coiste Gaeilge meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

## **15. Attendance at Conferences by Members**

*The Members agreed to note the reports from Councillors J. O'Brien, P. McKenna, P. McNally, J. Crowe, B. Kieran, H. McElvaney, G. Carville and Cllr Maxwell in relation to their attendance at the following conferences:*

- Cross Border Workshop, Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny.
- EU Territorial Co-Operation Programme, Co. Wicklow
- Cross Border Co-Operation, Dundalk, Co. Louth
- Sustaining Social Housing, Portlaoise
- The National Hub Conference, Mallow, Co. Cork
- Housing in a Changing Climate, Co Meath
- Tourism and Technology, Portaferry, Co. Down.
- E.P.A. Water Conference, Salthill, Co. Galway
- Sustainable Development, Tuam, Co. Galway

## 16. N54/N2 Link Road – Monaghan Town

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Roads referred to the presentation and debate on this item at the June Council meeting.

Mr. Con McCrossan, A/Senior Engineer, addressed both the parking and flooding issues which had been raised at the previous meeting. In relation to the parking issue for houses along Barrack Lane, the Council propose to locate an internal access road to the back of the houses, moving the footpaths and the noise barrier outwards. The issue of the impact on the floodplain of the River Blackwater would be addressed in the Environmental Impact Study.

The Members held a debate on the issue. They stated that whilst they had received objections to the construction of this road by Riverside residents and had been lobbied to support the building by business people there was no alternative to this proposal. The National Roads Authority were not prepared to put up the additional funding required to allow the relief road extend from the Century Homes-Threemilehouse junction and the proposed alternative route between Montfort and Monaghan Co-op was not practical. The build up of traffic on the Clones Road, which was now occurring on a daily basis, highlighted the need for a decision on the proposed route.

*Cllr Kieran proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded that the N54/N2 Link Road – Monaghan Town project proceed in accordance with the proposals submitted to the Council by the Road Design Section.*

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Kieran proposal resulted in 12 for, 4 against. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

## 19. Questions.

**Cllr McNally asked:**

- a. What is the reason for the unacceptable delay in having the houses in Bawn occupied?

***Response: The eight houses at Bawn were let with effect from the end of May 2008.***

19. Questions (contd)

**Cllr McNally asked:**

- b. Has this Council granted planning permission to any Telecommunications Company at a site at Annacroff, Carrickmacross?

**Response:** *The planning authority granted planning permission for Shannon Side Northern Sound for the replacement of an existing aerial on a tower, to a new 30 meter free standing mast at Annacroff, Carrickmacross (planning reference 97/500). No other planning permissions have been granted for any other telecommunications company at this location.*

**Cllr Carville asked:**

- c. In view of the statistics from numerous surveys which have shown that the N53 route (Castleblayney to Dundalk Road) has one of the highest accident and fatality rate in the country, will the Council devise a plan of road safety measures and seek funding from the National Roads Authority under the Low Cost Accident Reduction Scheme, to provide for speed reduction measures and anti-skid surfaces at all junctions on the N53 from Ballinacarry Bridge to Castleblayney, similar to what Louth County Council has recently done in its functional area along the same road?

**Response:** *While the N53 in the Louth administrative area is categorized in the highest risk category the section within the Monaghan County Council is not listed in this category. The schemes employed in the Louth County Council administrative area are to target specific problems with poor alignment and visibility. It is not proposed to carry out similar schemes in Monaghan.*

- d. In relation to the serious need for safety measures on the N2 at Broomfield, including speed reduction measures, public lighting etc; will the Council again make application to the NRA to seek to have funding provided for such work to be carried out in 2009.

**Response:** *In response to previous representations from the Elected Members the Council Staff has recently carried out a count on traffic movements at this stretch of the N2 and at the junctions. The two main factors that are being examined are (1) the capacity and safety of the road from the point of view of through traffic and (2) the safety of the junctions for local traffic exiting and entering. A draft discussion document will be prepared for submission to the NRA.*

- e. When will the footpath from Clontibret Village to St Mary's Church along the old N2 be completed and what is the reason for the delay in the completion of this work?

**Response:** *The contractor has completed the section of footpath that was included in the contract. There is further seventy meters approximately required to connect the new footpath to the existing footpath in the village. This will be done separately by Monaghan County Council over the summer months.*

**Cllr Carville asked:**

- (f) (i) What implications will the introduction of Better Energy Rating Certification have for Monaghan County Council and how is the Council preparing for the introduction of this measure in January 2009?

***Response: Monaghan County Council continuously strives to improve the environmental sustainability and energy efficiency in the houses it builds. The Council has installed insulation to a higher standard than required by the Building Regulations over the past five and a half years in new houses and has installed solar panels in houses in Newbliss recently as a small pilot project.***

***To accommodate the introduction of the Building Energy Ratings the Council will continue to examine the various possibilities with regard to the use of alternative sustainable materials for various building elements including more thermally efficient windows, more efficient boilers, increased levels of insulation and other such measures.***

- (ii) Has any funding been made available by the Department to the Council to cover the costs of this new procedure and has any estimate been made of the financial costs to the Council over the short and medium term in terms of value of housing stock?

***Response: Funding for work required to meet the new standards on new house construction is currently provided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the Social Housing Investment Programme. A detailed review of building costs will be carried out in 2009.***

***The existing housing stock will be surveyed and Building Energy Rating Certificates obtained when required. The Certificates will specify the measures recommended to improve the Building Energy Rating and, when appropriate, applications will be made to the Department to fund such measures.***

- f. In relation to Castleblayney Courthouse, has the Council received any communication from the Courts Service with regard to the submission made to it for Courts provision in Castleblayney on 21 May 2008? Has there been any contact from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government with regard to the application for a loan for restoration works on the building (application made in 2006), and has there been any reply from the Department of An Taoiseach to a letter regarding Cross Border priority funding for the project, sent in 2007?

***Response: There has been no response from The Courts Service in relation to the Council's submission. The Council has engaged the services of Peter Legge & Associates to prepare a cost estimate for the refurbishment of the entire building.***

**Cllr Humphreys asked:**

- h. When does Monaghan County Council plan to surface the road in Cabra Estate, Threemilehouse and provide additional car parking spaces in Old Cabra Estate?  
**Response: An allocation of €50,000 has been received in 2008 to carryout resurfacing works and provide additional parking in the Cabra Estates, Threemilehouse. It is proposed to commence these works in August.**

**Cllr Coyle asked:**

- i. Regarding the Castleblayney Bypass: What is the up to date position of Monaghan County Council with regard to the Castleblayney By-pass (N2 Castleblayney to Castleblayney Road Realignment)
- (i) How many landowners have now being paid in full for lands, compulsory purchased and how many land owners are awaiting final settlements?
- (ii) When does Monaghan County Council expect all works on the project to be finally completed?
- (iii) With regard to the safety, signage and lighting of junctions and other concerns raised by Members and the public, when will Monaghan County Council expect all these concerns to be addressed?
- Response: Out of a total of one hundred and fourteen landowners we have reached agreement with one hundred and two. Of the twelve cases outstanding, ten are under negotiation and two have been listed for IFA Assessment. Ninety three landowners have been paid in full.**

**The contractor has prepared a programme to complete the works by mid-summer 2008. All the concerns raised by the members and the public regarding safety such as signing, lighting at junctions etc have been discussed with the NRA on several occasions. Traffic counts have been carried out at the junctions and Atkins, our consultants; have been asked by the NRA to give them an estimated cost of providing exit slip lanes and public lighting at thee locations. Any changes to junction layout and extra public lighting will require additional funding from the NRA.**

- j. What is the overall cost of the project to date and what is the projected final cost of the Castleblayney Bypass (N2 Clontibret – Castleblayney Road Realignment)?  
**Response: To date the scheme has cost approximately €101m including payments to the contractor and compensation to landowners affected by the CPO. The total estimated cost of construction and accommodation works is €115m. It is anticipated that the final cost will be within budget for the scheme.**

**Cllr Coyle asked:**

- k. Will Monaghan County Council give consideration to the extension of public lighting in the village of Oram?  
**Response: The County Council will examine the locations of the existing lighting and examine potential areas for expansion, which will be presented to the members at the next Road Area meeting for consideration.**

**Cllr Treanor asked:**

- l. In relation to the County Monaghan Litter Management Plan 2004-'07;
  - (i) What objectives were set for Bring Banks in the county?
  - (ii) Which objectives have been achieved and when will the others be achieved?
  - (iii) How many Bring Banks were planned for the Clones electoral area & where
  - (iv) How many are in place and where, and when will the others be put in place
  - (v) Is there a Litter Management Plan in place for 2008 and subsequent years?

***Response: Under the North East Regional Management Plan 2005 – 2010 there is an objective to provide one bring bank per five hundred households in the county.***

***From the 2006 CSO Census there are 18,655 households in County Monaghan. This would require Monaghan County Council having thirty seven Bring Banks in place by 2010. Since 2002 the number of bring sites in the county has increased significantly from seven sites.***

***Under the bring bank roll-out, the Council did not specifically consider each electoral area on an individual basis. The overall aim was to provide bring banks in all the major towns and villages plus a number of the smaller hamlets. Unfortunately, it has proved difficult to provide sites in certain villages. However, we still hope to provide banks in villages as per the North East Regional Waste Management Plan providing that suitable sites are available.***

***Back in 2002 at the start of the bring bank roll-out, approx 150 tonnes of glass and aluminum cans were collected from the sites. By 2007 this had increased to 960 tonnes and as of June 2008, 527 tonnes of glass and cans have been collected to date. It is hoped that we will break the 1,000 tonnes milestone this year. In addition, during July we hope to provide a textile collection at all of the bring sites. Currently, textile collections are provided at a number of sites on a trial basis but by regulating the textile collections this will provide an additional source of funding which we would intend investing back into the improvement of the sites.***

***In relation to the Litter Management Plan the Council is currently in the process of reviewing the existing Plan and a new three year plan will be in place before the end of 2008.***

**Cllr Keelan asked:**

- m. Given that we are currently carrying out much needed improvement work on the R178 Carrick – Shercock road, will the Council do some work at Corduff Cross to improve safety at this busy junction?.

***Response: The Council is aware of the junction. It is unlikely any work will be carried out on this junction this year as the planned works for this road are already underway.***

**Cllr Keelan asked:**

- n. Has the Council any plans to carry out major traffic calming measures along the N2 at Broomfield? There are huge traffic volumes accessing the school-church-filling station and restaurant and there is an accident history at this junction.

***Response: In response to previous representations from the Elected Members the Council Staff has recently carried out a count on traffic movements at this stretch of the N2 and at the junctions. The two main factors that are being examined are (1) the capacity and safety of the road from the point of view of through traffic and (2) the safety of the junctions for local traffic exiting and entering. A draft discussion document will be prepared for submission to the NRA.***

- o. Will the Council ensure that public lighting is erected at the new bridge on the Donaghmoynne road? This was an erroneous omission during the construction of Carrickmacross By-pass.

***Response: The Council will examine the existing public lighting layout. Any requirement for new public lighting identified will be put forward at the next Area Roads Meeting for consideration.***

- p. When will Lannat Bridge be reopened given that it has been closed for well over two months and is causing much inconvenience for residents and landowners in the area?

***Response: Significant structural damage was identified on the support piers of this stone arch bridge. On identifying the hazard the Council swiftly acted to ensure public safety by closing the bridge to traffic, and appointed a specialist contractor to undertake repairs. Following final inspection the bridge should reopen to road traffic from the first week of July. This rapid action was taken to minimise disruption to road users and to prevent full collapse of the bridge.***

- q. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a Civic Amenity Recycling centre for Carrickmacross, given that we own the site and myself and other members of the council were assured that this facility would be in place years ago?

***Response: Following the completion of the tender process Monaghan County Council is awaiting confirmation from the Department of Environment to proceed with the scheme. As the existing funding programme expired in June '08 is likely that the application will be considered under the next programme which has yet to be announced.***

- r. In relation to Inniskeen village, will the Council put in more play equipment in the park to bring it up to the standard of other play parks in the county?

***Response: The Council propose to install new play equipment in the current year.***

## 21. Votes of Sympathy and Congratulations.

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

- Mr. & Mrs. Teddy Duffy, Doohamlet on the death of their son Lorcan
- Mr Paddy Carragher, former Town Clerk, Castleblayney on the death of his mother Anna.
- Mr Paddy Martin on the death of his mother Anne Martin.

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

- Monaghan Ladies Senior Football team on winning the Ulster Senior title and best wishes for the All Ireland.
- Monaghan County Minor Boys team on reaching the Ulster Championship Final and best wishes in the final.
- Monaghan Ladies Minor County team on their win over Cork and who now play Tyrone in the All-Ireland semi-final.

On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed to write to the French Embassy requesting that they convey the good wishes of the Council to Ms. Ingrid Betancourt, following her release from captivity in Colombia.

## 22. Conferences

**On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Kieran, 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>
28 <sup>th</sup> Annual MacGill Summer School	A Feast or Famine	Co. Donegal	<b>12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008</b>	Gary Carville John Keenan Hugh McElvaney
The John Hewitt Society	The 21 <sup>st</sup> John Hewitt International Summer School	Marketplace Theatre & Arts Centre, Armagh	<b>28<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008</b>	Heather Humphreys Pat McKenna Owen Bannigan John O'Brien Seamus Coyle
William Carleton Summer School	Literary Autobiography The Text's the Thing! Carletons Humour	Corrick House Hotel, Clogher, Co. Tyrone	<b>4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008</b>	Hugh McElvaney Heather Humphreys David Maxwell Padraig McNally Robbie Gallagher
Parnell Summer School 2008	Educating Ireland	Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow	<b>10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008</b>	Owen Bannigan Pat McKenna David Maxwell Benny Kieran John O'Brien Vincent P. Martin
Humbert Summer School	Humbert Summer School 2008	Ballina, Killala, Lacken & Kilcummin, Co. Mayo	<b>21<sup>st</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> August 2008</b>	Owen Bannigan Heather Humphreys Hugh McElvaney Padraig McNally Seamus Coyle Vincent P. Martin

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

**Meara**

**Meetings Administrator**

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