

**Minutes of Adjourned Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.**

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

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr M Fitzpatrick, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr C. McCrossan, Ms J. McGrath, Senior Executive Engineers, Ms. Roisin Nic An Iarla, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

**8. Presentation on the N54/N2 link road in Monaghan.**

Ms. Roisin Nic an Iarla, A/Senior Executive Engineer Roads gave a detailed presentation on the proposed N54/N2 Link Road in Monaghan Town.

This proposal was first introduced in the early 1990's. It would tie into other road improvements and would open up land for development purposes. There would be significant benefits from the project as the proposed alignment was the most direct route.

At the request of the Members the Road Design section assessed the feasibility of an alternative route in the vicinity of Montfort development. However, as explained at an earlier meeting of the Council, it was not possible to achieve geometric design standards, there would be a severe impact on landowners in the area and there were environmental issues with the Blackwater Valley.

The two issues of concern to the Members in respect of the Riverside development were noise and pedestrian safety. During the course of her presentation, Ms Nic an Iarla dealt with both and showed examples of proposed solutions. She also referred to the southern tie-in; noise attenuation and safety; pedestrian crossings; landscaping/retaining walls and cost implications.

In conclusion she stated that agreement is required to advance with the design of the scheme and approval to proceed to Part 8 planning is also necessary.

Mr. M. Fitzpatrick Director of Roads stated that a definitive decision on the matter is now required as no viable alternative route has been identified. Before the Council go any further with this project the whole principle of the road going through Riverside has to be agreed. Otherwise, the project is taken off the Council agenda.

The Members held a discussion on the presentation and while they agreed a new relief road needs to be place to relieve the congested traffic along the Clones/Monaghan road especially during peak times they felt the proposed link road through the Riverside estate is not the ideal route. They queried both the parking and potential flood plain

aspects of the area and referred to the fact that the Council should not have granted planning permission for the Riverside and Montfort developments given that the proposed route had been designated for a number of years.

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon it was agreed to defer a decision on the N54/N2 Link Road in Monaghan Town to the July Council meeting and that issues over parking and potential flood plain to be further examined by the Roads Staff.*

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

It was agreed that consideration of this item be deferred to the July Council meeting.

#### **14. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting:**

##### **(i) Green Paper on Local Government Reform:**

The Members agreed that each political party would discuss the Green Paper on Local Government Reform and make a submission before 31<sup>st</sup> July if they wished to do so.

##### **(ii) Report from Housing SPC meeting:**

###### **Parking of HGV's in residential areas:**

The Members considered the recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group in relation to this matter.

The Members agreed to amend the proposal from the CPG to read as follows:

*“The Council would commence a consultation process with the public, residents groups the Town Councils, Garda Siochana and the Irish Road Hauliers Association in relation to the making of bye laws to regulate the parking of vehicles in excess of three tonne in housing estates”.*

Cllr Carthy proposed that the Council examine the provision of land on the outskirts of towns for the parking of these vehicles.

##### **(iii) Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme:**

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Housing said that to date 97% of the 2008 allocation for Housing Adaptations Grants Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme (HAOP) has been spent and committed. The Council had requested an additional €1m but has not received a decision on this. The main problem with the HAOP scheme is that up to seventy percent of the applications received are in relation to double glazed windows and doors. Under the terms of the schemes it is necessary to prioritise the applications. The Corporate Policy Group discussed the matter and recommended a scheme of priorities for assessing grant applications for both the Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. It is important to remember that monies need to be set aside if Priority 1 cases arise, for example in the

cases of terminally ill family members etc., so that they can be facilitated later in the year.

***On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to write to the Department of Environment urging them to consider this request from Monaghan County Council for an additional one million for the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme urgently.***

*Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Humphreys seconded that a necessary supplementary budget is brought before the Council at the September meeting so as to ensure that all eligible applications are processed and funding allocated.*

The County Manager stated that there is no provision in law for a supplementary budget. The Council would have to get permission from the Department of the Environment for an overdraft.

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government seeking a meeting to discuss the matter of additional funding for both schemes.*

It was agreed that the Council approve the processing of Priority 1 applications.

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that all applicants to the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme be contacted to advise them of the new prioritisation system which has been introduced under this scheme.

## **Matters Arising**

### **EirGrid**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that Mr Aidan Corcoran, Manager Transmission Projects, EirGrid had telephoned the Council acknowledging the Council's invitation to EirGrid to attend a Council meeting. He said he would be available to attend a meeting and would await direction from the Members.

In response the Members agreed that EirGrid attend the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Council meeting at 9.30 a.m.

### **Clones Erne East Partnership**

*Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Kieran seconded that the Council provide funding of €28,000 to the Clones Erne East Partnership to help them retain the services of Project Manager and maintain an office for the interim period between major funding opportunities.*

Cllr Maxwell proposed that consideration of this matter be deferred until the July Council Meeting.

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

**For:** Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Coyle, Crowe, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna and O'Brien. **Total 12**

**Against:** Cllr Carville, Gallagher, Maxwell, McNally. **Total 4**

**Abstentions:** Cllr Martin **Total 1**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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