

Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 3rd June, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr G Carville, Mayor

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

Mr. Declan Nelson, Co. Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr Drew Hurley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. Pdraig Maguire, Executive Planner, Mr. Con McCrossan, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Ms Roisin Nic An Iarla, Assistant Engineer, Ms Eilish McShane, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

1. Notice under Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001:

Notice in the names of Cllrs Crowe, Carville, Coyle, Bannigan, and O'Brien.

“In accordance with Section 140 of the Local Government Act, 2001, we the Members of Monaghan County Council hereby direct the County Manager to grant planning permission to Barry Hughes at Corragarta, Castleblayney, County Monaghan, to erect *“a two storey dormer style dwelling and detached domestic double garage with store, proprietary treatment system, percolation area, new entrance onto existing lane and all ancillary site works. Planning permission Ref. P77/208 (date of previous grant 8th July, 1977). Current planning application Ref. No. 08/393. Subject to conditions as the Council may see fit to impose on consideration of the motion.”*

Cllr Carville referred to the Manager's Order dated, 28th May, 2008 which declared that, in the Manager's opinion, the development concerned would contravene materially the County Monaghan Development Plan 2007 – 2013 and ordered that the provisions of section 34(6)(a) (i), (ii) and (iii) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 shall apply and have effect and shall operate to cause the Section 140 notice to be of no further effect. He stated that the matter will be brought back to the Council for decision at the July Council meeting.

Mr. Declan Nelson, Co. Manager responded to issues raised by the members and stated that a decision had been taken to deal with this application as a material contravention to the County Development Plan 2007-2013 and that the Council will have to take cognisance of any submission received during the public consultation process. The final decision will be a matter for the full Council.

(2) Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th May, 2008 be confirmed.*
- (b) On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th May, 2008 be confirmed.*

(3) Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from Ms Fiona McEntee, Youth Development Officer with Cavan & Monaghan Youth Active Citizenship Project requesting an opportunity for Co. Monaghan's Comhairle na nÓg to make a presentation to the July Council Meeting.
- Letter from Mr. Thomas Mahony, Project Engineer, EirGrid in relation to reports published by EirGrid on Monday 12th May along with reports received from the two firms of Consultants and states they are still seeking input from the public on all information contained in these reports.
- Letter from Mr Aidan Corcoran, Manager Transmission Project in relation to a resolution passed by Monaghan County Council on April 7th 2008.
- Letter from Professor Brendan Drumm, Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive regarding the new Regional Hospital in the North East.
- Letter from Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council in relation to Monaghan Hospital.
- Letter from Ms. Margaret Conlon, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council in relation to the HSE's North-East Transformation Detailed Planning Report and its impact on the people of Monaghan.
- Letter from Mr Aidan McAdam, Secretary, Rossmore Coarse Angling Club requesting the Council to support the adoption of a mandatory 'Catch and Release' Angling in policy within Rossmore Park, Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from New Ross Town Council, Co. Wexford in relation to a Notice of Motion passed by the Town Members calling on the Minister for the Environment to allow local authorities to decide housing policy in their respective areas and that the acquisition of land banks for social housing continues.
- Letter from Leitrim County Council in relation to a Notice of Motion adopted by the Members of Leitrim County Council calling on Department of the Taoiseach to legislate that representatives of the Council for the West and The BMW region are appointed to each national policy-making body including the National Transportation Policy Committee, NRA etc to help against urban bias.
- Letter from Ms Mary-Jo Biggs, Office of the CEO, Health Service Executive, acknowledging receipt of a letter in relation to the North East Regional Hospital Location Study.

- Letter from Mr Ray Mitchell, Director, Regional Health Office, Dublin North East confirming that the HSE are willing to provide a specific briefing to the Monaghan County Councillors in relation to Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Dr. Rory O’Hanlon, T.D., in which he attached two acknowledgement letters from Minister Mary Harney, T.D and Professor Brendan Drumm regarding correspondence he had sent to them in relation to the HSE’s North-East Transformation Report.
- Letter from Ms Margaret Conlon, T.D., enclosing an acknowledgment letter from the HSE regarding correspondence she had forwarded to them in relation to the HSE’s North-East Transformation Report.
- Letter from Ms Margaret Conlon, T.D., enclosing an acknowledgment letter from the Department of Health and Children in relation to a meeting request.
- Letter from Private Secretary to Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr Brendan Smith, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council in relation to the Farm Waste Management Scheme and the pressure Contractors and Farmers are under.
- Letter from Town Clerk, Clones Town Council in which the Clones Town Council Members ask that the proposal put forward at the County Council budget meeting to provide a civic amenity centre for Clones be moved forward.
- Letter from Town Clerk, Macroom Town Council in relation to a Notice of Motion adopted by their Members calling on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to change the law regarding the payment of refuse charges in private rented accommodation.
- Letter from Dublin City Council in relation to a Notice of Motion adopted by the Dublin City Council Members calling on the Manager to end the trend of Dublin City Council failing to make use of the opportunities presented by International Women’s Day to promote women’s participation in the political, economic and social life of Dublin City.
- Letter from Town Clerk, Macroom Town Council in relation to a Notice of Motion adopted by Macroom Town Council that proposed having an annual Public Holiday etc for Famine Remembrance Day.

Comhairle na nÓg

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to invite Comhairle na nÓg to give a presentation at the July Council meeting, scheduled for 11.15 a.m.

Resolution from New Ross Town Council.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to support a Notice of Motion from New Ross Town Council which calls on the Minister for Environment to allow local authorities to decide housing policy in their respective areas.

Resolution from Clones Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to support Clones Town Councils request that the proposal put forward at the County Councils budget meeting to provide a civic amenity centre for Clones be moved forward.

Resolution from Macroom Town Council

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed to support Macroom Town Councils Notice of Motion which proposed that in a dramatically changing Ireland, it is very important that we remember the history of our country and ask that a Famine Remembrance Day be established.

EirGrid

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council write again to EirGrid requesting a response to the questions asked by the Council over the past few months..

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to write to the Stormont Environment Committee who are holding a meeting in Armagh City on June 19th 2008 requesting that representatives from the Councils EirGrid Sub-committee attend this meeting.

Cllr Crowe also suggested that the sub-Committee arrange a meeting with Failte Ireland and the Hotel Federation of Ireland to lobby them for support.

Cllr McNally asked that the Planning Section provide a report on the decision by An Bord Pleanala to grant planning permission to the Quinn Group Limited permission for a 450 Megawatt Natural Gas fired electricity generating station at Toomes, Louth, Co. Louth.

Health Services Executive

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to meet with officials from the Regional Health Office, Dublin North East Health Services Executive as soon as possible.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the proposed briefing session with HSE officials be in public as opposed to Mr Mitchell's suggestion to hold the briefing session in private.

Rossmore Coarse Angling Club

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to invite a deputation from Rossmore Coarse Angling Club to meet with the appropriate Strategic Policy Committee to discuss their request that Coillte introduce a mandatory 'Catch and Release' angling policy.

Resolution from Dublin City Council

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to support the resolution agreed from Dublin City Council which asks that International Women's Day be used to promote women's participation in the political, economic and social life.

Resolution from Leitrim County Council

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to support a resolution from Leitrim County Council requesting the Department of the Taoiseach to legislate that representatives of the Council for the West and the BMW region are appointed to each national policy making and decision taking body including the National Transportation Policy Committee, National Roads Authority etc.

(4) Proposed variation to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 (Variation No. 7), to incorporate the Monaghan Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

Mr David Fallon, Director of Services Planning, gave a brief outline of the proposed variation. Each local authority is required to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment. The report here today had been placed on public display and submissions were invited, a number of submissions were received and a Manager's Report produced.

Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the land referred to in Submission 1 be removed from the area designated as a Secondary Amenity Area at Castleshane, Co. Monaghan. The reasons given for Cllr McKenna's proposal included:

- The land is not part of Castleshane Wood
- Trees have been felled on the subject lands
- The area in question had some amenity value in the past but is now agricultural land.
- Subject lands have no greater amenity value than other adjacent lands
- The lands are in private ownership.

In response Mr. Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner stated that it was unusual to select just one field in the whole county to exclude from the Landscape Character Assessment, purely to accommodate one individual. There had been three previous planning applications refused on this site and An Bord Pleanála upheld the Council's decision on all three occasions.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr B. McKenna's proposal resulted in 14 For, Nil against, 2 abstentions. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded that the Council undertake a baseline study of all lakes in the county in order to establish which lakes are

sensitive and should be protected and which lakes are not and that a specific timeframe be agreed for the proposed study.

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner advised that the study suggested may cost in the region of €30,000. Members expressed the view that such a study is necessary and relevant in order to ensure ascertain more detailed information in relation to all lakes in the county and the level of sensitivity surrounding each.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr McNally's proposal resulted in 15 for 0 against 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Planning Strategic Policy Committee to progress the study and that the SPC report back to the full Council at the October Council meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to amend the Landscape Character Assessment as follows:

1. *Section 5.1 – Add the words “**High Voltage Power Lines**” after the words “Renewable Energy” on page 63 of the report.*
2. *Include New Section 5.4.3 “**High Voltage Power Lines**” on page 71 of the report and insert the following paragraph*

“ The future upgrades of the National Transmission Network has the potential to significantly affect the physical landscape of Co. Monaghan which the County Development Plan seeks to protect. Every effort should be made to ensure that any future developments in this area, do not have a negative affect on our Drumlin landscape, the built environment or the quality of life or our people”.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to vary the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 as per Deputy County Managers Report dated 26th May, 2008, to incorporate the Landscape Character Assessment, as amended.

(5) Report on Draft Signage Policy on National Roads.

Cllr John O'Brien, Chair of Roads & Environment SPC introduced the amended draft Signage Policy on National Roads. He said that the aim of the draft document is to set out clearly the policy of Monaghan County Council in relation to signage on our national primary and secondary roads. The policy proposes to deal only with roadside signage and would deal mainly with three types of signage, road signs, business signs and tourist signs. He said if the Draft Signage Policy is adopted by the Council, it will be implemented by October 2008.

Ms. Roisin Nic an Iarla then gave a detailed presentation on the draft Signage Policy on National Roads.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to amend the heading on 4.3 to read 'Property for Sale Signs'.

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that, in the interests of the environment and road safety, that the erection of political posters is not permitted in future elections/referenda.

The Members agreed to circulate this proposal to all local authorities.

Cllr McNally proposed that the Council contact those people in the county who have erected unauthorised signage and advise them that a new policy is being introduced. This will allow people the opportunity to remove illegal signage or comply with the new rules.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to write to the Department of Environment and the Department of Transport requesting that in the interest of road safety that the erection of large bypass signage on major road improvements, indicating the funding sources, be examined.

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded that this Council allows applicants the option of doubling the existing finger post size at double the cost"

A vote by show of hands on Cllr McNally's proposal resulted in 13 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the draft Signage Policy on National Roads be adopted, as amended.

6. Local Improvement Scheme

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Service referred to report dated 24th April 2008 which had been circulated to Members. The report outlined the income and expenditure under the scheme in 2006, 2007 and 2008. He stated that two issues arise in relation to fund that have severely impacted on the LIS programme for 2008 –

1. The decision not to allocate any grant for Clar schemes in 2008 which averaged approximately €500,000 each year over the past two years.
2. The reduction in the grant from the Department of Transport from an average of €1.5m per year over the past two years to €92,000 in 2008. This equates to a reduction in grant assistance of €1.2m in the current year.

The L.I.S. Committee at its meeting on 21st April recommended the following lanes for funding –

- G. Tracy, Carrickmacross
- T. Horan, Camphill (Clones Sp. C)

- R. Wallace Nth Monaghan (Sp. C)

Under section 5 of the Local Improvement Scheme Memorandum the LIS Committee recommended that any person who leases land shall be deemed “an occupier” for the purpose of the scheme provided the following conditions are complied with, viz

- The Lease shall be for a minimum of five years.
- A minimum of 3 years must remain on the lease at the time of application
- A minimum of 3 years must remain on the lease at the time the lane is to be surfaced.
- The land, the subject of the lease, must comply with the following:
 - It must consist of 20% of the holding benefiting from the L.I.S. land
 - It must not be less than 5 acres.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to write to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, requesting details of Local Improvement Scheme allocations to all counties, under the Clar programme, and seeking a breakdown of the funding drawn down on a county by county basis.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that this Council write to Minister Ó Cuiv expressing our disappointment at the decision to not pay the Clar Local Improvement Scheme grant for 2007 and also at the Minister’s decision to pay no Clar money for the Local Improvements Scheme in 2008.

We further write to the Minister for Transport expressing our disappointment at the reduction in the Local Improvement Scheme allocation to the Council for 2008, a reduction of 41%.

We request both Ministers to re-consider their decisions, in order to speed up the process of eliminating the waiting time for applicants to the scheme. The total reduction in the L.I.S. budget to Monaghan County Council from the Government in 2008 is 60%. ”

Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr P McKenna seconded that the report on the Local Improvement Scheme, as recommended by the L.I.S. Committee, be adopted.

A roll call vote on Cllr Maxwells proposal resulted as follows:

For: Cllr Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Kieran, Maxwell, McElvaney, P. McKenna, McNally, O’Brien and Treanor. **Total 10**

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Crowe, B. McKenna, **Total 6**

Abstentions: Cllr Keelan, Martin, **Total 2**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

7. Nomination of Member to the “Road Safety Together” Working Group

On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to nominate Cllr McElvaney as the County Council representative for the “Road Safety Together” Working Group.

10. Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to nominate Ms. Linda O’Leary as a Traveller Representative on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee as a replacement to Mr. Patrick Mc Donald.

11. To receive the Minutes of the following meetings:

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- (i) An Coiste Gaelige meeting held on 14th April, 2008.*
- (ii) An Coiste Logainmneacha held on 11th April, 2008.*
- (iii) Meeting with Minister John Gormley, T.D., held on 22nd May 2008.*
- (iv) Report of visit of Monaghan County Council delegation to Brussels.*

12. Attendance at Conferences by Members

The Members agreed to note the reports from Councillors B. Kieran, S. Coyle, H. McElvaney, P. McKenna, J. Keenan, D. Maxwell, H. Humphreys, M. Carthy, N. Keelan and G. Carville in relation to their attendance at the following conferences:

- BMW Regional Assembly Annual Conference, Portlaoise
- 9th Annual Regional Assembly Conference, E.U. Territorial Co-operation Programme, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow
- Local Economic & Social Development Conference, Marriott Hotel Henry Street, Co. Limerick
- T.J.K. Planning Seminar, Limerick
- Developments in the Planning Systems, North and South, Enniskillen
- 24th Annual Environmental Conference, Water: The Challenges for Users, Cork.
- AMAI Spring Seminar 2008, Trim, Co. Meath
- Irelands News Immigrants, Letterkenny
- “Forty Shades of Green Tourism”, Dunadry, Co. Antrim
- LAMA Annual Spring Conference, Trim, Co. Meath
- 19th Colmcille Winter School, Letterkenny
- Association of County & City Councils Annual Conference 2008, Dublin.
- Planning for Renewable Energy, Adare, Co. Limerick

13. Matters arising out of Minutes

Queries raised by the Members were responded to by the relevant Director of Service.

East West Link Route:

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Roads SPC would meet urgently to make a submission on the East West Link Route, to the Consultants appointed to conduct the feasibility study.

16. Questions.

Cllr O'Brien asked:

- a. (i) In the interest of road safety, can Monaghan County Council have a look at putting proper lighting in place at Carrickatee Church, as the current lighting is inadequate?

Response: There are no current proposals for public lighting in this area. However, the county council will seek a design and costing from the ESB for inclusion in the public lighting programme which will be discussed at the next Road Area meeting.

- (ii) Can the County Council investigate the possibility of upgrading the toilet facilities at Carrickatee Church in conjunction with the Parish?

Response: Toilet facilities for churches are generally a matter for each parish. Monaghan County Council would only consider toilet facilities in an urban area where there is an evident demand.

- b. Can the Engineering Staff of Monaghan County Council investigate the possibility of changing the road layout just off the Laragh Lough Roundabout heading to Castleblayney? This stop sign is located far too close to the roundabout and could cause a serious accident.

Response: The side road realignment leading off the roundabout has not been taken over by the Council and is still under the control of the Contractor. A stage three road safety audit will be carried out on the side roads as part of the taking over procedure. The Council will be represented on the road safety audit team where this matter will be considered.

Cllr Benny Kieran asked:

- c. What plans has the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council to repair recent sinkage and subsidence to the LP02320 between Dartrey Monument and Cross at the Black Kesh?

Response: Substantial repairs were completed on this road in 2007 and there has been no further sinkage of the sections in question to date.

Cllr Benny Kieran asked:

- d. What options are available to Monaghan County Council to enhance our villages and towns that are blighted by derelict buildings?

Response: Whilst Monaghan County Council would encourage owners of derelict buildings to renovate and redevelop those buildings there are relatively few mechanisms open to the local authority to give positive assistance. Owners of particular properties may be eligible for conservation grants. The Council may also use its powers to take action under the Sanitary Services Act in relation to Dangerous Places or Derelict Sites Act.

- e. In reply to a question dated March 2007, when can we expect the report from the Consultants in relation to the installation of a water softener at Crosses to help combat lime in the water supplied to the villages of Scotstown, Ballinode and their environs?

Response: This matter has been investigated and the costs involved in water softening are considered excessive. There are health benefits for consumers who use hard water and it is felt that these offset the inconvenience caused by hard water.

- f. (i) Following road surface improvements to the Newtownbutler Road, Clones, will Monaghan County Council provide water drainage outlets to combat flooding of gardens and driveways affected by this newly finished road level?

Response: Road resurfacing and footpath works were completed on the Newtownbutler Road eight years ago in conjunction with substantial drainage works to prevent water entering private properties which were below existing road level. An additional road gulley was recently installed at the request of a property owner, whose entrance kerbs had settled due to normal wear and tear, resulting in the ponding of water at their entrance

- g. (ii) Is it planned by the Water Services Section to retrieve and relocate water stop valves that are currently positioned on the roadway to the safety of the footpath?

Response: In general there are no health and safety problems associated with water main valves located in the road as compared to the footpath. It is Council policy to carry out any work on these valves using a high standard of signing and guarding. Should there be problems in a particular area these can be addressed.

Cllr Bannigan asked:

- h. (i) Have the consultants been appointed yet to prepare plans for the upgrading of the R183 Clones/Ballybay/Castleblayney road.

(ii) When is it expected that their work will be completed?

(iii) Will Monaghan Co Council apply to the Department of Transport for funding to commence this very necessary upgrading in 2009?

Response:

(i) Quotes have been requested from contractors to supply high resolution aerial photography and high quality Digital Terrain Modelling (DTM) of the overall R183 route through County Monaghan. This information will be used by Monaghan County Council to prepare a constraints report which will form the basis of a feasibility report for improvements on the route. The feasibility report will identify whether the required road improvements can be undertaken along sections of the existing road alignment and will identify sections where off-road realignment is required. A preliminary costing of the works will be prepared.

(ii) The aerial photography and DTM are due for completion in late Summer 2008. Additional specialist sub-consultants may be appointed in 2008 to undertake specific surveys/assessments/reports on the route as required. It is proposed the results of the feasibility report will be brought before the members in late 2008.

(iii) The works undertaken by Monaghan County Council in 2008 will form the basis for any funding applications in 2009 and into the future.

i. When will the work under the low cost safety grants at the following locations commence?

- (i) Riverdale Junction Ballybay
- (ii) Tossey Crossroads
- (iii) Ballintra junction on the R183
- (iv) Tonyglasson junction on the R183
- (v) Doohamlet village crossroads

Response: The designs have been finalised and the signage has been ordered. It is anticipated that signage and lining will be completed before end of July.

j. When will the footpath improvement works in Ballybay town on the Monaghan road, Castleblayney road and the Clones road commence?

Response: Health & Safety plans are being developed at present for these works. It is planned to commence the work on the Monaghan Road followed by the Clones Road and Castleblayney Road. It is anticipated that the work will commence in June.

Cllr Bannigan asked:

- k. (i) What plans have Monaghan County Council to provide additional off-street car parking in Ballybay town?
- (ii) Have any potential sites been identified?
- (iii) Will public consultation take place with the people of Ballybay before any final decisions are made?
- (iv) When will the traffic bye laws for Ballybay be introduced?

Response: A consultant is in the process of reviewing the parking byelaws in the town. Part of the consultants brief is to examine potential sites within the

town for off-street car parking. The report on the byelaws is almost complete but the car parking report will follow at a later date. It is anticipated that the public consultation process for the parking byelaws will commence over the summer months.

Cllr McAnespie & Cllr B. McKenna asked:

- l. When will the report into the provision of pedestrian safety measures in Emyvale be completed following on from the fatality in Emyvale village last year? Is it proposed to have a public consultation in relation to these measures?

Response: The existing zebra crossing is to be replaced with a pelican (signalised) crossing in 2008. There will be no public consultation in relation to this matter. In addition a draft report is being prepared to revise the road layout in the main street in the vicinity of the Market house Lane junction to improve traffic flow and road safety. As the proposed road improvements will result in a loss of parking in the area, there will be consultation with the local members.

Cllr Conlon asked:

- m. As of May 23rd the Monaghan Town Tourist Office has still yet to open. What dates are Failte Ireland contracted with Monaghan County Council to occupy the office located at the Swimming Pool and can we encourage them to open sooner?

Response: Monaghan Tourist Office is located in Monaghan Leisure Complex and is available for use all year round by Failte (Ireland) North West.

- n. Given the considerably deteriorated road surface on the LP01500 at the junction where it joins the R162-2 (the corner of the left turn past Tommy Martin Fuels Ballybay Rd.) at what earliest date can remedial works commence?

Response: There is no specific provision for surfacing of the LP01500 in the 2008 programme. An allocation of €3,000 for road marking and signage has been provided under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants. These works will be expected to be completed by September of this year. Should money become available from the maintenance grant it is the Councils intention to carry out some repairs to the surface in conjunction with these safety improvement works

Cllr Crowe asked:

- o. (i) How many houses are Monaghan Co. Council acquiring under Part 5 in the new housing development at Oram.

Response: 11 no. houses and 4 no. apartments

Cllr Crowe asked (contd):

(ii) What is the breakdown of house type i.e. 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms?

Response: 1 no. 4-bedroom house, 10 no. 3-bedroom houses and 4 no. 2-bedroom apartments with own door access

(iii) When will they be ready to occupy?

Response: It is envisaged that between 5 to 7 units will be ready for occupation at the end of 2008 and the balance in mid to late 2009.

p When will the unfinished section of footpath and road on the new link road into Clontibret be resurfaced?

Response: The resurfacing of the new link road has been completed. There is a section of footpath to be completed which is not the responsibility of the contractor for the scheme. This section will be done by Monaghan County Council as soon as possible.

Cllr Coyle asked:

q. Will Monaghan County Council put in place additional safety and dangerous junction warning measures at what is known locally as the “Five Crosses”, Latton on the R162-10?

Response: There are no current plans to erect any signage at the “Five Crosses”, Latton, but the County Council will include this area for funding under the Low Cost Accident Reduction Scheme for 2009.

u. Is it the responsibility of Monaghan County Council or from what sources can funding be accessed for tourist attraction signage, i.e., Lakes, Rivers, etc, as good signage to these locations is essential to assist the development of tourism in County Monaghan.

Response: The funding for tourism signage in the county has generally emanated from sources outside the county. These include in particular EU funding, (Interreg and Peace), and also from exchequer funding through Failte Ireland.

18. Votes of Congratulations

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the following

- The Right Reverend Monsignor Noel Treanor on the occasion of his forthcoming Episcopal Ordination as Bishop of Down and Connor on Sunday 29th June.
- Ms. Cecelia McKenna on her appointment as Chilean Ambassador to Ireland

- Castleblayney Chamber of Commerce for the organisation of the excellent May Day Parade.
- Drumkill Rovers on winning the League Cup
- Carrickmacross Festival Committee for organising a very successful festival.

19. Conferences

Cllr McElvaney requested the approval of the Council to the attendance of Cllr P McKenna as his substitute at the National Hub Town Conference held in Mallow, Co. Cork on May 29th 2008 as he was unable to attend due to a bereavement. This was agreed.

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
NASC West Ireland European Partnership	<i>Annual Conference – ‘Sustainable Development on the Edge of Europe – Options, Opportunities & Opinions’</i>	Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co Galway	5 th June	Owen Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Benny Kierans Seamus Coyle
Respond Housing Association	<i>Sustaining Social Housing Communities</i>	The Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois	5 th June	Pat McKenna John O’Brien Padraig McNally
Ards Borough Council & Greystones Town Council	<i>Summer Conference: Tourism & Technology –How Local Economies North & South can compete in the Global Marketplace</i>	The Northern Ireland Aquarium & Seal Sanctuary, Portaferry, Co Down	6 th & 7 th June	David Maxwell H. Humphreys Hugh McElvaney Pat Treanor Robbie Gallagher Benny Kierans Gary Carville
E.P.A	<i>National Water Conference</i>	Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway	11 th & 12 th June	David Maxwell Owen Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Benny Kierans
The Centre for Cross Border Studies & Co-operation	<i>Cross-Border Co-operation as part of the Northern Irish Peace Process: Some lessons for Europe</i>	The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk	12 th & 13 th June	David Maxwell John O’Brien Seamus Coyle Gary Carville
University of Limerick	<i>Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland</i>	University of Limerick	26 th – 27 th June	John Keenan Pat Mc Kenna Owen Bannigan Seamus Coyle John O’Brien Vincent P.Martin Gary Carville

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Byrne Perry Summer School	Theme: “From ‘Murder’ Machine to Modern Education?”	<i>Christian Brothers School, Wexford Street, Gorey, Co Wexford</i>	<i>27th – 29th June</i>	John Keenan H. Humphreys Hugh McElvaney Robbie Gallagher Padraig McNally Vincent P.Martin Gary Carville
I.P.A	Regional Seminar on the Green Paper – Stronger Local Democracy – Options for Change	<i>The Clarion Hotel, Sligo Town</i>	<i>2nd July</i>	All Members

Signed: _____

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Meetings Administrator

Date: _____