

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Old Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 5th June, 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr S. Coyle, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. McKenna

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th May, 2012, be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st May, 2012, be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda –

- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Leo Varadkar TD in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland Border Road Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Leo Varadkar TD in relation to the closure of the Tourist Information Office in Monaghan Town.
- Letter from Deputy Sean Conlan, T.D., regarding reps made in relation to the re-location of the kitchens in Monaghan General and St. Mary's Hospitals.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in response to request for meeting in relation to the re-location of the kitchens in Monaghan General and St. Mary's Hospitals.
- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding employee's statutory rights and entitlements.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Finance in relation to the inclusion of the Ulster Canal Project in the Infrastructure Stimulus Programme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of An Taoiseach in relation to the inclusion of the Ulster Canal Project in the Infrastructure Stimulus Programme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to social welfare entitlements for the self employed.
- Letter from the Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland in relation to the Interreg V Programme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Finance in relation to money lending licences granted under the Consumer Credit Act 1995.
- Letter from Ballybay Town Council seeking representation on the Monaghan County Council Speed Limit Committee.

- Letter from Fermanagh District Council notifying support for the Council's resolution relating to the North-South Feasibility Study on the provision of healthcare planning and delivery on a north-south basis.
- Report from Monaghan Sports Partnership on events being organised in the period April – June 2012.
- Letter from Deputy Heather Humphreys notifying the Council of an allocation of €450,000 from the Department of the Environment for reinstatement works in Carrickmacross following damage incurred during work on the Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme project.
- Letter from the Health Service Executive enclosing briefing to the Regional Health Forum in relation to Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment in relation to the Councils resolution regarding the restoration of 10-25 Moore Street, Dublin 1.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the role of Local Development Companies.
- Letter from the Director of the Special EU Programmes Body in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the delivery of any future Interreg V Programme.
- Letter from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the delivery of any future Interreg V Programme.
- Letter from the Mayor of Miramichi City Council inviting a delegation from the Council to attend the Annual Irish Festival from 19th – 22nd July, 2012.
- Resolution from Waterford City Council calling on the Department of the Environment to resource a national ad campaign to highlight the anti social nature and health risks of dog fouling
- Resolution from Waterford City Council calling on the HSE and the Minister for Health to review the long-term illness scheme to include Lupus as a long-term chronic illness.
- Resolution from Waterford City Council calling on the Minister for Agriculture to support the abolition of the Sugar Quota regime in 2015.
- Report from the Director of Housing in relation to the provision of a Building Energy Rating for Rental Accomodation Scheme properties leased by the Council.
- Minutes of meeting held with Mr. Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on 18th May, 2012.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government asking that no further public contracts be awarded to the Lagan Group until such time as that company makes a satisfactory redundancy package available to its former employees at its Kingscourt plant.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council forward the following proposal to the Housing SPC for consideration – that all houses or apartments contracted and leased by Monaghan County Council from the private housing sector for the purpose of accommodating the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenants must have a minimum BER rating of D.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to Stephen Doran, Private Secretary to the Minister for Health re his two letters of 21/3/12 Ref MR447-12 and Ref 244-12 seeking clarification on the final sentence of those letters as to whether the Council will be offered a meeting with the Minister for Health.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Waterford County Council as follows: "That this Council calls on the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to resource a national Ad Campaign to highlight the anti-social nature and health risks of dog fouling on public paths, parks and beaches etc and to increase awareness of the responsibility of dog owners in this matter".

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded that the Council adopt the resolution from Waterford County Council as follows: "That this Council calls on the HSE and the Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly to review the long-term illness scheme to include Lupus as a long term chronic illness".

Cllr McPhillips proposed an amendment to Cllr Connolly's motion – by the inclusion of the words "and Rheumatoid Arthritis" as a long term chronic illness. Cllrs Connolly and Carthy accepted the amendment. The substantive motion was agreed by the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Waterford County Council as follows: "That this Council supports the EU proposal to abolish the Sugar Quota regime in 2015, as this will allow Ireland the opportunity to re-establish the sugar beet processing industry in this country. The Council requests the Minister for Agriculture to support the abolition of quotas in 2015".

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded that the Council ask the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will investigate the possibility of allowing people from the North of Ireland who work in Monaghan and pay taxes to this State to be included on the Register of Electors at the address of their workplace.

A vote by show of hands on this proposal resulted in 7 for, 12 against. The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that this Council note from correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel in Belfast that a steering group involving local government representatives and others is being set up to lead research and consultation on a new Interreg V Programme. Monaghan County Council has a keen interest in this work and requests inclusion on this Steering Group and participation in this process. That we forward this motion to the SEUPB and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon, that the Council write to the National Roads Authority requesting that the necessary funding is made available, if not in 2012, then certainly in their budget for 2013, that will allow this Council to

reduce the corridor (N2 Clontibret – NI Border Road Scheme) down from 300 metres to the standard 80-100 metres.

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council write to the Lagan Group asking them to improve their offer to their former employees of Lagan Brick Kingscourt in order to resolve the current dispute.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly TD, expressing its disappointment on both pieces of correspondence dated 21st May 2012 and again call for a meeting with him to discuss the closure of the kitchen facilities in Monaghan General Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council renew its request to the Health Service Executive for an official to attend a future meeting of the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that the Council write again to the Department of Finance pointing out that the Council's concern in relation to money lending is the significant rates of interest some moneylenders are charging borrowers.

Cllr O'Brien proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that a representative from Ballybay Town Council be invited to sit on the Speed Limits Committee. The Mayor put Cllr O'Brien's proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 17 for 1 against and 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council accept the invitation from the Mayor of Miramichi inviting a delegation from the Council to attend the Miramichi Irish Festival from 19th – 22nd July, 2012. It was further agreed that the Council be represented by the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Council's Tourism Officer.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that in the spirit of the Connect Ireland.ie initiative, whereby members play their part in promoting the initiative both locally and internationally, that members and staff attending the Miramichi Irish festival assist at the Tourism Ireland stand in distributing both tourism and business related literature that maximises potential economic activity for County Monaghan, particularly the 'value package' aimed at selling our county as a location for business.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council go 'into Committee' to receive an update on the Clones Sports Project.

Mr. A. King, Director then updated the Members in relation to this project and responded to queries from them.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council return to public session.

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

- (i) **Development of a well at Trostan, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan. (Ref 12/8004)**

This item was deferred.

- (ii) **To consider granting permission for development of a well for the abstraction of groundwater, erection of security fencing, installation of well chambers, kiosk and all associated site works at Donaghmoyne, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan. (Ref 12/8005)**

The Members considered the Manager's report dated 28th May, 2012 which recommended that the Council proceed with the development, as proposed, subject to a number of conditions.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Murray, it was agreed that the Council approve the development of a well for the abstraction of groundwater, erection of security fencing, installation of well chambers, kiosk and all associated site works at Donaghmoyne, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan. (Ref 12/8005) to comply with the Manager's Report dated 28th May, 2012 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

- (iii) **To consider granting permission for the development of a well for the abstraction of groundwater, erection of security fencing, installation of well chambers, kiosk and all associated site works at Monanny, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan. (Ref 12/8007)**

The Members considered the Manager's report dated 28th May, 2012 which recommended that the Council proceed with the development, as proposed, subject to a number of conditions.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Murray, it was agreed that the Council approve the development of a well for the abstraction of groundwater, erection of security fencing, installation of well chambers, kiosk and all associated site works at Monanny, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan. (Ref 12/8007) to comply with the Manager's Report dated 28th May, 2012 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

- (iv) **Realignment of approx 2.5km of the existing N2 between Gortmoney and Emyvale.**

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Planning advised that this item was being deferred to the adjourned meeting, as it was not possible to finalise the Manager's report in time for the meeting.

4. To receive Draft Annual Financial Statement 2011 and approve over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account

The Members noted the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2011 which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance responded to a number of queries from the Members in relation to the Draft AFS for 2011.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that a business plan in relation to the future operation of the Landfill is prepared for the next meeting of the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed to approve the Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2011) and to approve over-expenditures as per Note 17 AFS 2011 and transfers to Capital Account per Note 15 AFS 2011, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

Transfer to Capital Account	Transfer	Budget	
	Amount	Provision	Difference
Loan Repayment Reserve	1,075,722	1,075,722	0
Flexi Time System	15,000	0	15,000
Disability Initiatives	20,000	0	20,000
Pensions and Lump Sums Salaries	281,482	0	281,482
Pensions and Lump Sums Wages	90,362	0	90,362
Machinery Account Surplus	407,083	0	407,083
Provisions for Transfer to Capital			
(included in Budget 2011)			
Co. Development Fund	90,000	90,000	0
Cross Border Matching Funding	15,000	15,000	0
Dromore River Bridge	10,000	10,000	0
Local Elections	42,464	42,464	0
Members Gratuity Scheme	30,000	30,000	0
Fire Service Gratuities	50,000	50,000	0
Libraries - Provision for Capital Balances	36,384	36,384	0
Computing - Provision for Capital Balance	150,000	150,000	0
	2,313,497	1,499,570	813,927

Over Expenditure	Expenditure	Income	
Division	Over	Over	
	Estimates	Estimates	Net Position
	2011	2011	2011
	€	€	€
A. Housing and Building	340,075	461,556	121,481
B. Road Transportation & Safety	2,604,695	2,603,231	-1,464
C. Water Services	620,772	1,038,618	417,846
F. Recreation and Amenity	265,137	286,939	21,802
H. Miscellaneous Services	1,971,450	1,951,335	-20,115
	5,462,054	5,880,123	418,069

5. To consider Section 183 Notice in relation to the disposal of Market House, Carrickmacross to Carrickmacross Town Council.

The members considered the Section 183 notice advising of the Council's intention to dispose of the Market House in Carrickmacross to Carrickmacross Town Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of the Market House Building, Carrickmacross, comprising circa .1533 hectares to Carrickmacross Town Council, Civic Offices, Convent Land, Carrickmacross, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 23rd May, 2012 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

6. To receive recommendations from CPG meeting held on 18th May, 2012

(i) Arts Partners Grants

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the following Arts Partners Grants be allocated for 2012

1.	The Garage Theatre	14,000
2.	Feile Oriel	5,000
3.	Clones Film Festival	8,000
4.	Carrickmacross Festival	1,500
5.	Artswell (Iontas)	15,000
6.	Castleblayney Drama Festival	1,500
7.	Patrick Kavanagh Weekend	9,000
8.	Féile Patrick Byrne	2,500

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council congratulate the Carrickmacross Festival Committee on an excellent festival that took place that weekend.

(ii) To adopt minutes of CPG meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 18 May, 2012 be approved.

7. To elect members to the Tourism Sub-Committee

The following members were nominated to the Tourism Sub-Committee –

Mayor of the day

Cllrs S. Conlon and N. Keelan (Sinn Fein)

Cllrs D. Maxwell and G. Carville (Fine Gael)

Cllrs S. Coyle and R. Gallagher (Fianna Fail)

Cllr S. Treanor (Independent)

8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Gallagher, Keelan, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, Murray, and O'Brien in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- LAMA Spring Seminar, Waterford.
- BMW Regional Assembly Annual Conference, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
- Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Seminar, Dundalk, Co. Louth
- Guide to Septic Systems, Galway.
- 2012 Urban Wastewater Discharges, Kilmurry, Limerick
- Economic development in the regions, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.
- Spatial Planning Conference, Monaghan
- Help busy Councillors become effective leaders, Westport, Co. Mayo

9. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

A short discussion took place on this item during which the following resolution was passed by the members

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that This Council write to the Oireachtas Committee on Energy stating that at the meeting of Monaghan County Council on 5th March, 2012, Mr. Andrew Cooke, EirGrid stated “That the Independent Commission set up to examine the North/South Interconnector did not have the necessary information to conduct a full examination of the Irish Transmission system.” When Mr. Cooke was asked to clarify he stated ..“this is a good report, it has merits and is a good starting point but it does not go far enough”. A more detailed report would be required to study the Irish Transmission System. We ask the Oireachtas Committee to investigate the facts of the matter.

10. Business submitted by County Manager

Ulster Canal – The A/Manager circulated an update to the Members in relation to the current status of the Ulster Canal planning application.

Hope Castle/Castleblaney Golf Club – The A/Manager advised the Council that the Hope Castle malicious injuries claim has been listed for hearing in the Circuit Court on 26th June and that the hearing of the Golf Club lease was listed for later that same week.

Concra Wood Golf Club PGA Tournament: The A/Manager stated that he had been approached by the Concra Wood Golf Club seeking sponsorship of €20,000 for a major Golf Tournament that they are hosting in July 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the members go ‘into Committee’ to discuss this matter.

A debate then followed to which a number of members contributed. Following the discussion the meeting returned to public session.

It was agreed that the matter of sponsorship of this event by the Council be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration and that a recommendation would be brought back to the full Council on the 18th June. A meeting of the CPG was scheduled for 15th June, 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

11. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings.

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 8th and 21st May, 2012 were responded to by the relevant officials.

12. To receive presentation from the Irish Postmasters Union

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Ciaran McEntee from the Irish Postmasters' Union and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr. McEntee thanked the Members for the opportunity to address them. He stated that he represented 90 post offices in Cavan, Monaghan, Meath and Louth. The Irish Postmasters Union represented 1,100 post offices across Ireland which gives employment to almost 3,000 people. People trust the Post Office and they are an important part of community infrastructure. All offices are now computerised and are linked up with banks and deliver a first class social welfare service handling circa 800,000 payments. He stated that post offices are in a great position to take on new business such as motor tax payments, the household charge, water charge payments and driving licence renewals. They would also be interested in taking over the compilation of the Register of Electors.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that this Council, in supporting the Irish Postmaster's Union, write to Minister Pat Rabbitte seeking an enhancement of existing services and the development of additional services provided by the network of rural post offices throughout Ireland that will assist in the sustainability of our rural communities – copy of this motion to be also forwarded to An Taoiseach.

“ On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that this Council write to An Post requesting that it provide improved rates of remuneration for Postmasters and Postmistresses.”

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that the necessary protocols are put in place that will allow the issuing of driver licences and the payment of the household charge to be undertaken at post offices nationwide.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for, 6 against. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

13. Questions:

Cllr P. McNally asked:

1. (a) How many applications has this Council received for new connections to the Carrickmacross Town Sewerage Scheme?

Reply: *As and from 28th May there are 84 paid-up applicants.*

Cllr P. McNally asked:

- (b) Will this Council, by way of advertisement, remind all those entitled to apply, that the 50% reduction on connection costs will cease on June 30th?

Reply: *A reminder letter was issued to all households which can connect to the network on the 30th May.*

2. (a) What stage is the Carrickmacross water scheme upgrade at in the Department of the Environment?

Reply: *The Department has approved the project to tender stage. The scheme is currently out to tender with a closing date of 8th June.*

- (b) Should grant aid be forthcoming, what all is included in the proposal?

Reply: *The scope of the Works comprises the design, construction and operation of for period of twenty (20) years of borehole pumps, rising mains, water treatment plant, storage reservoir and all associated ancillary works for the design and construction only of the delivery main from the water treatment plant site to the existing distribution network.*

3. (a) Has this Council ever received a response further to our correspondence from the Department of Social Welfare regarding the availability of spare office space in our new Civic Offices in Carrickmacross.

- (b) Is this Council, along with Carrickmacross Town Council, actively looking for suitable clients for the above spare space?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is looking for suitable clients for the first floor office accommodation in the new Civic Offices. Tentative enquiries from a number of state bodies have been received in the short period of time that the offices have been opened. The Council is anxious not to interfere with the local private sector rental market and is seeking a tenant that will complement the public sector remit of the building and bring employment to the area.*

4. When is it expected to have the roads in Mullinary, Carrickmacross fully resurfaced by the Water and Sewerage Section of this Council?

Reply: *The civil works including drainage and kerbing have now commenced and following their completion the surfacing of both Mullinary road and Street will immediately follow.*

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

5. Following on from the opening of the tenders a number of weeks ago for the re-alignment works on the N2 from Coolkill East to Corracrin, can the Council confirm if a preferred tender has been accepted yet?

(a) If not when will this process be completed?

Reply: *The assessment of tenders is still ongoing. It is expected that this will be completed within the next three weeks.*

(b) If yes when will the contractor commence works?

(c) What is the expected completion date of these works?

Reply: *On completion of the tender assessment and award of the contract to the winning tenderer it is expected that works would start within a further three weeks with the works programmed to take 44 weeks to complete.*

6. In relation to the N12 re-surfacing works from Monaghan to border at Middletown, when will these works be completed and the road open again to normal traffic?

Reply: *The works are substantially complete. Some road marking and snagging works are being carried out and it expected these will be completed over the next two weeks.*

7. (a) Can the Council please advise what public consultation took place with property owners on the Glen Road Monaghan prior to the installation of the pedestrian operated traffic light crossing at that location?

Reply: *Details of the proposed crossing were on display in the Market house for the Public Consultation evening regarding disabled parking and pedestrian crossings in March 2011. No direct contact was made with property owners.*

(b) Why was the new and welcome pedestrian light system not located at the zebra crossing which was located closer to the town and adjacent to the St. Louis Convent?

Reply: *There were safety issues with the existing crossing due to the three lanes of traffic, two approaching from the Cootehill direction and one from Monaghan Town. If the two lanes were reduced to one lane at this location this would have a significant impact on the traffic flow at peak times. There was insufficient road width to allow a pedestrian central refuge. The new location is considered to be safer and still is adjacent to the St Louis Convent entrance.*

When the existing zebra crossing was installed there was no pedestrian phase at the main traffic lights at R188/N54 junction at Dunnes Stores. Pedestrian phases are included at the traffic lights to facilitate pedestrians crossing the R188.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

8. Regarding the proposal for group home at Carrickmacross for women with physical and sensory disabilities, were revised plans submitted to the department in May as indicated and, if so, have these been accepted by the department? What is the expected timeframe for completion of this project?

Reply: *Revised plans showing two options for addressing the points raised by the Department were issued by Respond Housing Association on 21 May 2012. The plans were reviewed by Monaghan County Council staff and a detailed reply was sent to Respond on 22 May 2012 selecting one of the options and stating exactly what the Council considers would be required to get Department approval based on previous experience. Further revised plans incorporating the Council's comments were issued by Respond on 24 May 2012. The plans were reviewed immediately by the Council. The plans were found to be acceptable and were sent to the Department on the same day 24 May 2012. The Department Inspector has given a commitment to meet to discuss the plans before the end of May 2012. It is hoped that the plans will be approved very soon after the end of May 2012.*

As stated previously the delay to date is extremely disappointing for all involved and in particular for those awaiting the construction of the accommodation. It is still expected that the project can be moved forward within a reasonable timeframe and it is hoped that Department approval to allow the Planning Application to be submitted will be forthcoming within the coming weeks. The planning, procurement and construction phases are estimated at 15 months in total commencing when Department approval to submit the Planning Application is received

9. In how many instances have rent increases been sought from tenants of Monaghan Local Authorities in 2012 where the household income is derived from Social Welfare payments?

Reply:

HOUSING AUTHORITY	In how many instances have rent increases been sought from tenants of Monaghan Local Authorities in 2012 where the household income is derived from Social Welfare payments?
Monaghan County Council	1
Castleblayney T.C.	0
Monaghan T.C.	0
Clones T.C.	1
Carrickmacross T.C.	1

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

10. What progress has been made in recent months to revert the junction on the N2 Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Road at Aghvilla to two-way traffic as previously agreed? When is it likely that works will be commenced in this regard?

Reply: *There is currently no funding allocated to these works in the current year.*

11. Is there an expected date for the erection of public lights at Carrickashedoge community centre at Upper Magheracloone?

Reply: *It is expected these works will be completed in the last quarter of 2012.*

12. Considering that the members of Monaghan County Council have sought for many years to have the Carrickmacross-Drumcondrath Road reclassified as a regional route and considering the huge levels of traffic that use this road; what is the current status of the request for reclassification?

Reply: *This matter was discussed at previous South Monaghan Road Area Committee Meetings and it was agreed to discuss the matter further at a future meeting. It is proposed to include this as an item on the agenda of the next Road Area Meeting.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

13. When do the Council expect to commence construction of the proposed extension to the Waste Water Collection Network in the village of Scotstown, (Urbleshanny Road) and the time-frame for completion of same?

Reply: *The commencement and subsequent completion of this project is firstly subject to planning. The completion of the planning process will at the earliest date be completed by first week in September.*

14. What is the procedure for members of the public, who wish to register their septic tank, to avail of the reduced € registration fee which expires at the end of June?

Reply: *The process regarding the registering of septic tanks has not commenced yet. Local Authorities are awaiting instruction/direction from the Department of Environment regarding the registration of Septic tanks.*

15. When do the Council expect to commence the construction of the proposed extension to the Waste Water Collection Network in the village of Ballinode and the projected time frame for completion of same?

Reply: *The commencement and subsequent completion of this project is firstly subject to planning. The completion of the planning process will at the earliest date be completed by first week in September.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

16. In view of the fact that following Mass in St Macartan's Cathedral a number of people proceed to the graveyard to pay their respects to their departed loved ones and the high

volume of pedestrian traffic at other times will the County Council consider requesting the UDC to erect a pedestrian crossing to ensure the safety of people on this busy approach road to Monaghan town?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will examine the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing in this area and will include it on the agenda of the next Road Area Committee Meeting.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

17. To ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to the proposal to develop an Integrated Constructed Wetlands at Scotch Corner landfill to treat leachate from the old and current landfill and the likely timescale for such developments?

Reply: *Initial designs for an Integrated Constructed Wetlands on the site of the old landfill have already being prepared but An Bord Pleanála subsequently determined that an Environmental Impact Statement was required for this proposal. As an interim solution, works have recently been carried out on site to divert part of the leachate discharge from the old landfill away from an existing watercourse which has been welcomed by the EPA. As a long term solution a decision will have to be made by Monaghan County whether or not to progress with the EIS and subsequently proceed with the ICW at the old landfill to treat leachate on site rather than transportation to Monaghan WWTP.*

18. How much did Monaghan County Council receive under the NPPR charges in 2011 and where is this money earmarked to be spent?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council received €620,980 in respect of NPPR for 2011. €386,944 was allocated to the Town Councils and the remainder €234,036 was retained by the County Council. The NPPR income is included in the annual budget and forms part of the overall income budgeted for each year.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

19. Will the Motor Tax Section of Monaghan County Council accept signed, and witnessed by An Garda Síochána, declarations from owners of work/trade related vehicles seeking vehicle tax exemption for extended periods where, due to the economic downturn, the vehicle was not in use and 'off the road'?

Reply: *Monaghan Motor Tax Office accept declarations of non use signed and witnessed by An Garda Síochána from all vehicles owners in compliance with current legislation.*

20. What progress has been made to date arising from a proposal I made at the April meeting that sought the Council to submit an application to the Smarter Travel Scheme seeking funding for the development of a cycle trail along the route of the Ulster Canal from Clones to Monaghan?

Reply: *An application has been made to DTTAS for funding for Phase I of a two-phase project to construct a Greenway from Clones through Monaghan to Glaslough using the Ulster Canal towpath and GNR railway line.*

Phase I consists of an application for funding to:

- conduct a full scoping exercise on the entire length of the route, to include detailed costings and identification of alternative routes where necessary*
- commission an environmental impact study on the project, as the canal is a protected structure.*

In addition to the above pre-development work, the application asked for funding to immediately proceed with the development of a greenway from the Clones Road to Knockaconny, thus providing the town's major residential and educational centres with a safe off-road transportation route. As of yet, no feedback has been received from the Dept.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

21. Given the very poor and dangerous condition of the footpath adjacent to the St. Daigh's Tce. in Inniskeen village, could I respectfully request that this item be placed on the agenda of the next South Monaghan Road Area Meeting for discussion and hopefully a resolution to have this footpath reconstructed?

Reply: *This item will be included on the agenda of the next South Monaghan Road Area Meeting.*

22. In relation to European and cross-border funding, is the Manager confident that all possible funding is being drawn down by Monaghan County Council; will the Manager consider setting up a special unit dedicated to looking at all possibilities of funding draw down, as is the case in Donegal County Council; will the Manager agree that it is vital that the people of County Monaghan don't miss any opportunity to get funding into the county?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is represented at political and official level on ICBAN, EBR, Peace Programme and Interreg Steering Group. The Council has been very successful in attracting funding under these programmes which pose considerable challenges in terms of interagency / authority competition and bureaucracy. In recent years Monaghan County Council received €15.2million under the Peace Programme and €3.2million under Interreg.*

The Community and Enterprise Section source the funding, continually update all sections on the opportunities available, and co-ordinate the funding applications and drawdown.

23. In relation to the dangerous corner adjacent to St. Joseph's Cemetery on the Dundalk road approach to Carrickmacross town, when is it hoped to have this corner removed in the interest of road safety?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council have received funding under the low cost safety improvement scheme to carry out works at this location. This will involve provision of a kerbline and some works to the embankment to improve safety. It is expected that these works will be undertaken in the third quarter of 2012.*

24. In welcoming the provision of a footpath link from St. Joseph's Cemetery to the Killanny road junction in Carrickmacross, when is it hoped to have this footpath linked up to the

footpath adjacent to the Dundalk road roundabout as this is an important walking route in the town?

Reply: *There is no funding allocated for this footpath in 2012.*

15. Votes of Congratulations

It was agreed that the congratulations of the Council be extended to the following:

- Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney on winning the Ulster Colleges Treanor Cup Final when they beat Rathmore (Belfast) recently.
- Brian Clerkin, Glenview Heights, Monaghan, Manager of the GAA football team in Switzerland (Zurich/St. Gallen Bears) who recently accomplished victory in the East and Central Regional Championship of the European County Board.
- Tommy Bowe on his recent significant contribution to our County Museum of the 5 rugby jerseys he wore during the 2009 Grand Slam Campaign.

16. Conferences

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
Training Seminar for Councillors	The Councillors & the Environment	Hylands Burren Hotel Ballyvaughan Co. Clare	8 th – 9 th June	Cllr. Murray Cllr. Coyle Cllr. McNally Cllr. O'Hanlon
TJK Conferences	Planning Seminar	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	8 th – 10 th June	Cllr. Carville Cllr. Bannigan Cllr. Gallagher Cllr. O'Brien
2012 National Water Event	Facing new challenges	Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill Galway	13 th – 14 June	Cllr. Maxwell Cllr. Murray Cllr. McElvaney Cllr. Coyle Cllr. O'Hanlon Cllr. McNally Cllr. Keelan
Byrne Perry Summer School	A Decade of Commemorations 2012 - 2022	Gorey Library & Adult Learning Centre The Ave, Gorey	22 nd – 24 th June	Cllr. Maxwell Cllr. Carville Cllr. Bannigan Cllr. Coyle Cllr. Connolly Cllr. O'Brien Cllr. Gallagher Cllr. Treanor
ICLRD/IBIS	Should Ambulances stop at the Border	Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St. Dublin	13 June 2012 (evening only)	Cllr. B. McKenna

This concluded the business of the meeting.