

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 1 March, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr H. Humphreys, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms R. McManus, SEO Housing and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr Murray.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1st February, 2010 be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr R. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of Special Meeting held on Monday 15th February, 2010 be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from the Minister for Transport in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme.
- Circular letter LG2/2010 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to Members Expenses.
- Letter from the Minister for the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the draft Regional Planning Guidelines.
- Letters of acknowledgement from Deputies Conlon and O'Hanlon in relation to St. Mary's Hospital.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Deputy Conlon in relation to the 2007 report on Electric and Magnet fields.
- Letter from the Office of Public Works regarding flooding in Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority in relation to Ballinacarry Bridge
- Letter from the National Roads Authority in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority outlining the 2010 national roads allocations for Co. Monaghan.

- Letter from Superintendent Noel Cunningham in relation to the TETRA communication systems and enclosing information leaflet.
- Letter from Eirgrid in relation to the proposed 400kv interconnector.
- Letter from the Health Service Executive in relation to St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney.
- Letter from the Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment thanking the Council for its hospitality during her recent visit to Clones.
- Letter from County Monaghan Community Alliance calling on the Mayor to organise a Health Forum to discuss the removal of acute services at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Foindúireacht an Phiarsaigh seeking nominations for the Padraig Pearse Award 2010.
- Letter from Fort Augustus Irish Descendants inviting the Council to attend the Annual Settlers Day Celebrations in Prince Edward Island in May 2010.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the CEO of the HSE in relation to St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the CEO of the HSE in relation to proposed Eirgrid 440kv interconnector project.
- Letter from Deputy S. Crawford regarding St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney.
- Letter from Deputy S. Crawford regarding the proposed Eirgrid 440kv interconnector project
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources regarding the 2007 report on Electric and Magnetic Fields.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Mayor Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Mayor and one from each political Grouping meet with the County Monaghan Community Alliance to discuss arrangements for the proposed Health Forum.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that a staff representative from Monaghan General Hospital be invited to attend the proposed Health Forum.

On the proposal of Mayor Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council write to Cavan County Council requesting that a prominent sign for Cavan Hospital be placed on the bypass, as the existing sign is not clearly visible.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that the Council accept the offer of a meeting with the Health Service Executive.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to the Border Regional Authority seeking a presentation on the draft Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 at an early date and before the closing date for submissions.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Mayor Humphreys it was agreed that the Council write to the Communications Regulator asking him to advise the Council where funding may be sourced to pay for the installation of the device needed to counteract the interference to private television sets from the TETRA equipment located on Garda Station masts.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the HSE accepting the offer of a meeting to discuss the situation at St. Mary's Hospital and other issues and that the Council outline the issues for discussion by way of an agenda, to include

- (i) St. Mary's Hospital*
- (ii) Psychiatric services*
- (iii) St. Davnet's Hospital*
- (iv) Monaghan General Hospital and lack of services therein*
- (v) Doctor on Call - lack of coverage in North Monaghan*
- (vi) Possible location of Doc on Call service at Monaghan General Hospital*
- (vii) Number of respite beds*

And that copy of the letter be addressed to Mr. Leo Kinsella and Mr. Stephen Mulvany.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Council write again to the National Roads Authority requesting a meeting to discuss the prioritisation and allocation of funding in relation to the construction and timescale of the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the Council write to the National Roads Authority expressing disappointment that the design work is not proceeding on the Ballinacarry bridge project and enquiring if the Authority is making an application for funding under the Infrastructural Intereg IV Programme for any project?

3. To consider granting approval for the raising of a loan in the sum of €583,159.00 from the Housing Finance Agency.

“ On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 and, Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, we, the members of Monaghan County Council hereby authorise the raising of a loan in the sum of €583,159.00 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of funding the Capital Loan & Subsidy Scheme element of the Voluntary Housing Project at Convent Lands, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.”

4. To consider Capital Budget for years 2010, 2011 and 2012

The County Manager advised the Council that the Council is required to prepare a report on its proposed capital programme in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001. In accordance with this requirement the capital programme for Monaghan County Council for the 3 year period 2010, 2011 and 2012 has been circulated to each member for consideration. He stated that he wished to stress to the members that the data contained in the programme is completely reliant on capital monies being made available by the Department. The Local Government Act 2001 was framed in the expectation that local authorities would receive 3 year rolling allocations on capital funding from the Exchequer – this has not been the case up to now. He stated that capital funding for programmes such as roads and housing are traditionally allocated on an annual basis, (normally in the Spring of the year in which the monies are to be expended). Other programmes such as water services, provision of new fire stations, libraries, etc., are allocated on a project by project basis. It is not possible to predict when approval will be forthcoming for these projects.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed to include the N54 Realignment (Clones bypass) in the programme of Capital Works.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council seek to provide extra housing in all the villages in the Clones Electoral Area.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Capital Budget, as amended, for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 in accordance with the requirement of Section 135 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

5. To approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10m for period from 1st July 2010 to 31st December 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed to approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10m for the period from 1st July 2010 to 31st December, 2010.

6. To receive recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8th February, 2010

The Members considered the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8th February, 2010.

Awards Scheme:

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that Darren Doherty and Padraig McKenna, All-Ireland Handballers would be included in the list of award recipients.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council approve the recommendations of the CPG (as amended) in relation to the Awards Scheme recipients.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Awards Ceremony be held on Tuesday 6th April, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

It was unanimously agreed that the April Council meeting commence at 1 p.m.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 8th February, 2010, be confirmed.

7. To consider revised Scheme for Strategic Policy Committees 2009-2014 (as per CPG recommendation dated 8/2/2010)

The Members considered the revised Scheme for Strategic Policy Committees 2009 – 2014 in accordance with the recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8th February, 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr S. McKenna it was agreed that the Council approve the revised Scheme for Strategic Policy Committees 2009-2014, in accordance with the recommendation from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 8th February, 2010.

8. To consider the submission from Monaghan County Council to An Bord Pleanala regarding the proposed single circuit 400kV overhead transmission line (Cavan-Tyrone 400kV Interconnector)

The Members considered the draft submission to An Bord Pleanala in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 regarding the proposed single circuit 400kV overhead transmission line and associated structures (Cavan-Tyrone 400kV Interconnector).

A lengthy debate took place during which Members complimented the officials from the Council on the preparation of an excellent and very comprehensive submission which embodied many of the concerns raised by the Members in relation to the interconnector project. Members made reference to the fact that the project appeared to contravene a large number of the objectives contained in the Monaghan County Development Plan. Members called on the public to ensure that they make their own submissions to An Bord Pleanala before 12th March, 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council approve the draft submission to An Bord Pleanála in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 regarding the proposed single circuit 400kV overhead transmission line and associated structures (Cavan-Tyrone 400kV Interconnector).

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Humphreys, it was agreed to write again to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources and the HSE enquiring if the report on Electro Magnetic Fields will be put into the public domain in advance of the decision being taken on the Eirgrid planning application.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the Council calls on the Oireachtas Committee on Energy to discuss the Parson Brinckerhoff (PB Power) and Tepco (Tokyo Electric Power Company) Reports (on the underground options for the proposed interconnector) in public session with the Consultants who prepared these reports.

9. Roads – Non national road grant allocation 2010

The Members considered the 2010 allocations for regional and local roads and the local improvements scheme, which had been circulated with the agenda.

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services informed the Members that the Restoration Improvement Programme is suspended for 2010. For this year only, the restoration improvement grant and the discretionary improvement grant are amalgamated into a single ‘2010 Block Improvement Grant’. In addition the Special Block Grant and Block Grant for Urban Authorities are amalgamated into one ‘2010 Block Grant’. The total grant allocated to Monaghan County Council for 2010 amounted to €12,393,499 which represents a reduction of €1,700 over the 2009 figure (€12,445,199)

A debate then ensued during which the following resolutions were passed –

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport outlining the fact that it will cost €8m to repair the damage to the roads and the Council has received no additional funding despite the fact that Co. Monaghan always suffers more severely from frost damage. The Council now has to suspend its roads programme to repair the roads.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the Oireachtas Members asking them to support the Council’s resolution seeking extra funding for the roads programme.

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the County Manager/Director of Services follows up on the prioritisation of road projects for the Clones Electoral Area.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that each Road Area Committee prepare a programme of work for local/ regional roads for a three year period.

10. To fix dates for the following

(i) Road Area meetings

It was agreed that Road Area meetings would be held as follows:

Carrickmacross	29 th March, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.
Castleblayney	23 rd March, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.
Clones	22 nd March, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.
Monaghan	25 th March, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

(ii) Meeting of Standing Orders & Procedures Committee

It was agreed that a meeting of the Standing Orders & Procedures Committee would be held on Thursday 11th March, 2010 at 10.00 a.m. in the Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan.

11. To receive report from meeting with the Minister for Agriculture on 17th February, 2010.

The members noted the report from the meeting with the Minister for Agriculture on 17th February, 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture seeking information as to what measures the Minister is taking to ensure continuous employment/ re-deployment of existing staff at Monaghan Town Agricultural Development Office at the Plantation.

12. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Keelan, McElvaney, McNally, Murray and P. Treanor, in respect of their attendance at the following conferences –

- Planning Seminar, Limerick
- Preparing for Economic Recovery – Enniskillen
- Antrim Tourism Conference, Dunadry, Co. Antrim
- AMAI Spring Conference, Sligo
- Mid West Regional Authority Environment Conference – Limerick

13. Business submitted by County Manager:

The County Manager advised the Council that he had attended the Circuit Court hearing in Carrick-on-Shannon on Friday 26th February relating to Chris Haren and his tenancy of Hope Castle. He outlined the case made by Mr. Haren and by the Council. He stated that the Judge had reserved judgement in the case until Tuesday 2nd March at Cavan Circuit Court and that he would notify the members of the Judge's decision.

14. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 1st February and 15th February, 2010

Issues raised out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 1st February and 15th February, 2010 were responded to by the relevant officials.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write again to the Office of Public Works seeking an official from that office to attend a Council meeting to discuss flooding in the county.

15. Questions:

Cllr. J. O'Brien asked:

1. What is the up to date position with regard to the extension of the sewerage system out the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay?

Reply: *Currently the drawings have been fully prepared for the project by design team in Water services of MCC. A site for pumping station has been chosen and terms negotiated with land owner. Main stumbling block is funding for the project estimated at 250,000 which is extremely difficult to source in today's economic climate.*

2. (i) Has the Clones Road junction received funding in this years Roads Budget 2010?

Reply: *A grant allocation of €225,000 has been made available from the Department of Transport for this scheme.*

(ii) If so, what is the time limit for the project to advance?

Reply: *Subject to agreement on the various conditions attached to the development with the Planning Authority it is intended to advance the project this year.*

3. (i) Has Monaghan County Council received a reply from the developers of Wylie's Hill, in relation to the enforcement notice that has been served?

Reply: *The Council has received correspondence from both of the developers responsible for the Wylies Hill Development. The content of this correspondence cannot be released pending the conclusion of the related enforcement process.*

(ii) What is the next step in progressing the situation that drives will be tarred, footpaths completed and the green areas maintained?

Reply: *The Council will continue to pursue enforcement action against the developers to ensure the satisfactory completion of the development.*

4. (i) When will Monaghan County Council start Stage II of Castleblayney Main Street? The footpaths and the main street are in very poor condition and need attention as soon as possible.

Reply: *The NRA have indicated that they will make €100,000 available for surfacing the Castleblayney streets, however this does not include any funding for upgrading footpaths. Other sources of funding will need to be allocated for the footpath upgrading.*

(ii) Will Monaghan County Council look at the serious problem that exists when the students are being collected after school? The facilities are not sufficient and the students may be at risk of being hit by a passing car.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will liaise with the schools and bus companies servicing the schools to examine options to reduce the issues that arise in the area.*

Cllr. P. McNally asked:

5. Is it the intention of this Council, in conjunction with P & S Contractors, to properly surface Main Street, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *Permanent reinstatement of trenches on Main Street, Carrickmacross will be completed under the current pipelines contract. The contract is scheduled for substantial completion by the end of 2010. P & S Civil Works Ltd. will continue to maintain temporary reinstatement on Main Street as provided for in the contract.*

6. Has this Council initiated a process to re-examine our system for salt/gritting of our main and county roads with a view to extending the coverage of road problem areas, possibly in conjunction with business and farming organisations?

Reply: *It is proposed to discuss this and other winter maintenance matters at the next Roads Strategic Policy Committee Meeting.*

7. Has this Council made an application for funding for the final stage of the industrial link road which will connect same to Ballybay Road and thus the bypass itself?

Reply: *This project was not included in the grant allocations for 2010 notified to the Council by the Department of Transport.*

Cllr. P. McNally asked:

8. Has this Council received any response from Louth County Council re: village status for Killanny?

Reply: *Following a direction by the elected members of Monaghan County Council at the April 2009 Council meeting, the planning section wrote to Louth County Council asking them to consider designating Killanny a defined settlement during the making of their development plan. The Senior Planner from Monaghan spoke to the Senior Planner from Louth at that time, and advised him of the views of the elected members.*

The Louth County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 was adopted by the elected members of Louth County Council on the 16th of November 2009. Killanny was not designated a settlement in the plan.

9. Will this Council put in place a speed limit at Coolreagh Cottages in Killanny as it is a very dangerous location?

Reply: *This matter has been forwarded for inclusion on the agenda at the next speed limits committee meeting of the Council.*

Cllr. H. Humphreys asked:

10. What plans has Monaghan County Council to extend the Rockcorry public sewerage scheme to service dwellings located on the Cootehill Road?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council are currently examining the feasibility of extending the public sewer in Rockcorry out the Cootehill Road. A level survey is being carried out, the outcome of this proposal will depend upon, the depths involved, the level of interest of the residents along the proposed route in connecting up to the sewer and the costs involved.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

11. A section of footpath along the N2 located on the southern side of the Town of Monaghan Co-Op entrance does not have a dished kerb. Can this be rectified within a short time frame and can an assessment be undertaken by Council engineers throughout the county to ensure all civil works are compliant with Disability Act legislation?

Reply: *The Council will examine the installation of a dished kerb at this location.*

12. Heavy vehicle traffic accessing the Municipal Recycling Facility at Scotch Corner is a substantial contributing factor in the damaged condition of the crossroads junction located nearby. The caution/hazard strips are similarly in a

state of deterioration. When can safety related remedial works commence to address this dangerous situation?

Reply: *The Council will examine this location.*

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

13. The County Council Road Section's cost assessment of road damage caused by recent severe weather conditions is estimated at €9.06 million. Has there been any indication from the Department as to when additional funding will be made available that will see the commencement of much needed extensive road repairs throughout the county?

Reply: *Road grant allocations have now been notified to the Council by the NRA and the Department of Transport with regard to national and regional and local roads respectively.*

The NRA provided an additional specific allocation for weather related pavement rehabilitation to national roads - €125,000 for national primary and €75,000 for national secondary roads.

The Department of Transport has advised that the funding for the restoration programme is being refocused into the maintenance works on the network for 2010 to address the deterioration of the network due to severe weather.

Cllr G. Carville asked:

14. Has the Council evaluated what direct impact the recent decisions relating to the imposition of VAT by Local Authorities will have on the delivery of Council services to the people of County Monaghan and what are the likely implications of the decisions on Council finances in the short, medium and long terms?

Reply: *It is unlikely the introduction of VAT will have a significant impact as regards County Council services. At present it appears that the only major service that will be affected is the Council's Landfill. There should be no impact on the general public as all users of this facility should be registered for VAT and will be able to reclaim any VAT paid on landfill fees. These contractors already include VAT on their invoices to households and businesses and therefore there should be no increase in charges.*

The introduction of VAT is likely to have a slightly positive impact on the Council's finances as the Council may be entitled to reclaim VAT on any service that VAT is charged on. The full impact will be examined when the legislation is issued.

15. Has the Council completed the analysis of road safety needs in the village of Oram; when will the report be available and what actions can be taken in the short term?

Reply: *An analysis has not been completed to date. It can be discussed at the next road area meeting.*

Cllr G. Carville asked:

16. Will the Council provide public light at McKelvey's Grove Presbyterian Church, Drollagh, Castleblayney?

Reply: *The Council will seek a costing for the provision of lights in this area and will place on the list for prioritising at the next road area meeting.*

17. Has the Council made a submission to date to the Efficiency Review of Local Authorities, announced recently by the Government and will the elected members, representing communities directly affected by service cuts, be consulted?

Reply: *The making of a submission to the Efficiency Review of Local Authorities is a matter for the elected members. Submissions must be made before 8 March 2010.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

18. Further to the motion passed unanimously in May 2009 what steps have been taken to ensure that Monaghan County Council sets in place a policy in relation to timber procurement which would include a provision that Monaghan County Council will permit only legal and sustainable timber or FLEGT-licensed timber in works carried out by the local authority or on behalf of the local authority?

Reply: *Where Monaghan County Council seeks tenders for procurement of timber, tender documents will specify that only legal and sustainable timber or FLEGT-licensed timber will be considered.*

19. What is the up to date position regarding the Remedial Works Scheme for the Old Persons Dwellings, which are currently vacant, in Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *The Council has asked the Department to provide money to demolish the Older Persons Dwellings and rebuild 22 no. houses in their place. The provisional funding allocation from the Department for 2010 did not include any money for this project. The Council has appealed to the Department to reconsider and to provide enough money to commence work before the end of 2010. It is hoped that an answer will be forthcoming from the Department in March 2010.*

20. Will the Council agree to prepare an estimate of costs for the development of footpath and lighting at Lurgans, Carrickmacross?

Reply: *This will be forwarded to the area Roads Committee for discussion.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

21. Will the Council examine the safety situation at Roes Cross on the N2 Carrickmacross to Ardee Road with a view to carrying out improvement works?

Reply: *The Council will examine this location.*

22. Will the Council place road markings in the vicinity of the entrance to the Foxfield housing estate in Carrickmacross with a view to improving safety?

Reply: *The Council will examine this location.*

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

23. In relation to the recent talks which took place between management of Monaghan Co. Co. and the St Louis Nursing Home with a view to resolving the issues surrounding the proposed closure of the Nursing Home and the hope that the residents and staff could be kept together as a unit, what other locations were examined as a possible alternative Nursing Home site?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council is not involved in this matter.*

24. What is the likely timescale for the restoration of the Local and Regional roads following the damage caused during the recent spell of severe frost?

Reply: *This programme of restoration of these roads is to be discussed at the next road area meeting.*

25. In view of the fact that an initial assessment of the damage caused by the recent spell of frost indicated that it will require €9.06 Million to repair/restore the roads, are there any indications of additional funding from the Department of Transport or NRA?

Reply: *Grant allocations have now been notified to the Council by the NRA and the Department of Transport with regard to national and regional and local roads respectively.*

The NRA provided an additional specific allocation for weather related pavement rehabilitation to national roads - €125,000 for national primary and €75,000 for national secondary roads.

The Department of Transport has advised that the funding for the restoration programme is being refocused into the maintenance works on the network for 2010 to address the deterioration of the network due to severe weather.

26. Has Monaghan County Council any plans to request a meeting with the Office of Public Works to discuss the severe flooding that occurred in November 09 and the remedial measures that might be put in place to help prevent similar floods in future?

Reply: *A response has been received from the Office of Public Works and has been circulated with the March Agenda (Page 55).*

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

27. What plans does the Council have in place to alert customers of Public Water Schemes of interruptions due to pipe scouring?

Reply: *Routine or planned scouring is notified by means of a notice in the Northern Standard for three consecutive weeks, in advance of the scouring. Non-Routine or emergency scouring is notified by means of three radio notices on Northern Sound Radio, giving as much advance notice as possible.*

(a) Have we considered building a database of customers and using a general TEXT alert?

Reply: *It is not deemed practical to communicate with water customers by text as the details on file relate to Non-Domestic account holders who may or may not be the tenant. Details for Domestic users are not on file.*

(b) Does the Council have a Scouring Calendar, where customers are aware, roughly, when their supply will be interrupted for the purpose of scouring?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council carries out two routine scouring programmes on each public water network each year – in Feb/Mar and Sept/Oct.*

Non-routine or emergency scouring may be carried out at any time in response to water quality issues.

28. What stage are plans at to erect public lights on the Ballybay road, Newbliss?

Reply: *The provision of public lighting on the Ballybay Road, Newbliss is currently on a waiting list of 15 such schemes awaiting funding in the Clones Area.*

Does Monaghan County Council have any plans to erect public lights from Newbliss village to the site which contains the Newbliss Childcare Services, Killeevan National School and Killeevan Sarsfields GAA Club, to improve safety for children and parents walking to these facilities and provide a community walking route?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has recently received a quotation from the ESB for the installation of public lighting on the Guard Hill Road from Newbliss Village to Killeevan Sarsfield GAA grounds and has added it to the list of public lighting schemes awaiting funding in the Clones area, which currently stands at 15.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

29. Can the Council give details regarding the awarding of contracts by the Council over the past 5 years with regard to (a) The number of contracts awarded to companies in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; and (b) the size of contracts awarded?

Reply:

Water Services:

No of contracts to companies in R.O.I. from 2005 to now:

20 No contracts totalling €3.5m (Contract value individually ranging from €10,000 to €700,000)

No of contracts to companies in N.I. from 2005 to now:

13 No contracts totalling €5.3m (Contract value individually ranging from €10,000 to €2.4m)

Roads:

The response in relation to Roads contracts will follow.

Housing:

Housing Contracts Awarded 2004 - 2009

Year	Number of contracts awarded Rep of Ireland	Amount RoI	Number of contracts awarded Nth Ireland	Amount N.I.	Total €
2004	3	2,407,165.00	3	14,417,298.00	16,824,463.00
2005	3	1,416,567.00	2	5,842,233.00	7,258,800.00
2006	5	2,043,472.00	1	4,154,974.00	6,198,446.00
2007	5	718,908.00	0	-	718,908.00
2008	4	95,162.44	5	227,475.60	322,638.04
2009	6	69,888.46	2	51,102.24	120,990.70

30. As a significant amount of research states that if children see their parents, grandparents, older peers or carers smoke they are more likely to experiment with smoking themselves would the Council consider the promotion of smoke free environments by installing "Smoke Free" signage for Council owned playgrounds where children play to reduce the exposure of children to second hand smoke and the related ill health caused by this exposure?

Reply: *Monaghan County has no plans to erect such signage on Council playgrounds.*

31. Could the Council organise a forum involving the Environment Section of the Council, the Monaghan Tidy Towns Network and any other appropriate local body such as the Community Forum to work to find solutions to the ever growing problem of litter scattered along the roads of our county?

Reply: *A forum already exists whereby the Local Authorities work in partnership with local communities and support them financially through the distribution of grants from Department of Environment and the LA's own resources, with the view to creating a cleaner sustainable environment in Monaghan.*

Cllr. S. Coyle asked:

32. Following the recent flooding, during which the Ballybay – Cootehill Road (R190-2 – R190-1) was closed for a lengthy period, causing great hardship to local residences as they were unable to access/exit their properties, etc., what plans has Monaghan County Council to address the causes of the flooding problem on this road?

Reply: *The Council has made a recent application to the OPW for funding to carry out an assessment of this location.*

33. Has Monaghan County Council received any reply/correspondence from Cavan County Council, Cootehill Town Council or Ballybay Town Council following the members' decision to invite these bodies to discuss/plan the development of the Dromore Water System?

Reply: *Ballybay Town Council has nominated three members to sit on this sub-committee. Cootehill Town Council responded that the Dromore River System is beyond the control of the Council because of the jurisdiction of boundaries. A subsequent letter issued to the Cathaoirleach of Cootehill Town Council asking them to re-consider their decision. No response has been received to date. Cavan County Council indicated that the Councillors welcomed the proposal and indicated a willingness to participate but have not as yet nominated members to the committee.*

34. Has Monaghan County Council received any report/recommendation from the consultants appointed to review the route for the East-West Link Route, following the members meeting with the consultants to advance Monaghan County Council's preferred route through Castleblayney – Ballybay – Clones?

Reply: *It is expected that the consultants will finalise their review of the findings of the 2001 report in the next six to eight weeks.*

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

35. What plans has Monaghan County Council to repair the bridge at Essexford on the (R178) Carrickmacross – Dundalk Road? What plans, if any, have the Council to upgrade the many bridges that have fallen into a dangerous state in the South Monaghan area? Has the Council access to any special funding for the repair of bridges?

Reply: *There is currently no special funding for these works. Bridge repairs are funded from the same budget as other road repair funds.*

36. In relation to my request to have a pedestrian crossing put in place adjacent to Highfield Estate in Carrickmacross, has any progress been made on the matter in the interests of road safety?

Reply: *Funding has been confirmed for this project in 2010.*

37. When can the people of the Carrickmacross and South Monaghan area expect the opening of the new recycling centre? Will the Council outline the range of goods that can be recycled when the plant is operational?

Reply: *Works are proceeding well on site to date, and all is on schedule to open in June 2010.*

We are tendering the running of the site in late February and following this procedure I will know who is operating the site.

The materials acceptable include – Waste Oils, Used Batteries, Newsprint/Magazines, Cardboard, Glass, Food & Drink Cans, Plastics, Textiles, Fluorescent Tubes, White Goods (Fridges, Washing Machines), Electronic goods (TVs, radios), Waste tyres, Timber, construction & demolition Waste (Small scale DIY only) and Green Waste.

17. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

The Council agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Ms. Cecilia McKenna, Chilean Ambassador on the many lives lost as a result of the recent earthquake in Chile.
- Ms. Bernadette Calvert, Council employee, on the death of her father John ‘Bosco’ Carroll, RIP, late of Glen, Rockcorry
- Cllr Paudge Connolly on the death of his uncle, Felix McMeel, RIP late of Killanny, Carrickroe.
- Cllr Seamus Treanor, on the death of his sister in law, Mary Treanor RIP late of Devin Reilly Terrace, Monaghan.

The Council agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Pdraig McKenna St. Mellan’s Handball Club on winning the Ulster Minor Handball title 2010

- Darren Doherty, St. Macartan's College on winning the All Ireland Junior Colleges title 2010
- Tommy Bowe and the Irish Rugby team on their winning performance over England in the Six Nations Cup last weekend.

18. Conferences:

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
Ratoo Heritage Society	Environmental Recognition Conference	Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	4 th -7 th March, 2010	Aidan Murray P. J. O'Hanlon John O'Brien
Bray & District Chamber of Commerce	Our Towns: A 20:20 Vision	Mermaid – Co. Wicklow Arts Centre, Bray	5 th -6 th March, 2010	P. McNally
Clonakilty Chamber of Tourism	Driving Local Sustainable Tourism in a stagnant Global Economy	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	12 th – 14 th March, 2010	David Maxwell Owen Bannigan Aidan Murray Heather Humphreys Robbie Gallagher John O'Brien Matt Carthy Paudge Connolly
Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre	Developing Arts & Cultural Initiatives Through Town Twinning	Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry	25 th -26 th March, 2010	David Maxwell Hugh McElvaney Gary Carville Heather Humphreys Padraig McNally Seamus Coyle Paudge Connolly
LAMA	Conference – Councillors Role in Changing Climate	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo	9 th /10 th April, 2010	Hugh McElvaney Gary Carville Owen Bannigan Heather Humphreys Robbie Gallagher P. J. O'Hanlon Sean Conlon
BMW Regional Assembly	Annual Conference –Promoting Growth & Jobs in Ireland's Regions	Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan	16 th April, 2010	Owen Bannigan Robbie Gallagher Padraig McNally Noel Keelan

Urgent Business:

The Mayor stated that she had received a notice of urgent business in the names of the Sinn Fein Members, as follows:

“ That this Council calls on the HSE to reverse the proposed closure of the 12 bed Admissions Unit and the Day Centre at St. Davnet’s Psychiatric Hospital in Monaghan.

We also call on the Minister of State for Mental Health John Moloney T.D. to intervene with the HSE to prevent these proposed closures. ”

In moving the motion Cllr B. McKenna stated that this was a retrograde step for the people of the county. It is widely recognised that St. Davnet’s Hospital operated one of the best and most modern systems of dealing with mental illness. It is now proposed that the hospital’s excellent admissions unit be closed and moved to Cavan which is a smaller unit and with less opportunities for people to be admitted there. He believed that the Minister for Health and the HSE are intent on decimating health services in Co. Monaghan.

Cllrs Connolly, Connolly, McElvaney, Humphreys and Gallagher also spoke to the motion and concurred with the sentiments expressed by Cllr B. McKenna.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister of State for Mental Health John Moloney T.D seeking a meeting to discuss the proposed closure of the 12 bed Admissions Unit and the Day Centre at St. Davnet’s Psychiatric Hospital in Monaghan.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____