

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 4th March, 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Mayor.

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

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager, Mr. A. King, Director of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Hughes Senior Planner, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. N. Woods, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. M. Walker, Social Worker, Ms. B. Bradley, CEDO and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset, the Mayor proposed a vote of congratulations to Truagh Gaels GFC on winning the All Ireland Intermediate Club Football final. He proposed that a Civic Reception be held in honour of the winning team. Cllr Connolly seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

It was agreed that the Civic Reception would be held on Friday 28th March, 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Notices of Urgent Business:

The Mayor advised the members that he had received five notices of urgent business as follows:

1. Notice in the names of Cllrs Murray, Bannigan, McPhillips, Maxwell and McElvaney in relation to the serious state of the current beef trade.
2. Notice in the names of Cllrs Bannigan, McPhillips, Maxwell, McElvaney and Murray in relation to the licensing of firearms.
3. Notice in the names of Cllrs Gallagher, McNally and O'Brien in relation to the Gateway Activation Scheme.
4. Notice in the names of Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna and P. Treanor in relation to the Gateway Activation Scheme.

It was agreed that the foregoing notices of urgent business would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

5. Notice in the names of Cllrs Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, McNally, O'Brien and O'Hanlon in relation to the campaign by the Irish Postmasters Union for the continued sustainability of the post office network.

Cllrs Connolly and Carthy referred to Notices of Motion already on the agenda in relation to this matter. The Mayor stated that he would put the proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for taking the proposal to discuss urgent business relating

to the post office network. The Mayor declared the motion defeated as, in accordance with Standing Order 14.2, one half of the total membership must have voted in favour of discussing urgent business.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd February, 2014, be approved.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the Farm Assist Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in relation to the Council's request for a meeting.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the Audiology Assessment waiting list.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to generic prescription medicines.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the National Epilepsy Care Programme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the Farm Assist Scheme.
- Letter from the Monaghan Association Beds and Herts.
- Letter from the Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals thanking the Council for its contribution of €5,000.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council calling for the disbandment of Irish Water and to revert back to the status quo of the service being delivered by local authorities.
- Resolution from Edenderry Town Council calling on the Government to overturn the decision to impose a Student Service Charge on apprentices undergoing the education module of training in the Institutes of Technologies.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Email from Fort Augustus Irish Descendants Association inviting members of the Council to attend the 24th Annual Irish Settlers Day Celebrations in Fort Augustus, Prince Edward Island from 21st to 26th May, 2014.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding the Council's resolution relating to Budget 2014.
- Letter from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade acknowledging the Council's submission to the Review of Foreign Policy and External Relations.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the introduction of standardised packaging of tobacco products.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

It was agreed to refer the letter from the Monaghan Association Beds and Herts (Luton) to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council acknowledge the great work being done by the Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and to appeal to the general public to be vigilant for any form of cruelty to animals. Also, that the Council would invite members of the MSPCA to a future meeting to outline their work in this area.

Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that the Council support the motion from Donegal County Council calling for the disbandment of Irish Water and to revert back to the status quo of the service being delivered by local authorities.

A vote by show of hands on the motion resulted in 12 for, 5 against. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council support the motion from Edenderry Town Council calling on the Government to overturn the decision to impose a Student Service Charge on apprentices undergoing the education module of training in the Institutes of Technologies.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that the Council acknowledge and accept the invitation from the Fort Augustus Irish Descendants and nominate Cllr Carville and Cllr O'Brien to represent the Council at the annual celebrations from 21st to 26th May, 2014.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of Social Protection requesting them to deal with the long delays in making decisions relating to the Farm Assist Scheme.

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

The Members considered the report which had been circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the development of a bison treatment unit and raised soil polishing filter to treat foul effluent at Nafarty, Carrickmacross to comply with report dated 21st February, 2014 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

4. To receive Annual Financial Statement 2012 and Auditor's Report:

The members considered the Annual Financial Statement 2012 (AFS) and Auditor's Report which had been circulated.

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager and Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance responded to a number of queries in relation to both the Auditor's Report and the AFS.

Cllr O'Hanlon referred to the practice of pursuing companies that had closed or gone out of business through the courts for arrears of rates. He accepted that the Council was entitled to pursue those that didn't pay their rates but he was making a case for a person that went out of business through no fault of their own.

Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded that in relation to people who go out of business or close and where rates are owed to the Council, that these rates are written off. If the person or persons come back into business then the rates bill is reinstated, rather than bringing these people through the courts.

The motion, if adopted, to be circulated to all local authorities

A number of members spoke to the motion.

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager said there were legal issues and complications attached to implementing such a motion. He assured the members that businesses experiencing financial difficulties would be treated with sympathy and flexibility if they were willing to enter into discussions with the Council regarding payment plans. However, the Council will pursue those businesses that are able to meet their rates obligations and are not making any effort to pay.

The Mayor put Cllr O'Hanlon's motion to the meeting. A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally, O'Brien, O'Hanlon and S. Treanor. **Total 6**

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Maxwell, McPhillips and Murray **Total 4**

Abstentions: Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna and P. Treanor. **Total 8**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

5. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17th February, 2014.

The Members considered the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17th February, 2014.

Ms. B. Bradley, CEDO outlined details of the revised Community & Environment Grants Scheme 2014 which is the amalgamation of the three funding schemes previously available separately through Monaghan County Council. In the past, three separate schemes were delivered individually from the Community & Enterprise, Environment & Housing departments. To simplify the application process for local communities and to maximise the use of staff resources, one funding scheme will be delivered in 2014, allocating the same budget as previous years but all three schemes will run collectively. Groups are welcome to make an application under each of the three strands of funding. The closing date for receipt of completed applications will be Monday 31st March, 2014.

Ms. Bradley also highlighted details of funding being recommended for approval under the Council's Disability Fund

| Project | Location | Budget approved |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Sensory garden and accessible seating area | Cara street Clones | €5,000 |
| Disabled parking awareness raising programme | Monaghan town | €2,000 |
| Accessible tenants handbook (rewritten handbook in accessible format) | Countywide | €2,000 (contribution) |
| Improve accessibility to Carrickmacross community allotment | Carrickmacross | €5,000 |
| Installation of accessible seating on main street | Castleblayney | €4,000 (*budget allocated from Cblayney TC) |
| Total Budget for approval at CPG | | €14,000 |

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the Council approve the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 17th February, 2014 and the recommendations contained therein.

6. To receive Presentation on the Regional Strategic Framework by Mr. Shane Campbell, CEO, ICBAN.

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Shane Campbell, CEO, Irish Central Border Areas Network (ICBAN) to the meeting and invited him to address the Council.

Mr. Campbell outlined the role ICBAN had played since its establishment in drawing down EU funding and its lobbying role both with the EU and with Government Ministers in both jurisdictions. He emphasized the importance of developing transport links such as the A5/N2 and of bringing about improvements in the telecommunications network and broadband facilities. He stated that it was important to have a regional approach on a number of issues and that was what the new Regional Strategic Framework encompassed. Having obtained an agreed position among the eleven constituent members of ICBAN there is now an opportunity to advance projects and further avail of EU funding opportunities. The strategy would be presented in Stormont and Leinster House in the coming weeks.

7. Briefing on the Local Government Reform Act, 2014:

Consideration of this item was deferred to the adjourned meeting.

8. To adopt the Local Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 - 2018.

Cllr D. Maxwell, Chair of the Local Traveller Accommodation (Consultative) Committee briefly outlined the main provisions of the Local Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018.

Ms. M. Walker, Social Worker responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Local Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018.

9. Diospoireacht as Gaeilge – Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 - Scéim Teanga

Tharla díospóireacht as Gaeilge sa Chomhairle maidir leis an Scéim Teanga. Dúirt An Comh. Pat Treanor go raibh sé ríthábhachtach an Ghaeilge a caomhnú is a cur chun cinn. Luaigh sé an litir a tháinig ón Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta ag iarraidh go n-ullmhófaí an dara dréachtscéim teanga de réir Cuid 15 den Acht agus mhol sé go ngníomhódh an Chomhairle chun an méid sin a chur i gcrích.

Chabhraigh An Comh. McPhillips leis an rún a bhí molta ag An gComh. Treanor agus aontaíodh go ngníomhódh an Chomhairle chun Dréachtscéim Teanga a ullmhú, agus ghlac an Chomhairle leis.

Luaigh An Comh. Treanor nach bhfuil aon Oifigeach Gaeilge sa Chomhairle faoi láthair. Mhol sé go lorgódh an Chomhairle cead ón Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtais Áitiúil a leithéid de dhuine a earcú, é sin nó go smaoinfeadh ar Oifigeach Gaeilge a roinnt le Comhairlí. Chabhraigh An Comh McPhillips leis an rún agus ghlac an Chomhairle leis.

The Councillors had a debate in Irish in relation to the Scéim Teanga. Councillor Pat Treanor stated that it was important to preserve and promote the Irish language. He referred to the letter from the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht requesting the preparation of a draft second language scheme in accordance with Section 15 of the Act and recommended that the Council proceed to prepare a draft scheme.

Cllr Treanor proposed that a new Draft Language Scheme be prepared. Cllr McPhillips seconded the proposal and it was agreed by the Council.

Cllr Treanor referred to the fact that the Council does not have an 'Oifigeach Gaeilge' at present. He proposed that the County Manager would make a case to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government seeking sanction to recruit such a person or, alternatively that he would pursue the sharing of an 'Oifigeach Gaeilge' with another Council. Cllr McPhillips seconded the proposal which was agreed by the Council.

10. To nominate six members of Monaghan County Council to the Lough Muckno Development Committee.

It was agreed that the following six members be nominated to represent the Council on the Muckno Development Committee –

Cllrs A. Murray, O. Bannigan, B. McKenna, J. Crowe, J. O'Brien and P. McNally.

Cllr P. Connolly expressed his disappointment that the non-party members were excluded from representation on the committee. He proposed that the number of Council members on the committee be extended to seven.

The Meetings Administrator referred to the Memorandum of Understanding, which had already been approved by the Council, provided for the nomination six elected members to the Muckno Development Committee. Mr. A. King, Director advised that following the local elections in 2014, the membership of all existing committees would be up for renewal.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Muckno Development Committee would be held on Wednesday 12th March at 10.00 am at a Castleblayney venue.

17. To receive Presentation from Professor Gerry Boyle, Director, Teagasc:

The Mayor welcomed Professor Gerry Boyle, Director, and Mr. Con Feighery, Regional Manager, Teagasc and thanked them for accepting the Council's invitation.

Professor Boyle thanked the Council for the opportunity to address it and stated that Teagasc, in common with many State agencies had seen a significant reduction in its resources and had to adapt to a changed employment landscape. Its mission was to support science based innovation in farms and food companies. Teagasc's focus was on profitability and competitiveness but there was an increasing focus on sustainability and on supporting diversification in the rural community. They work with approx. 40,000 fee paying clients nationally. Teagasc has had an increasing involvement in discussion groups which has been a great success story in recent years – farmers learn from each other far more effectively than from advisors.

With regard to the staffing situation he stated that staff numbers had plummeted in recent years due to retirements and the moratorium on public service recruitment. This was in contrast to the phenomenal increase in enrolments at agricultural colleges. The staff student ratio is currently 20:1 and as far as possible resources have been re-deployed to cope with the demand.

Professor Boyle stated that with effect from April 2014, Co. Monaghan would have an additional adviser and he credited recent representations from the Council to the Minister for Agriculture as having some influence on the newly sanctioned position.

Following his presentation, Professor Boyle and Mr. Feighery responded to queries and comments from the members.

The Mayor thanked both officials for their attendance, for the informative presentation and for their engagement with the elected members and he wished them success in the future.

18. Questions:

Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon asked:

1. In relation to the road maintenance/improvement works on roads in County Monaghan in the year 2013

(a) What is the total amount of money paid to contractors engaged on these works?

Reply: €11,263,975 (includes €5,879,676 paid to the Contractors for the N2 Phase 2 & 4 Contract)

(b) What is the breakdown between Republic of Ireland contractors and Northern Ireland contractors?

Reply: Payments to Contractors based in the Republic of Ireland amounts to €4,040,702. Payments to Contractors based in Northern Ireland amounts to €7,223,273

Cllr P. McNally asked:

2. (a) Has Monaghan County Council any input into the water levels of Lough Muckno as its present levels are causing severe flooding of farmland and, in some instances, frequently leaving many roads impassable, in particular during the winter months.

Reply: Monaghan County Council has no input with regards to water levels of Lough Muckno. Louth County Council has an Abstraction Order to take water from the River Fane system to supply water to Dundalk Town and other parts of County Louth. As part of the Abstraction Order a control gate was fitted on the outlet from Lough Muckno. The River Fane Scheme is a Low Flow Augmentation Scheme which depended on the development of Lough Muckno as a Storage Reservoir in order to supply the water demand of Dundalk. The Louth County Council intake is at Stephenstown, County Louth some 20 km downstream of Lough Muckno.

(b) If this Council is not consulted re the above can we seek an urgent meeting with the relevant Authorities to discuss same?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will refer the concerns over flooding, due to high water levels in Lough Muckno, to Irish Water.

3. (a) Has this Council an application for a private sewerage scheme from dwellings in and around Lough Muckno as the residents fear their septic tanks will not pass any inspections.

Reply: Monaghan County Council has made an application to the DECLG, in 2014, for funding for a private group sewerage scheme of 14 houses on the Dundalk Road, Castleblayney.

(b) Has this Council received any budget for private sewerage schemes to assist the above.

Reply: To date no funding has been received for this scheme.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

4. (a) Does this Council feel there is a need to continue with our local needs policies for rural Planning in County Monaghan?

Reply: The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Guidelines for Planning Authorities, *Sustainable Rural Housing (April 2005)*, requires Planning Authorities to manage development pressure from urban areas, in the rural areas closest to towns.

In order to achieve this, the Guidelines require Planning Authorities to identify rural areas under strong urban influence, and to apply appropriate policies to protect these areas, while also promoting the development and consolidation of the adjoining developments.

The 'local needs' policies contained within the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 – 2019 are consistent with the Departmental Guidelines.

(b) Has this Council received any indication from the Department that they may allow a relaxation of the above in light of the lack of development now taking place in rural Ireland.

Reply: The Planning Authority is unaware of any intention of the Department to amend its policy relating to the management of rural housing.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

5. In view of the fact that a €20m fund has been made available under MARP (Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process) by the Dept of Environment to address the issue of Local Authority Mortgages that are deemed unsustainable. How many of the Council's mortgage holders have made application under this scheme?

Reply: At present no County Council mortgage holders have made an application under this scheme.

6. How many septic tank inspections have Monaghan County Council carried out since the introduction of the new Septic Tank Regulations? What is the percentage pass rates of the inspected tanks?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has inspected 12 domestic septic tanks since July 2013. The percentage pass rate to date is 42%.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

7. (a) How many of Monaghan County Council's Local Authority Mortgages are in arrears
- over 12 mths? **34**
 - over 6 mths ? **36**
 - over 3 mths ? **21**

(b) How many Local Authority Mortgages do Monaghan County Council have on their books?

Reply: 259

(c) How many mortgage holders are engaging with the Arrears Support Unit at Monaghan County Council?

Reply: 85 Mortgage holders engage with the Council regarding their arrears.

8. In view of the fact that the Low Cost Safety Initiative scheme programme has been fully allocated for 2014

(a) What projects has this funding been allocated to?

Reply: Funding for 11 projects has been granted for 2014 with a total allocation of €185,000. The schemes in each electoral area are as follows: 2 no. in North Monaghan, 3 no. in Carrickmacross, 3 no. in Castleblayney and 3 no. in Clones area.

(b) What level of funding is available under this scheme and how does this year's funding compare with other years?

Reply: Allocations under this scheme for the last six years were as follows: 2009- €200,500; 2010 - €201,000; 2011 - €155,000; 2012 - €190,000; 2013 - €180,000; 2014 - €185,000

(c) What projects are listed for future funding under this scheme?

Reply: Projects for funding each year are compiled in response to a request for schemes for funding by circular from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport.

9. In relation to the proposal which was adopted by members of Monaghan County Council at their meeting on 5th Nov '12 "That a survey be taken by Monaghan County Council in relation to roads, of by-roads coming out onto other roads, that there are no issues with distance in relation to ditches, telegraph poles and ESB poles and overgrown hedges"

(a) What was the outcome of this survey?

(b) What costs are involved to take remedial action?

Reply (a&b): This matter was included on the Agenda of the road area meeting of each electoral area for discussion and for each area to consider the appropriate method of proposing schemes for annual safety funding having regard to the resources available to the Council.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

10. In the interest of community enhancement, can Monaghan County Council outline the steps required to hold a St. Patrick's Day Parade in a village. In addition to this can you also provide any sources of funding for the above event?

Reply: Where it is proposed to close the public road, the organisers of a parade must apply at least a month in advance of the proposed road closure to Monaghan County Council Roads Department. The Planning and Economic Development section has drawn up notes for Community Groups/interested parties in relation to the organization of St. Patrick's Day Parades. These guideline will also apply to the organization of other Festivals. There is no specific fund for St. Patrick's Day events, however community groups may apply for funding under the Community Grants Scheme 2014 for specific events/projects.

11. Can Monaghan County Council please address the extensive potholes at Drummons, Scotstown as a matter of urgency as a serious accident is unavoidable at present.

Reply: Monaghan County Council will carry out maintenance repair works on this section of road in the next week.

12. Can Monaghan County Council examine the feasibility of installing adequate drainage on Derrylea Hill, Scotstown as a hazardous condition occurs during heavy rainfall?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has previously installed road drainage on Derrylea Hill, a number of private entrances have been identified that have inadequate drainage which is allowing water to flow onto the public road. The property owners concerned will be contacted by the Council requesting them to install adequate drainage at their entrances to prevent water flowing on to the public road.

13. Can Monaghan County Council consider the possibility of making a donation to Tydavnet Community Alert Text Scheme? This community initiative has been in operation in the Tydavnet, Scotstown, Knockatallon and Ballinode area for 9 months growing constantly in numbers. They would like to erect signs in the area and any donation would be appreciated towards this expense.

Reply: Muintir na Tire co-ordinate the Community Alert Scheme throughout the country and provide support and assistance to local groups through their Regional Development Offices. For detailed information on supports available see www.muintir.ie. Community groups may apply for funding under the Community Grants Scheme 2014 for specific events/projects.

14. In relation to the February roads area meeting where it was decided to prioritise resurfacing to St. Dymphna's Terrace, Scotstown. Can Monaghan County Council give an estimation of when the funding will be available and when works may be carried out?

Reply: There is currently no funding available for these works. As discussed at the meeting if additional funding was to become available a road area meeting would be held to agree the allocation of that funding.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

15. Will the Council provide an up-to-date report on developments regarding the proposed Group Home for women with physical & sensory disabilities planned for Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross including an estimated timeframe for commencement and completion of the project?

Reply: Respond! Housing Association are responsible for the design and procurement of the project. Once the project is completed, Respond! will undertake the operation and maintenance of the facility.

Subsequent to the submission of the tender evaluation report, which had been prepared by Respond!, to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Department requested that a Value for Money study be undertaken on the project.

The request for a Value for Money study was made due to the fact that the overall grant assistance being sought by Respond! was €1,378,125 while the approved Departmental budget was €900,000.

The Value for Money study was prepared by Respond! and submitted by the Council to the Department for their review.

Respond! had previously confirmed to Monaghan County Council that the project would be completed within the Departmental approved budget of €900,000. The Department had previously clearly stipulated that in the event of the costs of the project exceeding €900,000, it would be a matter for Respond! to make up the budgetary shortfall.

At the request of Monaghan County Council, the Departments technical advisors met with the Council and Respond! on 20th February 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to seek the agreement of the Department to increase the projects Departmental approved budget of €900,000.

During the meeting, the Department officials stated categorically that the project was supported by them but due to the tendered costs exceeding the available budget, they would be unable to approve the scheme in its current form.

The Council has been advised that the budget cannot be increased so Respond! must reduce the scope and size of the project and/or provide additional accommodation units to justify costs.

Monaghan County Council has requested Respond! to review the current design and to seek to make further savings to ensure that the project is delivered within the Departments approved budget.

Respond! have indicated that they intend to submit revised proposals for the scheme by mid March 2014.

Subject to the revised proposals complying with the requirements of the HSE, the schemes budgetary restrictions and the requirement to seek planning permission/retender the project, construction will now not commence until Q1 2015.

16. When will work commence at Cloughvalley Playpark to improve the conditions and install new equipment. What new features will improvement works include; and will the Council allow the members of the public to make suggestions and/or recommendations regarding the works to be carried out?

Reply: The Council are currently applying for Part 8 planning permission for the project, it is hoped to complete works by Q3 of 2014

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

17. What is the status of vacant industrial sites on the Convent Lands, Carrickmacross? Has the Council been in contact with the owners to encourage development of these sites?

Reply: The sites in question are privately owned, having been purchased outright at market value from Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council offers planning advice to property owners when requested.

18. How many Council houses are currently vacant? Does the Council have an indication from Housing Associations such as 'Respond!' as to how many vacant people under their ownership are in Co. Monaghan? Is so, what is the figure? What is the current average turn-around for re-allocating vacant dwellings to families on the councils housing waiting list?

Reply: The County Council currently has 14 vacant properties. We do not have an indication from Housing Associations as to how many vacant properties under their ownership are in County Monaghan. The average length of turn around of Council rented properties from the date of a household vacating a property to the next payment of rent on that property is 20.26 weeks

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

19. Can the Council please provide the total allocations received from 2009-2014 towards our Regional and County roads?

Reply:

| Year | Local Roads | Regional Roads | Totals | Comments |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2009 | €6,855,591 | €6,956,232 | €13,811,823 | 13,811,823 is amended Allocation by Dept April 2009 reduced by 4,573,000 |
| 2010 | €6,995,258 | €7,498,737 | €14,493,995 | |
| 2011 | €6,924,452 | €6,513,821 | €13,438,273 | Includes Additional Funding 2,210,608 |
| 2012 | €5,441,375 | €4,794,233 | €10,235,608 | |
| 2013 | €5,709,290 | €5,335,201 | €11,044,491 | Includes Additional Funding 1,435,717 |
| 2014 | €3,991,436 | €3,937,960 | €7,929,396 | |
| Totals | €35,917,402 | €35,036,184 | €70,953,586 | |

20. Can the Council provide details of the numbers waiting for housing in each electoral area under the different categories i.e. two bedroomed, three bedroomed or O.P.D. etc; how does this compare to the figures at the end of 2008?

Reply: The current waiting list figures (Feb 2014) are outlined below

| Electoral Area | 1 bed | 2 bed | 3 bed | 4 bed | 5 bed | Total |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Castleblayney | 106 | 90 | 31 | 7 | | 234 |
| Carrickmacross | 98 | 87 | 45 | 4 | | 234 |
| Clones | 53 | 24 | 17 | 5 | | 99 |
| Monaghan | 184 | 167 | 77 | 16 | 1 | 444 |
| | | | | | | 1011 |

It is not possible to provide direct comparative data in respect of 2008 due to a change in the methodology in the collation of the figures. The following figures, outlining the Council's waiting list as recorded in the Council minutes of October 2008, offers a comparative figure as requested.

| Electoral Area | 1 bed | 2 bed | 3 bed | 4 bed | 5 bed | 2 bed OPD | Persons with Disabilities | Total |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
| Monaghan County Council Area | 46 | 58 | 23 | 10 | 1 | 46 | 0 | 184 |
| Carrickmacross Town | 30 | 73 | 36 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 24 | 177 |
| Castleblayney Town | 29 | 48 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 117 |
| Clones Town | 24 | 21 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 74 |
| Monaghan Town | 78 | 59 | 59 | 9 | 0 | 23 | 33 | 261 |
| | | | | | | | | 813 |

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

21. What is the update on the request to reduce the height of ramps, resurfacing and provision of parking spaces for residents in the Upper Bree Road in Castleblayney?

Reply: It is proposed that the Council will carry out works to the existing ramps in 2014. The resurfacing of the road maybe considered, subject to additional funding being available over and above the existing road allocation. The provision of car parking will be considered in conjunction with the proposed access from the industrial estate on to the N2 Castleblayney Bypass, as the location of parking cannot be provided if it compromises existing site lines from the industrial estate.

22. Are there any plans in place to finish the building of further houses in Sruth An Uir estate in Oram?

Reply: The Council purchased 15 dwellings under part V (4 apartments, 10 x 3bed houses and 1 x 4-bed house) and the Authority have no plans to purchase or build any further houses in Oram.

In respect of the unfinished nature of the development the original permission for the development has expired so there would be no further house building without a further grant of permission.

Monaghan County Council has claimed the insurance bond attached to the development with a view to completing some of the public works outstanding. This process of claiming the bond may take some time.

In addition to this the planning section are currently making an application for funding for the completion of the development in accordance with the Special Resolution Fund which is being administered by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. The deadline for this submission is Friday 28th of February.

23. Is the Site Resolution Plan for Coill Darach Housing estate in Castleblayney in place and if so when will the estate be taken in charge by Monaghan County Council?

***Reply:* While extensive discussions have taken place between the Planning Authority, the developer, local residents and elected representatives, the Site Resolution Plan has not yet been formally agreed, as a result of an outstanding issue relating to the provision of play facilities. It is anticipated that proposals in respect of this matter will be submitted to the Planning Authority by the developer in the immediate future. The Planning Authority has not yet received an application to take this development in charge.**

24. Will there be outdoor staff based in Castleblayney following the local election and closure of the Town Councils?

***Reply:* The Council are considering the allocation of outdoor staff following the revision of the electoral area boundaries and are in the process of engaging with the outdoor staff.**

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

25. Has the Department of Transport given any explanation as to why funding has not been forthcoming under the 'low cost safety scheme' for the provision of much needed traffic calming measures for Inniskeen village; what action will Monaghan County Council take to ensure that traffic calming measures are put in place in the village in the interest of road safety?

***Reply:* The Council will re-apply under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for 2015.**

26. Will Monaghan County Council prepare plans and costings for the provision of footpath links in Inniskeen village, extending from the Patrick Kavanagh Centre to McNello's and across the river Fane and out to Magee's pub, with a view to carrying out these necessary works over a phased period, in the interest of pedestrian safety?

***Reply:* This matter will be put on the agenda for the next area roads meeting for discussion.**

27. In relation to Lisdoonan village, will Monaghan County Council apply to the Department of Transport under the Low Cost Safety Scheme for the provision of traffic calming measures to be put in place, in particular, adjacent to the school and also when is it hoped to have the signs and Road Markings repainted in the village?

***Reply:* The Council will look to replace and upgrade the road markings at the junction to improve road safety.**

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

28. Will Monaghan County Council consider putting in place a bicycle stand adjacent to St. Michael's National School in Donaghmoynne village?

Reply: The Council currently have no funding available for such projects.

29. In supporting the great work of the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen, when is it hoped to commence works on the Kavanagh Trail (Bus Pull in Areas), as discussed at our recent Road Area meeting?

Reply: At the recent area road meeting it was agreed to provide a small amount of funding from the road maintenance budget towards installing bus pull-in bays at a number of locations. The Council will work with the Kavanagh Centre to locate these and undertake the work.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

30. Regarding the recent allocation of €10,000 towards Road Safety Improvement Works on the R188 Cootehill Rd. at Drumbear Wood, what specific measures are to be implemented that will encourage a reduction in speed from traffic approaching both this junction and The Corran?

Reply: The proposal needs to be further developed for construction but it is envisaged that the measures will include the erection of junction warning signs and additional road markings.

31. Have Roads Section ordered a replacement tourism related sign at 'Fedarras' Tyholland indicating County Monaghan's municipal twinning links with New Brunswick?

Reply: These signs are currently being ordered.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

32. (a) Will Monaghan County Council place on their public lighting scheme waiting list, a public lighting scheme for Derrygooney Community Centre, Derrygooney
(b) Have design, drawings, pricing etc., completed as the Centre is extensively used in the evenings, by senior citizens etc., with access dangerous particularly on dark winter evenings?

Reply (a&b): Monaghan County Council will obtain a design and cost from a public light supplier and add it to the public lighting waiting list for the Clones Area.

33. What plans have Monaghan County Council to carry out road safety improvements on the dangerous bends on the R188, Rockcorry-Cootehill Road, particularly in the area of Abbott Ireland, as there have been many serious traffic accidents in the area, and is a very intense H.G.V./pedestrianised/vehicular entrenched area?

Reply: Monaghan County Council are currently investigating a number of low cost remedial measures for the bends on the R188 Rockcorry-Cootehill at Abbott Ireland to determine their cost and possible sources of funding.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

34. Have Monaghan County Council had any confirmation of job creation figures or potential jobs for the County from ConnectIreland.com from the request of these, having being one of the first local authorities to receive the government job creator?

Reply: Connect Ireland has confirmed that 20 people from Co. Monaghan have registered under the scheme. To date 14 new companies have set up in locations around Ireland, including Dublin, Cork (Mallow and Ringaskiddy Co. Cork), Co. Galway, Carlow, Longford, Kells Co. Meath, and Portarlington Co. Laois

35. What plans have Monaghan County Council for road safety improvements, at the very dangerous junction of the (R183-LP03200), Ballybay-Castleblayney Rd. to the Ballintra Church –Drumhowan Rd., as this is a very heavily used junction for all types of traffic and is particularly dangerous for traffic, turning right into the Ballintra Rd. coming from Ballybay?

Reply: The Council carried out safety measures at this junction in recent years. It is proposed examine this location and include it as an item on the agenda of the next road area meeting.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

36. Can the Council in the interests of road safety investigate what traffic calming measures would be most appropriate on the Scotstown Road entering Ballinode village?

Reply: The Council intend to apply road markings at this location.

37. Can the Council give an update on the position regarding the unsafe and unsightly entrance walls at Latlorcan Glen, Monaghan?

Reply: The repair of the entrance walls at Latlorcan is specified in phase 1 of the Site Resolution Plan agreed for this housing development. The Administrator responsible for this development has advised that he is currently preparing tenders in respect of these works.

38. Can the Council instigate road surface repairs at Market House Lane and the Oriel Park area of Emyvale village?

Reply: The Council intend to carry out routine maintenance repairs.

20. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

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

- The wife and family of the late Peadar Murnane, Ballybay, a former member of Ballybay Town Council and a noted historian.

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

- Fiona McEntee, Council employee and her husband Paul, on the birth of their new baby boy.
- Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney on winning the Ulster Schools GAA, O'Doherty Cup.
- Drumhowan GFC Instrumental Music Group on winning the All Ireland Junior Scor Title for the second year in succession.
- Aogán Ó Fearghail, Drumgoon Eire Óg GAA Club on his election as election as UachtaranTofa, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and to wish him and the GAA every success during this Presidential term.
- Gaeil Triucha GFC on winning the All Ireland Intermediate Football Championship, the players, mentors, club officials and supporters on a historic achievement.

21. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Members Selected |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Training Seminar for Councillors | Alternative Energy & Local Government | The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare. | 6 th – 8 th March, 2014 | Cllr S. Coyle Cllr J. O'Brien Cllr P. Connolly |
| Training Seminar for Councillors | Media Skills for Councillors | The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal | 11 th – 12 th March, 2014 | Cllr P. J. O'Hanlon Cllr P. Connolly Cllr H. McElvaney |
| BG Seminarz | Value for money in Local Government | Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. | 14 th – 16 th March, 2014 | Cllr R. Gallagher Cllr G. Carville Cllr A. Murray |
| TJK Conference Ltd | Role of Ombudsman Conference | Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Avenue, Limerick | 21 st – 23 rd March, 2014 | Cllr O. Bannigan Cllr D. Maxwell |
| Ace Training | Meeting Management Principles & Best practice | Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork | 21 st – 23 rd March, 2014 | Cllr S. Coyle Cllr P. McNally Cllr R. Gallagher Cllr J. O'Brien |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|--|
| Dundalk Chamber in Business for Business | The Greenway forward for Tourism, Health & Sport | Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth. | 9 th April 2014 | Cllr S. Conlon Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr G. Carville |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|--|

The meeting then concluded – the remaining business to be transferred to an adjourned meeting to be held on 28th March, 2014 at 5.00 p.m.