

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building,
Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 6th March 2006, at 10 a.m.**

Chair: Cllr P Treanor, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager Mr. M. Fitzpatrick and , P. Clifford Directors of Service, Mr J. Murray, A/Head of Finance, Mr Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator, Ms. P. O'Brien, Staff Officer and Ms A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer..

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (a) On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Minutes of Council meeting held on Monday, 6th February, 2006, be confirmed.*
- (b) On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the Minutes of Council meeting with Minister Dick Roche, held on Monday, 13th February, 2006, be confirmed.*

Urgent Business:

Notice 1 – Rural Transport Initiative

The Mayor advised that he had received a notice to discuss urgent business in the names of Cllrs Bannigan, Coyle and O'Brien in relation to the Rural Transport Initiative. It was unanimously agreed to deal with the urgent business.

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that funding of the Rural Transport Initiative post 2006 ensures that the 34 Rural Transport Initiatives currently in existence be retained in their current state and allowed to expand.

In proposing the motion Cllr Bannigan stated that the pilot project, which had operated in the Latton and surrounding areas had been a great success, was due to end in 2006. He stated that in accordance with the Fitzpatrick Report the scheme will be retained in some form. Funding may be centralized and the local input will be lost or bogged down in red tape. The scheme should be retained in its current state and the motion should be forwarded to Minister Cullen.

In seconding the motion Cllr Coyle stressed the importance of retaining the scheme in its current form. Many people in rural areas are isolated and the Rural Transport Initiative brings a transport service right to their doors. People know the operators and are comfortable with them. It will also benefit young people and will be an important means

of transport to the new swimming pool in Monaghan Town when this opens later in the year.

Cllr O'Brien endorsed the sentiments expressed by Cllrs Bannigan and Coyle as did a number of Councillors.

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

Notice 2 – Castleblayney bypass

The Mayor advised that he had received a second notice to discuss urgent business in the names of Cllrs Bannigan, McElvaney, Humphreys, Keenan, Carville, Maxwell and P McKenna to discuss the grave concerns that exists among the landowners on the Castleblayney Bypass following the final offers from this Council. It was unanimously agreed to deal with the urgent business.

Cllr Bannigan stated he was disappointed that he had to raise this matter again. The Council had made final offers this week and landowners had until 20th March to accept the offers otherwise the Council will go assessment. If this happens he could see no chance of the bypass being completed on time as the co-operation of the landowners will not be forthcoming. He was of the opinion that there wasn't a lot between the farmers and the Council's Valuers and he called on the Council to instruct their Valuers to re-enter negotiations as soon as possible.

Cllr Carville endorsed the sentiments expressed by Cllr Bannigan. He referred to the lack of communication on the ground. Basic issues were not being addressed. Farmers were not being compensated for the replacement cost of land. He urged the Council to make every effort to increase the offers being made.

A number of Members spoke to the debate and called on the Council to make every effort to secure the co-operation of the landowners by increasing the offers.

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services stated that he did not accept that there was no communication on the ground. There had been a number of meetings on the matter and numerous phonecalls. It appears as though some farmers will never agree. He commended the Members for their efforts to date in securing agreements. He stated that final offers means just that – if agreement is not reached by 20th March, 2006 then the Council will proceed to Assessment and to failing that to Arbitration.

The County Manager stated the Council had to comply with the law. They had employed professional Valuers who had worked on numerous schemes, all over Ireland, in the past. There had been numerous attempts to secure the agreement of the landowners. As of now, the Council would not be negotiating any further with landowners. They had no option but to proceed to Assessment - they owed it to the people of the county, and those who had already settled, to build the road and not to renege on the contract. The Council could incur serious financial implications if the contractors were held up. He stated that the NRA will not approve over and above what the Valuer offers – they have to justify the figures to the Public Accounts Committee of the Oireachtas.

In response to queries from Members regarding the €5,000 goodwill payment Mr. Fallon stated that if agreement and co-operation were not forthcoming then the goodwill payment would not be paid.

Cllr McElvaney stated that he wished to disassociate himself from the decision of the Executive to proceed to assessment and/or arbitration.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to Members:

- Letter from Dick Roche T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council regarding the Shared Ownership Scheme and the income eligibility and loan limits.
- Letter from Dick Roche, T.D, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council regarding Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme.
- Letter from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding training programme for Elected Members of the Strategic Policy Committee.
- Letter from the Health Services Executive regarding a FOI request for a copy of the Regional Procurement Group in relation to the provision of CT Services in the North East Region.
- Letter from the Health Services Executive acknowledging receipt of correspondence concerning the nominees for the Regional Health Forum.
- Letter from the Health Services Executive acknowledging receipt of correspondence concerning the possibility of having a defibrillator in every Fire Station.
- Letter from the Health Services Executive regarding the availability of Defibrillators in every Fire Station.
- Office for the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding the appointment of a single Ombudsman on the Patten Model.
- Letter from Mr. Michael Martin, Minister for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment regarding receiving a deputation from Monaghan County Council to discuss job creation.
- Letter from the VEC regarding a motion unanimously adopted by their Committee.
- Letter from Waterford County Council regarding a Resolution passes on the Nitrates Directive.
- Letter from Enterprise Ireland acknowledging a letter received from Monaghan County Council regarding sending representatives of the Council to meet with the North East Regional Director.
- Letter from IDA Ireland acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council regarding sending a deputation to meet Mr. Pat Doherty, Manager.
- Letter from Jenny McLoughlin, Youth Development Officer with Monaghan County Council requesting permission to allow a group from Monaghan Comhairle na nOg to attend part of a Council Meeting.
- Correspondence from Mr Peter Burt regarding the Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

- Letter from Ms. Sylvia Sutherland, Mayor of the City of Peterborough regarding an invitation to visit County Monaghan.
- Letter from Waterford County Council regarding a Resolution passed re: Nitrates Directive.
- Correspondence from Mr Donal Hall, Customs and Excise thanking the Council for inviting them to make a presentation to the Members.
- Letter from Ms. Marie Deighan, Town Clerk regarding a Notice of Motion regarding the SSIA's with relevance to the Higher Education Grants.
- Letter from Mr John Treacy, Irish Sports Council acknowledging correspondence received from Monaghan County Council.
- Letter from Mr Larry McCluskey regarding the Local Sports Partnership.

Enterprise Ireland & IDA Ireland

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed to set up an all party committee (2 from each political party, the Mayor and a Council Official) to attend a meeting in Dublin of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and the County Enterprise Board to discuss potential job creation and other economic issues. The following Members were nominated to the committee Cllrs Treanor, O'Brien, Kieran, Conlon, Crowe, Bannigan, Keenan and Martin.

CT Scanner

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Humphreys, it was agreed to write to the HSE North East seeking clarification that since Dundalk Hospital has recently been provided with a scanner, why has a scanner not been provided at Monaghan General Hospital and who over-ruled the decision of the former Minister for Health Micheal Martin, T.D., who promised, in September 2004, that a scanner would be provided for Monaghan General Hospital

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed to seek a meeting with an official from Health Services Executive to discuss a CT Scanner for Monaghan General Hospital.

Regional Health Forum

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed to write to Fingal County Council requesting that they nominate representatives to the Regional Health Forum as a matter of urgency.

Comhairle na nOg

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed to extend an invitation to Comhairle na nOg to attend the April Council meeting.

Nuclear Free Local Authorities

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed to write to the Association of Nuclear Free Local Authorities accepting affiliation at a cost of €605

and requesting copies of any documentation/presentation papers which will be circulated at the Conference, so that these can be forwarded to our Members for their information.

3. To approve Section 183 Notices -

(i) Disposal of Land at Corrybrennan, Ballybay, Co Monaghan

On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed to approve the disposal of 0.1 acre of land in the townland of Corrybrennan, Ballybay, Co Monaghan to County Monaghan V.E.C. for the consideration of €2,000 in accordance with notice dated 8th February, 2006, under the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(ii) Disposal of dwellinghouses at Convent Lands Carrickmacross

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed to approve the disposal of No's 13 – 24 Bothar Eanna, Convent Lands, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan to the following for the consideration of €148,000 in accordance with notice dated 22nd February, 2006, under the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Number of House	Person in whose favour dwellinghouse and land is being sold	Address of Dwelling	Consideration
13	Angela Lynch	No.13 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
14	Colm Duffy	No.14 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
15	John Thornton	No.15 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
16	Patrick & Analiza Shields	No.16 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
17	Claire Durnan & Laurence Campbell	No.17 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
18	Catherine Mc Caffrey	No.18 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
19	Laurene Shekleton	No.19 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
20	Lorraine Duffy	No.20 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
21	Ian & Fiona Calder	No.21 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
22	Kathleen Kieran	No.22 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
23	Siobhan O'Kane	No.23 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000
24	Sandra Woods	No.24 Bothar Eanna Convent Lands Carrickmacross	€148,000

4. Part VIII – Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 2001

Monaghan Main Drainage North East Region Service Land Initiative

Mr Clifford advised there was a delay with the report in this matter and requested that this item be deferred until the Special Planning meeting to be held on Tuesday, 21st March, 2006. This was agreed.

5. Approval of newspapers for use in accordance with Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 – Part 4 Article 18(2)

The Members considered the report circulated. Following a brief discussion, the Members requested that information be sought from each of the newspapers listed and to include Daily Ireland and the Irish Daily Mirror, seeking circulation figures for each of the electoral areas in County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to omit the 'Dundalk Argus' newspaper until such time as the circulation figures were ascertained.

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Humphreys, it was agreed to approve the following newspapers:

National Newspapers

Irish Independent
Irish Times
Irish Star
Evening Herald

Local/Regional Papers

Monaghan Electoral Area	Northern Standard and Anglo Celt.
Clones Electoral Area	Northern Standard and Anglo Celt.
Castleblayney Electoral Area	Northern Standard, Dundalk Democrat & Anglo Celt.
Carrickmacross Electoral Area	Northern Standard, Dundalk Democrat & Anglo Celt.

In response to Cllr Carthy's query regarding the weekly advertisement of validated planning applications, Mr Clifford advised of the high cost related to the running such an advertisement. The information is available on the website and is updated immediately with 24 hour access. The cost of advertising would have to be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration for the 2007 Budget.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council would meet with the proprietor of the Northern Standard to discuss a compromise figure for the weekly advertisement.

6. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday, 13th February, 2006

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed to approve recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday, 13th February, 2006 in relation to the Awards Scheme.

The Members discussed the matter of setting aside an amount of approx. €10,000 under the Community Development Fund to deal with miscellaneous applications that do not meet the criteria set out under the fund but are worthy of assistance. The Members did not agree with this proposal.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to donate €2,000 to Dundalk Rape Crisis Centre and to refer back to the Corporate Policy Group to source funding under another heading other than the Community Development Fund.

7. Report on Schedule of Uncollected Rates 2005

Mr. John Murray, A/Head of Finance referred to the report on the schedule of uncollected rates for 2005 which was circulated to the Members in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Regulations) 2002. Mr. Murray advised that there was a 95.8% collection rate of the amount deemed collectable in 2005. 2.75% or €126,576 was deemed irrecoverable and was duly written off. An amount of €188,074 was carried forward to 2006 and will be included with the 2006 warrant for collection.

8. To receive Audited Financial Statement and Report 2004:

The Members noted the Audited Annual Financial Statement and Report for 2004.

In response to queries from Members the County Manager stated that the Council have instructed the Accountants for the Monaghan Civic Trust to wind up the company and transfer assets and liabilities to Monaghan County Council.

9. Road Grants Allocations 2006:

A number of Members welcomed the road grants allocations for 2006. Cllr McElvaney indicated that he was not happy with the level of funding allocated having regard to the condition of roads in the Clones Electoral Area.

Cllr McElvaney commended the outdoor staff for their hard work during the recent cold spell.

Cllr Kieran proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that where the hard shoulder was lower than the level of the tarmac that this be raised by filling with stones. Members felt that this was a matter for each area.

In response to a query from Cllr Keenan in relation to the Council receiving value for money on the roadworks programme, Mr. D. Fallon, Director stated that he would examine the matter. Cllr B. McKenna suggested that where possible jobs should be priced on a length of road basis.

In relation to the upgrading of road structures to 2 villages mentioned in the draft Development Plan Mr Fallon advised it was within the remit of the Council to introduce a levy to provide such infrastructure for new developments. He also stated that Health & Safety legislation was placing a major burden on the workload of Area Engineers. The County Manager advised that failure to comply with Health & Safety legislation was an indictable offence.

10. Local Sports Partnership:

The Council discussed the letter dated 22nd February 2006 from the Chief Executive Officer of the Co. Monaghan Vocational Education Committee enclosing copy of motion adopted by the Committee on 20th February 2006 in relation to the Local Sports Partnership.

“That this Committee agrees to proceed with and participate in the Local Sports Partnership (as set out in 2003 application to ISC) with VEC and Co. Co. to co-sign cheques/agree payments; as part of this resolution it is recommended that an independent chairperson (agreed by Co.Co. and VEC) be appointed for a minimum of twelve-month period, thereafter the LSP to decide on its own chairing arrangements.”

The County Manager advised the Members that he had received an email from Mr. McCluskey amending the motion circulated. The amendment required the deletion of the word “agree” in the third line of the motion.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr McNally seconded that the Council adopt the motion, as amended, from the Co. Monaghan V.E.C.

Cllr Conlon proposed Cllr Carthy seconded that the Council write to the County Development Board requesting that they proceed with the establishment of the Local Sports Partnership.

The County Manager referred to the recent Review of the Local Sports Partnership Programme which recommended that all future LSP’s should be set up as sub structures of the County Development Board or local authority.

Following further debate Cllr McElvaney’s motion and Cllr Conlon’s motions were both agreed.

11. Nitrates Directive

It was agreed to defer this item to the April meeting so that the members could consider the submission made by Teagasc to the Government.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to adopt motion received from Waterford County Council regarding the Nitrates Directive.

12. Review of Higher Education Grants Scheme – Report from SPC

Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator referred to report from the Housing & Corporate Services SPC in relation to this item which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to adopt the report and to forward same to the Department of Education and Science.

Monaghan Town Council's motion

Cllr Maxwell proposed Cllr Conlon seconded and it was agreed that the Council support the motion from Monaghan Town Council's motion, as follows:

“ This Council calls on the Minister for Education and Science to review the way it calculates earnings in respect of SSIA's and any future saving/pension incentive scheme for the purposes of student grants so that the less well-off will not be penalized for saving for their childrens' education”

13. Minutes of meetings of the following Committees

- (i) On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, the Minutes of Local Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 12th December, 2005 were noted.
- (ii) On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Brien, the Minutes of Twinning Committee meeting held on Monday, 14th February, 2006, were noted.

14. Business submitted by the County Manager:

Monaghan Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre:

It was agreed that a meeting of the sub Committee would be held on Monday 20th at 10.15 a.m. Conference Room, Glen Offices.

New Council Offices:

The County Manager advised that he was in discussion with the Health Services Executive in relation to the possibility of securing a site for new Council Offices in Monaghan Town.

16. Presentation from Mr Rory B, Vodafone

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Rory Byrne, Vodafone to the meeting and invited him to address the Members. Mr. Byrne explained to the Members the benefits available by joining the Monaghan County Council corporate account. He advised those who wish to join the corporate account must sign a transfer of ownership form and complete a direct debit mandate. A downside of this is that mobile phone bills could not be used to claim expenses from Revenue as Monaghan County Council is the account holder and not the individual Councillor.

In response to the County Manager's query regarding if Monaghan County Council wished to take their business elsewhere in the future how would it affect the Members accounts, Mr Byrne advised that Vodafone would have no hold on the account after 12 months.

The Mayor on behalf of the Members thanked Mr Byrne for his presentation.

17. Presentation from Mr John McEntegart, County Enterprise Board

The Mayor welcomed Mr John McEntegart, Chief Executive Officer, County Enterprise Board to the meeting and invited him to address the meeting in preparation for forthcoming meetings with the IDA & Enterprise Ireland.

Mr. McEntegart referred to the fact that agriculture and furniture industries in County Monaghan were in decline. A fundamental change in the IDA's attitude to job creation in the county was required if the county was to achieve the development of high technology employment identified as necessary for its future development. The development of the county's physical and technology infrastructure were important priorities. He stated that it was time that Co. Monaghan became a priority for the IDA – Monaghan had never achieved its fair share of foreign direct investment and the Council should work to change IDA policy towards the county.

The County Manager referred to the major developments in the infrastructure of the county and also the significant investment in broadband both at Council and community level. He also referred to the Armagh Monaghan Digital Corridor and hoped that its completion would lead to the creation of high tech jobs and graduate employment. He praised the contribution of the County Enterprise Board to all the towns in the county. He referred to the decision of Monaghan Town Council to offer land to the IDA at a reduced rate in order to facilitate the development of a business park. He stated that the Council should not dwell on past policies – facts and figures that stood up to scrutiny were what was required before they went on a delegation to the Minister. What was good enough in the past is not good enough for the future.

Mr. McEntegart then responded to queries raised by the Members.

The Mayor on behalf of the Members thanked Mr. McEntegart for his presentation.

18. Questions:

1. Cllr Jackie Crowe will ask:

- (a) *“Have Monaghan County Council any plans to carry out remedial works at Ballinacarry bridge, specifically road surface and signage, in the interests of road safety and in conjunction with works been started on the northern side of the bridge?”*

An allocation of €15,000 is available in 2006 to carry out a Road Safety Remedial Measure at this location. This money will be spent on signs and road markings to warn motorists of the bends and the road narrowing ahead. The Road Service of Northern Ireland was consulted and this scheme will complement the works they are undertaking. The work is planned for late March, early April.

- (b) *“In the interest of safety for residents of An Corran, Oram and also people going to Mass at Oram Chapel, will Monaghan County Council construct a long awaited footpath from the road at the foot of the housing estate to the chapel?”*

An estimate will be prepared for this project and will be considered in the context of an overall program for footpath and public lighting.

- (c) *“What safety measures are planned for pedestrian safety at the junction of the N53 / N2 (Dundalk Road) in Castleblayney?”*

A design is currently being undertaken for pedestrian improvements in the vicinity of the junction. It is planned to provide a new footpath link to tie into existing footpaths on the N53. Pedestrian refuges in the mouth of the junction and on the N2 are being considered as part of the design. Alternative junction types are being considered to improve current and future traffic flow.

- (d) (i) *“Will Monaghan County Council consider providing a play area at the existing local authority estate in Doohamlet?”*
(ii) *“What plans are there for play areas at the new local authority scheme in Doohamlet?”*
(iii) *“When will the new housing scheme at Doohamlet be ready for allocation and occupation?”*

An application has been submitted under the Peace II Programme for funding for a number of playgrounds in the county. It is hoped that funding will be approved for one playground in Doohamlet, which will be located in the new estate and will serve the village. The Council anticipates a completion date in October 2006 .

2. Cllr Benny Kieran will ask:

- (a) *“Has the Council any plans to*
- (i) *alleviate flooding that occurs on the road leading into the Largy Caravan Park Clones.*
 - (ii) *provide a footpath in the interest of safety of pedestrians living there*
 - (iii) *provide adequate public lighting on the site?”*

Funding has not yet been allocated to these projects; however an estimate will be prepared and will be considered in the context of the over all program for footpath and public lighting.

- (b) *“What plans has Monaghan County Council to reduce the impact caused by lime in the water supplying the village of Scotstown and environs and is the supply in breach of water quality standards?”*

Scotstown Village is supplied with water treated in Crosses Water Treatment Plant, Monaghan. The water supplied is fully compliant with the E.C. (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000.

- (c) *To accommodate the planning permissions granted and those in the process of application in Scotstown:*
- (i) *“When will work commence on the upgrading of the sewerage treatment plant?”*
 - (ii) *“What is the expected time scale for completion?”*

Upgrading work is expected to commence in September 2006 on the Scotstown Wastewater Treatment plant and is to be completed by Spring 2007.

- (iii) *“At what stage is the feasibility study to extend the scheme in the direction of St Mary’s Church Urbleshanny?”*

The Council’s main priority is to complete the upgrading of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Scotstown. A preliminary technical assessment of the proposal to extend the collection network on the Tydavnet road towards Urbleshanny has been carried out. A pumping station (in the vicinity of St Mary’s church) and a rising main to connect to the existing network on Main Street will be required. A suitable site for the pumping station would have to be acquired by Monaghan County Council. This extension could not be considered until after the upgrading works at the Wastewater Treatment plant is completed.

- (iv) “Can the residents on the Carrowhatta Rd. connect to this extension?”

Due to the difference in levels and the topography of the land on the Carrowhatta road, it would not be possible for the houses on this road to connect by gravity to a sewerage pipeline on the Tydavnet road. A Group Sewerage Scheme, incorporating another pumping station and rising main across private land and the river, connecting directly to the Wastewater Treatment plant would be technically feasible (subject to upgrading works at the Treatment plant being completed).

3. Cllr Vincent P. Martin will ask:

- (a) “When is it now expected to have the necessary services provided on the light industrial sites on the Convent Lands in order to allow same to be occupied and used?”
- (b) “Was it indicated to some and/or all of the purchasers and/or their representatives that the said sites would be ready for appropriate use/ occupation a number of months ago and what has caused the delay?”

Having recently gone to tender for the provision of water and waste water infrastructure, the Council hopes to appoint a Contractor and commence work in the coming weeks. Initially it was our intention to carry out these works directly, but due to the complex nature of the works involved it was decided to go to contract which delayed the process.

- (c) “Is Monaghan County Council required to conduct an Accessibility Audit under the Disability Act 2005 & Sectoral Plan for The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government?”

Under the Disability Act 2005 & Outline sectoral plan, each local authority is required to conduct an accessibility audit of all public buildings, public parks, amenities and open spaces, roads pavements and pedestrian crossings, heritage sites, public libraries and identify what remedial action is required.

The accessibility audits should also cover access to information

- (d) “Does Monaghan County Council intend to carry out an accessibility audit of the public roads, footpaths, parks, buildings etc. under its ownership and/or control?”

Monaghan County Council is one of the front runners nationally in terms of implementing the Outline Sectoral plan/Disability Act 2005. In July 2005 An Access Audit Programme was carried out on all public buildings owned by Monaghan County Council. The initial audits were conducted by local authority staff and a consultant has been engaged to develop recommendations for improvements on each building.

On March 7th 2006, Monaghan County Council will begin a street access audit programme. This programme will be unique nationally as MCC will employ a team of 15 people with a disability to audit the streets of the main towns of the county. On

completion the team will submit a detailed report to the roads section of Monaghan County Council on recommendations for improvement.

Both of the above projects were funded under a successful application to the National Disability Strategy in 2005. A further submission has been forwarded to the National Disability Strategy this year to carryout accessibility audits as outlined below.

- *Audit of playgrounds, parks and open spaces owned by MCC*
- *Audit of Heritage sites in the county.*

We are currently awaiting a response to the application to the fund 2006.

- (e) *If yes, when is it expected that the said accessibility audit will commence and does Monaghan County Council propose to engage Consultants to advance this project through the Planning, Design and Tender stages?"*

In relation to all accessibility audits people with disabilities have been the consultants in this process, supported by Community & Enterprise. With the assistance of a specialist accessibility consultant, a report will be developed on the accessibility of each building and recommendations for improvement outlined. Some funding to make these improvements will be made available through the National Disability Strategy funding over the next number of years. Each local authority must ensure that all of their buildings are fully accessible by 2015.

4. Cllr Pat McKenna will ask:

- (a) *"Why has Monaghan County Council's housing section in conjunction with North Monaghan Area Department not completed the erection of the footpath from Sruth An Mhuilinn to Emyvale village and when will this footpath be completed as it is very dangerous for pedestrians walking along this road?"*

The Council anticipate that works will commence in the next two months subject to final discussions with the land owners and agreement of costs with the contractor.

- (b) *"When will public lighting be provided for on the same stretch of road due to the fact that it is very narrow and dark?"*

Funding has not yet been allocated to these projects, however an estimate will be prepared and will be considered in the context of the over all program for footpath and public lighting.

5. Cllr Gary Carville will ask:

- (a) *"In view of the fact that public lighting has been provided only to a small section of Road No LS 05450 (Clontibret Village to Lisglasson Road) in recent times, when will the remainder of the road, to the Speed Limit signs, be catered for as it has considerable housing and population numbers and is dangerous?"*

The ESB will be asked to give a proposal and quotation for new lights on this road, LS05450, out to the speed limits. When funding becomes available the work will be carried out.

- (b) *“What supports are given to the Rate Collectors in the carrying out of their role in respect of the Register of Electors and does the Council consider that usage of each person's PPS number would be a more effective manner of compiling the Register of Electors, leading to greater accuracy?”*

The Council's Revenue Collectors compile the Register of Electors annually based on information received from house to house enquiries, replies to publicity post, obituary notices, and other information gained in the course of their duties. Access to the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs data base of PPS numbers would greatly assist this process and this has been conveyed to Department of the Environment & Local Government officials on a regular basis. One of the Revenue Collectors is currently involved in a Working Group which is examining the process involved in the compilation of the Register and the use of the PPS numbers is one of the proposals being put forward by this group.

- (c) *“When will the re-alignment of the N2 at the junction known as Corrs Pub, Annyalla, be carried out in order to improve traffic safety at that junction?”*

The road markings are currently being updated as part of the National N2 Lining Contract through Monaghan County. The road markings will define a "Nearside Overtaking Bay". Additional funding under the "Road Safety Remedial Measures" scheme is programmed to provide high level signage warning motorists of the junction.

- (d) *“What is the timeframe for the carrying out of the route study on the proposed new link road from the N2 (Monaghan Road) to the Keady Road in Castleblayney?”*

Monaghan County Council is in the process of preparing a brief for the appointment of consultants. It is envisaged that the report will be completed before October 2006

6. Cllr Owen Bannigan will ask:

- (a) In relation to County Monaghan Water Bundles:

- (i) *“What was the base volume charge for each of the schemes in the tender?”*
(ii) *“How many houses in each of the schemes are the fixed charges based on?”*
(iii) *“Is it correct that inflation from September 2001 to 1st January 2005 is 27.5%?”*
(iv) *For any of the schemes that were a full year in the bundle in 2005 what was their full usage. For any scheme that was not a full year in the scheme, what was their period in the bundle and what was their usage?”*

- (v) “Has the inflation rate been fixed for 2006 and if so what is the inflation rate?”

The following are the tendered (Sept. 2001) charges inclusive of VAT.

Aughnashavley GWS	- €0.11656
Barraghy GWS	- €0.16099
Corduff/Corraharra GWS	- €0.14908
Churchill/Oram GWS	- €0.12128
Doohamlet GWS	- €0.14638
Donaghmoyne GWS	- €0.12500
Drumgoole GWS	- €0.12601
Inniskeen PWS	- €0.14777
Killanny/Reaghstown GWS	- €0.12601
Newbliss PWS	- €0.15523
Smithborough PWS	- €0.09281
Stranooden GWS	- €0.19346
Truagh GWS	- €0.12769
Tydavnet GWS	- €0.10355

We understand that the number of houses used to calculate the distribution of fixed time based charges was agreed between participating group water schemes and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS). The public (County Council) schemes in the bundle are not included under this arrangement and the council is not in possession of these figures. This question should be referred to the NFGWS.

In accordance with the DBO contract, a basket of four indices published by the Central Statistics Office are used to calculate the increase in volumetric and time based charges under the DBO contract. These indices reflect cost increases in electricity, labour, chemicals, and diesel and account for an increase of just over 27% in the period since the tenders were submitted in September 2001.

Figures for the three County Council Water Supply Schemes participating in the DBO are given below. Questions in respect of the water usage for the group water schemes should be referred directly to the participating groups or to the NFGWS.

Smithborough	82,628 m ³
Inniskeen	84,286 m ³
Newbliss	Since 20 July 2005, approx. 27,000 m ³

The rate of inflation for 2006 is not ‘fixed’ and will not be known until the end of the year.

- (b) (i) “Has the Streetscape design (Phase 2) been agreed in Ballybay?”

Yes the Project is ready to be submitted for the Part 8 Planning Process

- (ii) “When will work commence and when is the expected completion date?”

It is proposed that the work will commence in June 2006, the work will take about three months.

- (c) (i) “What is the up-to-date position with the repairs to the snag list in Cul Brannan, Ballybay?”
- (ii) “Has all the works been carried out and if not when will they be completed?”

The main contractor returned to the site on 27/02/2006 and is carrying out some work and assessing and planning the rest of the work to be carried out over the next few weeks. The electrical contractor selected to correct minor faults and recertify all houses will be contacting occupiers in two weeks time (when the contract has been signed) to arrange access to carry out the work. It is envisaged that all snags will be rectified and electrical works will be completed by May 2006.

7. Cllr Seamus Coyle will ask:

- (a) “How many single under fifty-five year olds are currently on waiting lists in Ballybay and Castleblayney?”
- (b) “What plans have Monaghan County Council to meet the above waiting list requirements?”

There are nineteen in Ballybay and fifty two in Castleblayney. Thirty four (1 bed) units are expected to be completed in the Bree development by Respond Housing Association in March/April 2006 and 4 (2 bed) units will be provided to Castleblayney Town Council in May/June 2006. Discussions are underway with a number of private developers in Ballybay who are proposing to bring forward various housing schemes. The Council will be aiming to ensure delivery of a range of house types to meet all identified needs.

- (c) “When will safety measures be put in place by Monaghan County Council at the highly dangerous junction known locally as ‘Anney Cross’ the junction of the R193-1 Rockcorry road and the R190-2 Cootehill/Ballybay road?”

An allocation of €20,000 has been granted for safety measures along the R190, which will include safety measures at this Junction. The scope of the works has yet to be completed but works will commence during the summer and will take approximately 2/3 weeks to complete.

19. Conferences

It was agreed that the Council would be represented at the following conferences by the Members indicated:

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Approx. cost Per member	Members Selected
Rural Resettlement Ireland	Safe Driving Conference – Death on our Roads – What Can We Do?	Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare	22 nd , 23 rd & 24 th March 2006	€770	J O' Brien P Mc Nally O Bannigan P Mc Kenna H Mc Elvaney
Carlow Tourism	Carlow Tourism Annual Conference - 2006	Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Carlow	23 rd & 24 th March 2006	€650	S Coyle
Trinity College Dublin	Intensive Course on Planning Law	The Macneill Theatre, Hamilton Building, Trinity College Dublin	23 rd & 24 th March 2006	€760	V P. Martin R Gallagher H Humphreys D Maxwell
National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism	Housing & Accommodation Policy North/South	Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co Down	11 th April 2006	€70	O Bannigan P Mc Kenna H Mc Elvaney

20. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to

- The Inniskeen Men's Senior Football team on winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship.

The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to

- The McCarron Family, Knockronaghan, Emyvale on the death of Mrs. Annie McCarron

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
