

Minutes of Adjourned Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 13th May, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr G Carville, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr P. Clifford, Mr D. Fallon and Mr A King, Directors of Service, Mr John Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

At the outset the County Manager thanked the Members and Staff for their support on his recent bereavement and for adjourning the monthly Council meeting as a mark of respect.

Urgent Business

The Mayor referred to 2 items of Notices of Urgent Business, which had been submitted.

- (1) In the name of Cllr Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McAnespie, B. McKenna and P. Treanor.

“In view of the disclosure of the HSE’s North-East Transformation Detailed Planning Report and the impact such a plan will have on the people of Monaghan that this Council, through its Oireachtas Members, seeks a meeting with the incoming Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen, Minister for Health Mary Harney, T.D., and HSE CEO Professor Brendan Drumm to express our disgust at the contents of this report”.

- (2) In the names of Cllr Pádraig McNally and Cllr John O’Brien

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Minister Brendan Smith, T.D., to seek a derogation from the EU Commission to allow the closing date for the Farm Waste Management Grant Scheme be extended from the 31st of December, 2008 to the 31st December 2009. This request is in light of the many farmers that will not have their works complete in the prescribed period due to lack of finance and unavailability of contractors who are totally stretched trying to cope with demand”.

Urgent Business Item 1.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed to take urgent business item number one.

In proposing the motion, Cllr B. McKenna said following on from the Teamwork report it has been indicated that all acute services at Monaghan General Hospital

will be withdrawn by November 2008. The argument in the past has been that no services would be removed until a better service was put in place elsewhere – this is not the case. The HSE has spoken about the provision of primary care teams and home care packages, however these have yet to be implemented. Minister Brendan Smith, T.D., opened a new ward in Monaghan General Hospital last November at a cost of €3 million, it is now reported that the 50 acute medical beds in this unit are to be replaced with twenty six non-acute beds – a use for the remaining 24 beds has yet to be determined. Sixty per cent of patients currently been treated in Monaghan Hospital’s treatment room will be sent to Cavan General Hospital where there are no facilities to accommodate them.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Conlon concurred with the sentiments expressed by Cllr B. McKenna. He referred to the serious increase in the numbers of managerial staff in the health sector. He appealed for a reconsideration of the current policies within the HSE with a direction of due care towards those people who are most vulnerable. A number of Members spoke in favour of this proposal and paid tribute to the ongoing work of the Monaghan Hospital Alliance and its organisation of the protest march the previous Saturday in support of the retention of services at Monaghan General Hospital and also to the large number of people who turned out to support the protest.

Cllr McKenna’s motion was put to the meeting and unanimously agreed.

Cllr McElvaney proposed that Mr Stephen Mulvany, Hospital Network Manager, Health Service Executive and Mr. Tadhg O’Brien, Joint Programme Manager, North East Transformation be invited to a meeting of Monaghan County Council to discuss the current situation regarding Monaghan General Hospital and location of the proposed regional hospital.

Urgent Business Item 2.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O’Brien it was agreed to take urgent business item number two.

In proposing the motion calling for an extension of the deadline for the completion of works under the Farm Waste Management Scheme, Cllr McNally said there was a genuine case for extending this scheme and although there was a danger that Ireland would not be in keeping with the Nitrates Directive at EU level, up to eighty percent of the work will have been completed by the closing date. However there are two reasons why this closing date needs to be extended and these include:

- a. Shortage of suitable contractors who can build slatted sheds
- b. Shortage in the supply of steel which is required to build these sheds.

Cllr O’Brien seconded the proposal and agreed with the reasons put forward by Cllr McNally. A number of Members also spoke in favour of this motion and agreed that, not only is the Farm Waste Management Grant Scheme good for the environment but it has provided a welcome boost for the construction industry in the current economic climate.

Cllr McNally's motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that this resolution would be circulated to all other local authorities.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to request Minister Brendan Smith to ask Department officials to re-examine the costings that are being used in the calculation of the 70% grant under the Farm Waste Management Scheme, in light of the way that building costs have escalated since the scheme was first announced.

On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to extend the congratulations of the Council to Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., on his recent appointment as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(1) Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr B McKenna referred to a correction on page four of the minutes, Urgent Business Item no 5 should read Cllr Kieran and not Cllr B McKenna.

Cllr P Treanor asked that the Minutes be amended under the heading Outdoor Education Centre for Co. Monaghan, page 8, last sentence to read

“The Members agreed this motion and to refer this item to the next meeting of the Corporate Policy Group for discussion and recommendation re funding”.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th April, 2008, as amended, be confirmed.

(2) Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D., thanking the Members for their kind message of support on his retirement.
- Letter from Minister Noel Dempsey, T.D, Minister for Transport regarding a resolution from Monaghan County Council in relation to the repeal of the Strategic Infrastructure Act.
- Letter from Mr W.J. Briggs, Clerk and Chief Executive of Armagh City and District Council regarding the Tyrone to Cavan Electricity Interconnector and stating the Councils concerns.
- Letter from Cllr Gary Carville, Mayor of County Monaghan in response to Mr W.J. Briggs, Clerk and Chief Executive of Armagh City and District Councils letter concerning the Tyrone to Cavan Electricity Interconnector.
- Letter from Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, T.D. acknowledging receipt of a letter forward from Monaghan County Council in relation to the North South Interconnector.
- Letter from Ms Margaret Conlon, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter forwarded from Monaghan County Council in relation to the North/South Interconnector Powerlines.
- Letter from Mr David King, Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of a letter in relation to the All Ireland Grid Study.
- Letter from Mr Seymour Crawford, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter regarding the North/South Interconnector powerlines.

- Letter from Senator Joe O'Reilly, acknowledging receipt of a letter regarding the Strategic Infrastructure Act.
- Letter from Mr Jon Hunt, Co-Project Manager with Golder Associates regarding Monaghan County Councils request for a meeting with ECOFYS/GOLDER Associates and stating that they are not in the position to meet with Monaghan County Council at this time.
- Letter from Mr Brendan Smith, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council regarding the proposed location for a new Regional Hospital for the North East.
- Letter from Mr Brendan Smith, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council regarding the repeal of the Strategic Infrastructure Act and stating that he would not be supporting this request.
- Letter from Mr Paul Flanagan, Private Secretary to Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D., in support of a request from Clones Town Council calling for the appointment of a Health Ombudsman.
- Letter from Mr Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council about employment agency employees.
- Letter from Mr Eddie Kiernan, Private Secretary to Mr John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government accepting an invitation from Monaghan County Council to perform the official opening of the County Library Headquarters on May 22nd at 3.30 pm in Clones.
- Letter from Ms Pauline Crowley, Head of Marketing requesting nominations for the "People of the Year Awards 2008".
- Letter from Mr Seymour Crawford, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council regarding the proposed location of a new Regional Hospital.
- Letter from Senator Joe O'Reilly stating that he has written to Professor Drumm H.S.E., in support of Monaghan County Councils request for a meeting with Professor Drumm.
- Letter from Mr Stephen Mulvany, Hospital Network Manager, North East Hospitals regarding Post Mortem Services and the Council's request that post mortems be carried out immediately.
- Letter from Dr Rory O'Hanlon, T.D., regarding Dail Question addressed to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D. in relation to Joint Policing Committees.
- Letter from Mr Jim Kelly, Secretary Commission on Taxation, regarding a submission from the Council regarding rent paid by parents of students in third level education.
- Letter from Mr David King, Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter issued from Monaghan County Council calling on the Taoiseach to support the Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform.
- Letter from Ms Bridget Flynn, Private Secretary to Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr Micheal Martin, T.D., regarding a resolution by the Members of Monaghan County Council in relation to Agency employment.
- Letter from Mr Caoimhghin Ó Caoláin, T.D, advising the Members of his support for the underground cabling of the proposed Eirgrid/NIE Interconnector and the Meath/Cavan Eirgrid 400kv power line.

- Letter from Mr Eoin Corrigan, Local Government Division, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government outlining details of the recent Green Paper on local government entitled “*Stronger Local Government – Options for Change*”.
- Letter from Ms Margaret Conlon, T.D. acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council in relation to the location of the new Regional Hospital.
- Letter from Mr Peadar McMahon, chairman County Monaghan Community Alliance asking the Members to march with them on May 10th in support of Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Mr Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council in relation to the Eigrid Interconnector.
- Letter from Mr Paul Mooney, Private Secretary to the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance Mr Brian Cowen in relation to a resolution passed by Monaghan County Council calling for Mr Cowen, T.D. to remove Ms Mary Harney, Minister for Health from her post when he is selecting his new cabinet at Taoiseach.
- Mr Paul Flanagan, Private Secretary to Ms Mary Harney, T.D., acknowledging receipt of a letter from Monaghan County Council supporting a resolution from South Tipperary in relation to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Letter from Mr John McKay, Mayor of Miramichi inviting the Mayor and Members to visit Miramichi in 2008 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their prestigious Irish Festival which occurs from July 17th – July 20th, 2008.
- Letter from Mr Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body in relation to Interim Funding under Interreg Gap Funding.
- Letter from Mr Pat Mc Loughlin, Chairman of Garda Training and Development Review Group in relation to the commencement of the Garda Síochána Training and Development Review 2008.
- Letter from Rachel Doherty, Failte Ireland requesting that the new Chairman of Failte Ireland North West, Mr Paschal Mooney be allowed to give a presentation to the Members of the Council on the Tourism Development in Co. Monaghan under the Tourism Infrastructure Fund.
- Letter from South Tipperary County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by their Members calling on the Government to introduce changes to the way Housing Agencies Respond and Cluid operate to allow tenants to purchase their homes.
- Letter from Clonmel Borough Council regarding a resolution adopted by its Members asking the Minister for the Environment to overhaul the current driving test.
- Letter from Passage West Town Council, in relation to a resolution passed by its Members regarding motorcycle accidents.

Post Mortem Services:

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to write to the Health Service Executive requesting that protocols are put in place to ensure that when a post mortem is required that personnel are available to perform it as speedily as possible, so as to avoid any further distress to the relatives concerned.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P McKenna it was agreed to request a meeting with the Coroners to discuss the current service.

An Garda Siochána

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that Monaghan County Council would make a submission to An Garda Siochána on their Training and Development Review 2008.

Resolution Regarding Road Maintenance from Passage West, Co. Cork:

Cllr Conlon asked the Members to support this resolution and in particular attention to be paid to the volume of road chips put in place during the bedding process of road resurfacing.

In response to a number of queries regarding road surfacing and problems with flooding Mr John McGrath said he would bring an up to date report on the issues back to the Members.

North/South Interconnector Powerlines:

Cllr Bannigan said a publication on the EirGrid Website indicated that EirGrid's preferred route for the Interconnector Powerlines was the red route and from the consultants report it seemed that this route had been chosen since December 2007.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to write to EirGrid stating that in view of the number of issues that have arisen during the public consultation process, EirGrid should begin its whole public consultation process again.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to write to EirGrid inviting them to attend a future meeting of the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed to write to Dr. Rory O'Hanlon and Deputy Conlon asking them to support Monaghan County Councils resolution calling on the Government to repeal the Strategic Infrastructure Act.

Green Paper on Stronger Local Democracy – Options for Change:

Cllr Carthy proposed that the Members hold a debate on this issue with a view to making a submission to the Department. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed by the Corporate Policy Group at its next meeting.

Decentralisation:

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to write to the Office of Public Works requesting that Clones Town be examined as a possible location for decentralised public service offices.

Miramichi

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to accept an invitation from Mr John McKay, Mayor of Miramichi inviting the Mayor and Members to visit Miramichi in 2008 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their prestigious Irish Festival which occurs from July 17th – July 20th, 2008.

3. Overdraft Accommodation

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10m for period from 1st July 2008 to 31st December, 2008.

4. Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme

Mr. P. Clifford, Director advised that the Council had received details of the Social Housing allocation for 2008 – the total allocation for the Monaghan Local Authorities is circa €5.4m.

“ Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that in view of recent correspondence from the Department indicating a three year social housing allocation of €55m that we express disappointment at the allocation of €15m recently announced for this year. We appeal for a considerable increase that we may pursue long overdue land purchases needed throughout the county.”

Mr. P. Clifford informed the Members that already in 2008, 70% of funding had been expended under the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme and the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.

Mr. Stephen McGeough, Assistant Staff Officer, Housing gave a detailed presentation on the Housing Aid for the Older People Scheme and the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme. Both schemes are already over-subscribed in terms of funding allocated in 2008 and a decision is required as to how the remaining 30% of funding available will be allocated.

In relation to the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme the Council has agreed standardised costs for the following works.

- Replacement bath with level access shower - €9,000
- Conversion of an existing room - €14,500
- Additional bedroom & bathroom - €28,000
- Stair lift - €7,500

The Members thanked Stephen for his presentation and commended the work of the Housing Staff.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to refer the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme to the Housing and Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee to consider introducing a tiered system for allocating funding and bring back a report for the June Council Meeting.

Cllr Conlon agreed to withdraw his proposal until after the SPC had met and discussed the matter.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed to write to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government seeking more funding to fully implement the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.

Mr. P. Clifford confirmed that an additional €1m had been requested early in 2008 but no funding allocations has been received.

5. Update on Monaghan Local Sports Partnership

Ms Michelle Murphy, Local Sports Partnership Co-ordinator gave the Members an update of the role and future plans of Monaghan's Local Sports Partnership. The Sports Partnership is made up of representatives of local agencies, statutory bodies, sporting and community groups which reflect the broad sports spectrum within the county. The three main functions of the partnership are:

1. **Information** – providing a central information point for sport and physical activity locally including the establishment of a website page.
2. **Education:** - Providing opportunities for education and training at local level. This will target Sports Clubs, Schools, Communities, Older Adults, Disability Groups, Women and Ethnic minorities.
3. **Implementation:** - Co-ordinating the delivery of a local sport and physical activity strategic plan.

She gave the members an overview of the Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013 which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Members thanked Michelle for her presentation and suggested implementing a major public relations exercise to promote the role of the Local Sports Partnership throughout the community.

6. Update on County Monaghan Way Walks.

Mr. Adge King, Director of Services gave the Members a brief overview of Monaghan Way Walks. The Monaghan Way provides a fabulous facility for the county but it also imposes maintenance and insurance responsibilities on the Council since the route achieved national waymarked status. The other long-distance waymarked way is the Sliabh Beagh Way which crosses the border and there is a proposal to extend the Ulster Way into County Monaghan following the line of the Sliabh Beagh Way. The maintenance and upkeep must be covered by the local authority and costs are in the region of €12,000 per annum. The Council is hopeful of having most of this maintenance work carried out with support of the Rural Social Scheme. He thanked Dymrna Condra, Tourism Officer and Daphne Purdy, Cross Border Walks Development Officer for their excellent work in this area.

7. Report on Draft Signage Policy on National Roads.

Cllr John O'Brien, Chair of Roads & Environment SPC introduced the draft Signage Policy on National Roads. He said that the aim of the document is to set out clearly the policy of Monaghan County Council in relation to signage on our national primary and secondary roads. The policy proposes to deal only with roadside signage. Off road signage will be dealt with separately. It is recognised that many businesses in the county use signs as a means of advertising. That practice will no longer be permitted in most instances. Instead the focus will be to provide signage for the purpose of directing motorists to their intended destination. The policy must also be seen as equitable and transparent to ensure that businesses compete on an equal footing and are not disadvantaged by the use of illegal signage by their competitors. The County Council will maintain a register of all road signage and will have a separate document to address unauthorised signage.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that signage erected by community or campaign groups will be permitted unless the Council determine that any individual sign is a hindrance or danger to road users. Such signs shall be removed within 28 days of being erected. Signage shall include the name of the sponsoring organisation and contact details of an individual within that organisation.

The County Manager stated that a revised report on the draft Signage Policy on National Roads will be issued in advance of the June Council meeting which will take account of the concerns raised by the Members.

It was agreed to defer further consideration of the draft policy document until the June meeting.

9. Recommendations form Corporate Policy Group

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed to approve the recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meetings held on Monday 10th March, 2008 and Monday 14th April, 2008.

10. Scarvy Group Water Scheme.

The Members noted the report from Mr. David Fallon regarding the Scarvy Group Water Scheme. The Members of the Scheme have requested that Monaghan County Council take the scheme in charge and the Council is empowered to do so by virtue of Section 95(1) of the Water Services Act 2007. An inspection of the scheme has been carried out and it is in good order and repair.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed to approve the taking in charge of Scarvy Group Water Scheme under Section 95 (1) of the Water Services Act 2007.

11. Nomination to Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee:

On the proposal of McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to nominate Councillor Ross Mealiff as a representative of Clones Town Council to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

12. To receive Minutes of the following meetings:

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- Minutes of meeting with Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport
- Minutes of Twinning Committee meeting held on 6th February 2008
- Minutes of Local (Traveller Accommodation) Consultative Committee meetings held on 19th December 2007 and 31st January, 2008.
- Minutes of An Coiste Gaeilge meeting held on 15th February, 2008.
- Minutes of An Coiste Logainmneacha meeting held on 15th February, 2008
- Minutes of Local Monitoring Committee meetings held on 7th February, 2007, 7th March, 2007, 9th May, 2007, 4th July, 2007, 5th September, 2007, 7th November, 2007 and 9th January, 2008.

The Members held a lengthy debate on the use of Irish or bi-lingual names for Housing Estates as referred to in An Coiste Logainmneacha minutes.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of An Coiste Gaeilge and An Coiste Logainmneacha meetings would be in bi-lingual format.

Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr Keenan seconded and it was agreed that the policy in relation to the naming of housing estates be reviewed by the Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee.

13. Attendance at Conferences by Members

The Members agreed to note the reports from Councillors Gallagher, Coyle, Martin, McNally, McElvaney, Carville, P McKenna, B. McKenna, O'Brien, B. Kieran, Maxwell and Bannigan in relation to their attendance at the following conferences:

Forty Shades of Green Conference, Antrim,
Association of County and City Councils Annual Conference, 2008, Fingal
Ireland Newest Immigrants, Letterkenny,
Planning for Renewable Energy, Limerick,
LAMA 28th Annual Conference, Trim, Co. Meath,
Water, The Challenges for Users, Carrigaline,
The Mutual Benefits of North –South Co-operation, Clonmel
Antrim Tourism Conference, Planning for Renewal Energy, Adare,
Mutual Benefits of North-South Co-operation, Co. Donegal,
Rattoo Heritage - Kerry Environmental Conference, Ballybunion,
Development in the Planning System North and South, Enniskillen,
TJK Planning Seminar, Limerick
Sustaining Rural Development, Cavan.

Business submitted by the Mayor:

Canadian Ambassador

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to invite the Canadian Ambassador Mr Pat Binns to address a full meeting of the Council at a future date.

Osterhofen.

The Mayor informed the Members that he had recently visited Osterhofen, Germany along with the Ballybay Town Councillors and they all have a very enjoyable visit.

Brussels.

Cllr Carville informed the Members that a delegation consisting of Members and Staff had recently visited Brussels where they had met with the MEP's for the region, visited the European Parliament and the Irish Regions Office. A report on this visit would be brought before the Members.

Annual Meeting:

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 16th June, 2008 at 10.00 a.m., and if followed by an adjourned meeting of the Council, that it will conclude at 1.00 p.m.

Bus Eireann

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to write to the Minister for Transport Mr. Noel Dempsey, requesting him to expedite the licensing of two stops, at Castleblayney and Carrickmacross, on the Donegal to Dublin Route 177.

15. Business submitted by the Co. Manager:

The County Manager informed the Members that a Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2008-2012, had been prepared, pursuant to the provisions of Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. He said the Draft Scheme was currently available for inspection at the offices of Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan and on the web-site, up to and including the 20 June 2008. In addition, public information evenings have been arranged in Clones, Ballybay, Castleblayney, Carrickmacross and Monaghan towns. Written submissions or observations with respect to the Draft Development Contribution Scheme should be made to the Planning Authority within the said period and will be taken into consideration before the making of the Development Contribution Scheme. A report will be brought to the Council at the July meeting.

16. Questions

Cllr Gallagher asked:

- a. Would the Council consider doing a survey around the entrance to Tyholland Community Centre with a view to exploring different safety options for traffic entering and exiting the facility as a matter of urgency?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will meet with the National Roads Authority Regional Roads Safety Engineer to discuss the entrance in the near future.*

Cllr McNally asked:

- b. In light of the new toilets being developed in Inniskeen, will this Council now give the old toilets back to the Community Centre?

Reply: *Upon completion of the new toilets it is the intention of Monaghan County Council to offer the old toilets to the Management Committee of the Community Centre.*

- c. How many houses have this Council in the pipeline under Part 5 in Inniskeen Village?

Reply: *There are 11 houses proposed to be acquired under Part V in Inniskeen village.*

- d. Will this Council extend the speed limit between Kednaminsha and Inniskeen Village in order to improve the safety as a result of the football field development?

Reply: *This item has been added to the agenda to be discussed at the next Speed Limits Committee Meeting.*

- e. When is it expected that work will commence on the Carrickmacross Civic Amenity Centre as it is long overdue?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has completed the tendering procedure for the proposed Civic Amenity Site in Carrickmacross. Following this detailed tender assessment process the preferred tenderer was notified. Monaghan County Council is awaiting approval of the application lodged with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for funding to advance the project to construction phase - the estimated cost of the project is €1.7 million.*

On the 1st May 2008 the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government advised all Local Authorities that only expenditure incurred by the 30th June 2008 will be funded under the existing programme. The Department also advised that they were currently reviewing the existing scheme and will be introducing a new scheme under the NDP 2007-2013. Therefore, it appears that that no further allocations will be made until the review is completed.

Cllr McNally asked:

- f. Has this Council any further plans for the proposed new dog shelter/animal pound as discussed at a recent County Council meeting.

Reply: *The existing dog pound facility is operated on behalf of Monaghan County Council by Carrick Boarding Kennels Ltd under the supervision of Brendan Smyth, County Veterinary Officer. They have received planning permission for the erection of a new kennel building which will include 20 new kennels and associated facilities. Monaghan County Council has agreed to enter into an agreement with them to use this new facility for the dog pound up until early 2011.*

The Council has no immediate plans to build a new pound or shelter and no financial provision has been made for such a facility.

Cllr Carville asked:

- g. In relation to the compilation of the Register of Electors in the future, what role will the Revenue Collectors have in this, having regard to the recommendations of an Oireachtas Committee recently that this process would be centralised and given to a new Registration Board. Will this apply for the 2009/10 Register?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has not been advised of any change to the current system of compiling the electoral register. The Revenue Collectors will continue to carry out the fieldwork on the register until such time as a new system is in place.*

- h. Has Monaghan County Council received any notice of its Housing Allocation for 2008 yet and, if so, will it meet the requirements as set out the Housing Strategy and the Housing Business Plan for 2008?

Reply: *Monaghan Local Authorities are awaiting notice of the 2008 Housing Capital Allocation.*

Cllr Martin asked:

- i. When is the report being undertaken by Monaghan County Council concerning the serious problems experienced last year at Glaslough/Tyholland Group Water Scheme expected to be completed and when is it intended to furnish elected members with a copy of same?

Reply: *The report is in the final stages of preparation. It is planned to have the report completed by the end of May 2008. The report will be issued to all interested parties simultaneously.*

- j. Will the report merely outline and record a chronology of events which happened or will it also address:
- (a) What caused the problem
 - (b) Who caused the problem

Reply: The report will deal with the incident from the local authority point of view. Monaghan County Council, as the Supervising Authority acted in accordance with the Drinking Water Regulations 2007. The report will address the cause of the contamination to the water supply.

- k. List the names of all persons authoring and compiling the said report

Reply: The report is being compiled by the technical staff in the Water Services Section.

- l. Name all the persons/groups/bodies, if any that will be furnished with the said report in advance of the elected members receiving same.

Reply: The report will be issued to all interested parties simultaneously

- m. Has Monaghan County Council full confidence in Veolia's continued role in Glaslough/Tyholland Group Water Scheme and the other Group Water Schemes in the County?

Reply: Glaslough/Tyholland GWS is included in the Cavan – East DBO Contract. This contract is administered by Cavan County Council. The performance of the operations contractor, Veolia Water (Ireland) Ltd, in the Glaslough/Tyholland GWS is a matter for Cavan County Council and the GWS.

The Group Water and Public Water Schemes under the Monaghan DBO being operated by the same operations contractor, Veolia Water (Ireland) Ltd., are all being operated in a competent manner - water quality is meeting the standards set out in the Drinking Water Regulations 2007 and the quantity is meeting the GWS and public demand.

Cllr Keelan asked:

- n. In relation to Inniskeen village.
(i) How many people are currently on the Social and Affordable housing waiting lists? What future plans have the Council to house people on these waiting lists?

Reply:

There are 11 applications for Social Housing in Inniskeen Village

There are 3 applications for Affordable Housing in Inniskeen Village. There are 3 casual vacancies in social housing stock at present in the village, tenancies of which will be offered when some maintenance works have been completed.

- (ii) When is it hoped to have the two Pedestrian Crossings put in place in the village, which was agreed in principle in 2007. Will the residents of the village be consulted as to the best location for the crossings?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received €15,000 under Low Cost Improvement Works for Inniskeen. This will only cover the cost of providing one crossing. A design will be prepared and consultation will take place in the coming months.

(iii) What plans have the Council to extend the Sewerage Collection Network out to Ednamo as the current treatment plant has never functioned properly?

Reply: Monaghan County Council are currently looking at the possibility of connecting this area at Ednamo to public sewers. A detailed survey was completed some weeks ago and from this it has been established that a pump station will be required. This will be designed and drawn up in 2008 for construction in 2009. Application will be made to department for funding under Small Schemes Capital Works Programme in 2009. It is hoped that a private developer will complete the first section of the gravity sewer this summer as part of their development.

Cllr Keelan asked:

- o.** In the interest of road safety, what plans have Monaghan County Council in conjunction with the National Roads Authority to put in place Proper Right Turning Lanes at all or some of the most dangerous junctions on the N2 from Carrickmacross to Castleblayney, such as the very dangerous junction at Aghvilla, Tullyvaragh and Broomfield (as examples)?

Reply: Traffic counts have been undertaken by Monaghan County Council at a number of junctions on the N2. The Council is now in the process of analysing the traffic data collected.

- p.** Has the Council any plans to resurface the Ballybay Road Approach from the roundabout and the old Ardee Road Approach from Highfield Estate in to Carrickmacross town as both roads are in a very poor state of repair?

Reply: The Council has funding for the R-180 Ballybay road for 2008. However, the resurfacing of this section will be subject to the completion of the Carrickmacross Main Drainage Scheme on this section of the road. Regarding the Ardee road the Council has no funding for this road in 2008.

- q.** How soon can we expect to see the Street Traders back on the Main Street of Carrickmacross town given the ongoing upgrading of the Sewerage Collection Network?

Reply: Amendments were made to Carrickmacross Town Council - Casual Trading Area Bye-Laws 2007 to facilitate pipeline construction on Main Street.

From the 1st January 2008 until the 31st December 2008 the area designated for Casual Trading is Drummond Etra Car Park.

Monaghan Co. Co. will endeavour to expedite the ongoing pipe laying works on Main Street to enable the return of street traders as soon as possible.

It is impossible to give an exact date at this stage because of the nature of the work concerned. However, Monaghan Co. Co. has programmed the completion of works in the area concerned by the 31st December 2008.

Cllr Keelan asked:

- r. When can we expect to see the Civic Amenity/Recycling Centre operational in Carrickmacross town as many people are going out side the county to use Recycling Facilities such as the one in Dundalk town?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has completed the tendering procedure for the proposed Civic Amenity Site in Carrickmacross. Following this detailed tender assessment process the preferred tenderer was notified. Monaghan County Council is awaiting approval of the application lodged with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for funding to advance the project to construction phase - the estimated cost of the project is €1.7 million.

On the 1st May 2008 the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government advised all Local Authorities that only expenditure incurred by the 30th June 2008 will be funded under the existing programme.

The Department also advised that they were currently reviewing the existing scheme and will be introducing a new scheme under the NDP 2007-2013. Therefore, it appears that that no further allocations will be made until the review is completed.

Cllr Coyle asked:

- s. Regarding the East West Link Road, since the adoption by Monaghan County Council of their preferred route for the East – West link (Dundalk – Sligo) route of Castleblayney – Ballybay – Clones,
- (i) What correspondence etc has Monaghan County Council had from the NRA?
- (ii) What efforts have Monaghan County Council undertaken to progress their preferred route as adopted by the Members?
- (iii) What is the understanding of Monaghan County Council of the N.R.A. position on the progressing of the East – West (Dundalk – Sligo) route?

Reply: By way of background it is important to be aware of the different Regional and National strategies which addressed this issue.

The Draft Regional Planning Guidelines published in February 2004 set as an objective “to promote the phased development of an East-West link from Sligo to Dundalk via Cavan and Monaghan as a medium term priority”.

The Regional Planning Guidelines, as adopted, referred to the route identified in the National Spatial Strategy i.e. Dundalk, Carrickmacross, Shercock, Cootehill, Cavan, Enniskillen and Sligo.

In May 2004 the Border Regional Authority adopted the Dundalk, Carrickmacross, Shercock, Cootehill, Cavan, Enniskillen as the preferred route of the East/West link.

The County Manager, Mr. Declan Nelson, wrote to the NRA on 15th May 2005 informing them that the members of Monaghan County Council had adopted a resolution that their preferred route for an East-West link road was Dundalk/Castleblayney/Ballybay/Clones.

The NRA replied on 30th November 2005 stating that the study that was carried out in 2001 by Kirk McClure & Morton recommended a preferred route from Dundalk through Carrickmacross, Cootehill & Cavan.

At a meeting with the Minister for Transport, Mr. Noel Dempsey, in Trim on Friday 7th December 2007 the elected members of Monaghan County Council outlined their preferred route for the East-West link route.

It should be noted that Cavan County Council has been appointed as the lead authority to progress an East-West link and have recently advertised for Consultants to review the 2001 report and recommend/confirm the most feasible route for the East West corridor. An extract from the published notice is as follows:

“The services of a consultant are required to carry out

(i) a review of the 2001 report, “Strategic Study of the Development of an East West Link Road”, Volumes 1&2, on the Dundalk to Sligo Link Route and update the conclusions in the form of a feasibility report, including all the required specialist areas. This report should recommend/confirm the most feasible route for the East West Corridor.

Cllr Coyle asked:

- t. What is the current position of Monaghan County Council with regard to extension of the Ballybay Town Sewerage Scheme to include the residences on the Castleblayney and Keady Road (R 183-12-LP03403)? When can residents expect detailed proposals for the extension and connection to commence?

Reply:

- *Rising main and part of Castleblayney Road collection pipe work was completed in Dec 2005*
- *Survey of all dwellings which are connectable was completed in April 2008*
- *Application for funding under Small schemes Programme to be made to Department for 2009*

- *Design of all elements to be completed by year end 2008, including collection system, and pumping station required*
- *Land to be procured at Keady Road junction from three possible sites at the junction*
- *Under the tendering procedure a contractor may be appointed early in 2009*
- *Construction could start in spring 2009 depending on DEHLG funding*
- *Monaghan County Council sewer pipe will be brought to boundary of properties only.*

Cllr Coyle asked:

- u. What proposals have Monaghan County Council for the installation of public lighting at the “Meeting House Lane” in Ballybay?

Reply: *There is existing public lighting along the Meeting House Lane in Ballybay. However it may require upgrading. Monaghan County Council will discuss the existing lighting with the ESB and seek recommendations to improve the illumination in this area.*

18. Votes of Sympathy:

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

- Ms Hilda Steenson on the death of her father Mr Jack Lester, Lisgorran, Ballybay.
- The Nugent family, Castleblayney on the death of Mr Edward Paul Nugent a former member of Castleblayney Town Council.
- Ms. Judy Barr on the death of her husband Ivan Barr, Councillor, Strabane District Council.

19. Conferences

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly	9th Annual Regional Assembly Conference	Marriott Druids Glen Hotel Newtownmountkennedy Co Wicklow	16 th May 2008	John O’Brien Benny Kieran David Maxwell Owen Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Gary Carville
Cross Border Workshops	Health Inequalities	Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	22 nd May 2008	Robbie Gallagher John O’Brien

Conferences: (contd):

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
Cork County Council Hosted by the Mayor of Cork County - Cllr Tom Sheahan	National Hub Town Conference	Hibernian Hotel, Mallow, Co. Cork	29 th May 2008	Seamus Coyle Padraig McNally Jackie Crowe David Maxwell Heather Humphreys Hugh Mc Elvaney Vincent P Martin
Energy Action Ltd	Housing in a Changing Climate	Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Dunboyne, Co. Meath	5 th June 2008	Robbie Gallagher Benny Kieran Pat Treanor Heather Humphreys John Keenan David Maxwell Gary Carville

Signed: _____**Meara****Meetings Administrator****Date:** _____