

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building,
Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 2nd May 2006, at 10 a.m.**

Chair: Cllr P Treanor, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager, D. Fallon, P. Clifford, D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer, Ms. R McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator, Ms A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

Apology: *Cllr McAnespie, Cllr Humphreys*

The Mayor informed the Council that he had been contacted by the IFA Sheep Producers Group requesting that a delegation be permitted to attend the Council meeting later that afternoon to discuss the situation in relation to the worrying and killing of sheep by dogs that are not kept under control. The Members agreed to receive the delegation but were in agreement that this departure from Standing Orders, in relation to the reception of delegations, would not set a precedent.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

The Meetings Administrator advised there was an error on page 7 of the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on March 21st - the voting on Cllr McElvaney's proposal should have read 5 for and 12 against – these minutes would be amended accordingly. Also on page 3 of these minutes (item 3, first paragraph) it was agreed to amend the name of Cllr Keenan to Cllr Keelan.

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Minutes of Council meeting held on Monday, 3rd April 2006, be confirmed.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle it was agreed that the Minutes of the Special Meeting to consider the draft County Development Plan held on Monday, 1st March 2006, be confirmed.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Minutes of Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2006, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated to Members:

- Letter from Mr Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the Nitrates Directive
- Letter from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000 – 2006.
- Correspondence from Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mary Coughlan, TD concerning the Nitrates Directive.
- Correspondence from Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr Dick Roche concerning the Nitrates Directive.
- Correspondence from Monaghan Town Council concerning a Notice of Motion in relation to Breast Check.
- Letter from Nuclear Free Local Authorities thanking Monaghan County Council for affiliating to their organisation and requesting a contact person.
- Letter from County Monaghan Partnership seeking approval to continue Cllr Benny Kieran on its Board of Directors.
- Letter from Monaghan Association – Beds & Herts Luton Association inviting a representative of Monaghan County Council to its Annual Dinner Dance.
- Letter from Darlene McGuinness of Peterborough's St Patrick's Parade Committee regretting that they are unable to attend the festivities in Carrickmacross in June 2006.
- Letter from the East Border Region Committee in relation to nominations for the AEBR Conference 2006, 19-21 October 2006 in Pamplona, Spain.
- Letter from Cllr Benny Kieran in relation to a request from the Irish Rural Dwellers Association to make a presentation to the June Council meeting.
- Correspondence from MGN Advertising in relation to readership figures.
- Correspondence from Killarney Town Council in relation to adopting a Notice of Motion calling on the Government to give Free Travel Passes to Irish Emigrants living abroad and sending Presidential Greeting and Gratuity to those who have reached the age of 100.
- Correspondence from Clonakilty Town Council in relation to a Notice of Motion calling on the Minister for Environment and Local Government to amend the planning laws to allow local authorities discretion in relation to planning aspects of the "adult entertainment" industry.

Nitrates Directive

Cllr Bannigan referred to the implementation of the Nitrates Directive and stated that he had been led to believe that there are cases where planning permission for agricultural units is being refused based on the amount of land needed to dispose of slurry.

The County Manager stated that if he were furnished with details of the cases to which Cllr Bannigan was referring he would investigate the matter.

Cllr Bannigan proposed that the Nitrates Directive be placed on the June Council meeting agenda and that a report be prepared as to how it will impact on the farming sector. This was agreed.

Motion from Monaghan Town Council regarding Breast Check

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to endorse the resolution from Monaghan Town Council.

Nuclear Free Local Authorities

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was proposed to put forward Cllr B. McKenna as a contact name for the Nuclear Free Local Authority.

Cllr McElvaney said that he wished for a member of each political party to be nominated to this organisation.

The Mayor said that the correspondence requests one nomination.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to write to this organisation to enquire if the numbers could be extended to include one representative from each political grouping.

Irish Rural Dwellers Association

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed to invite the Irish Rural Dwellers Association to make a presentation to the Council at the June meeting.

County Monaghan Partnership

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that Cllr B. Kierans continue to represent Monaghan County Council on the Board of County Monaghan Partnership until the end of 2006

Monaghan Association (Luton)– Beds & Herts

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Cllr Pat Treanor, Mayor would represent the Council at the Monaghan Association Annual Celebration in Luton on 6th May.

East Border Region Committee

The members considered the letter from the East Border Region Committee seeking two representatives to attend the AEBC Conference 2006, 19-21 October 2006 in Pamplona, Spain.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the Council leave the decision to those members on the EBRC to agree the two nominations.

Cllr B McKenna said that he was opposed to sending two representatives to the East Border Region conference in Spain. He proposed that Cllr Crowe, as Chair of the EBRC would represent them.

Cllr Crowe said that the East Border Region is made up of eight groups. Every year a conference is held and it has always been the case that the Chair and Vice Chair attend. This year a proposal was put forward to extend the numbers - it is up to the Council and not the East Border Region to select nominees.

The Mayor said that they would have to decide if they were going to send one or two members.

Cllr McElvaney proposed an amendment – that in addition to Cllr Crowe that the Council send one other member and that those members on the EBRC select the nominee to be approved by the full Council. Cllr Carville seconded.

Cllr McElvaney's motion was put to the meeting. Cllr B. McKenna called for a roll call vote which resulted as follows:

For Cllrs O. Bannigan, G. Carville, S. Coyle, R. Gallagher, J. Keenan, B. Kierans, D. Maxwell, H. McElvaney, P. McKenna, P, McNally. **Total 10**

Against: Cllrs M. Carthy, S. Conlon, N. Keelan, B. McKenna, P. Treanor. **Total 5**

Abstentions: Cllr J. Crowe, Cllr V. Martin **Total 2**

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

3. Disposal of land at Scarnageeragh:

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was proposed to approve the disposal of 0.0473 hectares at Scarnageeragh, Emyvale in accordance with notice dated 10th April 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To receive Consultation Report on N.E. Waste Management Plan:

Mr David Fallon, Director of Services referred to the Review of the North East Waste Management Plan which has been carried out in accordance with the Waste Management (Planning) Regulations 1997 (SI No 137 of 1997) and the Waste Management Act 1996.

The proposed Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 has been prepared by the local authorities of counties Cavan, Louth, Meath and Monaghan. The review

commenced in 2004 and has taken account of new legislation and policies, regional changes and cross border opportunities. There has been extensive consultation with the public, industry and regional stakeholders. The Consultants for the proposed plan have prepared a substantial and wide ranging report on the consultation process dealing with each submission both on an individual and thematic basis.

Progress on the original waste plan had been successful in relation to the objectives of waste minimisation and recycling, particularly household recycling. This momentum must be continued in order to meet the targets of the ongoing plan set for 2015

- 43% recycling
- 39% thermal treatment
- 18% landfill

In his report he outlined the following:-

- Key findings for the review of the Waste Plan 2001
- Waste Management Policy 2005 – 2010
- Responsibility for implementing the plan
- Consultation process

Cllr B. McKenna referred to the fact that the adoption of this Plan was now an executive function.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded -:

“That Monaghan County Council rejects the North East Region Waste Management Plan as it stands. We further once again call on the Minister of Environment and Local Government to restore the responsibility of adoption of the Waste Management Plans back to the democratically elected local authorities”.

The County Manager advised that the N.E. Waste Management Plan had been prepared by an expert firm of Environmental Consultants. It takes account of E.U. and national legislation, and Government policy. The plan was prepared following extensive consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government local authority officials and the general public. It is the ‘best fit plan’ for this region.

In response to queries from the Members, Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services replied as follows:

- The making of the Plan was an executive function assigned by law to the County Manager.
- Ash deposits from thermal treatment are disposed in Germany. The transportation of toxic waste is subject to EPA regulations

- Most Contractors are providing blue bins and have implemented the pay by weight scheme. Brown bins are an extra facility and there has to be a market for this product. The Council provides composting units at a reduced cost to the public.
- Monaghan County Council only deals with the residue of illegal diesel laundering that is found dumped in County Monaghan.
- There were 51 submissions made during the consultation process and all were responded to.
- There is a problem with waste farm plastic collection service – a lot of illegal plastic is being purchased in Northern Ireland on which levies have not been paid.
- Civic amenity site – Carrickmacross - progress is being made on this site, money has been set aside and the site is being examined.
- In relation to spot checks on households as to their waste disposal methods the Council will be carrying out a survey in this area
- Mobile CCTV facilities have been acquired and these are being used to monitor illegal dumping at bring banks.

The Mayor put Cllr Carthy's motion to the meeting. A roll call vote was called for which resulted as follows:

The County Manager advised the Members that the outcome of any vote on the issue would be irrelevant, as the making of the Plan was an executive function.

For Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Crowe, Keelan, Keenan, Martin, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna.

Total 10

Against: Nil

Abstentions: Cllr Coyle, Gallagher, Kierans, McNally, O'Brien

Total 5

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister of Environment requesting that a facility be made available for the collection of waste farm plastic from every county in Ireland.

5. Approval to Overdraft Accommodation:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was proposed to approve Overdraft accommodation of €8m for the six-month period beginning 1st July 2006 and ending 31st December 2006.

6. Extinguishment of Right of Way:

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to approve the Extinguishment of Public Right of Way over the upper section of LS5030 and LT50301 from Eshacrin Townland to Eshnaglough Townland in accordance with Section 73 of the Roads Act 1993.

7. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group:

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on Monday 10th April 2006.

8. Conservation Grant Scheme 2006

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services referred to report dated 12th April which had been circulated to Members. In view of the fact that additional funding became available in 2005 and in anticipation that similar additional funding may become available in 2006 the Conservation Officer has recommended that fifteen projects with a grant value of €173,586 be approved.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the report dated 12th April in relation to the award of grants under the Conservation Grant Scheme 2006.

9. Annual Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed to fix the date of the Annual meeting for Monday 19th June 2006.

10. Standing Orders & Procedures Committee

It was agreed that a meeting of the Standing Orders & Procedures Committee would be held Thursday 18th May 2006 in the Castleblayney Town Council Chamber at 10.00 a.m.

11. Matters Arising

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Martin it was agreed that a report from the HSE Regional Health Forum be an item on the June agenda.

In relation to the disposal of a plot of ground at Lisanisk, originally acquired under the CPO process for the Carrickmacross by pass, Mr. David Fallon indicated that a report would be prepared on this issue for the June meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it agreed that the Council write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government seeking further funding to implement accident reduction measures at Scotch Corner.

The members agreed to facilitate a request from the Mayor to hold the June Council meeting in Clones town.

Following a proposal at the last Council meeting that the members visit St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre, the centres representative suggested a visit for June 6th 2006. It was agreed that June 19th after the Annual meeting would be a more suitable date because the June 6th meeting is to take place in Clones.

12. Deputation from the Irish Postmaster's Union 2.30p.m.

The Mayor welcomed Kieran McEntee, Alan Sloan, Mary Reilly and Annette Atkinson from the Irish Postmasters Union and invited them to make a presentation to the Council.

Mr. Kieran McEntee thanked the Council for receiving the group and referred to the serious problems facing a lot of the rural post offices which was leading to their closure in large numbers. He introduced Mr. Alan Sloan to the meeting.

Alan Sloan thanked the members for allowing the deputation to speak. He said that the loss of a post office takes the heart out of a community. Postmasters are employed as sub-contractors and are not paid a salary by An Post. They are only paid a fee per annum, sometimes as low as €8000 to maintain and run their office. Most only earn about €25,000 a year. The post office is highly dependent on five corporate clients – DSFA, RTE, NTMA, Bill payments eg ESB/Eircom and MAILS sorting facilities. The post office network has declined by 24% in the period 1999-2004. The group were calling on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to take immediate action to ensure that his Departments makes the Post Office network the provider of choice for all social welfare payments and reflects this position in their literature and that the Department ceases to oblige social welfare recipients to transfer to the bank.

In response to queries from the Members the group responded as follows:

- *It's the company's role to market the service. €56,000 was given from their own union to fund advertising.*
- *Automation costs €7000 to establish plus €3000 to maintain. They as a union feel that all offices should be automated to provide a good service to the local communities.*
- *They have written to the Minister requesting that compensation be made available for updating the post office system.*

- *The Council currently uses the post offices bill payment scheme*
- *New post office signs were being used but the company has reverted back to the old Irish signs.*

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was proposed to write to the Minister of Communications requesting him to ensure that sub postmasters are paid a reasonable fee for the service they provide.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, thanked the group for their presentation and assured them of the Council's support in the future.

14. Questions

1. Cllr John O'Brien asked:

- (a) Can Monaghan County Council look into the extremely dangerous junction at Tossy Cross?

The County Council will examine this junction with a view to monitoring traffic movements

- (b) Can the Council move to provide safety measures at Tossy Cross especially on the approach roads from Loughmourne School and the link road to Castleblayney?

After the junction has been monitored, the County Council will apply for funding for the provision of safety measures as a Low Cost Accident Reduction Measure to the Department.

2. Cllr Matt Carthy asked:

1. In relation to the Affordable housing scheme:
- (a) How many applicants are there in each electoral area for Affordable Houses?
- (b) What are the plans, for each electoral area, to provide houses under the Affordable Housing Scheme to cater for this demand?

Reply to (A) + (B)

	No. of applicants	Position with proposed schemes
Monaghan Town	40	Expect to deliver 28 units through Part V in due course.
Carrickmacross Town	29	24 houses sold. Looking at options under Part V for additional units.
Castleblayney	0	24 units completed and sold recently

Town		
Doohamlet	3	8 houses under construction. Scheme to be advertised for applicants
Emyvale	5	6 houses under construction. Scheme to be advertised for more applicants
Newbliss	0	8 houses sold. 6 additional houses to commence in 2006. Scheme to be then advertised for applicants
Knockatallon	2	8 houses under construction. Scheme to be advertised for more applicants
Glaslough	1	Units to be sought under Part V
Ballybay	0	17 units completed and sold in 2005.

2. With regard to the OPD's at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross:
- (a) What is the current situation regarding the proposed remedial works scheme at Cloughvalley? When is work expected to commence? Will residents be fully consulted before any works commence? Is the council committed to ensuring that any new units are single storey rather than two-storey apartments as proposed by the Department previously?

The Council has received approval from the DoEHLG in respect of ten units. However, we are currently in discussion on proposals for the balance of the scheme. The Department would like to see maximum use made of the site, whereas concern has been expressed locally at any effort to increase the number of units thereon. A final decision is expected from the Department in the coming weeks and the local residents and Elected Members will be advised accordingly.

- (b) How many OPD's are currently unoccupied at Cloughvalley?

There are 7 vacant houses for older persons at Cloughvalley.

3. Will Monaghan County Council consider commissioning an inventory of thatched roof buildings in the county? Will the council consider ways in which to ensure the protection of existing thatched buildings and the introduction of incentives, financial and otherwise, to promote and increase in thatched buildings throughout the county? Can such measures be included in the County Development Plan at this stage?

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, based in DoEHLG will be conducting a survey of Co. Monaghan in the coming years to supplement the current protected structure register. This will include traditional buildings. The NIAH are willing to work in partnership with Local Authorities on commissioning and undertaking architectural surveys, including themed surveys.

The Report on the Present and Future Protection of Thatched Structures in Ireland incorrectly states that there are no thatched buildings in Monaghan on the Register of Protected Structures. Monaghan County Council has included 2 thatched cottages in its review of the Record of Protected Structures in 2001. Two cottages located at Feahoe, Carrickmacross and Clonagore, Clones are included in the current Record of Protected Structures and are eligible for grant assistance under the Conservation Grant Scheme. Chapter 4 of the draft County Development Plan includes policies relating to the conservation, protection and promotion of our built and natural heritage.

4. What are the exact plans for road resurfacing and development works on the Carrickmacross/ Drumcondrath road within the next twelve months?

Circa 1.1 Km of the Drumconrath Road will be surfaced in the vicinity of the Rock chapel within 3 months and a further section 1.3km long is planned further south of the rock chapel under the 2007 roads programme. It is planned to carry out bend easements/ Road realignment/Road widening in the vicinity of Jackson's house on the Drumconrath road when funding becomes available.

5. How many planning applications were received by Monaghan County Council in 2005? Of these:
 - (a) How many applications were granted and refused?
 - (b) How many applications were withdrawn?

Monaghan County Council received 1,443 planning applications in 2005. 1,300 decisions were issued in 2005, 1,129 decisions to grant and 171 decisions to refuse permission. 72 applications were formally withdrawn by the applicants, 71 applications were withdrawn after the applicants failed to respond to a request for further information within the time period prescribed in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001

3. Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked

1. In light of the very positive recent announcements in relation to the extension of the CLAR programme to most areas of the county and the increased funding for the Local Improvement Scheme what steps can the council take to maximise the potential funding for roads and other initiatives bearing in mind the need to draw down as much funding as possible by the end of December 2006?

The Council will take every opportunity to obtain maximum funding due to the extension of the Clar programme

4. Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

1. How much land bank in acres has Monaghan County Council for social housing, for the current and future housing needs of the people? Where is this land located and when do we intend to commence building on same given that we have between 700 – 800 people on our housing waiting lists?

There are 218 applicants on the Monaghan County Council waiting lists. The land bank in Council ownership is as follows:

	Hectares
Newbliss	0.49
Iniskeen	1.6
Broomfield	1.33

The following schemes are currently in progress by Monaghan County Council:

Bree	35
Convent Lands	14 (Balance of Co. Co. units)
Doohamlet	14
Emyvale	30
Knockatallon	14
Scotstown	5
Smithboro	2
Bawn	8
Rural Houses	<u>1</u>
Total	123

The following housing schemes will commence in 2006

Newbliss	8
Rural houses	4
Ballinode	2
Rockcorry	2
2 nd Hand Purchases	2
Glaslough	8
Demountable units	<u>7</u>
Total	33

The Council propose to acquire up to 82 units by the end of 2008 under Part V in the Monaghan County Council area.

2. What is the up to date position in relation to having life saving defibrillators available in every fire station in the county? Members of Monaghan County Council unanimously adopted a motion in this regard some months ago.

Negotiations are ongoing with the HSE services in relation to the provision of defibrillators.

3. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a much-needed Civic Amenity/Recycling Centre in Carrickmacross town?

The design for the recycling centre for Carrickmacross is ongoing and contractors have been appointed to carry out site investigations in order that we can complete the detailed design for the facility. Until the new Regional Waste Plan is adopted, it is not possible to say with certainty that any facility will go ahead, but the need for additional facilities has been identified in the draft plan, and guidelines for choosing locations were included.

4. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of much-needed footpaths and public lighting along the Magherboy road and past the entrance to the Foxfield estate in Carrickmacross? The provision of these utilities was a condition placed on the developer of the estate.

Negotiations to secure land for the provision of a Public footpath to service housing development in this area are ongoing.

The Magherboy area is zoned for higher density housing under the current Carrickmacross Draft Development Plan. Future large-scale housing developments will be conditioned to upgrade footpaths and lighting to enhance the general Magheraboy area and make it safer for pedestrians.

5. Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

1. What safety measures and road improvements do Monaghan County Council and the National Roads Authority propose to carry out on the N2 at Corleadargan (North of Castleblayney), where many accidents have occurred recently?

No measures are proposed for this area presently by the NRA. The majority of vehicular accidents involve heavy goods vehicles leaving the road and ending up in the roadside ditch. The provision of the Castleblayney Bypass that is presently under construction will remove the majority of heavy goods vehicles using the existing road eliminating the accidents that are occurring.

2. When will the Housing Scheme at Doohamlet be completed and the houses allocated?

The houses are expected to be completed and allocated by December 2006.

3. What is the proposed timeframe for Phase II of the Ballybay streetscape project and when will it commence?

The design of the streetscape has been completed and it is proposed to submit the part 8 planning application within the next 2 weeks. It is

envisaged, subject to planning, that work will commence at the end of July/ beginning of August

6. Cllr McAnespie asked:

1. Will this Council, as a matter of urgency, replace the existing fencing at Lakeview and Oriel Park, which is in a serious need of replacement?

The fence is to the rear of the line of houses at Oriel Park. As these houses are privately owned, the Council has no authorisation/ obligation to enter onto private property and replace the existing fence or boundary. The responsibility of maintaining the existing fence lies with the owners of each dwelling.

16. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Members indicated would represent the Council at the following conferences:

Conference Budget 2006	€126,500
Expenditure to date	€31, 415.46
Balance remaining	€95, 084.54

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Approx. cost Per member	Members Selected
Blackwater Valley Tourism	Local Partnerships...are they still the way forward?	The Hibernian Hotel, Mallow, Co Cork	18 th May – 20 th May	€700	Pat McKenna Owen Bannigan John Keenan Hugh McElvaney Padraig Mc Nally John O Brien Vincent P Martin
National Consultative Committee on Racism & Interculturalism Synergy initiative	Promoting Rights of Migrant Workers	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre. Lurgan, Co Armagh	23 rd May 2006	€100	Brian Mc Kenna
Clare County Council	Enhancing an Enterprise Culture – The Role of Local Authorities	Glor Irish Music Centre, Ennis, Co Clare	25 th & 26 th May 2006	€540	John Keenan David Maxwell Robbie Gallagher Jackie Crowe
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly	7 th Annual Regional Assembly Conference	Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co Kildare	26 th May 2006	€390	Matt Carthy
Kerry Mental Health Association	“Exercising your Mental Health – The Role of Elected Members in Promoting Health & Well Being through Physical Activity”	Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry	26 th & 27 th May 2006	€845	Pat McKenna Hugh McElvaney Owen Bannigan Seamus Coyle Padraig Mc Nally

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Approx. cost Per member	Members Selected
Michael Davitt	Centenary Commemoration of the Death of Michael Davitt	Michael Davitt Memorial Centre Straide Pontoon, Foxford, Co Mayo	2 nd – 4 th June		Benny Kieran
Mediation Northern Ireland	The Challenge of Change a convention about diversity in a society still struggling with division	Canal Court Hotel, Newry	5 th – 7 th June 2 006	€550	Vincent P Martin Owen Bannigan
Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly	Social Inclusion & Equality: A Fairer Economy and Society	The White House Hotel, Ballinlough, Co Roscommon	8 th June 2006	€430	Pat McKenna Benny Kieran John O'Brien Brian McKenna
Offaly's Centre for Arts	The Cultural Development of your County	Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, Birr, Co Offaly	8 th – 10 th June 2006	€470	Gary Carville John Keenan Owen Bannigan Seamus Coyle Robbie Gallagher Sean Conlon Vincent P Martin

17. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to

- St Louis Secondary School, Monaghan, on winning the U-16 All-Ireland "A" schools football final for the first time.

The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to

- The family of the late Edward Prendergast C.E.O. of Lakeland Dairies.

19. Presentation by the Irish Farmers Association

The Mayor welcomed the I.F.A. delegation and said that Standing Orders had been suspended to allow them to make their presentation.

The following I.F.A. members attended the presentation, Mr. Philip McCaul, Chairman Sheep Producers Group, Mr. Michael McHugh, (Teagasc), Gene Kerr, Wesley Brown, (IFA Sheep representative), Paudge McKenna, Stanley Wilson, (Sheep Farmer) and Eamon Finnegan.

Michael McHugh stated the reason they were here today was to highlight the problem of sheep worrying. Since an article had appeared in the Northern Standard about sheep worrying, two more attacks have occurred. There are four hundred sheep farmers in the county and over 90% of them have experienced an attack in the last three years. Not only does it affect their profitability but also the sheep are killed in a cruel manner by the dogs and this affects production. If sheep are attacked in the autumn they will not lamb,

in winter invisible abortions occur and sheep that are worried will not thrive. There are also the veterinary costs and the time spent treating the lambs to be considered.

Monaghan County Council is responsible for dog control but the reality is that the system of dog control - licensing and identification are not good enough. Only one third of dogs are licensed. People have to be made aware that they must control their dogs as pets or working animals. If dogs are not identified there should be stiff penalties. Dog owners need to know that dogs should be under their control all the time. In most cases the owners of dogs caught worrying or killing sheep will not identify themselves.

He went on to make the following points:

1. The existing laws need to be enforced and all dogs should be micro chipped.
2. There needs to be a blitz publicity campaign highlighting clearly that all dogs must be kept under control. Dogs should not be allowed outside a family home without being under the owner's control.
3. More personnel are needed to assist the dog warden
4. People need to neuter dogs and if a dog has pups, there needs to be a system where a follow up occurs to see what happened to these animals.
5. Two recent attacks were carried out by dogs re-homed from the dog pound.
6. More dog wardens need to be employed to police the whole county.

The delegation responded to queries from the Members. Following a brief debate the following proposals were agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was proposed that the Council endeavour to address the issues raised by the delegation and review the situation in six months to see if the Council has matched what they have promised.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was proposed to refer the matter to the Environment SPC and request them to examine the issues raised in relation to the introduction of bye laws to ensure that all dogs are micro chipped and that an increased publicity campaign be initiated.

Cllr McNally proposed writing to Galway and Donegal County Council, and any other local authority with a high sheep quota to see how they deal with the problem of sheep worrying as well as to the Garda to see what powers they have in relation to the control of dogs. This was agreed.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____