

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr H. Humphreys, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer, Ms. S. Clerkin, Heritage Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllr Carville.

At the outset the Mayor extended the sympathy of the Council to Cllr Jackie Crowe on the recent death of his sister Frances Bowring-Carr, R.I.P. All members joined in the vote of sympathy as did the County Manager, on behalf of the staff. A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Services in relation to proposed social housing scheme at Bree, Castleblayney.
- Letter from Mr. Sean Haughey, T. D., Minister for Lifelong Learning in response to issues raised by Council deputation during his visit to Monaghan.
- Letter from the Office of Public Works advising the Council of an allocation of €1,500 for flood mitigation works (Clones to Finn River)
- Letter from the National Roads Authority in relation to Ballinacarry Bridge.
- Email from Andy Ogle, North East Regional Drugs Task Force in relation to discontinuation of funding for the Foroige based drugs education initiative in Cavan/Monaghan.
- Letter from the Health Service Executive enclosing details of existing transport timetable between Monaghan and Cavan Hospital.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to Council's resolution re Quinn Insurance Group
- Letter from An Bord Pleanala advising the Council of the dates for the preliminary and substantive hearings in relation to the planning application for the Meath-Tyrone 400kv Interconnector.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Education in relation to Council's resolution regarding Special Needs Assistants.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Local Services in relation to Council's resolution regarding long term leasing.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to Council's resolution regarding septic tanks.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to Council's resolution regarding centralisation of medical cards processing.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Reception and Integration in relation to Council's request for permission to visit St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre.
- Letter from Carton Group thanking the Council for the work undertaken by its staff during the recent period of inclement weather.
- Resolution from Cobh Town Council calling for support for the 'Justice for Robert Delaney Campaign'

### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that this Council calls on the Taoiseach, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Government to ensure that reasonable costs incurred by the people of Co. Monaghan in respect of the upcoming Bord Pleanala public hearing into the Eirgrid planning application to construct a 400kv overhead powerline are reimbursed. Under the European Charter of Fundamental Rights all parties are to be treated equally at events like public hearings. A commitment to re-imburse reasonable costs by individuals/communities and voluntary groups from Co. Monaghan must be given in order to ensure justice/fair play.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed to write to the National Roads Authority requesting a copy of the list of proposals that the NRA are asking the Special EU Programme Body to fund under the Interreg IV Transport Measure (€10 million fund).*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council seek an urgent meeting with Mr. Michael Finneran, T.D., Minister for Housing to discuss the Cloughvalley Remedial Works Scheme and Social Housing at Bree, Castleblayney.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Housing requesting an increase in the allocation for the Social Housing Investment Programme.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to 'Domain.ie' requesting that they take steps to remove on-line 'head shops' from the internet.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council write again to An Taoiseach advising him of the urgency of the situation regarding Quinn Insurance - that the jobs losses announced will have a huge impact on this area and asking him to intervene to save these jobs.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council write to the Financial Regulator requesting that he opens up the rest of the viable markets available to Quinn Direct Insurance in order to save as many jobs as possible.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council write to the Office of Public Works expressing its disappointment at the allocation to this Council for flood mitigation works and requesting an additional funding allocation.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council prepare a list of flooding black-spots within the county affecting private property for the June Council meeting.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Office of Public Works be invited to make a presentation to the Council similar to the one delivered at a recent meeting of the Border Regional Authority.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council, make contact with Mr. A. Ogle, NERDTF through the Council representative, Cllr Carthy, to ascertain the outcome of the finance sub-group meeting earlier that day.*

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

**Ref No. 10/8000** – permission for the provision of parking and loading bays, undergrounding of ESB services, realignment and paving of footpaths, the resurfacing of the road, an uncontrolled crossing facility for pedestrians, road markings and road signs, the provision of decorative lighting, street furniture and various ancillaries at R162 (Lower Main Street), Ballybay Town, Co. Monaghan.

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report of the Director of Planning Services dated 19 April, 2010 which had been circulated to the Members.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director's report dated 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 "*

### **4. To consider Variation No. 18 to Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 relating to amendment of Policy RD29**

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the Directors Report dated 26 April, 2010 in relation to the proposal to vary the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 to incorporate the EPA Code of Practice – Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving single houses (EPA 2009) within Policy RD29. He also referred to Circular Letter PSSP 1/10 of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 which was circulated at the meeting. The variation requires that all proposals involving the installation of an on site wastewater treatment system must be in accordance with the requirements of the EPA Code of Practice – Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving single houses (EPA,2009). Mr. Hughes stated that the variation had been advertised in the local newspaper on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 and no submissions were received during the public consultation period. The Directors report recommended the adoption of the proposed variation.

During a debate on the matter, a number of members expressed their opposition to the adoption of the proposed variation to the County Development Plan.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director stated that under Section 29 of the Planning and Development Act the Minister may from time to time, issue policy directives to planning authorities regarding any of their functions under this Act and planning authorities shall comply with any such directives in the performance of their functions. The proposed variation is required, in order to replace a section in the County Development Plan which currently gives incorrect information.

*Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr O’Hanlon seconded that the Council adopt the proposed variation to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013.*

A recorded vote on the proposal resulted as follows:

<b>For:</b>	Cllrs Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, McNally, Murray, O’Brien, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.	<b>Total 13</b>
<b>Against:</b>	Cllrs Bannigan, Connolly, Humphreys, McElvaney	<b>Total 4</b>
<b>Abstentions:</b>	Cllrs Carthy and Maxwell.	<b>Total 2</b>

The Mayor declared Cllr Gallagher’s proposal carried.

## **5. Update on Lough Muckno**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. McKenna it was agreed that the Council discuss this item ‘in Committee’.*

A lengthy discussion took place during which the County Manager updated the Members on the current position and responded to queries raised by them.

*Cllr Crowe proposed, Cllr Connolly seconded that the Council allow the Manager and the sub-Committee to enter into discussions/negotiations with Mr. Chris Haren in relation to the future of Hope Castle.*

The Mayor put Cllr Crowe’s proposal to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

The following members were appointed to the sub-Committee –

Mayor Heather Humphreys	Cllr Robbie Gallagher
Cllr Brian McKenna	Cllr Seamus Treanor
Cllr Owen Bannigan	

It was agreed that a meeting of the sub-Committee would be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 9.30 a.m. in the Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan.

The meeting came back into public session at this point.

## **6. To consider draft North East Framework Action Plan on Homelessness**

The members noted the draft North East Framework Action Plan on Homelessness. The draft document will now be produced and will be discussed by the Housing

SPC before being presented for ratification by the full Council at the September meeting.

**7. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2010**

**(i) Conservation Grants Scheme 2010**

The Members considered the report on the Conservation Grants Scheme which had also been considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

Ms. S. Clerkin, Heritage Officer outlined the Scheme of Priorities under which the protected structures, which are the subject of the applications received, are assessed and prioritised. She confirmed that an allocation of €64,000 has been received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Assessment of the Applications has been carried out by consultancy, Architectural Recording and Research on behalf of the Council.

Ms. Clerkin then outlined each of the recommendations for grant assistance. She also responded to a number of queries from the members.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Report on the Conservation Grants Scheme 2010 and the recommendations as to the allocation of grants totalling €64,000 be approved by the Council.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government advising that applications under the Conservation Grants Scheme 2010 surpassed expectations and that additional funding is required to meet the continued demand.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the Council request the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to review the Conservation Grants Scheme to take account of applications for funding under €1,900.*

**(ii) Community Development Fund 2010**

Mr. A. King, Director referred to the Community Development Fund 2010, details of which had been circulated to the Members. He outlined a number of minor changes to this year's scheme.

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council adopt the Community Development Fund 2010, as presented and that the scheme be advertised to the public with a closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.*

**(iii) Social Inclusion Strategy 2010 – 2012**

Mr. A. King, Director referred to the Social Inclusion Strategy 2010-2012, details of which had been circulated to the Members and which had already been considered by the Corporate Policy Group.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr P. Connolly it was agreed that the Council adopt the Social Inclusion Strategy 2010-2012 subject to the inclusion of Homeless Persons in the Social Profile of County Monaghan.*

**(iv) Housing Adaptations Grants Scheme – approval to Schedule of Approved Costs.**

Mr. A. King advised that following consideration by the Housing SPC the committee recommended that the Council approve the addition of an additional paragraph to the Schedule of Approved Costs and Scheme of Priorities to give further clarity to applicants. The amendment has also been considered by the Corporate Policy Group and recommended to the Council.

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Schedule of Approved Costs and Scheme of Priorities be amended to include the following paragraph –*

*Grant aid is provided for ground floor bedroom/bathroom accommodation where appropriate to the occupational needs of the applicant. However, applicants are encouraged to consider the conversion of existing facilities, such as a sitting room, where family circumstances permit, to minimise disruption and costs. Monaghan County Council reserves the right to fund works as it considers to be reasonably necessary.*

**8. To fix date for the following meetings**

**(i) Annual meeting of Monaghan County Council**

It was agreed that the Annual meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 10.00 a.m. in the Mtek Building.

**(ii) Roads/Environment SPC meeting**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Roads/Environment SPC would be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

**(iii) Local Improvements Scheme Committee meeting**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Local Improvements Scheme Committee would be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 4.30 p.m.

**9. Presentation on Border Region Transport Corridor**

The Mayor welcomed the following persons to the meeting - Michael Conroy, Colin Acton and Seamus McGearailt, from Roughan & O'Donovan, Aecom Alliance and Alan Whelan, TIROS Resources.

She invited them to make a presentation to the Council on the proposed Border Region Transport Corridor.

In his presentation Mr. Conroy stated that an enhanced network solution was likely to be required to meet the transport needs of the region with the development of a hierarchy of roads to an appropriate standard envisioned. The improvement of the network would facilitate access to jobs, education and other services and would also facilitate access to national and international markets. The development of the East West link would be undertaken in a way that would minimise the adverse environmental and socio-economic impact of transport development on the efficiency of the existing transport corridor. The intention is to deliver a road network that will achieve its required functions in a cost effective way.

Following the presentation a number of members expressed disappointment at the conclusions presented to the Council. They were of the view that the route chosen did not satisfy the common sense objective of the shortest distance between two points and did not take account of transport developments which were happening north of the border. Cllrs McNally and O'Hanlon supported the conclusions recommended by the Consultants.

Responding to comments from the Members, Mr. Conroy stated that the consultants did not recommend a single route but improvements in a number of key routes in the region. He stated that they had carried out a transparent and reasonable study and one which is defensible. He advised that there was no commitment for funding at the moment which is a matter for the Department of Transport.

The Mayor thanked the Consultants for their presentation.

## **10. Presentation on the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Padraig Maguire, Project Manager for the Border Regional Planning Guidelines Review and invited him to address the Council.

Mr. Maguire thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them in relation to the Regional Planning Guidelines. He stated that the Guidelines consider the statutory obligations of all local authorities in the region, all relevant policies and objectives of the Government, including in particular any national plans, policies or strategies specified by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government as relevant to the determination of strategic planning policies. The Guidelines set 12 to 20-year strategic policy that should be considered by local authorities in their development plans. Regional Planning Guidelines do not consider site specific issues, as that is the role of the local authority development plans. In his presentation he outlined the following

- The background to the review and the planning hierarchy
- The legislative requirements
- RPG approach
- Overview of the key chapters in the draft guidelines
- What the regional planning guidelines can deliver
- The public consultation process.

Mr. Maguire also confirmed that the closing date for receipt of final submissions is 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 and it is intended to have the Regional Planning Guidelines adopted in July 2010.

Following his presentation, Mr. Maguire responded to queries from the Members.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Maguire for a very informative presentation.

#### **11. Proposed Eirgrid 400 kv Interconnector – Oral Hearing**

Cllr Keelan stated that the Oral Hearing on the planning application for the Eirgrid 400kv interconnector will commence on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010. He urged all those with an interest in the project to attend the hearing.

#### **12. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:**

The Members noted the report from Cllrs Bannigan, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally and O’Hanlon in respect of their attendance at the following conferences.

- ACCC Annual Conference, Ballykisteen, Co. Tipperary
- Developing Sustainable Local Tourism, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
- LAMA Annual Conference, Sligo
- Developing Arts & Cultural Initiatives, Listowel, Co. Kerry
- Preparing for Economic Recovery, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
- Planning Seminar, Limerick
- 21<sup>st</sup> Colmcille Winter School, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
- Mid West Regional Authority Annual Conference, Limerick
- BMW Conference - Promoting Growth & Jobs, Cavan
- Our Towns a 20:20 Vision, Bray, Co. Wicklow
- Rattoo Heritage Environment Conference, Tralee, Co. Kerry

#### **13. Business submitted by County Manager**

The Manager stated that he had no items to discuss under this heading.

#### **14. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 were responded to by the relevant officials.



## 15. Questions

**Cllr A. Murray asked:**

1. How many prosecutions for littering has Monaghan Co Council taken in the past 12 months?

**Reply:**

<i>No of fines issues</i>	<b>92</b>
<i>No of fines paid</i>	<b>39</b>
<i>No of prosecutions</i>	<b>7</b>
<i>No of successful prosecutions</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Cases where defendant cannot be traced</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Cases where fine was paid before court date</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Cases statute barred</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>Awaiting court date</i>	<b>1</b>

**Cllr S. Conlon asked:**

2. With regard to the N2 Castleblayney By-Pass:
  - a) What is the expected date for the completion of works by the contractors?

**Reply:** *The Contractor has not indicated a revised completion date for the outstanding works. The Council's representatives' continue to press the contractor for a revised date for the completion of the outstanding works.*

- b) What number of landowners has yet to have their contracts completed with Monaghan County Council?

**Reply:** *Two cases remain to be agreed and one case where proof of title remains to be confirmed between the Council's and claimant's law agents.*

- c) From a question asked last February, please outline in detail in relation to works to be completed in Glennyhorn: what are i) mainline works, ii) employer requirement works in relation to height restriction barriers, iii) accommodation works for landowners and iv) snagging works?

**Reply:** *Mainline works refer to completion of the tie-in of the works to the existing N2 at Clontibret and the installation of bollards in accordance with the Contract.*

*Employer Commitment Works refer to the completion of a gate and height restriction barrier at the Glennyhorn Underpass. Accommodation Works refers to the provision of speed ramps and speed limit signs at Glennyhorn.*

3. In reference to third party damage and breakages to phone and broadband cabling that occurs occasionally and that part of the 24,000 km fibre optic broadband cable that feeds into the €30 million Project Kevlin passes through County Monaghan, what security/preventative measures are in place that will help avoid potential damage and major disruption to this valuable network of broadband and communication infrastructure?

**Reply:** *This is a matter for the service providers or operators of this infrastructure.*

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

4. (a) Did this Council make an application to the Department to alleviate flooding?

**Reply:** *An application for funding was made to the Office of Public Works (OPW) under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Studies Fund in February 2010.*

(b) How many locations were considered necessary to have works carried out to avoid future flooding?

**Reply:** *The schemes put forward are required to meet certain criteria. The Council submitted ten projects for funding.*

(c) How much did this Council receive and where will it be spent?

**Reply:** *Funding was approved for one project to the value of €31,500 or 90% of the cost of the works. The works comprise the cleaning and replacement of culvert crossings in the drainage channel from Beech Grove in Clones to the Finn River.*

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

5. Has this Council finalised plans for to have all the affected roads in Carrickmacross resurfaced as a result of the sewerage works, in particular, Rockdaniel Road, Cloughvalley, Main Street and Castleblayney Road. None of these have figured in any proposals to date.

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council will undertake permanent reinstatement of all roads affected by the ongoing pipe-laying works, as provided for in the contract.*

*Permanent Road / Trench Reinstatements - Completed at End April 2010  
Farney Street, O'Neill Street, Parnell Street, Chapel Lane, Ballybay Road, Magheross Road and the Kingscourt Road.*

*Permanent Road / Trench Reinstatements Scheduled for Completion in by End June 2010*

*Oriel Road, Castleblayney Road (Half Width Reinstatement), Dundalk Road, Shercock Road (Full width – Road Closure Required).*

*Pipe-laying works on the other approaches to Carrickmacross are incomplete at this time or have outstanding elements yet to be addressed by the main contractor.*

*Monaghan County Council are currently considering the options available for the permanent reinstatement of the concrete roads in the Cloughvalley estate area. Permanent reinstatement of the Cloughvalley estate / Rockdaniel road will be completed in July / August 2010. Works on Main Street are incomplete*

*at this time and no permanent reinstatement will be completed on Main Street until Q3 / Q4 2010.*

*The contractor will continue to maintain temporary reinstatements as provided for in the contract.*

6. Has this Council made any progress with the extension of the sewerage plant Ardee Road, Carrickmacross?

**Reply:** *Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme – Contract 3 (Treatment Plant Upgrade & Outfall) is included in the recently published Water Service Investment Programme 2010 – 2012. The works are estimated to cost € 5.5M. The treatment plant upgrade and outfall technical proposal was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The works are contingent on Departmental approval of the technical submission and the associated Water Pricing Report. Monaghan County Council currently awaits the Department’s sanction to proceed to contract document and tender stage.*

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

7. Has this Council any plans in place for the upgrading of the Dundalk road i.e. the section between Essexford and Ballymackney which was to be phase 2 of the Red Bog project?

**Reply:** *Consultants have been appointed by Cavan County Council to prepare a preliminary design for an improved route between Cavan and Dundalk.*

**Cllr G. Carville asked:**

8. Given that the Council has been in discussion with officials of the Dept of Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to the provision of a suitable and environmentally friendly sewerage treatment facility at Clontibret, what is the up to date position regarding this matter and when can it be expected that progress will be visible?

**Reply:** *The option of an environmentally friendly scheme is being considered for Clontibret, at present, subject to funding. The recent funding bloc provided to MCC under the DOEHLG’s rural water programme has already been allocated to other projects for 2010. The WSIP 2010-2012 did not provide any funding for this project either. Therefore there are no immediate plans to progress this scheme to construction stage.*

9. When will the Council be in a position to erect public lighting at McKelvey’s Grove Church, Castleblayney?

**Reply:** *The Council is in the process of seeking a design and quotation for the scheme. Once this has been received it will be placed on order with a view to getting the work completed in 2010.*

10. In relation to the administration and payment of Higher Education Grants by this Council, on behalf of the Department of Education & Skills:

(a) What are the criteria for payments of grants being made to students during the various stages of the academic year?

**Reply:** *In respect of new applicants, grant cheques are paid out on receipt of confirmation from the college of registration for each student. In respect of renewal students, grants are paid out in early-September of each year on receipt of their renewal application form and examination results. All students receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of grant in early-January and their 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment of grant in April, (the week after Easter).*

(b) What levels of funding have been involved for this Council in the academic years of 2008/09 and 2009/10?

**Reply:** *Financial Year 2008 €2,463,342; Financial Year 2009 €2,699,462*

(c) What impact has this had on the cash-flow of this Council?

**Reply:** *There was no impact because the Council had in place a sufficient overdraft facility to ensure cash flow was not impacted.*

(d) How has any negative cash-flow effects impacted on the timely payment of grants to students in terms of delays?

**Reply:** *There was no impact to students.*

(e) What is the average turn-around time for re-imburement by the Dept of Education & Skills in respect of grants paid?

**Reply:** *In 2008/2009 academic year the average turn-around for receipt of monies from the Department was 3-4 months, e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> instalment cheques were paid out in early September 2009 and monies were received from the Department in mid-December 2009.*

*In the 2009/2010 academic year the Department made an advance payment to all local authorities in December prior to claim forms being submitted to the Department. The purpose of this advance payment was, due to the current economic climate, to assist local authorities with the timely payment of grant cheques.*

(f) What interest burden has this Council had to bear as a result of failure of the Dept to re-imburse the Council on time for payments made?

**Reply:** *The estimated interest for 2009 calculated using month of issue of grants and month of re-imburement by the Department is €2,900. This calculation is based on the assumption that all grant cheques are cashed in the month they are issued.*

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

11. In view of the increased volume of traffic to the school, Learning Centre, Childcare Facilities and new housing development at Knockconan, Ballyoisin:

(a) What plans are in place to ensure that the vertical alignment of the road will be improved to enhance visibility for the users of these services and ensuring the safety of road users at this junction?

(b) What is the likely timescale for completion of these works?

**Reply: *These works are not included in the agreed programme for 2010. The Council propose to make an application under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme for these works in 2011.***

12. In view of the state of disrepair of the bridge at Ballyalbany, what plans are there to do repair work to the bridge and what is the likely timeframe for the works?

**Reply: *An application was made under the Conservation Grant Scheme to the Department of the Environment last year for a number of schemes in the County but the application for the bridge works was unsuccessful. The Area Engineer's office intend to carry out some emergency repairs this year.***

**Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon asked:**

13. As raised at Carrickmacross Town Council meeting, when will the 5 signs for Inniskeen be put in place, (2 on Oriel Road, 1 at Valley Lodge, 1 at O'Neill Street, and 1 at Callan's of the Bridge)?

**Reply: *This matter can be discussed at the next Road Area Meeting.***

**Cllr. Keelan asked:**

14. Will Monaghan County Council have legal representation at the oral hearing in relation to the proposed North-South Interconnector; if yes, will that representation include Senior Counsel?

**Reply: *It is not yet determined if Monaghan County Council require Senior Counsel at the upcoming oral hearing on the proposed North-South Interconnector. The Council's solicitor has accompanied staff attending the initial meeting with An Bord Pleanala on 27 April 2010 regarding this matter.***

15. Given that work is progressing well at the Council's new recycling centre in Carrickmacross, when is it hoped to have this centre open to the public?

**Reply: *End of June 2010.***

16. In relation to the various Development Contribution schemes operated by this Council, approximately how much money would Monaghan County be owed at this time?

**Reply:** *As at 1 March 2010, a total of €5,730,759.51 has accrued in respect of contributions on commenced developments. However €3,484,755.35 of the above relates to phased developments where contributions are phased and contributions may also be accrued for units in a housing development where the planning permission has expired and units not built. Site inspections are currently being carried out on unfinished estates. This will establish the number of units built and contributions outstanding accordingly.*

17. In relation to the Carrickmacross by-pass accommodation works, will this Council ensure that the portion of land at Lisanisk will be levelled and reseeded in such a way that it can be easily maintained by the local residents; in relation to the totally inadequate planting adjacent to Finnegan's Bus Hire Company, will the Council ensure that this matter is also addressed?

**Reply:** *The Council will refer this matter to the Consultants for the scheme for discussion with the contractor in advance of the closeout of the scheme.*

**Cllr. Keelan asked:**

18. In relation to the old Ardee Road approach to Carrickmacross from Highfield to the Kingscourt Road junction, when will this road be resurfaced; will some drainage be put in place as this area is prone to flooding; will our council staff make contact with the owners of the site adjacent to this road with a view to replacing the wooden hoarding which is unsightly and possibly unsafe?

**Reply:** *This is on the 2010 Roads Programme. These works will be done in conjunction with other works to minimise disruption to traffic in the town.*

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

19. Can the Council investigate what safety measures could be constructed at the dangerous junction at Ballinode, i.e. where the four roads meet at the top of the village?

**Reply:** *The Council will examine this location and discuss at the next Road Area Meeting.*

20. Would the Council:  
(a) consider convening a meeting with the local IFA regarding their anti-litter campaign with a view to working in partnership and collaboration with the rural community to counter the serious litter problem on rural and main roads?

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

*Through our Local Authority Prevention Development program we have previously worked with the farming community in minimizing waste produced on Farms and this program was very effective.*

*A meeting to ensure both organizations maximize their resources can be arranged.*

(b) consider putting in place a "name and shame" campaign with regard to litter control?

**Reply: *The local media can report on litter cases enforced through the District Courts. It is open to members to propose and adopt a policy to publish a list of persons convicted of offences under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997.***

(c) consider placing litter bins at laybys particularly on the Castleblayney bypass so people can have the opportunity to dispose of litter properly at these locations?

**Reply: *The lay-bys on the 2+1 scheme were not intended to be provided as general parking areas but instead were for emergency or breakdowns hence their location mid way along the single lane section. Provision of litter bins would encourage their use as rest areas, an activity for which they were not originally designed.***

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

21. In the interest of road safety will the Council construct a footpath linking the houses in Dernagrew to Ballyalbany cross?

**Reply: *The Council have no current plans to construct a footpath at this location.***

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

22. What plans has Monaghan County Council for the extension of the public lighting scheme on the Monaghan Road, Rockcorry?

**Reply: *These works are not included on the 2010 programme as agreed at the recent Road Area meeting but are included in the list of public lighting schemes awaiting funding.***

23. Could the Water Services section of Monaghan County Council examine the possibility of an alert system, i.e. text warning, when there is the possibility of water service disruption to an area of households, resulting in dirty / soiled water getting into household systems, washing machines, etc., on break in water supply or on resumption of service as great nuisance can be caused to water consumers on disruption to supply?

**Reply: *It is not deemed practical to communicate with water customers by text as the details on file relate to non-domestic account holders only (who may or may not be the tenant). Details for domestic users are not on file. In either case there is no data base of mobile phone numbers.***

***Routine or planned scouring is notified by means of a notice in the Northern Standard for three consecutive weeks in advance of the scouring.***

***Non-routine or emergency works are notified by means of three radio notices on Northern Sound Radio, giving as much advance notice as possible.***

***For small scale local works (affecting a small numbers) the customers are notified in person.***

24. What plans has Monaghan County Council to complete the numbering of all roads, i.e. erecting of road number signs on national, regional, local primary, local secondary and local tertiary roads in the county?

**Reply:** *A scheme was carried out by the National Roads Authority for the numbering of roads along the national routes. The Department of Transport provided funding for regional roads under the Regional Road Signing Scheme. There are currently no plans to extend any such scheme to local roads.*

**18. Conferences:**

*On the proposal of Cllr S. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.*

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
<b>TGR Seminars</b>	<b>Being Positive in a Negative Climate</b>	Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2010	Aidan Murray Owen Bannigan P. J. O’Hanlon Seamus Coyle Jackie Crowe
<b>Celtic Conferences</b>	<b>The integration of Joint Policing Committees</b>	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2010	Heather Humphreys David Maxwell Hugh McElvaney Padraig McNally Robbie Gallagher Noel Keelan Paudge Connolly
<b>TJK Conferences</b>	<b>The Law of Defamation Seminar as it Affects Councillors</b>	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2010	Heather Humphreys Aidan Murray Owen Bannigan David Maxwell John O’Brien Brian McKenna

**Urgent Business:**

The Mayor advised the members that she had received a notice of Urgent Business in the names of the Sinn Fein Members regarding the restoration of funding to the Justice for the Forgotten organisation.

It was agreed that the Council deal with the item of urgent business.

*Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded*

*“ That this Council calls upon the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice Equality and Law Reform to restore funding to Justice for the Forgotten, the main organisation in this jurisdiction representing victims, survivors and bereaved of the conflict, including those killed, injured and bereaved by the Monaghan and Dublin bombings of May 1974; that such funding is essential to allow Justice for the Forgotten to continue its works to establish truth and justice; and that this motion, on adoption, will be communicated by letter to both the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. ”*



The Mayor put Cllr Conlon's proposal to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_