

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr M. Carthy, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer, Ms. R. McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. L. MacCinna, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. D. Hurley, Executive Planner, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. L. Brannigan, A/Staff Officer.

**Apology:** Cllr B. McKenna.

At the outset, the Mayor stated that he had received correspondence from the Association of Nuclear Free Local Authorities in relation to a "Mayor's for Peace Charter" and that he proposed to sign the Charter as Mayor of Monaghan County Council. This was agreed by the Council.

*Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr P. McKenna seconded and it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the family of the late Igors Korpacovs, Oldcastle Road, Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone who died as a result of a traffic accident in Emyvale village on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May last.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the family of the late Martin Gallagher, R.I.P., former County Engineer with Monaghan County Council from April 1977 to November 1988.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna it was agreed to extend good wishes for a speedy recovery to Cllr Brian McKenna who was hospitalised recently.*

The County Manager associated himself with the votes of sympathy and good wishes, on behalf of the staff of the Council.

The votes of sympathy were passed in silence, all present standing.

**1. Minutes:**

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 31st March, 2009, be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2009, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was circulated to Members:

- Letter from the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in relation to a motion passed by Monaghan County Council regarding bilateral migration arrangements with the United States of America
- Letter from Tommy Bowe in relation to civic reception hosted by Monaghan County Council
- Letter from David Fallon, Director of Services, in relation to Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme
- Letter from Jim Higgins, M.E.P., in relation to Carrickmacross Waste Water Treatment Plant together with copy of letter from Minister John Gormley, T.D.
- Notice of Motion from Monaghan Town Council in relation to the NCT
- Notice of Motion from Carlow County Council in relation to the Statutory Audit on companies with income of less than €50,000
- Notice of Motion from Killarney Town Council in relation to 'National Carers Day'

The following resolutions arose out of correspondence:

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that the decision not to notify vehicle owners when their NCT is due, be reversed.*

*It was further agreed that the Department be requested to consider this notification being undertaken in conjunction with the car tax renewal notice.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to write to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government enquiring how the Minister expects vehicle owners in this county to maintain their vehicles given the fact that he has cut the roads budget and that the roads are continuing to deteriorate.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Killarney Town Council calling on the Government to have a 'National Carers Day' to sit alongside other national days.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Carlow County Council calling on the Government to remove the Statutory Audit requirement from all companies limited by guarantee with an annual income of less than €50,000, as the audit fee for such a statutory audit is an enormous financial burden on many voluntary groups struggling to survive on local fundraising efforts.*

### **Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keenan, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to immediately pay the higher rate of subsidy to Donaghmoyne G.W.S.*

### **Urgent Business:**

The Mayor advised that meeting that he had received seven notices of urgent business. It was agreed to discuss all notices of urgent business.

### **Urgent Business - Motion No. 1**

Notice in the name of the Sinn Fein Members:

*“Due to the confusion created by the different approaches being taken by the Minister for Agriculture and the Department of the Environment, that Monaghan County Council rejects the establishment of a second on-farm inspectorate, under the nitrates regulations and the Water Framework Directive as a wasteful and unacceptable burden on farmers and an unnecessary cost that this Council can ill afford. This compliance and on-farm inspection work is already being carried out competently by a qualified Department of Agriculture inspectorate. That this motion be forwarded to the two Ministers.*

*The same motion was also put forward by the Fine Gael Members.*

The motion was proposed by Cllr Treanor and seconded by Cllr Bannigan and agreed unanimously.

### **Urgent Business - Motion No. 2**

Notice in the name of the Sinn Fein Members:

*“That this Council demands on behalf of the people of Co. Monaghan that An Taoiseach Brian Cowen immediately instructs the Minister for Health and Children Mary Harney TD to issue notice to the Health Service Executive **not** to proceed with the planned removal of acute medical services from Monaghan General Hospital, target date 31<sup>st</sup> May having been confirmed by the HSE’s Stephen Mulvaney, and further undertakes to publicly declare on behalf of Fianna Fail/Green Party government its abandonment of all downgrading plans for Monaghan General Hospital and commits to the restoration and development of all key services, including 24/7 Accident and Emergency”.*

The motion was proposed by Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Treanor and agreed unanimously.

### **Urgent Business - Motion No. 3**

Notice in the name of the Fine Gael Members:

*“Due to the recent sad accident that occurred at the weekend in the village of Emyvale in which one person died and several others had a narrow escape, that this Council set up a meeting with the Minister of Transport and the NRA in relation to expediting the Emyvale bypass”.*

The motion was proposed by Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell and agreed unanimously.

*On the proposal of Cllr McAnespie, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that this Council put in place appropriate safety measures such as crash/safety barriers coming into Emyvale Village to give some protections to dwelling houses in the village*

### **Urgent Business - Motion No. 4**

Notice in the name of the Cllrs Carville and Bannigan:

*“The Monaghan County Council communicates immediately to the Courts Service its full support for the retention of Court Sittings in Castleblayney”.*

The motion was proposed by Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Bannigan and agreed unanimously.

### **Urgent Business - Motion No. 5**

Notice in the name of the Cllrs Gary Carville and Owen Bannigan:

*“That, under Standing Order 14, this Council discuss the failure of the Government to provide capital funding for the commencement of demolition of the Maisonettes in Bree, Castleblayney and the building of three much needed houses on the site especially in view of the problems of anti-social behaviour and the danger to lives now associated with the site and in order to take measures to eradicate same”.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that this Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Michael Finneran, TD, seeking an advance capital allocation to enable works commence on the demolition of the Council owned Maisonettes in Bree, Castleblayney, and the construction of three social houses as provided for by the members of this Council.*

### **Urgent Business - Motion No. 6**

*“This Council expresses its alarm at reports that the Government is set to introduce a flat rate cut in child benefit and calls on the Government to protect payments in respect children”.*

The motion was proposed by Cllr Maxwell seconded by Cllr P. McKenna and agreed unanimously.

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

(i) **Ref No: 09/8001** – proposal to construct bring bank facility and associated signage incorporating receptacles for the collection of recyclable materials at Emyvale Community Centre, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan.

*“On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director’s report dated 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009”*

## **4. To consider taking in charge housing estates known as “Foxfield”, Carrickmacross, and “Woodvale” Carrickmacross.**

The Members considered the report from the Director of Planning Services recommending that the housing estates known as “Foxfield” and “Woodvale” Carrickmacross be taken in charge as the developments are in compliance with the requirements of planning conditions.

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council take the roads, footpaths, public lighting, water and sewerage services and open spaces in charge for the housing estates known as “Foxfield”, Magheraboy Road and “Woodvale”, Mullanary Road, Carrickmacross.*

**5. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**(i) Arts Grants:**

The Members considered the report of the Arts Officer in relation to this item. Mr. MacConghail stated that 29 applications had been received for a grant fund of €8,000.

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve of the allocation of grants under the Arts Act 2003, to the following in accordance with the report of the Arts Officer.*

<i>Castleblayney Drama Festival</i>	<i>€1,500</i>
<i>Neri Studio, Monaghan</i>	<i>€1,000</i>
<i>Ann Marie Fox, Carrickmacross</i>	<i>€1,000</i>
<i>Drumlin Players, Monaghan</i>	<i>€ 800</i>
<i>Sulus Design, Carrickmacross</i>	<i>€1,500</i>
<i>Muckno Mania Festival, Castleblayney</i>	<i>€1,500</i>
<i>Mackie Rooney, Scotstown, Monaghan</i>	<i>€ 700</i>

**(ii) Arts Projects/County Arts Partnerships**

The Members considered the report circulated by Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, which outlined in detail the applications received under this scheme in 2008. A total of €70,000 is available in grant assistance. The Arts Officer recommended that seven grants be awarded.

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve of the allocation of grants under the Arts Act 2003, to the following in accordance with the report of the Arts Officer.*

1. The Garage Theatre	€21,000
2. Patrick Kavanagh Centre	€ 9,000
3. Scoil Cheoil na Botha	€ 3,000
4. Clones Film Festival	€ 8,000
5. Castleblayney Arts & Resource Centre	€17,000
6. The Flat Lake Festival	€ 7,000
7. Féile Óriel	€ 5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€70,000</b>

**(iii) Accessible Procurement Strategy:**

The Members considered the Monaghan County Council Accessible Procurement Strategy which had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the Disability Act 2005 places an obligation on local authorities to ensure that accessibility is taken into consideration when it defines its purchasing requirements and takes relevant steps to procure goods, services or works to ensure accessibility is addressed. The purpose of this strategy is to outline the way in which accessibility can be and should be built into all stages of a public works procurement process.

*It was agreed that the Monaghan County Council Accessible Procurement Strategy be adopted.*

**(iv) To consider request for funding from Colaiste Oiriall:**

The members considered letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 from Brendan Ó Dufaigh, Principal, Colaiste Oiriall seeking financial assistance from the Council towards the running of a cultural weekend for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students to Colaiste Oiriall.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that a grant of €1,000 be allocated to Colaiste Oiriall from the Gaeilge Budget for 2009.*

**(v) Community Development Fund 2009:**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the guidelines for the Community Development Fund 2009.

*It was agreed that the Community Development Fund 2009 be advertised and that applications be invited from interested groups in the county.*

**6. To receive minutes of the following meetings**

*On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the minutes of An Coiste Logainmneacha held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, be noted.*

**7. Proposed 440kv Eirgrid Interconnector:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed*

- (1) *That this Council accepts that Eirgrid are presently implementing Government Policy. That we call on the members of the Government parties to stop hiding behind Eirgrid and immediately change Government policy and instruct Eirgrid to pursue the undergrounding of the North/South Interconnector.*

- (2) *That the Government immediately accept that the land owners and local communities along the proposed route do not want to and have no intent in speaking with Eirgrid or providing access to Eirgrid or their representatives, to their property.*
- (3) *That in recognising the rights of property owners, the Government now instructs Eirgrid to suspend all work on the overground North/South Interconnector and that the views and wishes of the communities of Co. Monaghan be respected.*

In response to a query from Cllr Bannigan, the County Manager stated that he had not yet received a copy of the full judgement given by the Judge in the recent court case, but that he would circulate a copy to the Members as soon as he receives it.

## **8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences**

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carville, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keenan, McElvaney, P. McKenna, McNally, and Treanor in respect of their attendance at the following conferences:

- AMAI Spring Seminar – Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny
- Mid West Regional Authority – Ireland’s water, the real cost – Adare, Co. Limerick.
- Achieving Balanced Regional Development – Letterkenny.
- Agriculture and Climate Change, Dublin Castle
- Antrim Tourism Conference, Dunadry, Co. Antrim
- LAMA Annual Conference – Portlaoise
- Rural Dwellers – a threatened species – Brehon Hotel, Killarney
- Elections 2009 – Maximising your vote, Red Cow Moran Hotel, Dublin
- 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Kerry Environmental Conference, Ballybunnion, Co. Kerry
- Clonakilty Tourism Conference, Rosscarberry, West Cork
- Association of County & City Councils Annual Conference, Kilkenny.
- Economic & Social Benefits of Preserving our Cultural Heritage, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

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

### **Monaghan Army Barracks:**

The County Manager stated that the Council will not be pursuing the acquisition of the Monaghan Army Barracks as a location for new Council offices. He understood that County Monaghan V.E.C. is interested in acquiring this property as a future location for MIFET.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the Council expresses its support to Co. Monaghan V.E.C. in its efforts to secure the former Monaghan Army Barracks as a site for an extended Monaghan Institute of Further Education and Training (MIFET).*

**10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council Meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2009**

*On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D, asking him to liaise with his colleagues in Northern Ireland regarding the stretch of road on the N54 which is regularly being used for 'quad-racing' and 'motor bike wheelies'.*

**11. Questions**

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

1. What is the up to date position regarding the Remedial Works Scheme at Cloughvalley considering that tenants of these houses moved out at the behest of the Council some months ago?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has completed the design, planning and pre-construction phases for this project. The Council awaits a capital allocation from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government before seeking tenders for construction work.*

2. Considering that the members of Monaghan County Council have sought for many years to have the Carrickmacross-Drumcondrath Road reclassified as a regional route and considering the huge levels of traffic that use this road; what is the current status of the request for reclassification?

**Reply:** *At the Road Area Meeting in February last the members requested the Council to carry out traffic counts on this road. These counts are completed and will be discussed at the next Road Area Committee meeting prior to any decision to refer the matter to the Department of Transport for reclassification.*

3. Further to my previous requests and those from other councillors that the Council put in place additional safety measures at the staggered crossroads at Clonseady on the main Carrickmacross-Kingscourt Road (known locally as the ball-alley) what plans does the Council have in this regard? Will the Council agree to, at a minimum, placing improved road markings that will enhance safety at the junction which services the Clonseady Housing estate, Drumgossat Church and many other local motorists?

**Reply:** *As reported previously Monaghan County Council will examine options to improve the junction, however, no funding is available in 2009 to carry out any improvements.*

4. What is the cause for the apparent ongoing delays in the Council providing a group home in Carrickmacross for a group of women with physical / sensory disabilities? When is it expected that this important project will be completed?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council is in discussion with the HSE regarding ongoing support for this proposed voluntary housing project. The Council is also seeking to obtain a suitable site where these supports can be given.*

5. Will the Council agree to develop a housing plan to cater for the needs of people with mental and learning disabilities in the Carrickmacross area; specifically will the Council outline the plans to provide a dwelling for four individuals identified by Steadfast House as in urgent need of re-housing and will the Council make a statement of efforts to date in this regard?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council is in discussion with the HSE regarding ongoing support for this proposed voluntary housing project. The Council is also seeking to obtain a suitable site / house where supports can be given.*

**Cllr G. Carville asked:**

6. In view of the serious concerns that have been expressed by local people and the Development Association in Clontibret, when will the Council address the safety issues still outstanding at St Mary's Church, Clontibret and on the new local road to Clontibret village, including the new junction with the N2?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council will meet with the Clontibret Development Association to discuss issues they have in relation to safety at this location.*

**Cllr G. Carville asked:**

7. Have Council officials from Castleblayney and Carrickmacross areas engaged with each other in relation to addressing the road and flooding issues at Toome which were highlighted by local people and myself at the Council meeting in September 2008; what action is to be taken and what costs are involved?

**Reply:** *Officials from both areas have discussed the issue, however, there are other agencies that need to be consulted. Once this exercise is completed appropriate actions can be assessed.*

**Cllr G. Carville asked:**

8. When will the Council bring forward proposals to have some regulation of Jet-Ski use on Lough Muckno in order to protect fish stocks as well as all those persons using the lake and to reduce the nuisance to local residents?

**Reply:** *Since 2008, The Irish Sailing Association (ISA) has worked with Jet Ski Clubs in other counties (both inland and coastal) to agree a voluntary code of practice for Jet Ski users. The clubs established liaise with fishing clubs etc in their areas in order to ensure mutual enjoyment of the waters. This would appear to be the best approach to adopt. The ISA's Development Officer will be meeting shortly with Council personnel with a view to progressing the matter in Monaghan.*

9. Can the Manager please outline to the Council the details of the settlement reached in relation to the Lough Muckno issue, recently reported in the media, and what process he now envisages will be put in place to deal with the serious condition of the roads and the estate generally; and will he engage with members of the public in formulating a plan for the longer term re-development of this tourism, environmental and recreational asset of our county and region?

**Reply:** *Letters have been exchanged between solicitors acting on behalf of Harrinbrook and Monaghan County Council. However no agreement has been signed. In view of this it is considered that the reports in the local newspapers are premature. The Councillors will be fully briefed on all matters pertaining to Lough Muckno in due course.*

10. In view of the serious impact on local businesses, suppliers and hauliers as well as the negative impact on local jobs and the exchequer, will the Council review its policy of awarding tenders for road works etc to entities and persons from outside of the County and the State, with a view to maximising any benefits to the local economy from whatever money is to be spent on local infrastructural projects in County Monaghan and will the Council ensure that every possible effort will be made to ensure that the maximum benefit from expenditure on public works in the County is derived by ratepayers and businesses locally?

**Reply:** *The Council does not have a policy of awarding tenders to persons outside the county and the state. Any suitable entities can submit tenders to the Council following an invitation to tender and will be assessed accordingly. However, the law in relation to procurement must be complied with and does not permit the Council to favour local entities.*

**Cllr H. Humphreys asked:**

11. When does Monaghan County Council plan to take over the Housing Estate at Scotshouse Close, Scotshouse?

**Reply:** *Under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, a Planning Authority shall take in charge a development at the request of the developer or by the majority of the qualified electors who are owners or occupiers of the houses involved, where the development has been completed to the satisfaction of the Authority.*

*Where the Planning Authority receives an Application Form accompanied by Certificates, prepared by a suitable qualified person, who holds professional indemnity insurance and certificates, which certifies that all roads footpaths, sewers, drains and water mains have been completed, the Authority shall carry out an inspection of the estate. If the Planning Authority is not satisfied with aspects of the development, the developer will be requested to address outstanding issues prior to commencing the procedure for taking in charge. Where the estate is found to be satisfactory in all respects, the taking in charge procedure will commence.*

*No application has been received to take the development in charge in respect of the housing development of Scotshouse Close, Scotshouse. Consequently there is no timescale for the estate to be taken in charge.*

**Cllr H. Humphreys asked:**

12. What plans has Monaghan County Council to provide more social housing in Newbliss and Rockcorry?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has no current plans to provide additional housing in Newbliss or Rockcorry*

13. When does Monaghan County Council expect to be in a position to complete car-park and bring-bank facilities in Newbliss?

**Reply:** *Works are due to recommence on the car-park and bring-bank facilities in Newbliss in May. It is envisaged that the works will be completed by the end of June.*

**Cllr J. Keenan asked:**

14. In a recent report, levels of E-coli contamination in Irish drinking water was found to be 30 times higher than those found in England and Wales. Are all water schemes in Monaghan compliant to remove E-Coli and Cryptosporidium?

**Reply:** *E-Coli contamination is prevented by providing effective disinfection of the treated water coupled with good distribution network maintenance. All Public Water Supplies in Co. Monaghan are disinfected. Routine scouring of the distribution networks is carried out on all Public networks.*

*Cryptosporidium contamination is most prevalent in Surface Water Supplies such as rivers and lakes. Effective prevention of Cryptosporidium in Treated Water is achieved by proper management of well designed Water Treatment Plants. All of the Public Water Treatment Plants are managed to minimise the possible contamination of the water with cryptosporidium or related contamination. Routine sampling of the water is carried out to verify the quality of the water.*

**Cllr J. Keenan asked:**

15. Has the Council any plans for public lighting on the Drumconrath Road at Tullynaskeagh?

**Reply:** *There are no plans at present to install public lighting at this location.*

16. What is the update on the money allocations for mobility aid, housing for older people and disability grants?

**Reply:** *The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has not notified the Council of its allocation for 2009.*

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

17. Will Monaghan County Council immediately complete road markings at St. Mary's Chapel, Latton at the junction of the LP03012 – LS07000, as following road resurfacing there are no road markings, confusing motorists to rights of way, etc, giving rise to a very dangerous situation.

**Reply:** *The Council will be carrying out road markings at this location in the near future.*

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

18. When will Monaghan County Council complete works under the low cost safety improvement scheme at the junction of the LT71001 – R180, known locally as "Sra Bridge" on the Ballybay to Carrickmacross Road as this junction is very dangerous for traffic accessing the junction?

**Reply:** *It is envisaged that the work will be completed before the end of September.*

19. Will Monaghan County Council examine the possible road safety improvements which could be carried out at the junction of the LP03000/1 – LS07000, known locally as "Veldins Cross", Latton as this is a very dangerous junction?

**Reply:** *A Low Cost Accident scheme was already provided at this location including the erection of additional signage and road markings on each approach. There is no further funding available for this location in the 2009 allocations.*

**Cllr B. McKenna asked:**

20. How soon will the first round of Peace III funds become available, what amount is being released and what is the timescale for further funding programmes?

**Reply:** *Monaghan CDB Peace III Partnership*

*Monaghan CDB Peace III Partnership have allocated the first phase of the €3.6 million awarded under the Peace III programme 2008 – 2011. This involved the allocation of funding of over €500,000 under the small grants programme (€15,000 - €50,000).*

*13 projects in all received awards of between €20,000 and €50,000.*

<i>001919</i>	<i>Clones Community Forum</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>001953</i>	<i>Latton Social Services</i>	<i>43,950.00</i>
<i>001955</i>	<i>Blackwater Regional Partnership</i>	<i>47,000.00</i>
<i>001957</i>	<i>Youth Café Castleblayney</i>	<i>35,000.00</i>
<i>001931</i>	<i>Monaghan County Childcare Committee</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>001719</i>	<i>St Macartan's College</i>	<i>27,140.00</i>
<i>001959</i>	<i>Truagh Development Assoc.</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>001976</i>	<i>Clontibret Community Partnership</i>	<i>45,000.00</i>
<i>001968</i>	<i>Doohamlet District Comm. Devel. Assoc</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>001980</i>	<i>Feile Oriel</i>	<i>40,000.00</i>
<i>001994</i>	<i>C'blayney Community Enterprise Ltd</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>002001</i>	<i>Artswell</i>	<i>35,000.00</i>
<i>001986</i>	<i>Corduff Pipe Band</i>	<i>20,450.00</i>

*Expressions Of Interest, totalling €4,695,985, have been received for Strategic Priorities 1, 2 and 3. The total available under these 3 priorities is €2,692,000. Meetings will be held with the applicants and Full Proposals, from the Partner Deliverers will be requested in May. Further information on the Programme can be obtained from Mary Begley and Emma McCabe in the Peace III Team, Monaghan County Council. Telephone 047 73750*

*Programme part-financed by the European Union – Investing in your Future.*

**Cllr J. Crowe asked:**

21. Having regards to safety for motorists what up to date plans have Monaghan Co. Council in relation to the dangerous junction at the N2 to Anafarcon at Broomfield. This junction is very dangerous when turning right and needs urgent attention. A right hand turning lane is required and safety features are required?

**Reply:** *This junction was reviewed during the planning and design of a Road Safety Remedial Scheme to be implemented on the N2 at the Broomfield Chapel and Minister's Cross junctions in 2009 and is not considered to warrant road safety measures at this time.*

22. The recent and necessary drainage system in Ard Na Lorgan Castleblayney has left a problem in that stones covering the drains in residents gardens are used as missiles by children in the estate. What plans have Monaghan Co. Council to look at this situation and see what way these stones can be covered?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council proposes to cover any such stones that are accessible from public areas with topsoil.*

23. Will Monaghan Co. Council erect signs in Ard Na Lorgan warning of Children at Play?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council will examine the situation and erect appropriate signs if deemed to be necessary.*

24. The storm drains in Ard Na Lorgan are easily lifted by children. Will Monaghan Co. Council lock all these drains to prevent accidents occurring?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council will examine the "storm drains" referred to and see if any alternative securing mechanism is required.*

25. Would Monaghan County Council - Water Services look into the sealing of foul mains and manholes in Castleblayney where complaints have been made in relation to infestation of rats?

**Reply:** *Any manholes or open ended foul pipes should be fully sealed against vermin infestation as they are a natural breeding ground for same; if the location of the area(s) of concern can be communicated to Water Services, it can be effectively dealt with.*

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

26. In relation to Inniskeen village, will the Council prepare a costing and a possible timescale for the upgrading of the footpaths at St. Daigh's Tce as many of the

elderly residents living there find it very difficult to walk on the footpaths at present as they are not disabled friendly.

**Reply:** *There is no funding available for these works in 2009.*

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

27. What is the delay in having the speed limits on the entire diversion through the Inniskeen village area put in place, when is it hoped to have them in place? Is the Council Engineer satisfied that every effort has been made by both Louth and Monaghan County Council's to ensure that the diversion is as safe as possible?

**Reply:** *The making of Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws involves the invocation of a legal process including consultation with An Garda Síochána and the General Public. It is expected that the Temporary Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws will be put before the members for adoption at the next meeting.*

28. What is the delay in having potholes filled and roads repaired in the county as presently it is taking many weeks to have works done when requested by residents? Will pothole filling be a priority given that this is the issue on the doorsteps with the people?

**Reply:** *Due to the severe weather during the winter, the occurrence of potholes the Council has to deal with is significantly higher than previous years. The Council will apply the resources available to it to continue with pothole repair. However, it is not our policy to programme works in response to requests from residents.*

29. Why is Monaghan County Council requesting formal legal agreements in relation to sight distance issues, as I understand this is not a requirement in other County Council's and generally a letter of permission from a landowner will suffice?

**Reply:** *It is a policy of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 that planning permission will only be granted for development involving the creation of an access and / or the provision of visibility splays, where the applicant is able to demonstrate control or the reasonable prospect of acquiring control of any land required for the provision of visibility splays.*

*In this regard it should be noted that paragraph 8.12 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 states that planning applications requiring third party lands for the provision of sight distances must be accompanied by a written legal agreement between all parties.*

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

30. Has any progress been made in relation to the upgrading of the sewerage treatment plant in Carrickmacross? How many months is this work now behind schedule?

**Reply:** *Contract Documents for the DBO element of the project are currently with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government awaiting approval.*

*The implementation of DEHLG Water Pricing Policy in relation to the non-domestic sector (particularly Rye Valley Foods) Carrickmacross is not finalised. Rye Valley Foods recently commissioned an upgrade to their existing on site wastewater treatment plant.*

*The new plant was installed and designed by Hydro International. Based on the records available to us from the internal composite sampler within the plant, the loadings being discharged from the Rye Valley plant for the months of January and February are down from the corresponding months last year.*

*Monaghan County Council continue to monitor the Rye Valley effluent and the effect of the reduction in loading, on our existing wastewater treatment facility in Carrickmacross for the coming months.*

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

31. The Warmer Homes Scheme for which aims to improve the energy efficiency and comfort conditions of homes occupied by low-income households is administered through local community based organisations. As of this moment no such organisation has been designated to administer the scheme in Monaghan. Can the Council detail the criteria under which the scheme will be available, how soon agreement will be found on which community organisation will be designated and approximately when the scheme is likely to become operational in Monaghan?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has received no details of this scheme. This scheme is administered by Sustainable Energy Ireland and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.*

32. In light of the recent amendment of Section 481 tax relief for film and television to increase the individual investor cap for those wishing to invest funding in film in Ireland from the previous limit of €31,750 to €50,000 and to also increase the investor relief from 80% to 100% will bring Ireland back into line with many of its major competitors and will put it ahead of quite a number, including the UK would the Council consider developing an information or promotional guide to the many potentially excellent film locations in the county?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council's Economic and Tourism Development Officer will arrange for guidance for film production companies to be displayed on the Monaghan Tourism website.*

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

33. What is the up to date position regarding the junction on the N2 at St Mary's Chapel, Moys?

**Reply:** *An application was made to the NRA for funding in 2009 to carry out remedial works on the climbing lane where it approaches this junction. However no funding was received.*

34. Has the Council received any confirmation that the re-alignment of the N2 from Clontibret to Aughnacloy will not go ahead?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council appointed Engineering Consultants in Dec 2008 to design the N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland Border Road Scheme. The design is presently proceeding as planned.*

**Cllr D. Maxwell asked:**

35. Has Monaghan County Council any schemes in place to put safety measures in place at the Billis School Glaslough to improve the safety of the children exiting and entering cars and buses on the road and can this work take place in conjunction with the building works ongoing at the school?

**Reply:** *Warning signs have been placed at the school and the Council has no plans for further works at this location.*

36. Can Monaghan County Council immediately repair the main N2 at the bottom of Castleshane hill at the bend on the left hand side going to Clontibret as the road is broken up and is a major hazard to traffic? Has there been any update on the resurfacing of the same road which the first part has already taken place?

**Reply:** *The National Roads Authority has provided an allocation for pavement repair on the N2 and N12 National Primary Routes. It is proposed to utilise this funding for repairs on the N2 at Castleshane and on the N12 at Coolshannagh. Design and planning of the works is being advanced in accordance with NRA guidelines and procurement requirements. Despite an application being made to the NRA no funding was made available in 2009 for the continuation of the overlay scheme undertaken on the N2 at Corlat in 2008.*

