

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Tuesday 6th May, 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Bennett, Carthy, Carville, Connolly, Crowe, Coyle, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor.

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager, Mr. A. King, Mr. P. Clifford Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer Roads, Mr. L. Bradley, Museum Curator, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, Ms. B. Bradley, CEDO and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. Treanor.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr S. Treanor, his brothers and sisters on the death of their sister Rose.

All members associated themselves with the vote of sympathy.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the O'Neill and Lambe families, on the tragic death of baby Eoin O'Neill, Kilkitt, Shantonagh in a road traffic accident near Carrickmacross in which his mother Rose was critically injured.

The County Manager associated himself and the staff with the both votes of sympathy.

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting adjourn for five minutes as a mark of respect to Cllr S. Treanor on the death of his sister.

1. Section 140 Notice:

To consider Notice received by the County Manager on 25th April, 2014 under Section 140 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

"Whereas Monaghan County Council made Compulsory Purchase (Roads Order No. 1, 1998 to acquire lands for a by-pass of Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

And whereas included in that order was the Compulsory Purchase of lands owned by Peter Kelly, Dunany, Carrickmacross namely:

- 1.582 hectares of land in the townland of Monaltynane – Plot Ref. 22.1
- 0.141 hectares of land in the townland of Monaltynane – Plot Ref. 22.2
- 2.677 hectares of land in the townland of Monaltyduff – Plot Ref. 22.3
- 0.364 hectares of land in the townland of Monaltyduff – Plot Ref. 22.4

And whereas portions of said lands were not subsequently required for the purpose of the Carrickmacross by-pass.

And whereby the members of Monaghan County Council, by resolution, have requested that lands not required for the purpose of which a Compulsory Purchase Order was made be offered for re-sale to the original landowner at current market value.

And whereas all possible efforts have been made by the aforementioned Mr. Peter Kelly to acquire lands previously owned by him from Monaghan County Council.

And whereas Monaghan County Council has refused to entertain these requests.

We, the Members of Monaghan County Council, by resolution hereby issue a requisition to the County Manager under Section 140 of the Local Government Act 2001 to:

Present a Section 183 notice to the Council pertaining to the sale of lands previously owned by Mr. Peter Kelly under the aforementioned Compulsory Purchase Order and which are not required for the purpose of the Carrickmacross by-pass, at current market value and within a timeframe which will be considered reasonable”.

Submitted by Cllr M. Carthy, Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon, Cllr A. Murray and Cllr N. Keelan.

In proposing the motion Cllr Carthy stated he had not wanted to take this action but he had no option. He had been working on this matter since he was first elected to the Council in 2004 and had correspondence with the Council and met senior staff on site on a number of occasions. He had requested that surplus lands be sold back to the original landowner. In 2009 he received a letter from the Director of Services stating that there were particular issues relating to assess and road drainage and these were being assessed by the Roads Section. In August 2010 he was told that the lands in question were acquired by CPO and that the landowner was duly compensated; that the National Roads Authority did not approve of the proposal and that the Council did not intend to sell the land back to the landowner. Through a Freedom of Information request he had also sought information about the matter and which indicated that no correspondence was received from the NRA. He had decided to bring forward the Section 140 Notice as he wanted to see the matter resolved in the current Council’s term. He had met with the County Manager in relation to the Section 140. The County Manager had advised him that the Section 140 was not valid.

Cllr Keelan seconded the motion. He referred to the significant amount of time that Cllr Carthy had spent on this issue. He stated that land was very important to every farm and could be a very emotive issue. He stated that the Council relied on the good faith of all landowners for the realisation of road projects and it would send out a very bad signal if they did not support the proposal to sell this land back to the landowner.

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager stated that he had written to Cllr Carthy in March and made it quite clear that the land in question was not for sale, that it was in public ownership and that it was required for future road widening. He explained that in 2006, 4.1 acres were returned to the previous landowner. When land was acquired for road works, excess land was taken to allow for the possible impact on the drainage

of the lands, including third party lands, on which the road was built. He stated that the Council was committed to the development of the A5/N2 corridor and that it could not compromise the future development of this strategic corridor in any shape or form. It remains an objective of the County Development Plan and the Border Regional Planning Guidelines to widen the road. The land referred to in the notice before the meeting was required in its entirety – any land identified as surplus to requirements had already been returned to the landowner. Mr. Cummins stated that he had to be lawfully able to give effect to the Section 140 notice and he could not do so in this instance. He advised the members that even if the motion is passed today he could not lawfully give effect to it and that no decision had been made to dispose of the land in question.

Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer outlined the area on a map and indicated the drainage requirement of the site and other information relevant to the proposal.

Cllr Keelan asked if the land could be given back to the landowner under license until such time as it was required by the Council. Mr. Cummins stated that there was no way of accessing this land and that there was a previous motion that no access would be given.

Cllr Carthy called on the members to support the principle of the motion and called on the County Manager to enter into negotiations with the landowner.

A roll-call vote on Cllr Carthy's proposal resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McKenna and P. Treanor. Total 7.

Against: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally, McPhillips and O'Brien. Total 10

Abstentions: Cllrs Murray and O'Hanlon Total 2

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr G. Carville, seconded by Cllr R. Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th April, 2014 be confirmed.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of adjourned April Council meeting held on 22nd April, 2014, be confirmed.*

3. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the waiting list for Audiology Assessments.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to Pillar II of the Rural Development Programme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the Ulster Canal Project.
- Email from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure confirming that a DCAL official will meet a deputy from the Council in relation to the Ulster Canal project.
- Resolution from Drogheda Borough Council confirming its support for Former Local Authority Members Eire (FLAME) in its bid to obtain a Judicial Review of aspects of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting

- Letter from the Department of Social Protection in relation to the timescale for determining applications for Farm Assist claims.
- Letter from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in regard to the funding package for the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.
- Letter from the Chief Executive of EirGrid in relation to an external review as to the consultation that EirGrid has undertaken and how it could be improved.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council accept the offer to meet a DCAL official in relation to the Ulster Canal.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that we write to Minister Deenihan, advising him of the planned meeting with an official of DCAL and ask him to ensure the attendance of an official from his Department.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council again request the Northern Ireland Assembly Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Carál NíChuilín to meet a council delegation to discuss the advancement of the Ulster Canal project.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded that Monaghan County Council expresses its disappointment at the recently announced RDP Leader budget 2014 – 2020 of €250m having previously requested Ministers Hogan and Howlin to maximize the Exchequer co-funding of 46% which would have given a budget of €283m and again requests the government to maximize funding with an increased allocation of €33m to €283. The 2007-2013 programme had an allocation of €33m to €283m. The 2007-2013 programme had an allocation of €425m, a cut of €175m for the 2014-2020 LEADER programme.

This motion, to be circulated to all local authorities and Oireachtas members.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 10 for, 4 against. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council calls on the Ministers for the Environment, Agriculture and Tourism to make

contact with the Restaurants Association of Ireland asking it to encourage all restaurants and takeaways to give customers a choice of purchasing Irish beef, chicken or pork in their businesses.

4. To consider the disposal of land at Cois Cill Oram in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council approve of the disposal of 21.31 square metres at 8, Cois Cill, Oram Castleblayney in accordance with the terms of notice dated 23rd April, 2014 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

5. Part VIII Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 –

- (i) To consider granting permission for remedial works on a section of the channel of the Dromore River at Ballybay (Ref 14/8002)

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for remedial work on a section of the channel of the Dromore River at Ballybay (Ref 14/8002) to comply with report dated 25th April, 2014 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

- (ii) To consider granting permission for the extension of an existing play park, construction of a new skate park, multi use games area and associated site development works at Cloughvalley Upper, Carrickmacross (Ref 14/8003)

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the extension of existing play park, construction of a new skate park, multi use games area and associated site development works at Cloughvalley Upper, Carrickmacross (Ref 14/8003) to comply with report dated 25th April, 2014 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.

6. To receive Presentation from Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager on staff changes and the changing direction of the organisation.

Mr. E. Cummins, County Manager gave a detailed presentation to the Council during which he outlined the following:

- The Local Government Reform Act 2014 has brought about the biggest change in local government since the foundation of the state, in particular the dissolution of Town Councils – 65 Councillors down to 18 and the establishment of 3 new Municipal Districts.
- Loss of Core functions – Irish Water, NRA, Driving licences, Student Grants, Waste permits, Shared services with other Las, etc.
- New roles/functions
- Economic & Community Development , Job creation, HAP, LEO, LCDP etc

There are financial and staffing constraints

- Staff reduced by 27%
- Revenue budget reduced by 18%
- Capital budget reduced by 50%

- Time to reclaim lost ground in terms of community and economic development. A great opportunity to reposition Monaghan County Council as the essential enabler of economic and community activity.

There will be a new focus –

- Economic and Community Development
- SME's – the backbone and economic drivers of the county. We will help, assist and facilitate them in every and anyway possible to grow their businesses.

There are a number of key infrastructural projects

- The Ulster Canal has the potential to have a positive impact on almost every aspect of the county
- N2/A5 – urgent need to promote, identify funding and secure commitment for the delivery of this strategic piece of infrastructure.
- Broadband – accelerate roll-out to SME's – maximise potential of Kelvin
- N54/N2 bypass of Monaghan town, together with roads strategy and traffic model

- Citizen engagement/participation.

The Treasures of Monaghan – to develop and promote Monaghan's rich heritage and culture

- Patrick Kavanagh – Inniskeen – Kavanagh Country
- Pat McCabe- Clones – His books have sold internationally and have been made into feature films
- The Castle Leslie Estate – Monaghan, Armagh, Tyrone
- Lough Muckno & Hope Castle estate
- Hillton House, Scotshouse.

Four Electoral Areas previously – 3 New Municipal Districts.

The real change in the coming weeks and months is about (a) where the organisation is going and (b) a new focus and strategic direction

- Clearly our priorities and focus will change, but at the same time we have to be mindful of the Council's continuing role and obligations in terms of statutory and regulatory compliance.
- Our focus - our priorities – and tasks will be very different.
- Staff movement necessary, to support our new objectives and priority areas.
- In repositioning staff due regard and consideration was given to individuals' circumstances, however the needs of the Organisation, the people we serve, the stakeholders that depend on us and the ratepayers/taxpayers who pay our salaries, must take priority.

- Significant changes required.
- All in the context of diminishing resources, both human and financial.
- A new model of service delivery.
- A different Vision.
- New Strategic Objectives.
- The repositioning of senior staff with broader roles and functions.
- Grade 8s in particular will have a more strategic role in the new organisational structure.
- Maximise potential and capacity of existing corporate buildings, especially HQ and Carrickmacross.
 - An early exit from rental obligations will be the preferred position
 - The Environment Unit will be re-located to Carrickmacross
 - Water Services will be moving to M:Tek II
- The alignment of the Housing function with Finance, essentially brings all things financial under the one Directorate.
- Redefine our *Corporate Entity* to include a modest extension to the Glen - provision of some additional offices, party/meeting rooms, chamber and a new reception/foyer – removal of prefabs.
- The new LEO to be located in M:TEK I and supported by additional staff.
- The completion of the Market House, Clones.
- Provision of new depots – Carrickmacross/Clones.
- Disposal of surplus assets.
- New Economic Development Directorate.
- New Municipal District Coordinators at Grade 7 level, with an appropriate staff complement and greater responsibility delegated to lower grades.
- Energy & Public Lighting Unit.
- Housing Unit to be expanded to prepare for HAP.
- Additional staff to Environment.
- Other developments:
 - Emphasis on Procurement and Debt Management.
 - Stand alone Health & Safety Unit.
 - Corporate buildings/maintenance unit.
 - Finance Unit to be expanded.
- New Directorates
 - Paul Clifford, DoS, Economic & Community Development and the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD
 - Adge King, DoS, Governance & Corporate Affairs and the Ballybay-Clones MD
 - John Murray, HoF, Finance & Housing and the Monaghan MD
- All Municipal Districts will have equal status.
- Head of Finance/Director of Service – Head of each District
- Each Municipal District will have a Municipal District Coordinator at Grade 7 level (Senior Executive Engineer or Administrative Officer)
 - Responsible for day to day co-ordination of all functional activities - Reports directly to DoS/HoF.
 - Key role in social and economic development at Municipal District level.

- Monaghan County Council will be the pre-eminent Corporate Entity.
- The three Municipal Districts together are not equal to the County Council.
- Monaghan County Council is far “bigger”, “greater”, has a far more important, more strategic role to play in leading the County and its citizens into a brighter future.
- The County Council will concentrate on:
 - The development and implementation of strategy.
 - Prioritising actions, plans and strategies for the short, medium and long term development of the County.
 - Major infrastructural developments e.g. Ulster canal, N2/A5, Broadband delivery etc., with a view to having designs, approvals and ready-to-go plans in place to avail of funding when it becomes available.
 - Being the main driver and enabler of economic activity.
 - Developing and promoting the County’s strengths and unique features/ treasures.

The Co-ordinators for the Municipal Districts will be –

The Monaghan Municipal District - Donal McElwain

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District - Kevin McNally

The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District - Cathal Flynn

Following his presentation Mr. Cummins replied to queries from the members as follows:

- Regarding the collection of commercial rates, the current system works well and will be continued.
- The disposal of surplus assets in Council ownership will be in full knowledge of the members and funds realised will be used for the betterment of the county.
- The new energy unit would look at efficiencies and new technologies available.
- When the new Municipal Districts were up and running the Heads of the Districts would play an active role in managing them along with the elected. The members will return to a new and expanded role in community development.
- Housing will be managed centrally – there will be two tradesmen in each M.D. and housing maintenance will be managed with consistency of approach.
- There will be cash facilities in each M.D. office and the public will be able to lodge housing applications there.
- In relation to staff transfers, no staff member has been moved greater than 45 kms. He acknowledged that staff were undertaking their duties efficiently and that the salaries and conditions reflected this.
- A person will be appointed to look after the maintenance of all Council buildings.
- He would be meeting the outdoor staff in the next week.
- Regarding the library service he referred to the excellent facility in Clones and stated that he didn’t foresee the Library H.Q., being located anywhere other than in Clones, although the management may be different. The library service will be enhanced in the future.

7. To receive update on the Clones Erne East Sports Project.

This item was deferred.

8. To consider minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22nd April, 2014

(i) To consider request for funding from Concra Wood Golf Club.

Cllr Crowe proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded, that a contribution of €10,000 be allocated to Concra Wood Golf Club for 2014 towards its hosting of the EuroPro Golf Tournament.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, Nil against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

(ii) To consider the Strategic Management Plan for Monaghan County Museum.

Mr. L. Bradley, Museum Curator outlined the main objectives of the Strategic Management Plan for the Monaghan County Museum for the period 2014 – 2018. Following the presentation, Mr. Bradley responded to queries from the members.

The members complimented Mr. Bradley and his staff on the excellent service provided by the Museum.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Strategic Management Plan for the Monaghan County Museum for the period 2014-2018 be adopted.

(iii) To consider allocation of grants under the Arts Partners Grants Scheme 2014.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the following grants be allocated under the Arts Partners Grants Scheme 2014:

		2013	2014
1	The Garage Theatre	€17,000	€17,000
2	Clones Film Festival	€7,500	€7,500
3	Carrickmacross Festival	€1,500	€1,000
4	Castleblayney (Artswell) Arts Centre	€15,000	€15,000
5	Patrick Kavanagh Weekend	€8,500	€8,500
6	Castleblayney Drama Festival	€1,500	€2,000
7	Feile Patrick Byrne	€2,500	€2,500
8	Scoil Cheoil Na Botha	€1,000	€1,000
9	Muckno Mania, Castleblayney	N/A	€1,000

(iv) **To consider allocation of grants under the Community and Environment Grants Scheme 2014.**

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the allocation of grants, under the Environment Grants Scheme 2014, as per list circulated, be approved.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr McPhillips, it was agreed that the allocation of grants under the Community Development Fund Grants Scheme 2014, as per list circulated, be approved.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the allocation of grants, under the Tidy Areas Grants Scheme, 2014, as per list circulated, be approved.

(v) **To confirm Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22 April 2014**

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22nd April, 2014 be confirmed.

9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences

The Members noted the reports from Cllr P. Treanor in relation to his attendance at the Heritage/Tourism Conference in Ennistymon, Co. Clare.

10. To receive update on North South 440kv Interconnector.

The members noted the correspondence from Mr. Pat Rabbitte T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the North South Interconnector.

11. To receive update on Ulster Canal Project.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services updated the members in relation to this project. There has been no further meetings of the Inter Agency Working Group in recent months.

12. Business submitted by County Manager

The County Manager advised the members that the official launch of the Monaghan Local Enterprise Office by the Minister of State for Small Business, John Perry TD would take place on 15th May, 2014 at 3.00 pm.

13. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 7th and 22nd April, 2014

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 7th and 22nd April, 2014 were responded to by the appropriate officials.

14. Questions:

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

- 1 When can the residents of Lakeview housing estate in Emyvale expect the road entrance to be resurfaced as it has deteriorated significantly over the winter period and is particularly dangerous for people with disabilities?

Reply: Minor patching to be carried out in the short term. This road to be considered when preparing the next roads programme.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

- 2 In view of the fact that the Low Cost Safety initiative scheme programme has been fully allocated for 2014

(a) What specific projects has this funding been allocated to for 2014?

Reply: Funding has been allocated to the following schemes in 2014

- LCSi Mon - Cootehill Rd R188 - Drumbear Wood 2014
- LCSi LP01401 & LT14011 Old Armagh Rd 2014
- LCSi Analore Bridge NB 2014
- LCSi Drum Village NB 2014
- LCSi R183 LT24124 Junction NB 2014
- LCSi Roundabout Main St. CBY R181/183 2014
- LCSi LP3530/LS7501 Junction at Coolartragh CBY 2014
- LCSi R182 Oram Village CBY 2014
- LCSi Main St. Carrickmacross 2014
- LCSi R178 LT49052 Junction Carrickmacross 2014
- LCSi Mokeeran Carrickmacross 2014

(b) What projects are listed for future funding under this scheme?

Reply: The Department of Transport Tourism and Sport normally seek applications for the Scheme in late summer. A list of Schemes will be compiled at that stage.

(c) What criteria is applied to the assignment of funding from this scheme and by whom is the decision made to proceed with each project?

Reply: In general , the criteria that is taken into account is the collision history and whether a feasible solution can be identified to address the cause of the collision The advice of the NRA Regional Road Safety engineer is sought when preparing applications for submission to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Funding is allocated by the Department when the road grants are allocated at the beginning of each year.

- 3 In view of the fact that a large number of concerns have been expressed to me recently regarding road safety issues in both Emyvale and Tydavnet villages

(a) What plans have Monaghan County Council to address these issues in both villages?

(b) Are there any plans to put pedestrian lights in these villages?

(c) Are there any plans to put speed ramps in either Tydavnet or Emyvale?

(d) Are there any plans to erect a protective speed barrier on the northern entry to Emyvale village?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has no plans to carry out the specific works referred to Issues as identified will be examined.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

- 4 Will the Council Executive seek from Coillte statistics for the past five years indicating levels of both harvesting and plantation at Rossmore Park and all forests throughout the country under their management? Also, to ask Coillte of their intentions in repairing the damaged wall, caused during recent tree felling at the Rossmore Park entrance on the Threemilehouse Road.

Reply: Monaghan County Council has written to Coillte Teo to obtain these statistics and to enquire about repairs to the wall.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

- 5 Is this Council responsible for the repairing of a large section of fencing which was blown down recently during stormy weather at the Woodvale Estate, Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross. This estate was taken over by the Council in May 2009. The situation that exists there is very dangerous for young children.

Reply: This will be investigated with a view to carrying out works.

- 6 Has this Council received any response following my Notice of Urgent Business at our April meeting seeking more funding for our County roads?

Reply: No reply has been received from the Department of Transport or the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to request for additional funding for County roads.

- 7 Has this Council any plans drawn up for the upgrade of the Carrickmacross/Dundalk road, in particular, the section between Ballymackney old School and Essexford. While I am aware that this is subject to the review being carried out on this road as part of the Cavan/Dundalk road, urgent remedial works are necessary to make this section of road safe until such time as the Cavan/Dundalk road becomes a reality.

Reply: This section of the regional route is included in the design being undertaken as part of the Cavan to Dundalk Route Improvement Scheme, final details of this should be completed by the end of 2014. Monaghan County Council plan to carry our surface dressing works to this section of the R-178 in 2014 to improve surface texture of the road pavement. There is currently no funding to carry out major improvements works.

- 8 What plans has this Council to improve the safety of both pedestrians and motorists on the road from Mullinarry up to the Lurgans, Carrickmacross as there are a large number of houses being served by a sub-standard road and neither footpath or lights on most of this road.

Reply: The Council has looked at preliminary proposals to install footpath and lighting on this road. However, there is currently no funding available to undertake this work.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

- 9 Although the hedge cutting season is now over, can Monaghan County Council please look into the possibility of cutting a hedge between Kilmore football grounds, Scotstown and Ballinode, as it is an obstruction on the road and is liable to cause an accident.

Reply: The Council will examine this location and contact the landowner if required.

- 10 In reference to the Rough Hill Road, Scotstown, can Monaghan County Council give any indication, of any road works that will happen here in the near future as the road is in a very bad state of disrepair?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has recently completed drainage works on Rough Hill road and will be carrying out resurfacing works in June.

- 11 In relation to an issue, I previously submitted regarding a public meeting with Irish Water for the residents of Scotstown and Ballinode. Has Irish Water addressed this issue and has a date been confirmed as yet. Irish Water need to take responsibility and meet the residents of these areas, to hear their issues and present a solution to the hard water problem.

Reply: Monaghan County Council referred the matter to Irish Water. It is our understanding that Irish Water will contact Cllr Bennett directly on this issue. Local Representatives can contact Irish Water directly by calling 1890 278 278 and requesting the Local Representative Support Desk or by e-mail to localrepsupport@water.ie.

- 12 Can Monaghan County Council address the issue of road markings at Barratitoppy Cross, Knockatallon? Road markings have faded in this area, and it is a dangerous junction at present.

Reply: Road markings will be renewed at a future date.

- 13 Can Monaghan County Council examine the issue of inadequate drainage at Derrylea, Scotstown? As this road tends to become flooded during heavy rain.

Reply: Monaghan Co. Council is currently carrying out drainage works at Derrylea in order to alleviate flooding on the public road.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

- 14 When will road improvement roads take place at Feahoe on the Carrickmacross Drumcondrath Road?

Reply: The Council plan to carry out some minor restoration works on this section of road in 2014.

- 15 What is the up-to-date position regarding the proposed Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities to be built at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross? Is the Council satisfied that all possible measures are being taken by each vested agency to ensure that there is no further delay in the commencement of this important project?

Reply: On 30th April 2014 Monaghan County Council received revised proposals from Respond! regarding the provision of a 7 bed unit for people with physical and sensory disabilities to be built at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross. This information was forwarded to the Department on 1st May 2014. Respond! have confirmed to the Council that detailed cost plan relating to this proposal will be provided shortly. Until this information is received, the Department cannot give final approval for the project

to proceed and this is dependant on Respond! cost plan complying with the Departments budgetary restrictions.

Cllr G. Carville asked:

16 To seek an update on proposals for the future use of the Courthouse/Market House in Castleblayney; any proposed public consultation in relation to the matter; and what immediate steps Monaghan Co Council (as owner of the property since June 1926) will take to ensure the safe and proper restoration of the fabric of the building.

Reply: Recent feasibility study completed by The Housing Agency which identified various options for the site. A meeting with the Councillors for the Castleblayney Electoral Area is to be arranged to review the findings and agree a way forward.

17 What plans do Monaghan Co Council presently have for the provision of future social housing in Castleblayney, particularly in the light of the replacement of Castleblayney Town Council?

Reply: Upon the re-organisation of the town councils, including Castleblayney Town Council, the assessment, allocation and maintenance of social housing will be provided by the Monaghan County Council Housing Section.

18 What progress has been made by the Archive Steering Group established in 2013 in terms of securing a proper place and system for the collection, cataloguing, storage and availability for study of historical papers and files belonging to local authorities in Co Monaghan?

Reply: The Curator of Monaghan County Museum, Liam Bradley has been given direct responsibility for the archives and records management in Monaghan County Council. As present he is working with the Town Councils and Area Offices as a priority as these organisations are closing at the end of May. He is in consultation with all sections of the County and Town Council in regards to records and archives using the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Archives and Records, which was published by the LGMA in 2002, as a guide to producing an overarching retention policy for the County Council. This large body of work will be commenced and the Archive Steering Committee will begin to meet regularly once the work with the Town Councils and Area Offices has been completed.

19 When will works be carried out to cut the grass and re-plant and enhance the roundabout on the N2 at Tullyvin/Drumcrew? In view of the location of this roundabout as an entrance to the town, does the Council see such work as urgent?

Reply: Monaghan County Council are aware of funding secured by the tidy towns committee through the town and village enhancement funding. Monaghan County Council intend meeting with the group to discuss options and a planned programme to carry out the works.

20 What is the timespan envisaged for the provision of an entrance to the Bree Industrial Estate from the Castleblayney By- Pass, the plans for which are on public display in the offices of Castleblayney Town Council presently?

Reply: The plans are on public display. The NRA has allocated additional funding for this project this week and it is intended subject to part 8 planning approval to complete works by the end of 2014.

Cllr A. Murray asked:

21 Will the Council consider erecting lights and footpath on the Drumcondrath Road, Carrickmacross from the Ardee Road junction for a distance of 1.3 Km there are 31 houses in this road?

Reply: The Council has considered preliminary proposals to install footpath and lighting on this road. However, there is currently no funding available to undertake this work.

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

22 What is the process involved in extending the sewerage network out the Monaghan road and Newbliss road in Clones, in light of Irish Water taking over water and sewerage?

(a) Will Monaghan County Council assist/facilitate the local community with this project?

Reply: There are two options for getting funding to extend the sewer. The Council could submit an Assets Needs Brief (ANB) to Irish Water or (2) The Council could make an application to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, on behalf of the local community, for Group Sewerage Scheme funding.

(b) How long will the process take?

Reply: It would depend mainly on the availability of funding.

23 Are there any indications from the Department that an extra allocation will be made for local and regional roads?

Reply: No correspondence has been received in relation to additional monies for regional and Local roads.

24 The I.C.B.A.N. Telecommunications Report recommended that actions should be taken to stimulate the use of broadband. What actions have Monaghan County Council taken or propose to take?

Reply: Monaghan County Council established the IT Forum in 2010 which has interacted with broadband providers and industry in the county to identify and measure demand for broadband, gaps in service delivery and to seek and monitor the roll-out of IT infrastructure. The IT Forum has as one of its objectives the promotion of broadband use in everyday life in Co. Monaghan. Its most recent success has been the hosting of the second "E-tail is Retail" seminar in Monaghan in February 2014, attended by over 200 local retailers. Many of the actions identified by ICBAN in its Regional Telecommunications Action Plan have been implemented by the IT Forum and the Council such as the review of development contributions for telecom infrastructure, engagement with service providers to identify gaps in coverage and potential to share sites, lobbying of central government to extend coverage and the encouragement of ebusiness in the county.

25 A recent report indicated that there was a problem with the water supply to Clones and Newbliss. What was the explanation for this? Have the faults been corrected?

Reply: Monaghan County Council have no Drinking Water Compliance issues in Clones or Newbliss.

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

26 What is the up to date situation in site resolution in relation to the unfinished Killycard Manor housing estate in Castleblayney?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has applied to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government under the Unfinished Housing Development Special Resolution Fund (SRF), for funding to carry out site resolution works to the Killycard Manor development. It is anticipated that the Department will make an announcement in respect of successful applications, made under this Fund, on or before the 2nd May 2014.

27 Have Monaghan Council contacted the contractors of the Conabury Hill estate in relation to having the road into the estate finished as well as the un-built area sorted out?

Reply: The Planning Section is in ongoing negotiations with the developer to have this development finished to the appropriate standard. In the event that this proves unsuccessful, the Council will pursue the related development bond, in order to satisfactorily complete the development.

28 How many Town Council and County Council Local Authority vacant houses are there in the Castleblayney area?

Reply: There are a total of 10 vacant properties in the Castleblayney Area. Four are currently subject of offers to applicants on the housing list whilst the remaining six are subject to repair works or subject of a renovation scheme.

29 What steps is Monaghan County Council taking to ascertain the damage caused to the bridge at Corrygarry, Castleblayney which was damaged by a car last week. Concerns have been raised about the present structure of the bridge.

Reply: Monaghan County Council have engaged a consultant to carry out an inspection at an early date.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

30 Can Monaghan County Council confirm when resurfacing works will commence and be completed in Newbliss Village, as the street surface and approach roads, adjoining the village are in urgent need of resurfacing, being currently in a terrible condition?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is planning to carry out resurfacing of Newbliss Main Street in July as part of its regional road resurfacing programme.

31 What plans have Monaghan County Council for the provision of public lighting and footpath in the area of Carn Resource Centre, Post Office/shop and Latnamard National School, Aghabog, as there is huge pedestrian activity in this area, with children etc., walking from Latnamard N.S. to afterschools etc., in Carn Resource Centre, which is widely used for community activities?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has no plans at present for the provision of public lighting and footpath in the area of Carn Resource Centre, Post office/shop and Latnamard National School, Aghabog. A survey of the area in question will be carried out to determine the extent of the works required and the associated cost.

32 What update have Monaghan County Council from Airtricity on the reconnection of public lighting at Carrabarra Housing Estate, Smithbora, as the residents are very concerned for their safety and the security of their properties?

Reply: Monaghan County Council are in discussions with both Airtricity and ESB Networks to regularise the situation in relation to the public lights at Carrabarra Housing Estate, Smithborough.

33 When will Monaghan County Council commence works on the re-laying of footpaths at the Boyher Housing Estate, Cootehill Road, Rockcorry, as the footpaths are currently in a very poor state of repair?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will conduct a condition survey of the footpaths in Boyer Housing estate to determine the extent of works required and the cost involved.

34 What progress have Monaghan County Council and Irish Water made on the extension of the Sewerage Scheme on the Cremartin/Keady Road, Ballybay(LP03403) and can Monaghan County Council give an update on the extension on the Castleblayney Road, Ballybay, re connections etc?

Reply: Cremartin/Keady Rd, Ballybay -This is a gravity sewer scheme and has been extended as far as possible. Any further extension would require rock excavation and the provision of a pumping station. At present there is no funding available to carry out this work. Castleblayney Rd, Ballybay – Work on this scheme was delayed due to poor weather and poor ground conditions. Works have now recommenced and it is anticipated that these works will be completed by the end of June 2014.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

35 How has the Council decided to spend the extra funding announced last month for town and village enhancement?

Name of locations	Type of project	75% DoECLG funding	25% LA funding	Additional benefit to public areas
Castleblayney Southern Roundabout	Enhance and landscape the appearance of the roundabout into Castleblayney	€10,000	€3,333	This will benefit the appearance of our County as this is the first roundabout that motorists come to when travelling North along N2. It has been identified as a key project by Castleblayney Tidy Towns
Clontibret Roundabout	Enhance and landscape the appearance of the roundabout at Clontibret	€10,000	€3,333	This will benefit the appearance of our County as this roundabout is along a very busy stretch of road on the N2. It has been identified as a key project by Clontibret Development Association
Monaghan Roundabout @ Four Seasons	Enhance and landscape the appearance of the roundabout	€10,000	€3,333	This will benefit the appearance of our County as this is the first roundabout that motorists come to when

				travelling South along N2 and N12. It has been identified as a key project by Monaghan Tidy Towns
Barry McGuigan Park Clones	Upgrade existing public park	€7,000	€2,333	Upgrade existing park for use by public especially for festivals. This project has been identified by Clones Community Forum
Ballybay Town Park	Upgrade existing public park	€5,000	€1,666	Upgrade existing park for use by public especially for festivals.
Carrickmacross	Streetscape improvements to the main street	€7,000	€2,333	Streetscape improvements to the main street
Monaghan Greenway	Enhancement of Lock House garden @ Monaghan Greenway	€2,000	€666	Upgrade to a garden area within Monaghan Greenway. This project has been identified by Monaghan Tidy Towns
Monaghan Town	Installation of feature and landscaping at junction of North Rd & Glaslough Street	€6,000	€2,000	This will be a nice feature on the way into the town from the North. Has been identified as a project by Monaghan Tidy Towns
Greenan's Cross	Upgrade to "old school house"	€900	€300	Project identified by community in Green Cross who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category A
Ardaghey	Planting of Trees at Ardaghey Cross roads	€700	€233	Project identified by community in Ardaghey who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category A
Scotshouse	Upgrade to area in village that is currently derelict	€700	€233	
Tydavnet	Upgrade to existing wildlife garden in village	€700	€233	Project identified by community in Tydavnet who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category A
Glaslough	Purchase of new water saving hanging baskets	€2,000	€666	Project identified by community in Glaslough who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category B
Ballinode	Purchase of new flower tubs and landscaping of village	€2000	€666	Project identified by community in Ballinode who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category B
Scotstown	Purchase of shrubs	€500	€166	Project identified by

	and trees for approach roads into village			community in Scotstown who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category B
Rockcorry	Purchase of new Beehive Planters	€1500	€500	Project identified by community in Rockcorry who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category B
Inniskeen	Upgrade to area surrounding Patrick Kavanagh centre	€2,000	€666	Project identified by community in Inniskeen who enter Tidy Towns competition under Category B
Castleblayney Tidy Towns	Purchase of New Hanging Baskets for Main street	€2,000	€666	Project identified by Castleblayney Tidy Towns participating under Cat. C

36 Can the Council investigate, in the interests of safety, traffic calming measures at the entrance to Woodlands estate on the Scotstown Road?

Reply: The Council will investigate this junction

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

37 Can the Council give an update with regard to the study being done regarding river flooding at Riverside and Milltown and any recommendations there might be with regard to alleviating the problem?

Reply: The OPW are currently carrying out a study and it is anticipated that flood mapping will be on public display towards the end of 2014. Management options will be assessed thereafter.

38 Can the Council give an update with regard to its dealings with Coillte regarding taking charge of Rossmore Park?

Reply: There has been no progress in relation to this issue. Monaghan County Council await a response in relation to its proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Coillte. Extensive harvesting in Rossmore Park this spring prevented any potential to develop the park.

39 Can the Council investigate the poor road surface and disrepair of ramps in Lakeside housing estate in Emyvale?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will carry out route maintenance in the short term. More extensive repairs will be considered when preparing the next roads programme.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

40 What plans have Monaghan County Council to upgrade the Regional Road from Carrickmacross to Culloville (R179) which is in a poor state of repair and, in particular, the areas of roadway at Longfield Cross and the stretch of roadway from the townland of Capragh out to the townland of Feegavla?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received funding of €64,184 for the R-179 route for 2014. This funding is for road restoration works. The section of road pavement to be repaired will be determined by the road condition rating.

- 41 What plans have Monaghan County Council to upgrade and make safe some of the bridges that have fallen into disrepair over the years across the county and, in particular, what plans have the Council to make safe bridges such as the bridge on the Stranatona Road in Magheraclone which is a danger to public safety?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received funding for specific bridge repairs in 2014. The above mentioned bridge will be inspected to determine what repairs are required.

- 42 In relation to the on-going extension of the public lighting network in Inniskeen, will Monaghan County Council consider erecting one or two of the public lights planned for this year at the entrance to the Inniskeen Grattans G.F.C., in the interest of public safety given the huge numbers using this fantastic facility?

Reply: This feasibility of this option will be considered.

- 43 In relation to Inniskeen Village, what plans have Monaghan County Council to upgrade the roadway from Mucker into the village and out to the townland of Lacklum, given the poor condition of these important approach roads to this historical village?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received funding of €60,200 for this road for 2014. This funding is for road restoration works.

- 44 In relation to the Lisnanisk area in Carrickmacross, when is it hoped to have the 50kph speed limit put in place as requested by residents and also when is it hoped to have the private roadway resurfaced at this location which was damaged as a result of the on-going water augmentation works?

Reply: Statutory procedures in relation to the public consultation is currently in progress. It is expected to bring the Speed Limit Bye-Laws to the Co. Council meeting for adoption. Once adopted, arrangements will be made to put the speed limits in place. The private lane will be surfaced in quarter 3 of 2014.

15. Notices of Motion:

Notices of Motion 15(1) – 15(9) were not moved. In accordance with Standing Order 17.5 these motions have been dropped and shall not be again set down on the Agenda paper unless a new notice is submitted to the Meetings Administrator.

16. Votes of sympathy/congratulations:

Votes of sympathy had been dealt with at the commencement of the meeting.

17. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, 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 Selected
Ace Training	Waste Management Legislation	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co.Cork.	9 th – 11 th May 2014	Cllr O'Brien
The Public Procurement Directives Conference 2014	Director at Global Standard for purchasing and Supply Management Education, DCU	Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.	14 th May 2014	Cllr O'Brien
BG Seminarz	Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)	Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	16 th – 18 th May 2014	Cllr O'Brien Cllr Connolly
Centre for Regeneration & Development	Rural Revitalization Conference	University College Dublin	21 st May 2014	Cllr O'Brien
Training Seminar for Councillors	Local Government Action	The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran	30 th *31 st May 2014	Cllr O'Brien

Address by Retiring Councillors:

Cllr Gary Carville, in his final address as a member of Monaghan County Council reflected on his service as a member of Monaghan County Council for the past fifteen years. He stated that his decision not to seek re-election brought to an end a combined period of 40 services on the County Council by his family as he had succeeded his late father in 1999. His great grand-uncle was a member of the first County Council in 1899 and his great grandfather had also become a member of the first Rural District Council in the Castleblayney area.

He recalled his time as Mayor in 2007/2008 when the Castleblayney bypass was officially opened. He referred to the potential for development that existed in the Castleblayney area and the challenges being faced by small businesses many of whom were finding it hard to survive. He appealed for action from the incoming Council, in relation to the Castleblayney Market House structure and suggested that if and when it is restored it could be developed as a museum of music.

Cllr Carville was critical of the manner in which the district electoral divisions had been drafted and assigned to the newly constituted Municipal Districts and called for a review of the framing of these for electoral boundary purposes. He proposed the following motion:

“That Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government asking that, for electoral boundary purposes, a review of district electoral divisions and their composition be undertaken so as to have them bear more of a relationship with local communities as they exist today.

Cllr Maxwell seconded the motion which was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Carville concluded his address with a quotation from his late father, Arthur, *“to be a good councillor is to be a good listener and an even better servant”*.

In addressing the Council, Cllr John O’Brien said he had made his decision not to seek re-election late last year. He reflected that his department too was the concluding of a political dynasty as there had been an O’Brien on Monaghan County Council since 1979 when his father had been elected. He was co-opted to the Council in late 2003 and was re-elected in 2004 and 2009. He referred to his colleagues on the Council and that he had made many friends in the Chamber. He thanked his family, his local cumann and his party colleagues for their support over the years. He recalled one of the highlights of his political career as being Chairman of County Monaghan V.E.C. when the contract for the building of the Monaghan Education Campus was signed. He encouraged the incoming Council to push for the development of the Lough Muckno facility in Castleblayney. He wished all those contesting the local elections well, stating that anyone who put themselves forward as a candidate deserved respect. He also called on every member of the public to exercise their democratic right and go out and vote in the local elections.

Cllrs B. McKenna, P. McNally, P. Connolly and H. McElvaney spoke on behalf of their political groupings and paid tribute to Cllrs Carville and O’Brien and wished them every success in their future careers.

The County Manager also extended good wishes to both Councillors on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council.

In bringing the final Council meeting to a close, Cllr Sean Conlon, Mayor also extended good wishes to Cllrs Carville and O’Brien. He wished all members good luck in the forthcoming local elections and to Cllr Carthy who was also a candidate in the European Parliament elections. He thanked the County Manager and staff for their co-operation and assistance during his term as Mayor. He also thanked the Northern Standard (particularly Peter Hughes) and Northern Sound Radio for their coverage of Council meetings.

The County Manager also extended good wishes to all those contesting the local elections and to Cllr Carthy in his pursuit of a European Parliament seat.

The meeting then concluded.