

**Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Boardroom, Clones Credit Union, The Diamond, Clones on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

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

Mr. D. Fallon, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. D. Treanor, Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, N. Woods, SEO Housing, P. Maguire, Staff Officer, K. Duffy, Executive Engineer, S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, N. O'Connor, Environment Education Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset the Mayor thanked Mr. Brendan Jenkins, Manager and the Board of Clones Credit Union for the use of the Boardroom for the Council meeting.

Mr. Ross Mealiff, Vice President, Clones Credit Union, welcomed the Council to Clones and to the Credit Union. He complimented the Council for the various projects undertaken in the town in recent years. He outlined the importance of Credit Unions and the role they have in the local community.

**Vote of sympathy:**

The Mayor then proposed a vote of sympathy with the husband Kenneth, son Derek and daughter Lisa of the late Hilda Steenson a member of the Council's staff who sadly passed away in early April. A number of members paid tribute to the late Hilda who they described as an excellent public servant, a pure lady who was a very genuine unassuming individual with a great level of wisdom and knowledge of her job and a great role model for any public servant. She always treated members of the Council and the general public with great respect.

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

A minute's silence was observed by all present and the meeting adjourned for a short period as a mark of respect.

**Notices of Urgent Business:**

The Mayor advised that he had received three notices of urgent business which he would take at the end of the meeting.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, be confirmed.*

## 2. Correspondence

The Mayor informed the members that he had received correspondence from Shane Brennan, EirGrid regarding the ongoing public consultation process in relation to the North South Interconnector. Mr. Brennan suggested that officials from EirGrid would meet with the Council's sub-committee to discuss the matter.

Following a short discussion it was agreed that EirGrid would be invited to meet with the full Council at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the pension and expenses arrangements of politicians, civil servants, the Judiciary, State Executives and officeholders.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the checking and testing of foreign chicken imports
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- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the checking and testing of foreign chicken imports.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the labelling of food products being imported into Ireland.
- Letter from the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding Council resolution re Garda morale.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to cross border hospital services.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation National Screening Cards (Guthrie Cards).
- Letter from the Minister for Finance regarding reporting arrangements for Public Interest Directors.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority confirming the position regarding the speed limit on the N54 at Tullygrimes, Monaghan as set in previous correspondence.
- Letter from the Border Regional Authority in relation to the roll-out of training in relation to bullying and cyber bullying to all schools in the region.
- Letter from North Tipperary County Council in relation to rates on rural public houses.
- Email from LIDL Ireland in response to the Council's resolution regarding the sale of Irish products in major stores.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister for Justice to legislate for more severe sentences for persons involved in a fatal motor accidents and who leave the scene.
- Resolution from South Tipperary County Council calling for the reversal of cuts to heating and free fuel schemes.
- Resolution from South Tipperary County Council calling for the reversal of cuts to the Disabled Persons and Housing for Older People Grant Schemes.
- Email from Wexford County Council noting Monaghan County Council's resolution in relation to the property tax.
- Quarterly Report on The Gathering 2013

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting –

- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the Graduate Nurses Placement Initiative
- Letter from Retail Ireland regarding the potential for major retailers in this country to highlight and support Irish fresh product manufacturers.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council calculate what land is available to them that could be cut for much needed fodder for farmers in Co. Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney TD to put €50m in place to cover the full cost of fodder rather than just transport costs, as many farmers will not be able to live due to the amount of money spent on meal/fodder over the last 2 months.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that Monaghan County Council requests the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Simon Coveney T.D., to*

- (1) give greater financial assistance to farmers in terrible hardship*
- (2) cease farm inspections for a period until weather conditions improve,*
- (3) in consultation with the farm organisations, Teagasc, etc, put in place a scheme to encourage greater growth of animal winter feed for the year(s) ahead*
- (4) in consultation with the farm organisations/millers/feed companies and financial institutions to put in place a subsidised interest rate over 3-5 years to repay farm animal bills of 2012/13.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that Monaghan County Council adopt the resolution from South Tipperary County Council which calls on Minister Joan Burton to reverse the cuts to heating and free fuel schemes implemented since she became Minister for Social Protection.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that Monaghan County Council adopt the resolution from South Tipperary County Council which calls on the Minister for Local Government Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D., to reverse the cuts to Disabled Persons Grants and Housing for Older People Grants and reinstate the 2012 grant allocation.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to urgently review the introduction of carbon tax, particularly on solid fuels and further calls on the Government not to introduce the €20 per tonne carbon tax on solid fuels as proposed in Budget 2013 for 2014 as this tax will cause hardship to the elderly to the poor and to the most vulnerable in our society and there ability to adequately heat their homes and also given that the fuel allowance scheme has been cut back from 32 weeks to 26 weeks in recent times.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan TD requesting that he ensures that the Public Interest Directors on those banks bailed out by the taxpayer, report back on a regular basis to the Minister around issues such as remuneration, bonuses and other matters of serious concern to the general public.*

*Cllr S. Treanor proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded that the Council adopt the resolutions from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister for Justice Alan Shatter, TD to introduce maximum 10 year sentence and a minimum of five years for any person involved in a fatal motor accident who leaves the scene.*

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Treanor's proposal resulted in 16 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council supports the resolution from the Border Regional Authority in relation to the roll out of training in relation to bullying and cyber bullying to all schools in the region and that this training would be extended to teaching staff, parents and students.*

It was agreed that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Co. Monaghan VEC.

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that in order to improve consultation in relation to our health services in the border area, that the Council write to the Minister for Health requesting a meeting regarding the specific provisions being discussed under the Hospital Groups regarding North South co-operation and that members of Monaghan County Council are consulted with prior to the report and its recommendations going to Cabinet.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Health to advance, as a matter of urgency, the report regarding the specific provisions under the Hospital Groups in relation to North/South co-operation.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence Alan Shatter TD to immediately initiate contact with representatives of An Garda Siochana to resolve the impasse that currently exists between both parties.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council invite a representative from the Poultry Committee of the IFA and a representative from the Chamber of Commerce representing the Retail Food Sector to attend the next meeting of the Council.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council invite Mr. Ciaran Lumley from Love Irish Food Brand to attend the next meeting.*

It was agreed that the motions from Cllr O'Hanlon be referred to the CPG for consideration.

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

- (i) The Members considered the Manager's Report which had been circulated with the agenda.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council approve the development of an underground foul sewer collection pump sump, overflow tank, valve chamber, meter chamber, associated mechanical equipment, above ground electrical kiosk, new electrical supply, 2.4m wire mesh perimeter fence and all associated site works at Knocknamaddy, Ballybay, Co Monaghan. (Ref 13/8001) to comply with the County Manager's Report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.*

- (ii) The Members considered the Manager's Report which had been circulated with the agenda.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the development of an underground foul sewer pump station, overflow tank, valve chamber, meter chamber, associated mechanical and electrical equipment, above ground electrical kiosk, site fencing and all associated site works and at Drumdesco, Scotstown, Co Monaghan. (Ref 13/8002) to comply with the County Manager's Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001.*

### **4. To receive Report on Housing**

The Members then received presentations from Mr. A. King, Director of Service Housing and Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing.

Mr. A. King, Director of Housing gave an overview of the current situation in relation to housing provision with particular emphasis on capital funding.

Ms. Woods updated the members and circulated a detailed report in relation to the following -

- Integration of Town Councils
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Private House Grants (Housing Adaptation, Mobility Aid, Housing Aid for Older People Grants)
- Private Grants Scheme Allocation 2012 and 2013
- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Housing Assistance Payments
- Homeless Services
- Traveller Accommodation
- Differential Rent Scheme

## **5. To receive Report on Landfill at Scotch Corner :**

The Mayor, Cllr McElvaney declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Keelan assumed the chair.

Mr. Kieran Duffy, Executive Engineer, Environment Section updated the Members in relation to the Council's landfill, as follows:

### **Scotch Corner Landfill**

The waste accepted at Scotch Corner for 2012 was 28,074 tonnes (27,356 t in 2011). At present 7,636 tonnes has been accepted in 2013.

The landfill levy is currently €65/tonne and increases to €75/tonne in July.

The condition on our waste licence restricting the amount of biodegradable and municipal waste is currently 55% and decreases to 40% in July. The proposal to accept ash would help achieve this restriction.

The remaining life of the current open cells is estimated from 2 to 6 years depending on the rate of filling. The 2 proposals below would have an effect on the remaining life. Monaghan Co Council's strategy is to fill the open cells as quickly as possible and provide a final cap on them. At present it is not planned to develop any further cells. There is an historic outstanding capital balance on the Landfill site of €1,349,000

### **Repatriated waste**

Monaghan Co Council was the successful bidder for the contract to receive repatriated waste from NI. We submitted a tender to accept 20,000t of waste and were placed number one on the framework. There is no indication yet as to when this contract will commence. 15,600 t of repatriated waste was received into Scotch Corner from the last contract in 2012/2013.

### **Ash Agreement**

MCC are in negotiations with Indavar to accept bottom ash from the Meath Waste to Energy facility at Carranstown. Their agreement with Whiteriver (Louth) is due to finish in July. A 3 month rolling agreement is envisaged which would equate to a minimum of 21,000 t per annum. Approval has been received from the EPA to accept ash. Trials will take place when EPA approval is received

### **CHP Plant**

Monaghan County Council has agreed in principal with proposal by Natural Release Ltd to develop a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant to use landfill gas for heating purposes and potential power generation.

PL Application 12/103 granted on the 13/7/12 for a CHP unit, medium voltage substation building, security fencing & gates and to use existing entrance.

EPA Approval received 13/3/13 with conditions. Emissions to be monitored within 1 month of commissioning. Developer is responsible for financing, implementing, and funding and any associated costs.

### **Phase I**

Install CHP Plant in Scotch Corner on a trial basis (1 year Approx).

Plant to be connected to the ESB Grid & monitored.

No agreement currently in place for Phase 1 – in course of being developed.

## **Phase II**

If Phase I is successful, agreement will be negotiated so as to provide a return for MCC.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that with the imminent takeover of the wastewater treatment plant at Roosky by Irish Water inc., and potential for increased and unregulated fee for disposing of leachate from the Scotch Corner landfill at this facility that we seek a meeting with the Department of the Environment to present a sound financial argument in seeking funding for the establishment of an Integrated Constructed Wetlands on the Scotch Corner site.*

Cllr McElvaney returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair.

### **6. To receive recommendations from CPG meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

- (i) To consider allocation of funding under the Arts Partners Grant Scheme 2013
- (ii) To consider allocation of funding under the Environmental Fund 2013
- (iii) To consider allocation of grant to Donaghmoynne Community Playground.
- (iv) Report from Strategic Policy Committees – standing item on CPG agenda
- (v) To consider allocation of funding to Beech Hill College (Junior Achievement)
- (vi) To approve minutes of CPG meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Items 7-12 were deferred to the Adjourned Council meeting which was agreed for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 a.m.**

The Mayor advised the members that he had received a phone call from the Minister for Health's office advising that the Minister would meet with a delegation from the Council on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm. It was agreed that the following members would form part of the delegation – Mayor McElvaney, Cllrs Maxwell, McPhillips, Gallagher, O'Hanlon, McKenna, Carthy and Connolly.

### **13. Presentation by Gabriel O'Connell, C.E., Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd.**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Gabriel O'Connell, Chief Executive, Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd., (MID) to the meeting and invited him to address the Members.

Mr. O'Connell thanked the Council for the opportunity to address it. He informed the members that the purpose of his presentation is to raise awareness of the proposed changes to Local Development through Alignment proposals. During his presentation he outlined the following –

- MID is the Local Development Company (LDC) for Co. Monaghan and delivers national programmes at county level.
- MID structures – Board (23 Directors) and Sub-Committees & Working Groups
- Main features of the Local Development Model
- Local initiatives delivered by MID

- What is proposed – establishment of a Social and Economic Committee (SEC) which will essentially mimic the current Board membership of MID. The SEC will be convened by the County Manager and led by Monaghan County Council who will provide the Secretariat
- MID’s core functions of planning and decision making will be transferred to the SEC
- What will the impact be – Without its core functions and resources MID will not be viable and will have no future. The potential for Co. Monaghan to access additional funding will be seriously undermined.
- What can the Members do – If Members believe the bottom up approach of Community Led Local Development delivered by MID needs to be maintained in its current format then they need to make their views known to the Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government.

Following his presentation Mr. O’Connell responded to questions from the members of the Council.

The Mayor thanked Mr. O’Connell for his presentation and he withdrew from the meeting.

Items 14 and 15 were deferred to the Adjourned Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Consideration of the three Notices of Urgent Business was also deferred to the Adjourned meeting.

## 14. Questions

### Cllr S. Conlon asked:

1. Correspondence to Monaghan County Council from the Dept of Environment, Community and Local Government dated March 1 outlines the annual Social Housing Investment Programme 2013. In the chapter that refers to Remedial Works Scheme it states,

*‘The Department continues to support a number of remedial works projects around the country most of which are substantially complete and requiring funding of some €24m as estimated by local authorities, to finalise these. An estimated €19m will fall due for recoupment in 2013. No further remedial works projects will be considered for approval at this time.....’*

€50,000 is allocated towards Phase 3 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme, facilitating works to approximately 23 dwellings.

Will Executive confirm, or seek guarantees from the Department, that funding for the completion of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Scheme and post Phase 3, the remaining 70 dwellings, is secure and does not fall under the category as stated in correspondence of ‘No further remedial works projects will be considered.....’

**Reply:** *Monaghan Town Council has received an allocation in 2013 of €550,000 for Phase III of the Mullaghmat Remedial Works scheme. Tenders for the appointment of the contractor for this project were received on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and are currently being assessed by the Housing Agency, the Councils Design Team. It is envisaged that the tender assessment report will be available in the coming weeks. It is the Councils understanding that once the Department has approved the tender assessment report, then the Department is committed to funding the completion of the Phase III works. Subsequent to commencement of the Phase III works, it is the Councils intention to then instruct the Housing Agency to prepare and submit applications for funding for further phases of this scheme.*

2. Given that a full road closure along the N2 (Castleblayney Bypass) is planned for May/June to carry out general maintenance works including the removal of litter from lay-bys, will the Roads Section give consideration to closing only one direction at a time as opposed to simultaneously both north/south routes, in order to reduce traffic impact on inferior diversionary routes?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has examined closing one lane of traffic at a time, however part of the proposed works includes maintenance of the centre median barrier and median signage. The nature of and location of these works would create a significant health & safety risk for staff and live traffic and is therefore not considered to be a feasible option. The detour route onto which traffic will be directed is the old N2.*

*It is the intention to carry out maintenance works on the section from the Ballybay Junction to the Tullyvin Roundabout outside peak times to reduce the delays passing through Castleblayney Town.*

3. (a) What is the total number of applicants on our combined local authority housing application lists, giving the breakdown as per

**Reply:**

i)	Family	277
ii)	Small Family	427
iii)	Single Applicants Under 55	- 378
iii)	Old Persons Dwellings	- <u>221</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,303</b>

*Members should note that a national Housing Needs Assessment is currently being carried out that requires individual applicants updating their own information and reiterating their interest in seeking local authority housing. This will be completed at the end of May 2013 and from this will provide a fully comprehensive snapshot of the housing needs for the County.*

- (b) What grant allocation has been received by the combined local authorities for 2013 from the Department for purchase of dwellings that will cater to the above four categories?

**Reply:** *No allocation has been received for the purchase of dwellings in 2013.*

**Cllr S. Conlon asked:**

4. (a) In relation to the Radon Detection Surveys being undertaken to all Council rented housing stock, how many houses have returned monitor readings in excess of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>?

**Reply:** *Twenty one Local Authority houses in County Monaghan when tested had Radon levels in excess of 200 Bequerel per cubic meter including 11 Monaghan County Council houses and 10 houses owned by Town Councils, Monaghan (2), Castleblayney (5) and Carrickmacross (3). All houses with readings in excess of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> have had remedial work carried out to reduce the Radon level below the National Reference Level as required.*

(b) Regarding the installation of extraction fans as a remediation measure to these dwellings in excess of 200, will a commensurate rent reduction/allowance be provided to the tenants of these dwellings to compensate for the running of these extraction fans?

**Reply:** *The Radon extraction fans cost €20 per year to run. No reduction in rent has been considered. This is consistent with other local authorities' procedures.*

5. Will the Executive, supported by the members of Monaghan County Council, seek assurances from Coillte that paths and trails throughout sections of Rossmore Park enjoyed by the public, many who pay a considerable fee for access, will be reinstated to safe standards following the recent upheaval and disturbance of paths and trails resulting from harvesting operations and heavy vehicle traffic?

**Reply:** *The Council will, if supported by the members of Monaghan County Council, raise the matter with Coillte.*

**Cllr G. Carville asked:**

6. In view of the ever deteriorating condition of the Courthouse / Market House in Castleblayney, and the increasing unease about its condition among local people there, what progress has been made recently in relation to its protection and refurbishment? Is the Co Council (as owners of the building) committed to maintaining this important landmark?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council commissioned the Housing Agency in November 2012 to carry out an extensive structural survey and prepare a report on Castleblayney Courthouse / Market House.*

*The main purpose of the report was to determine if there was an immediate danger of further roof collapse. The Housing Agency carried out a visual inspection which was somewhat restricted due to accessibility at ground floor level.*

*The report identified extensive works which are required to secure the building and maintain it from further deterioration. The Council is preparing costings for the remedial work with a view to having the work carried out subject to funding.*

**Cllr M. Carthy asked:**

7. Will the Council give an up-to-date progress report on the proposed Group Home for women with physical and sensory disabilities, to be built at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross, including timeframes for seeking tenders for development and expected commencement and completion of construction dates?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council has received an allocation of €600,000 for this scheme in 2013. The Council only received budgetary approval of €900,000 for the scheme on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013.*

*Progress to date includes:*

- *Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 between Respond!, HSE and Monaghan County Council during which the HSE reconfirmed their commitment to the project and also to provide necessary assistance with design criteria/specifications.*
- *Respond! is in the process of progressing the detailed design for the project. It is envisaged that tender documents will be issued in July 2013. (Previously Respond! had recommended the use of the restricted procedure but are now advising that the Council should procure the project via the open procedure (with qualifying minimum criteria)).*
- *Subject to approval of the Department it is envisaged that works will commence on site in October 2013. Construction programme is expected to be 12 months. Works will therefore be completed by October 2014.*

8. When will works be carried out at the playing field at Cloughvalley to ensure that it is suitable for ball games and to resolve the flooding issue that has presented in recent months?

**Reply:** *Some drainage works have been carried out and further works are necessary to complete this. The wet ground conditions have prevented the early completion of all works.*

9. What procurement procedures are in place for the purchase of Diesel Pumps such as that recently placed at the Ardee Rd in Carrickmacross; will the Council take efforts to ensure that local companies who sell such equipment are provided an opportunity to tender in advance of future Council purchases of this nature.

**Reply:** *All mechanical and electrical equipment is procured in accordance with National Procurement Guidelines and Procedures and 'Monaghan Local Authorities Procurement Procedures'.*

*The generator referred to was purchased by Electrical and Pump Services (EPS) Limited under the Carrickmacross Pipelines (Mechanical & Electrical Contract). The sub-contract tender was advertised on e-tenders on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Nine firms submitted tenders by the closing date.*

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

10. Will Monaghan County Council give special consideration to the erection of public lighting at Christchurch Church of Ireland, Aughnamullen, Latton? There is a special celebration planned by the church community in 2014 as the church celebrates 125 years of extension and 800 years as a place of worship. There is currently no public lighting at the church and dark autumn/winter evenings make parking etc. difficult at the regular church gatherings.

**Reply:** *While these works are included on a list of a number of public lighting projects for the Clones Electoral Area, there is currently no funding allocated for these works at Aughnamullen.*

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

11. Has this Council received any response from the Government in relation to the proposed abolition of Mobility Grants?

**Reply:** *There has been no response from the Government in relation to the proposed abolition of Mobility Grants. A reminder letter has been issued.*

12. In light of the recent situation surrounding the Donaghmoyne playground which in fairness Monaghan County Council have come up with a solution, what is our policy regarding insurance of such developments going forward.

**Reply:** *IPBMI, Monaghan County Council's insurance company, require that playground facilities insured under the Council's policy, are operated directly under the control and management of the Council. There is also a requirement that a weekly inspection of all equipment is carried out by a suitably qualified employee. The Council provides opportunities for community groups to apply for funding to support their activities and maintain their facilities through the Community Development Grant Scheme.*

13. Has the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council been in contact with the Department of the Environment and the NRA explaining the large number of roads that are beyond pothole repair, seeking additional funds to have them resurfaced as these roads are not on our Road Programme?

**Reply:** *Following discussions at the Roads Strategic Policy Committee earlier this year regarding the deterioration of the roads over the winter, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to enquire if additional funding was available for these repair works.*

*The Department responded saying that nationally €346 million in road grant allocations were provided to local authorities on the 25th January 2013 and more recently an additional allocation of €2.7million for drainage works. The Department advised that regional and local road grant allocations were now fully allocated and there was no further funding from which additional funding could be made available.*

**Cllr J. Crowe asked:**

14. Regarding concerns from the Oram Community Development Association about the excess speed from vehicles passing through the village and the danger it poses. "What steps are Monaghan County Council taking to introduce traffic calming measures to counteract this?"

**Reply: Monaghan County will carry out speed survey through the village and will examine appropriate options once the survey information is available.**

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

15. In relation to the Latlurcan Court/Close/Way Housing Development what is the current situation with the on-going negotiations with the Lender and when can the residents expect the programme of works to commence?

**Reply: The Council is at an advanced stage of negotiations with the Administrator and Lending Institution. It is hoped that a resolution to this matter is imminent.**

16. In relation to the proposed Scotstown Village Sewerage Extension what is the current situation and what is the projected time frame for completion of same?

**Reply: The Part 8 Planning process has been completed today and contract documents will be prepared shortly, with a view to proceeding to tender stage in Q3 2013.**

17. Can the Council explore the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing in the village of Glaslough (At the Oakland Centre) in the interest of Road Safety?

**Reply: The Council will examine this location to determine if a pedestrian crossing is warranted.**

**Cllr. N. Keelan asked:**

18. (a) How much funding is available this year for Housing Adaptation, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aids Grants;  
(b) how many applications have been approved under the various headings and at what cost;  
(c) how many have been refused?

**Reply: (a) The funding available for Housing Adaptation, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aids Grants in 2013 is €837,210.57.**

**(b) 157 Applications have been received. 57 of these have been fully approved at a cost of €327,140.98 (figures on 29 April 2013)  
(€93,847.25 (HGD), €58,714.00 (MAG) and €174,579.73 (HOP))**

**(c) 4 in Total - 2 HOP and 2 MAG**

**Cllr. N. Keelan asked:**

19. In relation to the very dangerous condition of the wall adjacent to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen village, will Monaghan County Council consider assisting the local community in some way, perhaps through grant aid or direct labour, to have this wall replaced before an accident occurs?

**Reply:** *While such boundary walls are the responsibility of the adjacent property, during discussions regarding funding for other measures in the village with Council officials the possibility of grant funding for the wall repairs was discussed. However, no grant funding appears to be available for these works.*

20. In relation to recent media reports, is it the case that Monaghan County Council is obliged to pass on to the Revenue Commissioners the details of those households who have paid or have not paid their household charge; surely this is in breach of the Data Protection Act which is often quoted to the elected members of the Council when they seek information in relation to the running of the Council?

**Reply:** *The Revenue Commissioners made a formal request for the Household Charge database under Sections 151 and 153 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended). Monaghan County Council is obliged to comply with this request and supply details of households that have paid the Household Charge. The provision of these details complies with Data Protection.*

21. In relation to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen village, which plays a vital role in promoting the works of this famous poet, and also the important role that the Centre plays in promoting the general Inniskeen area, will Monaghan County Council explore every avenue available to replace the funding that has been lost this year as a result of the Centre not receiving grant aid from Fáilte Ireland and the Arts Council, while very mindful of the huge supports received by the Centre from the County Council on an annual basis.

**Reply:** *At a CPG meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013, it was agreed to recommend to the full Council allocations under the Arts Partner Grants Scheme 2013, this included a grant of €8,500 to Patrick Kavanagh Weekend.*

*In addition the Council will through its Arts Officer and C & E Development Officer support and assist the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in identifying and exploring other avenues of funding and in making application for same.*

22. In relation to the awarding of the contracts by Monaghan County Council for various works, do officials of this Council carry out random checks to ensure that the contractor is complying with standard pay and conditions for workers, given that the Education Minister Ruairí Quinn has ordered checks to be carried out on those contractors engaged in the school building programme; have local authority management been given similar instructions to ensure a level playing field for those contractors tendering for public works?

**Reply:** *Monaghan County Council comply with all legislation when awarding contracts. The requirement of the Council in this regard extends only to employees employed directly by the contractor. The legislation does not extend to sub contractors engaged by the main contractor.*

**Cllr A. Murray asked:**

23. In view of the economic downturn and the difficulty many people have in securing a mortgage can Monaghan County Council extend the time limit on planning permissions with an amendment to meet the latest effluent regulations?

**Reply:** *The Council is unable to grant an extension of duration of planning permission for a development which has not commenced, and where inter alia, it would no longer be consistent with the Development Plan, Regional Planning Guidelines, or other Guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). In addition, the Council is legally barred from amending conditions attached to planning permissions in order to achieve such a consistency.*

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

24. Are there any plans under "the low cost road safety initiative" to improve road safety on the Ballinode side of the Tydavnet Community Centre (old school) by means of rumble strips or flashing safety signs?

**Reply:** *There is no funding allocated under the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme grant for works at this location in the current year.*

25. To ask Monaghan County Council for an update/progress report in relation to talks with the IDA re the sale of land at Knockaconny Monaghan?

**Reply:** *The IDA have indicated that they would sell the lands at Knockaconny at market rates. This was confirmed at the meeting of the Council's Sub-Committee with Enterprise Ireland and the IDA on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013. It is understood that the lands are still for sale and this Council has reiterated its expression of interest directly to the IDA and the selling agents.*

**16. Votes of sympathy/congratulations:**

**It was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following:**

- Mrs Bridie McMeel, Corryarabeg, Carrickroe on the death of her husband Patrick a former member of the outdoor staff in the North Monaghan area
- To the survivors and families of over 700 victims of the recent garment factory collapse in Savar, Bangladesh (through the United Nations International Labour Organisation)
- The Mayor of Boston, USA on the death of two persons and the numerous casualties in the recent bombing atrocity in the city.

- The family of the late Syl Mulligan, Coolaney, Sligo a former member of Sligo County Council
- The family of the late Paddy Belton a former member of Longford County Council.
- The wife and family of the late Harry Blaney, Rosnakill, Fanad, Co. Donegal a former TD for Donegal
- The wife and family of the late Richard Barry, 26. Patrick Street, Fermoy, Cork, former T.D

**It was agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the following:**

- Monaghan Senior Football team on winning the Alliance Division 3 National Football league on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April; to the Team Manager Malachy O'Rourke and his Management Team and to the Captain Owen Lennon and the members of the panel.
- Monaghan Minor Football team on winning the Ulster Football Minor Football League recently.
- Oisin Treanor, Emyvale Boxing Club on winning the 31 kilo All Ireland boxing title.
- Amy Hamill on winning the All Ireland 1500 metres indoor title and breaking the Irish record.
- Tommy Bowe on his selection for the Lions Squad tour to South Africa.

**17. Conferences:**

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

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members</b>
Training Seminar for Councillors	Local Tourism and the Councillor	The Talbot Hotel, Wexford	10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> May, 2013	<b>Cllr P. Connolly Cllr S. Coyle Cllr P. McNally</b>
Celtic Conferences	Identifying the Tourism Product	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery Co.Cork	24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	<b>Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr G. Carville Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr J. O'Brien Cllr S. Coyle Cllr P. Treanor</b>
Cork County Council Mayor's Conference	Strategies for maximising the positive impacts of tourism	Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youghal, Co. Cork	25 <sup>th</sup> May, 2013	<b>Cllr J. Crowe</b>
Rattoo Heritage Society	Annual Environmental & Heritage Conference	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry	29 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2013	<b>Cllr G. Carville Cllr A. Murray Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr S. Coyle Cllr C. Bennett</b>

<b>Promoting Authority</b>	<b>Subject/Theme</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Members</b>
Donegal County Council Mayor's Conference	National Conference on Sport and Mental Health	Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal	30 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2013	<b>Cllr R. Gallagher</b>
TGR Seminars	How Councillors can access funding for community programmes	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013	<b>Cllr C. McPhillips Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr R. Gallagher</b>
Environmental Protection Agency	2013 National Water Event	Galway Bay Hotel, Galway	12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013	<b>Cllr P. McNally Cllr A. Murray Cllr N. Keelan</b>
Laurentic Conference	Ireland North West – Canada's Gateway to Europe	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	<b>Cllr S. Conlon</b>
BG Seminars	Domestic Water and Fluoridation	Silver Springs Hotel, Cork	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	<b>Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon</b>

The Mayor adjourned the balance of the agenda until the adjourned meeting to be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 am.