

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Gilliland, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, O'Hanlon P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. A. King, Mr. P. Clifford, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer, Mr. D. McKernan, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing, Mr. D. Hurley, S E Housing, Ms. A. Mackle, Staff Officer Housing and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllr Coyle

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Eamonn O'Sullivan to his first meeting as Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council. He stated that the members looked forward to working with him over the next seven years for the betterment of the county. He thanked Mr. Adge King for the efficient and professional way in which he had undertaken the role of Chief Executive over the past few months.

Cllrs McPhillips, Connolly, McNally and McKenna extended a warm welcome and good wishes to Mr. O'Sullivan on behalf of their political groupings and also paid tribute to Mr. King for his work in the role of Chief Executive.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive thanked the Cathaoirleach and members for the kind comments and warm welcome. He said it was a pleasure to be appointed as Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council and he looked forward to working with the members and staff over his term in office.

**Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that he had received a notice of urgent business from Cllr Connolly, as follows:

*In view of the fact that safety measures that were recently completed at Shaw's Corner, in Emyvale village, that were designed to prevent traffic mounting the footpath and the fact that on January 15<sup>th</sup> a car mounted the footpath and struck a wall, Monaghan County Council calls on TII to review what further safety measures need to be taken to further improve safety standards for pedestrians, residents and motorists.*

Cllr B. McKenna stated that in his opinion this motion did not constitute urgent business. He requested that a full report would be prepared for the next Monaghan Municipal District meeting.

The Cathaoirleach stated he was putting the motion to the meeting. Cllr Connolly requested a recorded vote – this resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Connolly, Gallagher, McElvaney, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 5**

**Against:** Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan and B. McKenna **Total 6**

**Abstentions:** Cllrs Campbell, Gilliland, McNally, McPhillips and O'Hanlon **Total 5**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated as it hadn't achieved the support of one-half of the total membership of the Council.

## 1. Confirmation of Minutes

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2016, be confirmed.*

## 2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Letter from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission regarding the Waste Management Levy.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of Public Works in relation to funding to address the serious flooding black spots in the county.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport in relation to the Council's resolution seeking additional funding for roads.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Transport in relation to the Council's resolution seeking funding for the Local Improvements Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in relation to the former BOSE factory in Carrickmacross.
- Resolution from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council pledging support for the Council's motion in relation to funding for the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust.
- Resolution from Offaly County Council calling for the teaching of mindfulness and coping mechanisms as part of the primary school curriculum.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport confirming the 2016 allocations for local and regional roads.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport advising that he was not in a position to meet a deputation from the Council to discuss funding for regional and local roads.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to additional funding for the Local Improvements Scheme
- Letter from the Office of Public Works in relation to flooding and the OPW's Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Scheme.
- Letter from the Office of Public Works in relation to flooding incidents in County Monaghan.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in relation to the relocation of the Ballybay PSC office.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in relation to the Council resolution regarding insurance for house-holders affected by flooding.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the Council's resolution in connection with 10-25 Moore Street.
- Letter from Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the planning and design of the N2 Clontibret to the NI Border road scheme.
- Letter from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission regarding the landfill levy imposed by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.
- Letter from Bus Eireann confirming that representatives would be in a position to attend the March Council meeting.
- Resolution from the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District in relation to the provision of additional respite care facilities and enhanced 'Home Care Packages' for County Monaghan.
- Memo from the Roads Section regarding a change of policy in relation to complaints relating to overgrown hedges.
- Notification in relation to Public Consultation Day on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan and Ballybay Wetlands Centre in relation to Preliminary Flood Risk Management options for Monaghan and Ballybay areas.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded, that the Council adopt the resolution from Offaly County Council calling for the teaching of mindfulness and coping mechanisms as part of the primary school curriculum.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for 1 against and 2 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

*On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllrs O'Hanlon and McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Transport & Sport to make a separate dedicated allocation for LIS in the County.*

*Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded, that this Council supports the motion from the Ballybay/Clones M.D. in relation to additional respite care facilities and enhanced 'Home Care' Packages and forwards this to the Minister and H.S.E.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for 0 against and 3 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme should include Clones and the Finn-Lackey Rivers catchment area as an A.F.A. – Area for Further Assessment.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council recognises that the HSE has confirmed that 26 respite beds will be available within the County by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. However, Monaghan County Council wishes to emphasise to the Minister and the HSE that with an aging population and increased demands that more beds be made available and improved 'Home Care' packages put in place.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council seeks a crisis meeting with the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Paschal Donohoe, our local Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, T.D., in relation to the serious lack of funding for our roads in Co. Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys T.D., and our local Fine Gael Councillors to make a public statement on the condition of our local and regional roads and on the level of funding we received in 2016.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that this Council writes again to the Department of Foreign Affairs seeking response to a previous appeal for the Department to provide funding to the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust on an annual basis.*

**3. To consider amended Section 183 Notice - Disposal of land at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross**

The members considered the amended Section 183 Notice and report which had been circulated to each member with the Agenda for the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal .2063 hectares of land at Drummond Otra, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross to Monaghan County Enterprise Board in accordance with the terms of Section 183 Notice dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.*

**4. Housing - To receive presentation on the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme.**

Mr. Drew Hurley, Senior Officer Housing gave a comprehensive presentation to the members in relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme. He outlined the following:

- The type of houses that may be sold under the Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Details regarding tenant eligibility
- Disqualifications
- Basis for calculating tenant income
- Tenant purchase discount
- Conditions of sale
- Calculation and payment of purchase price
- Resale of house during charge period.

Following the presentation, Mr. Hurley, Ms. N. Woods and Ms. A. Mackle responded to queries from the members.

*Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded, that this Council calls on the Minister with responsibility for housing to allow the tenants of Part V homes to be eligible to purchase their houses should they wish to do so.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for 3 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

## 5. Finance/Audit:

The members noted the following documents which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- (i) The Audited 2014 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) and Local Government Auditors Report.
- (ii) The Audit Committee Report on the 2014 Audited AFS and LG Auditors report.
- (iii) The Annual Report of the Audit Committee on their performance for year 2015.

It was unanimously agreed that the three documents be noted.

## 6. Landfill Update.

Cllr McElvaney was not present at the meeting when this item was reached.

*Mr. A. King, Director of Environment referred to the number of times the landfill had come before the Council for discussion, most recently at the January Council meeting. He referred to the options that had been presented to the Council at that meeting. A decision had been taken at the meeting that the Council would seek a meeting with Department officials and he confirmed that the meeting had taken place on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.*

*Mr. D. McKernan, SEE Environment then circulated a copy of a report of the meeting that had taken place between the Department officials and the Council delegation. Mr. McKernan outlined the contents of the report in detail to the meeting. He stated that the Department officials had informed the Council that they would not be advising any local authority to invest in developing further landfill capacity at this time. They had also stated that there would be no reduction or removal of the landfill levy nor would there be any financial assistance provided to the Council for developing further capacity at the landfill.*

*Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded by Cllr McKenna that the landfill item (No. 6 on the Agenda) and particularly the report from the meeting with DoECLG officials, is referred to the Landfill sub-committee, then to the CPG and place on the agenda for the March Council meeting.*

Cllr Maxwell's proposal was put to the meeting and agreed.

Cllr McKenna challenged the accuracy of some of the information which he said had been provided to the elected members, on the basis of information which had come to his attention the previous week and which he said was not in the public domain.

Cllr Conlon also sought information as to why the tender for the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was withdrawn at the last minute.

Mr. A. King stated that he was not happy with the comment from Cllr McKenna and he asked him to withdraw it. He assured the members that the information and figures given to the elected members in relation to the landfill facility were 100% correct.

Responding to queries from a number of members Mr. King replied as follows:

- The landfill levy was distorting the market. The Council had written to the Competition Commission but they had clearly stated that it was the power of the Minister to set the levy.
- He was not aware of other landfills re-opening – the Department officials in Wexford had given examples of landfills developed by other local authorities that hadn't any waste deposited in them.
- Regarding the landfill in east Galway, there was capacity for 100,000-200,000 tonnes remaining and it was necessary to get it filled out and then permanently capped.
- In relation to the withdrawal of the MRF tender, Mr. King confirmed that on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January that both he and the SEE Environment had been presented with information pertaining to the tender. Having considered same and in the context of the impending deadline for receipt of tenders, it was decided that the most prudent response was to withdraw the tender.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council discuss 'In Committee' the reason why the MRF tender was withdrawn.*

*Following a short period, during which the members were provided with the requested information, the meeting returned to public session on the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that in response to the letter received from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission regarding the anti-competitor nature of the waste management landfill levy, this Council re-engages with the Commission asking them not for an assessment of the level of the landfill levy but to assess the ongoing application of the levy in light of the highly limited alternatives available and that enjoy a competitive advantage within waste management and disposal infrastructure. That we also send copy of commission letter and this received query to the European Commission for Competition.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that for the purpose of enlightening the debate on the evolving uncertainty around landfill capacity and waste disposal streams for household waste that we seek a presentation from the waste management representative organisation, Irish Waste Management Association for the March meeting.*

It was subsequently agreed that the representative from the IWMA would be invited to give a presentation to the Landfill Committee at a meeting scheduled for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 a.m. in the Conference Room, The Glen. The presentation, if the IWMA rep. was available, to be scheduled for 11.00 a.m. and would be open to all members to attend.

*Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded, that this Council writes again to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and Minister Alan Kelly T.D., and requesting that the landfill levy be reduced. Landfills should be an affordable option until the Poolbeg incinerator is operational. A reduction in landfill levies could be passed to consumers by waste disposal companies.*

A recorded vote on Cllr Bennett's proposal which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, B. McKenna, McNally, O'Hanlon P. Treanor and S. Treanor. **Total 12**

**Against:** Cllrs Campbell, Gilliland, Maxwell and McPhillips **Total 4**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

#### **7. To receive Management Report – January 2016**

The members considered the Chief Executive's report for January 2016 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The relevant officials responded to queries from the members.

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr McPhillips, it was agreed that the Council pay further attention to the re-instating of roads by private contractors and to the fact that their works are carried out to the Council's standard; that possibly an Engineer from the Council would sign off on the re-instating works before returning bonds etc. If the re-instatement works carried out fail in the 24 months post the works that the contractor be deemed responsible.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the 'Latch On' group are invited to attend the March meeting of Monaghan County Council for a short period (10.30am -11.15am)*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that we write to Irish Water again and ask them to correct the water hardness issue in Scotstown, Smithboro and Ballinode. We in Monaghan County Council also ask the Chief Executive to investigate this long term issue and help to get it resolved by contacting Irish Water also and to seek a solution.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council writes to Transport Infrastructure Ireland expressing our disappointment that they have failed to come back to our Roads Department in relation to proposals for traffic calming in Smithboro (N54) where 80% of traffic breaks the speed limit.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McPhillips, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council invites Monaghan Integrated Development as Leader administrators, to give an overview at the April Council meeting of the application process, advice for applicants etc. If confirmation is not received from Pobal prior to that, then the presentation be held at the May meeting.*

#### **8. Newspaper approvals in accordance with Part 4 Article 18 (2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2006**

*On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the following newspapers are approved in accordance with Part 4, Article 18(2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2006 for use in Monaghan County Council for giving notice of the intention to make a planning application:*

- The Anglo Celt
- The Northern Standard
- The Irish Independent
- The Irish Daily Star
- The Irish Times
- The Dundalk Democrat (Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney only)

**9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

There were no reports circulated with the agenda.

**10. Business submitted by Chief Executive.**

**Branding:**

At the invitation of the Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Director updated the members in relation to the current status of the Branding project. He stated that the Consultants were anxious to meet and engage with the elected members. He suggested that a representative group of members, two from each political grouping, would meet with the Consultants to discuss the project. For this purpose a meeting was arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at 9.30 am in the Council meeting room, Mtek.

The following members were selected to attend – Councillors N. Keelan, S. Gilliland, A. Campbell, P. McNally, R. Gallagher, C. Carthy, S. Conlon, S. Treanor and P. Connolly.

**11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2016**

This item was not dealt with.

**12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.**

The members noted the letter from An Bord Pleanala advising that EirGrid's response to the submissions received by the Board had been circulated to the Council and was available on the application website since 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

The Cathaoirleach updated the members in relation to this item. He stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> February was the last date on which those persons interested in making a submission at the Oral Hearing on the North South Interconnector planning application must confirm their intention to do so. He encouraged all interested persons to confirm their intention.

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to John Boylan, EirGrid Liaison Officer, requesting that EirGrid do not visit schools in relation to the North South Interconnector project.*

**13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.**

This item was not dealt with.

## 14. Questions:

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

1. To ask Monaghan County Council what plans are there to provide public lighting at Tyholland Community Centre with a view to improving the safety of users and road traffic?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council carried out safety improvement works at this location in recent years and there are no further proposals in relation to this matter.**

2. To ask Monaghan County Council have free library membership been introduced at our libraries and what other changes have taken place at our library services?

**Reply:**

### **Free Library Membership**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 the Adult library membership fee of €3.00 for Monaghan County Library has been abolished, as have membership fees across all library authorities in the country. Library services are now completely free at the point of contact for all customers. This is the beginning of a process taking place to standardise the range of services provided to customers in all libraries and to standardise any associated charges. This has been agreed by the Board of the LGMA and the CCMA.

To mark the launch of free library membership, Monaghan County Library ran an amnesty on library fines for the month of January, to encourage lapsed members to return to the service and to bring back any long overdue items.

### **Further Changes:**

- **Online Services.** A range of new free online services are due to be launched later this February. These include:
  - **E-Books and E-Audio books.** This new service will provide customers with access to thousands of E-books and E-audio books to download to their computers, laptops, tablets or phones. This service is provided for the public library service through the BorrowBox web site, <http://library.bolindadigital.com/monaghan>
  - **Digital Magazines.** This service is provided to customers on behalf the public library service by **Zinio for Libraries**, which offers customers free access to 100 full-colour, interactive digital magazines. Customers can register for this service by using their library barcode number and by completing the online registration form.  
**Main Website:** <https://www.rbdigital.com/lgma/zinio>
  - **E-Learning Courses** This service is provided for the public library service by **Universal Class** which offers customers a unique online education experience. There are over 400 courses available. Customers can register for this service by using their library barcode number and by completing the registration form.

**Registration:** <http://LGMA.universalclass.com/register.htm>

Main Website: <http://LGMA.universalclass.com>

- **Online Newspapers.** This service is provided for the public library service by **Proquest**. The service will provide customers with access to an online database of news articles, taken from over 1,500 national and international newspapers, which are indexed and fully searchable. Customers can register for this service at <http://search.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=177328&groupid=1233005> using their library barcode membership number.
- **Language Courses.** This service is provided for the public library service by **Mango Languages**, which will offer customers access to online courses to learn over 60 languages.
- **WIFI Printing Service** A new WIFI printing service has been launched in Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Clones branch libraries. This allows customers from the comfort of their own home, or any other location, to order a print copy of virtually any document or web page from their Internet connected Laptop, Tablet or Mobile device for collection at the Library of their choice. Customers can simply download the **PrinterOn** App to their Smartphone or Tablet or visit <http://www.printeron.com/printspots-directory.html> from their Laptop or Desktop computer to upload their print requests.
- **New National Library Management System for Public Libraries.** By the end of December 2016 Monaghan County Library will have become part of a single, national library management system. This will mean that all library customers will have access to a single catalogue containing the details of every book, DVD and CD available to borrow for free from any branch in the country. A stock delivery system is to be put in place to support the new national service so that any item requested can be collected customers at their local branch, or any other branch of their choice.
- **Standardised charges.** As part of the introduction of the new national library management system, library fines will also be standardised across the country. The new charge on overdue books DVDs and CDs will be 30 cent per week. This is a large increase from the current charge of 10 cent per week, but we intend to strongly promote the fact that as long as borrowed items are returned on time, or renewed (in person, by phone or online), then all overdue fines can be avoided.

**Clr S. Conlon asked:**

3. Please provide an update for the following question I submitted last September, 'For the purpose of serving the democratic rights of our disabled and elderly citizens, that this Council seeks of the Electoral Returning Officer to initiate an accessibility audit of all polling booths throughout the county to ensure the venues comply with Part M Building Regulations - Access for People with Disabilities'.

**Reply: Following the September Council meeting a letter issued to the Electoral Returning Officer, conveying the content of the notice of motion that had been passed by Monaghan County Council and seeking the audit requested. No reply has been received to date. A reminder email issued to the Returning Officer last week and a reply is awaited.**

**Clr R. Gallagher asked:**

4. (a) Can the Council complete an audit of road bridges in the county and their state of repair?

**Reply:** An inspection in 2013/2014 was carried out on 114 regional road bridges and 33 local road bridges. The Roads Section will discuss the issue of an audit of all bridges with the Municipal District Co-ordinators.

- (b) Can the Council state how much funding is allocated to bridge repairs and how far this funding will go towards requirements?

**Reply:** An allocation DTTAS of €236,000 for 2016 has been notified in respect of two bridges, namely Lackan Bridge and a bridge on the R181 Cavan/Monaghan border. The TII has allocated €700,000 for bridge strengthening works on various National routes throughout the county namely: Moybridge, Lisrooskey, Killydonagh, Lenagh, Emyvale, Blackwater, Lismeenan, Drumillard, Ulster Canal, and Skeagh bridge.

5. Can the Council outline its plans and resources for this year's National Spring Clean?

**Reply:** The Council will again be supporting communities throughout the County participate in the National Spring Clean programme. The Council will also make extra effort to highlight the various litter picks that are appearing in local press and on social media

6. Can the Council give details of how many people in the community are involved in the Civil Defence, the work they do and express appreciation to them for same?

**Reply:** Civil Defence currently has 70 active members in County Monaghan. Training centres are located in Clones, Monaghan & Carrickmacross.

Continue to provide assistance to local authority, Garda, & other primary response agencies at operational duties at community events & emergencies.  
We also provide first aid training to the Local Authority staff and Cardiac First Responder Courses to community groups within the county.

Civil Defence supports community events throughout the year. These include large events such as concerts, local authority events, agricultural shows, festivals, and sports events.  
We also provide support to other Civil Defence units within the region.  
In 2015 Monaghan Civil Defence attended 88 events and incidents which involved 632 volunteers.

7. Can the Council provide an update on the current rates of payment by householders in County Monaghan to Irish Water?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council do not collate statistics on the payment/non-payment of domestic water rates. The question will be referred directly to Irish Water. Irish Water's response will be circulated in due course.

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

8. (a) Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed response to the Report published by the Department of Transport entitled "Current Expenditure on National Road Maintenance-Value for Money and Policy Review" conducted by the Economic and Financial Unit at the Department of Transport with officials from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, which concludes that funding for 2014 was at 2000 levels, with 224 road defects identified in County Monaghan in 2014, with no repairs/works being on any of these road defects?

**Reply: Of the defects identified, 85% were dealt with under various TII (NRA) funded schemes i.e. safety barriers, line marking etc. Some items were delayed either due to inadequate funding and in another instance awaiting the installation of water meters. A small number is still outstanding and will be dealt with this year.**

- (b) As the Report concludes 2014 road funding level were at 2000 levels, can Monaghan County Council give a detailed breakdown of funding/expenditure figures for road restoration, improvements and surface dressing for each of the years from 2000-2015(all 16 years), under the headings of National, Regional and Local Roads and the mileage/kilometres completed in each respective year?

**Reply: Report attached**

9. Can Monaghan County Council out the new guide lines/dates etc., for burning and for hedge cutting/trimming and the responsibilities of landowners for same and the powers of enforcement/penalties, the Local Authority can implement?

**Reply: The Wildlife Act prohibits the cutting/trimming of hedges between 1 March and 31 August each year. Where hedges pose a hazard to road users the Road Authority can serve a notice under Roads Act 1993. Failure to comply with the notice carries penalties of up to €5000 fine and/or imprisonment of up to 6 months or both together with the cost of the action.**

**The Waste Management Regulations 2015 (Regulation 6) were amended on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 as follows: The burning of waste in compliance under Regulation 5 (1) (a) and 5(1) b shall cease on 1 January 2018.**

10. Have Monaghan County Council a specific unit/officers to identify/ make application and advise groups/businesses in the County of Monaghan of E.U. programmes and national funding opportunities, to ensure all funding opportunities are availed of, with the responsibility of the lead role of the local authority, in Economic and Community development with the implementation of the "Putting People First" document?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council Economic & Community Services will assist/direct groups or businesses in Monaghan in relation to E.U. funding programmes. LEADER is the principal source of E.U. funding for Rural Development.**

**Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd.(MIDL), the Implementing Partner for LEADER, has carried out an extensive consultation process in relation to preparation of the Local Development Strategy over the past six months and will provide support and advice to groups wishing to avail of the LEADER programme, when it opens in 2016.**

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

11. Can Monaghan County Council outline their policy on construction of Farm Homes and state how many have been erected in the past ten years (2006 to 2015) in the county?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Councils statistics show that between the years 2006 to 2015 there were five rural social houses or "Farm Homes" constructed for social housing applicants whose main source of income is typically from farming and who transferred a site free of charge to Monaghan County Council on which a social house was provided for them.

Social Housing Applicants who qualify for "Farm Homes" typically include small farmers whose main source of income is from farming and who are eligible for social housing. Applicants for "Farm Homes" must own farmland that includes a site suitable for a house and associated sewage treatment system and water supply well if applicable. The suitability of the site is subject to the same requirements as any rural housing site. The site must be transferred to the County Council for a nominal amount of one euro. This site is selected by the Council and must be adjacent to the public road. The Housing Applicant must agree to enter into a Tenancy Agreement with the Council and pay rent for the house when built. Depending on income and circumstances the tenant may have an opportunity to eventually purchase the house under a Tenant Purchase Scheme in the same way as other Local Authority Housing Tenants.

The provision of rural social houses is subject to availability of funding from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government. At present it is more cost effective to buy houses in rural areas than to build "Farm Homes" and approximately 500 (30%) of the houses that Monaghan County Council owns are located in villages and rural areas. Monaghan County Council purchases houses in rural areas when appropriate according to social housing need.

**15. Notices of Motion:**

Consideration of Notices of Motion 15 (1) – 15(7) was deferred to the March meeting.

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

*It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the Muckno Lakers Ladies Basketball Team and their Manager Gerry Smith on winning the All Ireland Basketball Finals in Tallaght, Dublin recently. Gerry Smith who has led numerous teams to All Ireland Basketball success deserves particular praise.*

**17. Conferences/Training.**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences/training events by the members listed:*

