

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Meeting Room, Mtek 1, Monaghan on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, 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. F. McPhillips, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. M. Cullinane, Executive Planner, Ms. D. Kierans, Assistant Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**General Election:**

At the outset the Cathaoirleach extended congratulations to those who were elected to Dail Eireann, following the general election held on 26<sup>th</sup> February. He commiserated with those who did not get re-elected and commended all those that stood for election to public office.

Cllr Maxwell referred to the number of ballot papers that had not been franked in the polling stations and stated that this was not acceptable. He proposed the following motion:

*That this Council writes to the Returning Officer for Cavan/Monaghan, Joseph Smyth, in relation to the number of unfranked ballot papers that appeared at the Count Centre in Cavan and asking him to refer back to this body.*

The motion was seconded by Cllr Gilliland and agreed by the Council.

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council writes to the four incoming T.D.'s requesting them to attend a meeting of the Council so that the Members can outline our strategic objectives for the county and that an annual progress report is sought from the T.D.'s*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that each member of the public's RSI number is put on the Register as a means of identification. It was further agreed that a follow up meeting after every election takes place with the Courts Service in relation to how they feel the election was run.*

Cllr B. McKenna complimented the Returning Officer and his staff on the Count Centre and the way it was operated during the election count.

**Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of Cllrs Carthy, P. Treanor, Bennett, Conlon, Keelan, Crowe and McKenna, as follows:

*Monaghan County Council notes the serious state of disrepair that many of our local and regional roads are currently in. We further note that road funding has been systematically reduced to unsustainable levels over the past 8 years. Therefore there is an urgent requirement for a substantial investment in roads funding required by Monaghan County Council and other local authorities. Monaghan County Council calls on all Cavan-Monaghan Dail deputies to refrain from supporting any nomination for Taoiseach or endorsing any new government without the explicit commitment that the required level of road funding will be prioritised and delivered to this county.*

The Cathaoirleach stated he was putting the decision to take the urgent business to the meeting.

Cllr Carthy requested a recorded vote – this resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, P. Treanor and S. Treanor and O’Hanlon **Total 13**

**Against:** Cllrs Campbell, Gilliland, Maxwell, McElvaney and McPhillips **Total 5**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried as it had achieved the support of one half of the total membership of the Council and that he would take the urgent business at the end of the meeting.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016:

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2016, be confirmed.*

## **2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from Charles Flanagan, TD in relation to the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to the teaching of mindfulness and coping mechanisms as part of the primary school curriculum.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport declining the Council’s request for a meeting to discuss roads funding.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing, Planning & Co-ordination in relation to the Council’s resolution regarding tenants of Part V homes purchasing their property.
- Letter from HSE Director General regarding the Council’s motion for more respite beds to be made available and improved Homecare packages.
- Letter from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Theresa Villiers MP, in relation to the Council’s resolution regarding evidence relating to the Dublin and Monaghan bombings.
- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government notifying the Council of the 2016 allocation for the Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability.

- Letter from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport notifying the Council of an allocation of €5m to address the damage to roads arising from the recent severe weather.
- Letter from Irish Water in response to the Council's resolution regarding hard water and advising the Council to make a submission to the Capital Investment Plan during the public consultation period.
- Letter from Fondúireacht an Phiarsaigh notifying the Council of the nomination process for the Padraig Pearse Award 2016.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to the teaching of mindfulness and coping mechanisms as part of the primary school curriculum.

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

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council writes to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding the funding allocated under the Severe Weather Allocation, in respect of roads, bridges and drainage and requesting that the completion date of 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 be extended to ensure that works are completed satisfactorily.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that this Council calls on the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) to provide adequate funding to Irish Water to ensure remedial action is taken in areas of high levels of limestone to ensure that hardness in water is reduced where possible.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council writes to Irish Water and acknowledges and welcomes the important information contained within their letter. The Council welcomes Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan (CIP) that they have now submitted to the Commission for Energy Regulation. We ask Irish Water to request that remedial action should be funded by the CER and that additional and necessary funding be made available to address the hard water issue in Scotstown, Smithboro and Ballinode areas of Co. Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council in its consideration of a response to correspondence from the Secretary of State to Northern Ireland, Therese Villiers, awaits update information from Margaret Irwin from Justice for the Forgotten for the purpose of providing an appropriate response from this Council at its next monthly meeting.*

#### **Participation by Latch On Group:**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of the Latch On Group to the meeting – Grace Baxter, Tom Cloonan, Justin Erskine, Laura Finlay, Mark McCabe and Emer Tully and their Leaders – Margaret Flack and Evelyn Feeney.

The Group then observed the Council meeting in progress for a period of time, after which the Cathaoirleach presented a framed scroll to each of the group members.

**3. To consider the Report on the submissions to the Draft County Monaghan Retail Strategy 2016-2022 with a view to adopting the Retail Strategy.**

Ms. Maire Cullinan, Executive Planner, referred to the reports that had been circulated with the agenda. She stated that the overriding aim of the Strategy is to create the appropriate conditions necessary to foster a healthy and vibrant retailing environment in County Monaghan over the next five years. She explained that there had been a period of public consultation which had been advertised in the Northern Standard and on the Council's website. During this period public consultation meetings had been held in the five towns in the county. A total of seven submissions had been received which were summarised in the Report. The Planning Authority noted these comments and made minor amendments to the Draft Retail Strategy in respect of national policy requirements by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, a statement of aspiration of the Planning Authority to reduce retail leakage, and amendments to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report to provide greater detail on assessment criteria. It was recommended that the Retail Strategy be adopted.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was agreed that the proposed variation of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 and the adoption of the Draft County Monaghan Retail Strategy 2016-2022 be approved.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the new Government provide a Minister for Rural Affairs to deal specifically with a range of issues – health care; closure of Garda barracks and post offices; jobs; retail parking and vibrant town centres; proper infrastructure i.e roads, as we don't have a railway system and proper broadband.*

**4. To consider proposed variation No. 3 to the Monaghan County Development Plan – Incorporation of Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.**

Ms. D. Kierans, Executive Planner explained that the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets is mandatory for all local authorities and is applicable to all developments onto urban roads and streets within the 60km/h speed limit zone. The manual sets out practical design measures to shift emphasis from car centric urban design to ensure priority for pedestrian and cyclists, as well as measures to support and encourage more sustainable travel patterns in urban areas. Local authorities are required to ensure that the manual is implemented and thus the manual is required to be incorporated into the Monaghan County Development Plan. The manual is already being implemented and that the incorporation of it into the development plan is necessary to bring it to the attention of developers, agents and other interested parties, and to formalise its status within the development plan.

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed to adopt the proposed variation to the Monaghan County Development Plan to incorporate the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.*

**5. To adopt the Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Mr. F. McPhillips, SEO Community gave an overview of the main elements of the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. He stated that the plan provides a focus for the shared vision of a better quality of

life for our communities and also opportunities to address issues affecting the people of the county. He outlined the six high level goals contained within the Plan and referred to the Actions necessary to ensure that these goals are delivered on.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that the Draft Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 be adopted.*

**6. To adopt the Monaghan Local Community Development Committee Draft Annual Report 2015**

Mr. F. McPhillips, SEO Community referred to the Annual Report of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) that had been circulated with the agenda. He stated that the report documented the activities of the LCDC during 2015.

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Annual Report of the Local Community Development Committee for 2015, be adopted.*

**7. To consider the Review of the Community Fund Scheme 2016**

Mr. P. Clifford, Director referred to report on the review of the Community Fund Scheme 2016. He stated that it was necessary to have a rationalised scheme with a single application and a single point of assessment. All community funding previously allocated between the County Council and the various Town Councils had been combined into one central fund amounting to €165,000. The fund was broken down between three Measures, as follows:

Measure 1	€65,000
Measure 2	€40,000
Measure 3	€60,000

He stated that the Council will fund economic events in the Ballybay-Clones MD for 2016 but in future years, a specific line must be provided for such projects in the Annual Budget Report. If approved, the Scheme will be advertised in the local media this week inviting applications from interested groups and the closing date will be 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Community Development Fund Scheme 2016.*

**8. To adopt the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2016**

Mr. A. King, Director gave a brief overview of the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2016 which had been circulated with the agenda. He stated that the Plan, which had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act 2014, takes accounts of all plans, statements and strategies that set out policies and objectives for all of its functional programmes. The Plan sets out the objectives and priorities for the delivery of each of the Councils services; the strategies for achieving those objectives and priorities and the performance standards intended to be met in the delivery of the services.

The Monaghan Stat leadership management system will monitor performance across the organisation and ensure that the Plan is delivered upon. In addition the Audit Committee and Internal Audit process provides independent oversight and monitoring of the Council's governance and control system.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2016, be adopted.*

**9. To receive Report on Service Indicators for 2014**

The members noted the Report on Service Indicators for 2014 which had been circulated.

Mr. A. King, Director explained that the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) recently published its first Performance Indicator Report on local authority performance over eleven functional areas. The report enables local authorities to benchmark their performance against each other and also against their performance for similar indicators for previous years. He stated that the report indicates a strong performance by the Council with above average performance for almost all indicators.

Cllr McNally, as a member of NOAC, welcomed the report and the positive performance by the Council.

**10. To receive Management Report – February 2016**

The members noted the Management Report for February which had been circulated. The relevant officials responded to queries from members on various aspects of the report.

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr it was agreed that this Council invite a representative from Revenue (Customs & Excise) to a future meeting to outline the effects of the new diesel marker along with other items concerning Monaghan as a border county.*

**11. To approve recommendations and minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2016**

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

It was agreed that the Annual Awards Ceremony would be held at 7pm on the evening of the April Council meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

It was further agreed that the April meeting would be an afternoon meeting commencing at 2.00 p.m.

## **12. Diospoireacht as Gaeilge. (Seachtain na Gaeilge/Rith 2016)**

Bhí Seán Ó Murchadha, Conradh na Gaeilge, i láthair ag an gcruinniú. Thug sé sonraí do na baill mar gheall ar Rith 2016 a thiocfaidh go Muineachán ar an Satharn 12 Márta. Rás sealaíochta is ea Rith 2016 a spreagann pobail áitúla i leith an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ar bhonn atá lúthchleasach, beomhar agus difriúil. Glacann grúpaí difriúla úinéireacht ar chiliméadar amháin. Bíonn bata speisialta acu lena chur ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad grúpa eile. Dúirt sé go mbeadh an tAire Heather Mac Unfraidh i láthair agus gurbh í Amy Hamill, lúthchleasaí ó Mhuineachán a bhfuil gradaim faighte aici, a bheadh ina treoraí. Spreag sé baill na Comhairle agus an pobal mór chun páirt a ghlacadh. D'aithin sé go raibh ról ag an gCoiste Gaeilge maidir le tacaíocht a thabhairt don ócáid.

Ghaibh an Cathaoirleach buíochas le Seán Ó Murchadha as freastal ar an gcruinniú agus mhol sé do chách páirt a ghlacadh sa Rith 2016.

Mar Chathaoirleach ar an gCoiste Gaeilge ghaibh an Comh P Treanor buíochas le Seán don chur i láthair. Thug sé eolas don Chomhairle ar ócáidí eile sa chontae le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge. Dúirt sé gur seoladh Scéim Scoláireachtaí Gaeilge na Comhairle agus gurbh é 18 Márta, 2016 an dáta deiridh.

*Aontaíodh go n-iarrfaí ar an bPríomhfheidhmeannach Oifigeach Gaeilge a cheapadh don Chomhairle, ba é an Comh P. Treanor a mhol an rún agus chuidigh an Comh Bennett leis.*

Sean O'Mhurchadha, Conradh na Gaeilge attended the meeting and informed the members of Rith 2016 which arrives in Monaghan Town on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Rith 2016 is a relay run which inspires local communities to promote the Irish language in an athletic, lively and different manner. A different group takes ownership of each kilometre of the run. They run with a special baton which they pass on to the next group. He stated that the event would be attended by Minister Heather Humphreys and would be led by Amy Hamill, an award winning athlete from Monaghan. He encouraged the members of the Council and the public in general to participate in the event. He acknowledged the role of the Council's Coiste Gaeilge in supporting the event.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Seán Ó Mhurchadha for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone to participate in Rith 2016.

Cllr P. Treanor as Chair of the Coiste Gaeilge also thanked Seán for his presentation. He informed the Council of other events taking place in the county during Seachtain na Gaeilge. He stated that the Council's Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme had been launched and the closing date was 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Chief Executive be requested to appoint an Irish Language Officer for the Council.*

## **13. To fix a date for a special meeting to discuss the Council Landfill.**

It was agreed that a Special Meeting would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at 10.30 a.m. to discuss the Council Landfill.

Cllr Conlon raised issues relating to the operation of the Materials Recovery Facility at Scotch Corner.

The Chief Executive stated that he would give a report on the issues raised by Cllr Conlon at the special meeting, scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> March.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Connolly and Coyle, in respect of their attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- AILG Training, Monaghan
- Housing Grants & Schemes, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

**15. Business submitted by Chief Executive.**

**Referral of Report:**

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive informed the members that in accordance with the provisions of Section 174 of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Cathaoirleach and himself had jointly considered the report of the Ethics Registrar on a possible contravention of Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. They had taken the joint decision to refer the matter to the Standards in Public Office Commission for further investigation. He further stated that they would be making no further public comment on the matter.

**Severe Weather Allocation:**

The Chief Executive referred to the amount of €5m which had been allocated by the Department of Transport to deal with the damage caused to regional and local roads by the recent period of severe weather. He welcomed the allocation and stated that circa €1.4m of the allocation would be spent on the repair of roads damaged by the flooding and the Council would immediately prioritise where this funding would be spent. Further work would be required to identify engineering solutions and preventative measures for a number of projects within the tight timeframe that governed the expenditure of the funding (ie 30th November, 2016). He proposed that the matter be placed as an item on the agenda for each of the Municipal District meetings in March to ensure thorough consideration was given to the options presented.

**16. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 1 February, 2016**

There were no matters raised out of the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

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

The members noted the letter from EirGrid in relation to the North South Interconnector and the resolution passed by the Council at the January meeting.



Cllr Keelan referred to the Oral Hearing being held by An Bord Pleanala which had commenced that morning in the Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross and was expected to continue for a few weeks.

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

Regarding the Ulster Canal project, the Chief Executive stated that he had no information to give the members.

He referred to the development strategy for a network of Greenways connecting Cavan, Enniskillen, Clones, Monaghan and Armagh which is nearing completion. An application has been made to SEUPB for INTERREG funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the route, extending the Monaghan town phase at both ends as far as Smithboro and Middletown, resulting in a 26km unbroken stretch of greenway. A spur line along the bypass to connect the Dublin Road side of Monaghan town has been included, as has a budget for some community engagement and accommodation works to encourage key businesses and educational facilities near the route to use the amenity for commuting purposes.

*Cllr P. Treanor proposed that the Council would write again to the two Ministers, North and South, seeking an update on the promise given by them with regard to the setting up of a task force/forum to have a particular focus on the canal restoration and to seek funding to continue with the project. This was agreed.*

**19. To receive Presentation from Bus Eireann Officials:**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed David Lane, Regional Manager (East) and Siobhan Griffin, Regional Transport Manager (East) to the meeting and invited them to address issues relating to the operation of the school transport scheme in the county.

Ms. Griffin and Mr. Lane responded to issues raised by a number of Councillors in relation to the school transport scheme. They gave contact details for use by the members if they incurred any problems in the future.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Bus Eireann contact the local authority before contemplating taking school transport off a particular route because of the condition of the road and that the staff of the relevant school are also notified along with the parents.*

**20. Questions:**

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

1. Given that we are now in the peak of the lambing season, what additional measures has our Dog Warden Department put in place i.e. visual patrols, house visits and signage as it appears to many that there are a lot of stray dogs roaming our Countryside?

**Reply:** The Veterinary Section has been placing advertisements in the Northern Standard since last January alerting dog owners to the potential danger their dog presents to livestock if the dog is not kept under adequate control. These advertisements will continue to be placed in the Northern Standard on a fortnightly basis through March and April. This is the only additional measure in place to try to prevent dogs worrying sheep. The Dog Warden conducts visual patrols and house visits in any area where sheep worrying is reported to him and investigates all such complaints, where specific dogs and dog owners are alleged to have been involved in such incidents. This is normal procedure for the Dog Warden in relation to sheep worrying incidents. Where possible, Monaghan County Council will prosecute dog owners that are alleged to have allowed their dogs to attack or worry livestock. While such incidents are more common at this time of year, they can occur at any time during the year.

2. Can this Council give an update on our plans to upgrade the dual junctions at Tullyvaragh lower with a view to putting place proper traffic calming measures?

**Reply:** The two junctions in question (at the L8100 and L8152) were studied by Road Design in 2012. The study analysed the junctions in accordance with the NRA's design standards and specifications for the geometric design of major/minor priority junctions. This study included traffic volume and accident history analysis. The results of the study were presented to the South Monaghan Elected Representatives in November 2012. The study found that the junction N2/L8100 (the more Northerly junction) required no change to its layout. The study found that the junction N2/L8152 required more than a 'simple' junction arrangement. Following discussions with the NRA's Road Safety Inspector, it was agreed to adopt a 'Nearside Passing' arrangement at this junction. This new junction arrangement was implemented in 2013.

The Road Design office is currently undertaking a further study of the N2/L8152 junction. This study can be extended to include the L8100 junction also.

The results of the study will be made available to the Councillors in due course.

3. When it is expected to have the speed limit reduced on the old Castleblayney road, Carrickmacross as agreed by the speed limits Committee?

**Reply:** This will be included as part of the overall speed limit review within the county in accordance with the Department of Transport Guidelines which stipulate that byelaws be in place by the end of April 2017. The process commenced with an advertisement in the Northern Standard issue of 25 February 2016 inviting submissions from the public before March 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. The notice is available on the Monaghan County Council's website.

4. Is there anything can be done by this Council in conjunction with Irish Water to reduce the very high volume of lime in the water in Carrickmacross.

**Reply:** Still awaiting response from Irish Water.

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

5. In view of the fact that the recent CFRAM report has indicated that the lowering of the Blackwater river basin for a distance of 3.4 km is seen as the most efficient way of reducing the ongoing flooding problems in Monaghan town and at LacPatrick, Monaghan co-op, what

plans have Monaghan County Council to make application for funding to alleviate flooding in these areas?

**Reply:** 'The CFRAMs Programme is not yet complete and is currently at consideration of options in terms of dealing with flood risk in Areas for Further Assessment. Full dredging and partial dredging of river channels are some of the options being considered, among numerous others. No decision has been made on the options in the Monaghan AFA Report yet therefore, dredging or partial dredging remain only as potential options at this stage. A refinement of the options and a final decision will not be made until the end of Q2 2016 when a Draft Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) will be completed and put on public display for a period of 6 months statutory consultation. Once this consultation is complete, the FRMP will be finalised in Q1 2017.'

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

6. Does the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council envisage adding the remainder of fencing works required in Valley Close, Carrickmacross in 2016?

**Reply:** Housing Section, Monaghan County Council under Planned Maintenance propose to complete the remaining of fencing works at properties no 16 & 18 Valley Close, Carrickmacross. These works are proposed to be complete by Quarter 3 in 2016.

7. Can Monaghan County Council confirm the number of times it has been invited to attend the 'Bose Inter-Agency Group' meetings and if there have been any updates on the issue of getting a replacement company into the former Bose facility?

**Reply:** Paul Clifford, Director of Services, Monaghan County Council, attended two meetings of the Bose Inter-Agency Response Group, chaired by Enterprise Ireland in 2015. The most recent update, issued by the Private Secretary to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on 18 January 2016 to the Council states that "IDA Ireland continues to market Monaghan and the BOSE facility to relevant FDI opportunities, enquiries and potential investors through the IDA network"

8. What is the up-to-date figure on the number of those on both the Council Housing List and those in receipt of HAP/RAS in Co. Monaghan?

**Reply:** Total number on housing list = 1012

HAP - The number of applicants accommodated by way of HAP is 196.

RAS - 169 Private rented, 91 Voluntary

9. Has Monaghan County Council received any indication from Respond! Housing Association as to when the Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties will be completed in Carrickmacross?

**Reply:** Respond! Housing Association is managing the construction of a Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Disabilities in Carrickmacross. The Contract for the project is now in place and the Commencement Notice has been lodged. Respond! Housing Association envisages that the construction of the Group Home will be completed by Q1 of 2017.

**Cllr C. Bennett asked:**

10. In relation to fire services in County Monaghan and a recent fire in Scotstown village. Can Monaghan County Council please provide clarity on the following questions?

- What is the normal response for fire emergencies?
- Is it mandatory that all fire brigades have water on board?
- Is the location of fire hydrants marked clearly in County Monaghan?
- Is there a schedule in place to examine fire hydrants in County Monaghan to ensure that they are operational?

**Reply:** Each emergency has a different response but two fire appliances are mobilised in the case of domestic fires and the rostered senior fire officer is notified by the control centre. These fire appliances respond with a full tank of water. Locations of fire hydrants are recorded on the Council's GIS Mapping System and a hydrant inspection project is scheduled in the strategic plan for 2016.

11. In welcoming the recent €5 million allocation for flood repair works, can Monaghan County Council please answer the following questions?

- When will this money be made available?

**Reply:** The allocation is available for spending immediately.

- What projects are planned immediately to make full use of this money and the most economically viable use?

**Reply:** Projects will be prioritised on the basis that they can be delivered by the Municipal Districts within the timeframe and parameters as set out in Department of Transport Circular RW8/2016 of 18/2/16 presenting the best value for money.

- Is there a deadline or cut off point for the full availability of this money?

**Reply:** The Circular states that funding must be fully drawn down by 30 November 2016.

**Cllr R. Gallagher asked:**

12. Would the Council consider organising and funding a free household waste collection at recycling centres for household waste such as paint, paint cans, waste oils, cosmetics, oil filters and cooking oils? A similar collection was recently funded in Cavan by the Cavan County Council with the support of the Department of Environment Community and Local Government.

The same scheme as referred to by Cllr Gallagher was carried out by Monaghan County Council on the 12 December 2015 at Carrickmacross Civic Amenity Site. 2.5 tonne of potentially hazardous material was collected on the day. Monaghan County Council conducted an advertising campaign on local radio and in local print media to inform householders on the event. A grant of €5,000 was obtained by the Environment section from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to carry out the collection before the end of 2015. It should be noted that many of the materials collected on the day for free can be disposed of at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Recycling Centre for a small fee year round.

Monaghan County Council's environment section is now in the process of organising a "Farm Hazardous Waste" collection in the County during 2016, most likely at Ballybay Mart. The Environment Section is currently liaising with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Mart to find a suitable date. There will be a cost to farmers to dispose of some categories of waste on the day. More details will be forwarded to councillors through the Chief Executives report when Environment Section has them confirmed.

There are a number of free waste electric (WEEE) collections taking place during March and May as follows

4/03	ERP	Monaghan	Clones	The Mart
5/03	ERP	Monaghan	Monaghan	McNally's Yard
21/05	ERP	Monaghan	Castleblayney	Upper Commons

**Clr R. Gallagher asked:**

13. What lessons have been learned from the pilot REDZ scheme with regard in particular to broadband provision for small towns and villages?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council commissioned Centrecom Ltd to investigate the broadband deficiencies in Lough Egish, funded under the Rural Economic Development Zone programme. The report furnished by Centrecom outlined a lower than expected level of engagement from firms in the area and identified the most economical and efficient means of providing high-speed broadband to the Food Park was via an aggregated fixed wireless scheme. Centrecom identified that there is a potential for a greatly improved service with significant financial benefits if a number of the companies came together in a mutual partnership to fixed wireless broadband scheme.

14. In light of recent unexplained traffic accidents on the N12 road at Skinnagin could the council investigate the road surface to ascertain what the cause of these single vehicle accidents might be?

**Reply:** The Road Design office is currently investigating complaints received with regard to this location and will report on any findings in due course.

## 21. Notices of Motion -

Consideration of Notices of Motion 21(1) – 21(8) was deferred to the next meeting

## 22. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

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

- The Campbell Family, Carrickroe on the death of Michael Campbell, RIP a former employee of the Council.
- The McDermott Family, Broomfield on the death of Brigid McDermott, RIP, mother of Council employees, Thomas and James McDermott.

**It was agreed that the congratulations of the Council be extended to the following:**

- Gaeil Triúcha Novelty Act on reaching the All-Ireland Scór final to be held in Killarney in early April.
- Emyvale GFC Set Dancing group on qualifying for the All-Ireland Scór final in Killarney.

### **23. Conferences**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett 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 Selected</b>
<b>URBACT</b>	<b>URBACT Info Day III</b>	<b>Renehan Hall, Maynooth University,</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Cllr. S Conlon
<b>LAMA</b>	<b>Spring Training Seminar</b>	<b>Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2016	Cllr. S Coyle Cllr. P McNally Cllr. R. Gallagher Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. P Connolly Cllr. J Crowe Cllr. N Keelan Cllr. C Bennett Cllr. B McKenna Cllr. C McPhillips Cllr. S Gilliland Cllr. D Maxwell Cllr. A. Campbell

### **Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach stated that he was taking the motion of Urgent Business in the names of the Sinn Féin Councillors, as agreed earlier in the meeting.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

*Monaghan County Council notes the serious state of disrepair that many of our local and regional roads are currently in. We further note that road funding has been systematically reduced to unsustainable levels over the past 8 years. Therefore there is an urgent requirement for a substantial investment in roads funding required by Monaghan County Council and other local authorities. Monaghan County Council calls on all Cavan-Monaghan Dail deputies to refrain from supporting any nomination for Taoiseach or endorsing any new government without the explicit commitment that the required level of road funding will be prioritised and delivered to this county.*

Cllr McNally stated that he was not happy with the wording of Cllr Carthy's motion and that the matter of roads funding should not be connected to the election of a Taoiseach. He proposed the following motion which was seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon:

*That this Council do not connect roads funding with the election of a Taoiseach, as it may reduce the chances of extra funding being made available. It's very important that a Government be put in place to make sure that proper funding is made available for roads, health, homeless and many other pressing issues.*

A debate took place on both motions, following which, the Cathaoirleach stated he was putting Cllr Carthy's motion to the meeting. Cllr Carthy requested a recorded vote – this resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan and P. Treanor **Total 6**

**Against:** Cllrs Campbell, Connolly, Gilliland, Maxwell, McNally, McPhillips and S. Treanor **Total 7**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

The Cathaoirleach then put Cllr McNally's motion to the meeting – a recorded vote was called for which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Campbell, Connolly, Gilliland, Maxwell, McNally, McPhillips and S. Treanor **Total 7**

**Against:** Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan and P. Treanor **Total 6**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach Meetings Administrator

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