

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan on Monday 3rd November, 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr Pádraig McNally, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Bannigan, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, McPhillips, O'Hanlon and P. Treanor

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Director of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr S. Treanor.

Vote of Sympathy:

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Seamus Treanor, and his family on the death of his sister Ann Elms, whose funeral took place in Essex, England, that morning.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Mrs. Bridie Finnan and family, on the death of Seamus, RIP, a former Administrative Officer with the Council and also on the death of Bridie's brother, Michael Burns, RIP, New York.

All members associated themselves with the votes of sympathy.

The Chief Executive associated himself and the staff with the expressions of sympathy.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th October, 2014, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach regarding the retention of the PSC Office at Main Street, Ballybay.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the PSC office at Ballybay.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport in relation to the Council's resolution seeking funding for the design of the N2 Clontibret to the Border road re-alignment scheme
- Letter from Deputy Ó Caoláin in relation to the PSC Office in Ballybay.

- Email from Minister Heather Humphreys in relation to the PSC Office in Ballybay and enclosing reply from the Minister for Social Protection.
- Email from Deputy Joe O'Reilly, in relation to Council's resolution re funding for the poultry sector.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Email from Minister Humphrey's office outlining dates when the Minister would meet a deputation from the Council to discuss matters relating to the County Museum.
- Email from Deputy Ó Caoláin enclosing acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the PSC office in Ballybay.
- Letter from the Minister for Transport in relation to the U.K. HGV road user levy.
- Circular letter RSD 01/2014 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the control of vehicle speeds in housing estates.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council writes to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport requesting an extension of the date for submissions re "Vehicle speeds in Housing Estates" to be extended from the proposed closure date of 7 November to the 30 January 2015, so as to allow time for consultation with residents of housing estates.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council calls on the Road Safety Division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to ensure that speed limits of 30kmph are implemented in every housing estate in Ireland.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Transport to provide the necessary funding to Monaghan County Council to ensure that whatever works are required in housing estates can be carried out so as to ensure the control of vehicle speeds in housing estates.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that this Council regrets the intransigent position of the British Government in refusing to exempt Irish – 26 county based hauliers – of the cross border levy that is having a crippling effect on transport firms remaining viable and implores the Minister for Transport, Paschal Donohue, T.D., to expedite the options he has committed to in mitigating the impact this levy is creating.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council calls on the Office of Public Works to purchase a premises in Ballybay in order to facilitate the retention and expansion of the Ballybay Social Services office in preference to leasing a premises of adequate size.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council calls on the National Roads Authority to provide extra funding to Co. Monaghan due to Monaghan roads having the most deaths per capita in Ireland.

3. To approve Overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10m for the period from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that Monaghan County Council approve of Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period from 1st January 2015 to 31st December, 2015.

4. Management Report – October 2014

The members considered the Management Report for October which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive outlined the contents of the report in detail and responded to queries/comments from the members in relation to items contained within the report.

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that a housing official of the Council be made available in the Municipal District office in Carrickmacross one day per week to deal with the huge number of people who are on the housing waiting list. This service should also be made available in Castleblayney.

Mr. J. Murray as Director of Housing outlined the structure that had been put in place to deal with the housing function. He stated that there are no plans to change this structure in the immediate future, but that the position would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Cllr McNally, Cathaoirleach referred to the fact that the Chief Executive has consistently advised of and highlighted the need to brand the County with a unique identifier/logo or symbol that will be synonymous with Monaghan. This branding would be immediately associated with the treasures, heritage, culture, poetry, fishing, tourism, recreational facilities, special places etc of the County. It would allow for all information outlets, publications, internet, media, correspondence, corporate notices and advertisements to be linked by a brand or identity that would be automatically linked in people's minds with their experience and next expectation of a visit to County Monaghan. He referred to the "Cavan Has It" brand which he witnessed attracting significant attention at the National Ploughing Championships recently.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive stated that this is a significant task and will require outside expertise together with the input of key stakeholders in the County and of course, a contribution and guidance from the Members. He asked the Members to think about a suitable platform to launch, stimulate interest and promote the brand not just locally but also on the international stage. This branding and exposure would also allow us to be more focussed and precise in our requirements when offering sponsorship to others.

He acknowledged the recent achievements of Daniel McKenna, who recently won the British Rally Championship and is a rising star on the international rallying stage. There is a huge opportunity for Monaghan to be part of this "rallying Machine" that would act as the platform to launch and promote "brand" Monaghan. If the members are supportive of this initiative it will be necessary to make provision in the draft Budget for 2015 that will allow the Council maximise the launch of the brand next year.

The members welcomed and expressed support for the development of a "brand" Monaghan and agreed that the matter would be considered in the context of the adoption of the draft budget for 2015.

5. Nominations to Committees:

(i) Strategic Policy Committees – filling of Councillor positions on SPC's

It was agreed that the following members would be appointed to the **SPC for Housing and Fire & Civil Protection:**

Cllr C. McPhillips	Cllr H. McElvaney
Cllr C. Bennett	Cllr C. Carthy
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon	Cllr S. Treanor

It was agreed that the following members would be appointed to the **SPC for Environment and Transport:**

Cllr R. Gallagher	Cllr P. McNally
Cllr D. Maxwell	Cllr P. Connolly
Cllr N. Keelan	Cllr C. Bennett

It was agreed that the following members would be appointed to the **SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support:**

Cllr P. Treanor	Cllr S. Conlon
Cllr S. Coyle	Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr A. Campbell	Cllr S. Treanor

It was agreed that the following members would be appointed to the **SPC for Social, Cultural and Community Development:**

Cllr B. McKenna	Cllr J. Crowe
Cllr E. Bannigan	Cllr H. McElvaney
Cllr S. Coyle	Cllr P. Connolly.

(ii) Joint Policing Committees – filling of Councillor positions on JPC

It was agreed that the following members would be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee

Cllrs B. McKenna, N. Keelan, J. Crowe, P. Treanor and C. Bennett;
Cllrs S. Coyle, R. Gallagher and P.J. O'Hanlon;
Cllrs A. Campbell, C. McPhillips, E. Bannigan and H. McElvaney;
Cllr P. Connolly.

(iii) Landfill sub-committee.

It was agreed that the following members would be appointed to the Landfill sub committee:

Cllr B. McKenna, Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon, Cllr E. Bannigan and Cllr S. Treanor.

6. Corporate Policy Group – to approve recommendations from CPG meeting held on 29th October, 2014.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 29th October, 2014 be approved and that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

7. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences:

It was agreed that the reports received from Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Keelan, O’Hanlon, Bennett and Maxwell in relation to their attendance at the following conferences:

- AILG Training Seminar (Finance), Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.
- AILG Training Seminar (Housing), Cavan.
- AILG Induction Training, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- LAMA Autumn Seminar, Bunrana, Co. Donegal
- Cross Border Connections Conference, Bunrana, Co. Donegal.

8. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive advised the members that the contract for the purchase of houses and land at Latlurcan Glen, Monaghan had been signed. A contractor has been engaged to carry out works to the roads and footpaths in the estate and this work will commence shortly.

9. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 6th October, 2014.

This item was not dealt with.

10. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

This item was not dealt with.

11. Questions:

Cllr P. McNally asked:

- 1 (a) How many houses can Monaghan County Council hope to receive under Part V either under construction or with planning granted?
- (b) Where are these houses within the County?

Reply: To date in 2014 Monaghan County Council has purchased two houses under Part V in Glaslough. No further purchases under Part V are envisaged during 2014 as there is limited house construction in the County that qualifies under this scheme. On Thursday 2 October 2014 Mr. Alan Kelly T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government announced major reforms of the planning system as part of the forthcoming Planning No.1 Bill, which includes the amendment of the Part V provisions on social and affordable housing as incorporated in the Planning Act of 2000. No further details regarding proposed changes to Part V are available at present.

ClIr P. McNally asked:

- 2 Will this Council ensure that all signage where needed will be washed and cleared of overgrowth?

Reply: This has been referred to the Municipal Districts for attention.

- 3 How much money has this Council collected from development charges from 1st January 2013 to present, and how will this be spent?

Reply: Development contributions collected by Monaghan County Council during the period 01 January 2013 to present are outlined in the table below.

Development Contribution	Amount
<i>Community, Recreation and Amenity Facilities</i>	€ 865,034
<i>Traffic and Pedestrian Facilities</i>	€ 42,189
<i>Water and Wastewater Facilities</i>	€ 315,721
Total	€ 1,222,944

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 24 of the Monaghan County Council General Development Contributions Scheme 2014 – 2019, development contributions collected in respect of community, recreation and amenity facilities shall allocated by the full Council having regard to the recommendations of a Development Contribution Allocation Sub Committee.

Development contributions collected in respect of water and waste water facilities shall be transferred to Irish Water

ClIr C. Bennett asked:

- 4 In relation to choice based letting, can Monaghan County Council please inform me if they use this scheme as this scheme is of great benefit to both the Council and persons on housing list, it prevents refusals and also suspensions of listed persons?

Reply: As outlined in the Scheme of Letting Priority the provision of Choice based Letting has not been taken up by Monaghan County Council.

The matter could be revisited in conjunction with the Housing SPC group to review the benefits of the process and its future integration into the Scheme of letting Priorities

- 5 In relation to disability groups can Monaghan County Council
(a) Please provide details to the public of any funding that is available?
(b) Where can this information be accessed?

Reply: Monaghan Council is committed to supporting people with a disability in the county through two local funding streams - the Community Development Fund and the Disability Access Fund.

Since the Disability Act 2005 came into law, Monaghan County Council has prioritised projects that promote and enhance accessibility for people with a disability in the county. This prioritisation not only supports Disability projects but also encourage all community groups to make their facilities and events more accessible for people with a disability.

Funding allocated for Disability projects and to ten Disability groups from the Community Development Fund for the past two years totalled €10,850. The community development fund will be launched in February 2015 any Disability group looking to discuss a project idea should contact Bernie Bradley, Access Officer for support.

Since the end of the National Disability Strategy funding in 2010 Monaghan County Council has provided an annual budget to support the promotion of disability and accessibility in the community. Projects are identified in consultation with local communities and delivered by the County Council. With additional funding from small central government grants, the Council has invested €41,400 in infrastructure, grant-aid and financial assistance on nine disability projects including playground equipment, access to libraries and allotments, accessible seating in parks and awareness. Groups with suggestions for projects should contact Bernie Bradley, Access Officer for support.

Central government support for Disability groups is primarily channelled through a number of funding schemes that provide funding to National/Parent organisations, which is subsequently allocated to the organisations local and regional groups. People with a disability are a key theme under the Dormant Accounts Programme, which makes calls for applications throughout the year under each of its themes. Any disability groups looking to access central government funds should contact the Disability Federation of Ireland, Fumbally Court, Dublin 8, who provides direct support advice and information with regard to the voluntary disability sector or Bernie Bradley, Access Officer, Monaghan County Council.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

- 6 As banks now require a larger deposit in order to obtain a mortgage.
- (a) Can Monaghan County Council please provide information regarding the criteria necessary to apply for a housing loan from their local authority?

Reply: Information outlining the criteria necessary to apply for a housing loan from Monaghan County Council is available from the Housing Section or on the Council's website <http://www.monaghan.ie/en/services/housing>

- (b) Can Monaghan County Council also provide an update on the average number of loans provided per year?

Reply: An average of 7(No.) housing loans are provided by Monaghan County Council each year.

- 7 As the number of people in mortgage arrears is constantly increasing, can Monaghan County Council please provide details of the mortgage to rent scheme and what is the eligibility required for this scheme?

Reply: The basic premise of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme, is that the mortgage holder goes from owning their home to renting it. An approved housing body becomes their landlord. The key features of the scheme are as follows:

- The eligible household voluntarily surrenders ownership of their home to their mortgage lender.
- An approved housing body buys the home from the lender.

- The family continues to live in it as a social housing tenant.
- They pay a rent based on their income.
- They no longer own the home or have any financial interest in it.
- Households availing of the scheme will become social housing tenants, paying a differential rent which is calculated on the basis of household income.

Qualifying Households:

The household must:

- Have had their mortgage position deemed unsustainable under a Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (as provided for under the Central Bank's Code of Conduct on Mortgage Arrears)
- Agree to the voluntary repossession of their home
- Be in negative equity
- The owner must qualify for social housing support from the local authority and an application must be made for social housing support to the local authority
- The home must be valued at less than €220,000
- The home must be suitable for the needs of the household

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

- 8 Can Monaghan County Council please provide the general public with any information available that they may need in relation to a community coming together and erecting their own broadband mast in order to enable a better broadband connection within an area?

Reply: There are a number of Community Broadband Groups operating in Ireland at present. Examples include Cork Community Broadband, West Waterford Community Broadband and Premier Community Broadband (Covering Tipperary and Kilkenny). The Council contacted the West Waterford Group which came together approximately 4 years ago. They had some initial infrastructural investment but they now have 95 users.

The community broadband group need to partner with a service provider who can provide the necessary backhaul. The group can then sell the bandwidth to its customer base. There are a number of wireless operators servicing the County (Net1, Arden, Digiweb). It may not be necessary to erect masts as the wireless provider may have existing infrastructure. If antennae or masts are needed then the group will need the support and goodwill of landowners etc.

The first step for a community group is to meet and establish the customer base and then negotiate with the providers for the wholesale of backhaul.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

- 9 Will Monaghan County Council confirm that tenants in Council houses or those on RAS will not be evicted if they cannot pay their Uisce Eireann/Irish Water bills?

Reply: The Council has not written directly to tenants on the RAS scheme or in Council owned properties to inform them of their obligations to pay water charges.

The occupier of each home is liable for charges from Irish Water and it is their own responsibility to register their details and make payment to Irish Water directly. Non-payment of water charges is a matter between occupiers and Irish Water. Irish Water clarify this point further on their website <http://www.water.ie/news/clarification-on-responsi-1/>

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

- 10 Will the Council liaise with the OPW and ESB with a view to getting the River Lagan cleared where it crosses the main Carrickmacross/Kingscourt road in Magheracloone? This part of the river has not been cleared in recent times due to power lines passing overhead.

Reply: This has been referred to the Municipal District who will issue a response at their next meeting.

- 11 Can the Council confirm when the next phase of hedge cutting will commence throughout the county?

Reply: The hedge cutting season extends from 1 September until the 28 February each year. The Wildlife Act 1976 as amended prohibits hedge cutting during the bird nesting season i.e. 1 March to 31 August Each Municipal Districts will establish the necessity for hedge cutting in their respective areas.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

- 12 Can the Council outline the current level of supply of road salt and its plans for dealing with potential frost and snow on roads over the winter months ahead?

Reply: The Council has 1750 tonnes of salt in stock. The normal winter maintenance plan will be implemented as in previous years.

13. In light of the recent proposals with regard to establishing a 30km per hour speed limit in housing estates when does the Council propose setting out its own intentions in this regard?

Reply: The Council recently received a circular from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport regarding speed limits in housing estates. It is proposed to arrange a meeting of the Speed Limit Committee to discuss the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Circular.

14. In light of the social housing crisis in the county could the Council develop an inventory of lands suitable for housing development and develop and forward proposals to the Department seeking funding for same?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has engaged with Developers, Landowners, Approved Housing Bodies, Lending Institutions, Administrators, Investors and NAMA regarding land suitable for housing development and has recently signed contracts for the purchase of

28 acres of land and 17no houses at Latlorcan in Monaghan town. The Council will continue to actively pursue viable opportunities for housing development and will develop and forward proposals to the Department seeking funding at the earliest opportunity.

Clr N. Keelan asked:

- 15 Given how important our regional road network is in terms of the economic development of County Monaghan, what is the up-to-date position in relation to the Dundalk to Cavan (R178) Regional Route Improvement Scheme?

Reply: The consultants appointed for the design of the scheme intend to have the preliminary design completed in early spring 2015.

- 16 In relation to road safety and also the damage being done to large vehicles such as lorries, tractors, buses etc. as a result of hedges and trees not being cut or trimmed back from the public road, as required under the 1993 Roads Act, what action will be taken against those landowners who have never complied with a 'hedge cutting notice' served on them by this Council; how many landowners have been prosecuted by Monaghan County Council for non-compliance with Section 70 of Roads Act 1993 in the last 3 years?

Reply: Generally, landowners comply with hedge-cutting notices. Where there is non compliance, the Council will pursue the owner/occupier of land. Although there is no record of any prosecutions in recent years, it is the intention of the Council to prepare a Hedge cutting policy with a view to taking legal action against landowners/occupiers who do not comply with the provisions of the Roads Act 1993.

- 17 What is the policy of Monaghan County Council Planning Office now in relation to the granting of an 'extension of time' for the completion of a one off rural house (where no work has commenced), and the dwelling is not connecting to a public sewerage network?

Reply: Section 42(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) permits a Planning Authority to extend the appropriate period of a planning permission up a maximum period of 5 years. Where development has not commenced, an extension of duration may only be granted where the Planning Authority is satisfied that the criteria laid out in Section 42(1)(ii) of the Act have been complied with. Where the application does not comply with the specified criteria, an application for an extension of the appropriate period must be refused.

- 18 In relation to Budget 2015 and the provision of social housing measures announced, what impact will this have on Monaghan County Council's ability to build or buy housing units to cater for the over 1100 citizens on the housing waiting list?

Reply: Whilst the general details of the Budget provisions have been made, the detailed provisions relating to Monaghan's budget for new house purchases or provisions for new build projects has not be provided to this authority. Currently we are unable to ascertain what impact the Budget provisions will have therefore.

- 19 Approximately how many planning applications have been received by Monaghan County Council to date in 2014; how does this figure compare to 2011, 2012 & 2013; how much money is owed to Monaghan County Council in terms of Development Contributions?

Reply: The total number of applications received by Monaghan County Council in the years 2011 to 2014 is laid out in the table below.

Year	No Apps
2014*	423
2014 (up to 29.10.14)	350
2013	416
2012	434
2011	402

* Estimate for entire year

The total development contribution debtors as of June 2014 was € 2,491,123

Clr P. Connolly asked:

- 20 In view of the fact that Monaghan County Council supply households in many of our towns and villages throughout the county with water supplied from group water schemes will the households towns and villages will become
- (a) Full customers of Irish Water?
 - (b) Waste water customers only?
 - (c) Will households be notified to this effect?

Reply: Householders who are get their water from a private group water scheme will only become customers of Irish Water if they discharge their Waste Water to a Public Waste Water System.

Clr J. Crowe asked:

- 21 With the closure of Castleblayney By Pass over the past six weeks or more and the traffic from the N2 being diverted through the town of Castleblayney, massive disruption has been caused to the town with the slow moving traffic causing a hazard to the traders, pedestrians and motorists alike and this situation will continue on intermittent periods during grass cutting, hedge cutting etc. Will Monaghan County Council look for alternative diversions around the town in the future?

Reply: The current closure on the N2 Castleblayney Bypass is due to extensive realignment works which including safety improvement, the provision of an access road to the Killycard Industrial Estate and landscaping on the Tullyvin roundabout. Unfortunately there are no suitable alternative road diversions. Monaghan County Council acknowledge the co-operation of the public and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

- 22 How many people are on the waiting list for social housing in Castleblayney and Oram and how many vacant houses are available in both?

Reply: There are 199 applicants are currently on the waiting list for Castleblayney and 22 applicants on the waiting list for Oram.

At present we have 1 vacant property in Oram and 3 properties in Castleblayney awaiting allocation.

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

- 23 What plans if any have Monaghan County Council in relation to site resolution at Sruth an luir estate in Oram Village?

Reply: It is understood that the company responsible for this development has been dissolved. The Planning Authority has formally claimed the development bond relating to this site, but has not received payment from the relevant institution. This matter has been passed to the Council's solicitor for pursuit through the courts. Following receipt of the outstanding bond, the Planning Authority shall move to carry out remedial works on the site.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

- 24 During this period of the year, hedge cutting/trimming is permitted, can Monaghan County Council outline the following;
- (a) The dates of the year, when hedge cutting/trimming is permitted and the exceptions to these dates?
 - (b) The responsibilities of landowners to cut/trim hedges/trees, which are a danger/nuisance to road users?
 - (c) The powers of the local authority to enforce hedge cutting on landowners along public roads?

Reply: Hedge-cutting/trimming is permitted between the dates 1 September and 28th February each year as set out in the Wildlife Act. Under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 an owner/occupier of land must take all reasonable steps to ensure that hedges/trees or structures do not pose a danger to the public. Responsibility for the maintenance of hedges along public roads rests with the owner/occupier of the land. A Road Authority may serve a notice on the owner/occupier of land requesting them to take whatever steps deemed necessary to eliminate the problem.

- 25 Can Monaghan County Council outline the funding figures/percentage changes and the mileage/kilometres of/for road resurfacing/restoration, under national/regional/local roads for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014?

Reply: The figures below include surface restoration and improvement and surface dressing but exclude general maintenance, patching and realignment or surface patching works.

Year	Allocation	Km	Description
2010	€8,140,000	205.2	Regional & local roads
2011	€8,613,273	185.4	" " "
2012	€6,589,854	137.6	" " "
2013	€7,014,221	142.4	" " "
2014*	€5,067,786	112.1	" " "

*The 2014 programme is ongoing.

National roads Overlays in the years 2010 catered for 13.1km, 2011 6.8km and 12.6k 2012.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

26 How many persons have Monaghan County Council recruited under the "Gateway Programme" and how many have been allocated to each Municipal District, and what is the overall number allocated to County Monaghan?

Reply: Monaghan County Council recruited 27 employees to date under the Gateway Scheme. 7 of these employees have since exited the scheme due to either gaining employment or due to ill health.

The Gateway employees are allocated as follows:

- **3 employees to the Municipal District of Monaghan**
- **11 employees to the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**
- **6 employees to the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney**

A further 15 Gateway employees will commence employment with the Council the week commencing the 24th November 2014 and will be allocated as follows:

- **1 to the Municipal District of Monaghan**
- **5 to the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones**
- **9 to the Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney**

Monaghan County Council will be interviewing a further 24 Gateway applicants on 4th November 2014. Following interview and Garda Vetting, the successful applicants will be assigned to the Municipal District of Monaghan in January 2015. The Council has set a target to provide opportunities under the Gateway Scheme for 55 participants.

12. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations would be extended to the following:

- Anthony Martin, Monaghan on winning Gold and Silver medals in the National Masters Athletics Championship in the 200 and 400 metres respectively. Also on winning a Bronze medal in the 400 metres at the European Masters Athletics Championships.
- Aughnamullen GFC on winning the Junior League football final recently
- Castleblayney Hurling team on winning the Junior Hurling final.

13. Conferences/Training:

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences/training events by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Institute of Public Administration	Accountability & responsibility in the Public Service	I.P.A, Landsdowne Road, Dublin 4	7 th November, 2014	Cllr N. Keelan

Urgent Business:

Notice 1 in the names of Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally and O'Hanlon

In light of the water charges as indicated by Irish Water for the domestic, commercial and agricultural sectors, that Monaghan County Council demands from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly, T.D., and the Government an immediate and complete suspension of all Irish Water Board activities, pending a complete review of its pricing structures, internal workings and costings of its entire operation.

This motion was proposed by Cllr Coyle and seconded by Cllr Gallagher.

Notice 2 in the names of Cllrs Carthy, Bennett, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, B. McKenna and P. Treanor.

Following on from the regional presentation given to Councillors last Wednesday by Irish Water and the growing national unrest at the manner of its organisational dysfunction, that this Council calls on the Government to;

- *Immediately reverse domestic water charges which are an unfair and an unjust double charge being forced on already struggling households.*
- *Stop the roll out of metering and redirect the €539m loan finance from the National Pension Reserve Fund towards fixing the massive leakage problems and interruption to supply.*
- *Recognise that Irish Water is not fit for purpose since it is unaccountable to the Minister and therefore to the Oireachtas and the citizens of this State.*
- *Prevent Irish Water from any further excessive spending of taxpayer's money, including the proposed further €35m on the use of external consultants in 2015.*
- *Oppose any duplication of services being delivered by Irish Water and Local authorities and retain these services within full public ownership now and in the future.*
- *Listen to the widespread public anger that exists towards this Government and Irish Water by the Irish people, who are now rightly organising and mobilising in protest and opposition to these water charges through the Right2Water public campaign which includes activists, citizens, community groups, political parties and trade unions.*

This motion was proposed by Cllr Carthy and seconded by Cllr P. Treanor.

A lengthy debate followed on both motions to which a number of members contributed.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Coyle's motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 10 for, 7 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr McElvaney proposed an amendment to Cllr Carthy's motion, as follows – in the first sentence, after the words domestic water charges, insert the words "and subsidise group water schemes for the cost of water to the consumer". The amendment was seconded by Cllr Bannigan and was accepted by the proposer of the motion, Cllr Carthy.

The Cathaoirleach put the substantive motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 16 for, nil against and 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Notice 3 In the names of Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, McNally and O'Hanlon:

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded -

That Monaghan County Council fully support and endorse the campaign by the Irish Farmers Association and beef farmers for a fair and equitable price for beef in Irish factories comparable to British farmers, who are receiving €350 per head of .9c per kg of a higher price, as confirmed by An Bord Bia to the Beef Forum. The Council demands the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, T.D., and the government to ensure that the distrust and suspicion between farmers and meat processors is ended by a fair deal on price and specification.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded - the remaining business on the agenda to be deferred to the next meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach Meetings Administrator

Date: _____