

Minutes of Adjourned Council Meeting held in the MTEK I, Monaghan on Tuesday 16th November 2010 4.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr Jackie Crowe, Mayor

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon P Treanor and S Treanor.

Mr. D.Fallon, A/ County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr D Treanor, Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr J McGrath, Senior Engineer, Mr. C McCrossan, Sen. Exec Engineer, Ms. Michelle Murphy, Sports Partnership, Ms. J. Ryan, Administrative Officer

Apologies: Cllrs S. McKenna, Carville. Mr. J Murray

The Acting County Manager formally introduced Damien Treanor Acting Director of Roads, Environment and Emergency Services to the meeting.

14. To receive deputations from the following groups

(i) FAI

The Mayor welcomed the delegation from the Football Association of Ireland – Mr. John Delaney, Chief Executive and Mr. John Crudden, Development Officer and invited them to proceed with their presentation.

Mr. John Delaney thanked the Council for the opportunity to meet with them. Mr Delaney and Mr. Crudden gave a detailed presentation of the FAI's development programmes, including the *Football for All* programme, at both national and local level. The mission to foster and grow the game was outlined. This is to be achieved through partnership with various bodies, bringing value to all participants. To date 450,000 people have participated at national level. Work with the Community Garda Youth Programme was cited as a particularly valuable programme. A video of events, held in conjunction with the County Monaghan hosted, 2009 AGM was shown.

Mr. Crudden outlined local participation. The county has 238 qualified coaches and 14 trained referees. The meeting was briefed on the various programmes to encourage participation from all members of the community. These vary from promoting football for Girls, Futsal (equivalent to UEFA 5-a-side game) to involve those with disabilities and cross community involvement supporting accessible, inter-cultural activity. The value of further developing the Youth programme was again emphasised.

The Mayor and Deputy Co. Manager thanked the team for their presentation and praised them on their development of local facilities, encouragement of across the board participation and acknowledgement of volunteers.

The Councillors thanked the delegation for their presentation and congratulated and John Crudden on his achievements in developing the game locally and support for new and existing clubs. His regular report in the Northern Standard received particular praise. The delegation then responded to questions posed and stated that a formal submission for funding would follow and thanked the Council for its time.

(ii) Monaghan Sports Partnership:

Ms. Michelle Murphy, Local Partnership Co-ordinator made a presentation on the work of the local Sports Partnership over the past year. The emphasis is to support sports locally and ensure volunteers are upskilled to be sure that the best coaching is available. Funding has been achieved to employ a Disability Sports Officer. Michelle thanked the Council, Adge King and all staff for their support and paid tribute to Mr. Declan Nelson for his support in the past.

The Council thanked Ms. Murphy and praised her on her excellent work to date in promoting sporting activity within the County.

It was agreed that, as time was running short, only one question per group would be put to the next delegation and replies sought in writing.

(iii) Don't Pass The Bypass group

The Mayor welcomed Noel Murphy, Hugh Doherty, Ivor Finlay and Cathal Mc Glone from the above group. Mr. James Ward was also present as an observer.

Mr. Cathal McGlone outlined three key points in the argument against a proposed dual carriageway cross-border bypass. He argued that the road capacity being provided exceeds current and predicted traffic volumes and the project is too expensive in the current climate. He queried the validity of reported traffic movements and sought assurance that all the submissions to the Council had been considered. Minister Noel Dempsey was quoted as having stated in May 2008 “ that there would only be a single carriageway road south of the border between there and Monaghan Town”.

Mr Hugh Doherty, quoting an expert in the field, Edgar Morgenroth, put the case that greater value is to be had through improving the National road system. This agrees with a press release today which recognises the dangers of our existing road systems. The improvement works underway on the N2 towards Emyvale were acknowledged. He queried how many of the 1,800 submissions had been in favour of the project and why the project would continue in light of the current financial problems. He also questioned the credibility of Grontmij Consultants.

The third speaker, Mr. Noel Murphy, stated that he had discovered that Monaghan County Council members have no decision making powers in the process. He queried the economic value of the project at a time when budgets are constantly reducing. Noting that the current roadway had taken several lives and that promised improvements had not been made in prosperous times, he stated that Tom Elliott, MLA, (Northern Ireland Executive) is voicing total

disagreement with the project too. He appealed to the executive to put away any notion of building the new road noting that the NRA had not started any new schemes recently, indicating it may have run its course.

The delegation was thanked for their submission and questions were put to them. The members queried whether a reply had been received to correspondence with the NRA. The delegation replied that the only response they received is that Monaghan County Council is the only body who can reply.

In response, the Deputy County Manager stated that the road is to be dual carriageway and not motorway. The submissions were welcomed and the closing date has been extended to allow late submissions. All submissions will be examined in detail which is a time consuming process. He noted that the bypass is a project of national importance and that it is the duty of the local authority to implement government decisions.

Cllr McElvaney queried whether the group was correct in stating that the decision lies with the executive of Monaghan County Council. Mr. Fallon confirmed that the decision will be made jointly between Monaghan County Council and the NRA and refuted the comments that road usage figures had been manipulated.

Cllr. McNally stated that a serious allegation had been made on the Joe Duffy show earlier that day regarding pricing for road marking in 2002. Mr. Fallon stated that it was not clear exactly what had been discussed but that legal advice was being sought.

The meeting then concluded

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____