

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday 3rd November, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr M. Carthy, Mayor

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Maxwell, McAnespie, McElvaney, Martin, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, McNally, O'Brien and Treanor.

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr. D. Fallon and Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr J. McGrath, Senior Engineer, Ms R. McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. D. Hurley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. M. Murray, Senior Engineer, Ms. E. McShane, Senior Executive Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

1. Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th October, 2008 be confirmed.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from the Minister for Enterprise and Employment in relation to the Council's request for a meeting re Monaghan Hospital.
- Letter from Minister Ó Cuiv in relation to funding for the Drumgole Group Water Scheme.
- Letters from Deputies Crawford, Conlon, Ó Caolain and Smith enclosing copy of Minister Ó Cuiv's response re Drumgole G.W.S.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas in relation to the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme.
- Letter from Ambassador Cecilia MacKenna thanking the Mayor and Members of the Council for the Civic Reception hosted in her honour.
- Letter from Newry & Mourne District Council in relation to the proposed combined heat and power plant at College Road, Nobber, Co. Meath.
- Letter from Charlene McKenna thanking the Council for the vote of congratulations extended to her.
- Email from Brendan Smyth County Veterinary Officer confirming that Des Patton SVI, Department of Agriculture would be willing to give a presentation to the Council at a future meeting.
- Letter from Marian Harkin MEP in relation to the Farm Waste Management Scheme.
- Letter from Killarney Town Council in relation to the Back to Education Allowance.
- Resolution from Clones Town Council in relation to the Fuel Allowance Scheme.
- Letter from Minister Ó Cuiv re-scheduling a meeting regarding the Clar Programme from 10th December 2008 to 21st January 2009.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for the Environment regarding the Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme
- Letter from Eirgrid updating the Council in relation to Eirgrid's power line proposals for the North East.
- Resolution from Waterford City Council in relation to the issuing of further taxi licences.
- Resolution from Waterford City Council in relation to the development and implementation of a Stroke Strategy which could save up to 500 lives a year.
- Resolution from Clones Town Council in relation to immigration reform in the U.S.
- Resolution from Clones Town Council in relation to the relaxation of the Habitual Residency Condition for Irish citizens returning from the USA and other counties.

Farm Waste Management Scheme:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council write to the Oireachtas Members in the constituency urging them to come on board with Monaghan County Council in their efforts to have the Farm Waste Management Scheme closing date extended beyond the 31st December 2008.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to write to the Committee of the Regions requesting an extension of the Farm Waste Management Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to invite Mr Des Patton, Senior Veterinary Inspector, Department of Agriculture to give a presentation to the Council on the animal disease situation in the county at present. It was further agreed to invite an official from the payments section to outline how the Department is progressing the Single Farm Payments.

Resolutions from Clones Town Council:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Clones Town Council regarding Immigration Reform

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Clones Town Council calling for the Fuel Allowance Scheme to be doubled and that the payment be extended to 34 weeks instead of the current 30 weeks and also that the Living Alone Allowance be doubled.

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed to adopt the resolution from Clones Town Council calling on the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to relax the Habitual Residency conditions for Irish citizens returning from the USA and other countries.

Suspension of Standing Orders:

The Mayor advised the Members that he had received a notice to suspend Standing Orders in the names of Cllrs Bannigan and Carville, as follows:

“ To discuss the impact of recent Government decisions on the people of County Monaghan ”

It was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to discuss Cllr Bannigan’s motion.

In moving the motion Cllr Bannigan referred to the array of government decisions arising out of the Budget 2009 which would impact seriously on the people of County Monaghan, on every family, the youth, the elderly, the farming sector, the education sector and local authority services.

During a lengthy debate the following motions were passed by the Council –

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that this Council calls on Minister Smith and the Government to immediately reverse the decision to suspend the Young Farmer Installation Aid and the Early Retirement Scheme. We further call on the Minister and the government to reverse the decision to reduce the payment under the Suckler Welfare Scheme and the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme. Agriculture is the only area to take a direct cut in income and suffer all the other cut-backs also.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr McAnespie it was agreed that Monaghan County Council deplores Budget 2009 as an attack on the most vulnerable in society and an affront to the people of County Monaghan.

Rather than provide a template for stimulating economic growth and leading the state out of recession Budget 2009 instead targets our elderly citizens, the young and the poorest in society. We demand that the government:

- *Immediately reinstate medical cards for all those over 70.*
- *Reverse all education cuts in the Budget that will result in increased class sizes and the increase in registration fees for 3rd level students.*
- *Increase the Local Government Fund in line with inflation.*
- *Return all core funding to childcare providers.*

We also note that Budget 2009 has a further devastating impact on the County Monaghan economy notably through:

- *The announced planned closure of Monaghan Barracks;*
- *Cutbacks in the public health budget that will exacerbate the removal of services at Monaghan General Hospital;*
- *The ‘pausing’ of the decentralisation programme which promised much needed public employment to Carrickmacross and Monaghan Town;*
- *The targeting of farming families which will particularly hit counties such as Monaghan who are dependant on our agriculture community.*

We demand that the government put in place a real plan to stabilise the economy in the short term, reinvigorate it in the medium term and to prioritise job creation into the future. Supports for local, indigenous businesses should be prioritised. We further call for an end to tax avoidance schemes which allow for some of the richest

people in society to pay little, and in some cases no taxes, while those on low incomes are hit hardest by regressive government policies.

That we seek a meeting with the Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan, T.D., to outline to him our view of the disastrous impact of Budget 2009 on families and on County Monaghan in particular.

The Mayor urged all Council Members to make contact with their Oireachtas members to ensure that the meeting with the Minister for Finance is arranged.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna it was agreed that this Council seeks a meeting with the Secondary School Principals in Co. Monaghan. Having established the facts in detail, we then seek a meeting with Mr. Batt O’Keeffe, T.D., Minister for Education and Science and An Taoiseach Mr. Brian Cowen, T.D., to make the case for the budget cuts to be reversed.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr P. McKenna seconded that this Council proposes a vote of ‘no confidence’ in the architect of the Budget 2009, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Finance, An Taoiseach Mr. Brian Cowen, T.D., and all the Green Party and Fianna Fail T.D.s.

A recorded vote on Cllr McElvaney’s motion resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Bannigan, Carville, Conlon, Crowe, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Maxwell, McAnespie, McElvaney, B. McKenna, P. McKenna, and Treanor
Total 14

Against: Cllrs Coyle, Gallagher, Kieran, Martin, McNally and O’Brien.
Total 6

The Mayor declared Cllr McElvaney’s motion carried.

3. Part VIII Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 2001:

Ref No: 08/8004 – proposal to replace 4 dilapidated apartments with 3 two bedroom dwelling houses at Bree, Castleblayney. The development comprises of one semi detached block and a single detached block

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr O’Brien, it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per the report from the Director of Services dated 23rd October, 2008.

4. To consider legal advice on County Development Contribution Scheme:

The Members considered the legal opinion received from Wells & O’Carroll, Solicitors dated 23rd October 2008, which stated “...that development contributions only become payable when a decision has been made by the Council to grant a planning permission, and the date on which the application for that permission was made, is not relevant. The Development Contribution Scheme was adopted on the 7th July 2008, with effect from the 1st December 2008. It is my view

that the Development Contributions which are applicable to any decision granted after that date are those applicable on that date, namely, those adopted on the 7th July, 2008. Had the Council wished to exempt Planning applications made prior to the 1st of December 2008, then they should have specifically provided for that in the scheme.”

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr P. McKenna seconded that the new Development Contribution Scheme, due to come into operation on 1st December 2008 will apply to all planning applications received after 30th November 2008. Any planning applications received before 1st December 2008 will be considered in accordance with the Development Contribution Scheme that was in operation prior to 1st December 2008.

In response the County Manager stated that the legal opinion from the Council's Law Agent endorsed what he had said at the previous meeting. The members had agreed at the July Meeting to defer the introduction of the new scheme until the 1st of December so that applicants for permission would be facilitated in applying and having their applications processed under the existing scheme. Originally the members requested a start date of the 1st of January 2009 but agreed to introduce the scheme on the 1st of December so that the planning staff would not be dealing with a glut of applications over the Christmas period. He stated that applicants had 5 months for the processing of applications.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Bannigan's motion resulted in 8 for 9 against and 3 abstentions. The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

5. To consider the amendment of Speed Limits Bye Laws 2008:

The Members considered the report dated 23rd October from the Senior Staff Officer Roads detailing amendments recommended by the Speed Limit Committee at its meeting held on 1st September 2008.

Cllr McElvaney referred to the proposed extension of the speed limit at Corcaghan and proposed that the existing speed limit is not extended until such time as a planning application is lodged for a development within this area.

The Members agreed to adopt the recommendations of the Speed Limit Committee in relation to amendments to the Second and Third Schedules of the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) (County Monaghan) Draft Bye Laws, November 2008, with the exception of No. 10 relating to the Monaghan-Rockcorry Road at Corcaghan.

6. To consider draft bye laws for the collection, storage and presentation of waste and certain related waste management matters:

Ms. E. McShane, Senior Executive Officer, Environment referred to the draft bye-laws and report which had been circulated with the agenda. She stated that these bye-laws had been made under the Waste Management Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2001 in order to regulate the collection, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste to address other related issues.

The draft bye-laws had been placed on public display from the end of July until early September and submissions invited from the public. A total of 10 submissions were received in the North East Region. Following consideration of the submissions by the members of the North East Region Waste Management Steering Group it was recommended that seven amendments be made to the draft bye-laws. Ms Mc Shane then outlined the amendments proposed – details of which has been circulated to the Council.

Following the presentation Mr. Fitzpatrick and Ms Mc Shane responded to a range of queries from the Members.

Cllr Brian McKenna suggested that the range of plastics that could be placed in the dry-recyclables bin expanded. Mr. Fitzpatrick confirmed that there would be no difficulty in acceding to this request.

On the proposal of Cllr Brian McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the draft bye-laws for the collection, storage and presentation of waste and certain related waste management issues, be adopted subject to the amendments as outlined above.

7. Scéim Teanga 2008-2011:

Seán Ó Raghallaigh, Oifigeach Cúnta Gaeilge, Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, addressed the meeting in relation to the Scéim Teanga 2008-2011. He outlined the Council's commitments for the enhancement of service provision through the Irish language as detailed in Chapter 3 of the Scéim Teanga. Under the Official Languages Act 2003 all local authorities are obliged to render services as Gaeilge to those members of the public who wish to be dealt with as Gaeilge. 14 members of staff completed a course which led to the certificate Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge which was presented by the National University of Ireland. He also referred to the Council's website which has an 'As Gaeilge' link as well as further links to this scheme (as Gaeilge agus as Béarla), to Placenames in the county and to a series of Irish lessons. He paid tribute to the work of previous Irish Officers and to the Coiste Gaeilge and Coiste Logainmneach for their continuing work in promoting the Irish language.

The Mayor thanked the Mr. Ó Raghallaigh for his address and invited questions from the Members to which Mr. Ó Raghallaigh responded.

Labhair Seán Ó Raghallaigh, Oifigeach Cúnta Gaeilge, Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin leis an gcruinniú maidir leis an Scéim Teanga 2008-2011. Thug sé sracléiriú ar thiomantais na Comhairle chun cur leis an soláthar seirbhísí trí mheán na Gaeilge mar atá sonraithe i gCaibidil 3 den Scéim Teanga. Faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 tá sé d'oibleagáid ar gach údarás áitiúil seirbhísí as Gaeilge a chur ar fáil dóibh siúd sa phobal ar maith leo a ngnó a dhéanamh as Gaeilge. Chríochnaigh 14 dhuine den fhoireann cúrsa ar tháinig an Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge dá bharr, Teastas a bhronn Ollscoil na hÉireann. Thagair sé leis do shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle a bhfuil nasc 'As Gaeilge' air chomh maith le tuilleadh nasc chuig an scéim seo (as Gaeilge agus as Béarla), chuig Logainmneacha sa chontae agus chuig sraith de cheachtanna Gaeilge. Thug sé ómós d'obair na nOifigeach Gaeilge a chuaigh roimhe agus don Choiste Gaeilge

agus don Choiste Logainmneacha as a n-obair leanúnach i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge.

Ghabh an Méara buíochas leis an Uas. Ó Raghallaigh as a chaint agus lorg ceisteanna ó na Baill, ceisteanna ar thug an cainteoir freagra orthu.

9. To receive reports from the following meetings:

(i) Castleblayney Road Area meeting:

The Members considered the recommendation from the Castleblayney Road Area Committee that the Council seek an increased allocation from the National Roads Authority towards the cost of carrying out repair works to roads in the Castleblayney area that were damaged during the course of construction of the N2 Castleblayney bypass.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council write to the National Roads Authority seeking an increased allocation in the sum of €873,200 for carrying out repairs to roads in the Castleblayney area that were damaged during the course of construction of the Castleblayney bypass

(ii) Donegal Rail Forum meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Treanor seconded it was agreed that Monaghan County Council commends Donegal County Council in its initiative of establish a Rail Forum which seeks to bring a rail network to counties Donegal, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cavan and Monaghan and that we hereby agree to:

- *support this initiative and participate in the new forum established to progress this venture.*
- *Invite Mr. Fergus Towey, Senior Engineer, Donegal County Council to the January meeting of Monaghan County Council to outline the rationale and the proposals for a rail network through these counties.*
- *Agree in principle to provide a financial contribution to a business plan for the project subject to the agreement of the annual budget and payable only after the presentation of Mr. Towey and the agreement of the members at that stage.*

13. Reports from Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Keenan, Kieran, Maxwell, McElvaney, P. McKenna, McNally, B. McKenna, and O'Brien in respect of their attendance at the following conferences:

Humbert Summer School 2008, Ballina & Killala, Co. Mayo
Freedom of Information Conference, Limerick.
Addiction proofing our communities, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Climate Change conference, Croke Park, Dublin.
Local Government Financing, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Citizens First International Conference, Ennis, Co. Clare.
McGill Summer School, Glenties, Co. Donegal
Local Government Reform, Sligo
Association of Irish Regions Annual Conference, Clonakilty, Cork
Parnell Summer School, Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow
John Hewitt International Summer School, The Market Place Theatre, Armagh
Tourism & Technology, Portaferry, Co. Down
From Murder Machine to Modern Education, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
Study of 19th Century Ireland, Limerick
William Carleton Summer School, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
Housing in a Changing Climate, Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Co. Meath
Byrne-Perry Summer School, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Bridging the Gap, Radisson SAS Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
La Touche Autumn Seminar, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
National Hub Town Conference, Mallow, Co. Cork
AMAI Annual Conference, Sligo.
Valuing our Waters, Kilkenny
Benedict Kiely Literary Seminar, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.

16. Presentation by Mr. Paschal Mooney, Chairman, Failte Ireland North West:

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Paschal Mooney, Chairman, Mr. Martin Donnelly, Failte Ireland North West and Ms. Dympna Condra, Tourism Marketing Officer, Monaghan County Council to the meeting. He then invited Mr. Mooney to address the Council.

Mr. Mooney thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them. In his address he referred to the following:

- Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-2010
- The bed capacity of the north west region
- The factors affecting visitor numbers in 2008 – weather/economic downturn
- Lough Muckno and the Castleblayney Water Ski club
- Iconic attractions for the north west region –eg Ulster canal
- World Rally championship 2009 – stage based in Co. Cavan
- The development of walking routes

Following the presentation Mr. Mooney and Mr. Donnelly responded to queries from the Council members.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Mooney and Mr. Donnelly for attending the meeting and addressing the Members and wished them success in the future.

17. Questions:

Cllr Gary Carville asked:

- a) Will the Council ask the NRA to include a Post Office symbol on the large information signage at Clontibret?

REPLY: The matter will be discussed with the NRA.

Cllr Gary Carville asked:

- b) Will the Council provide lighting on LS05450 (Clontibret Village to Lisglasson) from where the existing lighting ends to the end of the built-up area, in view of the increased amount of housing on this road.

REPLY: This matter will be discussed at the next roads area meeting

- c) Has there been any response from the NRA to repeated representations concerning safety issues at a number of junctions (Shercock Road, Ballybay Road, Annayalla and Cremartin) and the failure to complete key parts of the Castleblayney By Pass to date?

REPLY: The NRA is still considering the feasibility report and cost estimate prepared by our consultants for the provision of exit slip lanes and public lights at junctions on the Castleblayney Bypass.

- d) In response to a Parliamentary Question in Dáil Éireann on 30 September 2008, (ref. 32218/08), the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government stated that he was still awaiting Preliminary Reports from Monaghan County Council in respect of the Castleblayney-Ballybay-Clones Sewerage Scheme Bundle. In view of the continuing impact of a foul smell in parts of Castleblayney and the need for an upgrade of the Sewerage Scheme in the town;
- (a) When will these reports be ready?
- (b) What is the reason for the delay?
- (c) Is the Environmental Impact Statement for the Castleblayney Scheme ready yet?

REPLY: Nicholas O Dwyer Consulting Engineers submitted a draft copy of the Castleblayney, Ballybay and Clones Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report to Monaghan County Council in September for review. The reason for the delay is primarily attributable to a time overrun on the CCTV contract undertaken by a sub-contractor.

The Environmental Impact Statement is substantially complete at present and will be submitted to Monaghan County Council for review and comment in mid-December. Following a review period, Monaghan County Council will submit the EIS for approval to An Bord Pleanala.

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Preliminary Report approval is contingent upon An Bord Pleanala's approval of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Cllr Gary Carville asked:

- e) When is it expected that the feasibility report on the refurbishment of Castleblayney Courthouse / Market House will be completed and received? What is the cost to this Council of the feasibility study and report?

REPLY: *It is expected that the feasibility report on the refurbishment of Castleblayney Courthouse/Market House will be completed in the near future. The Council has engaged Peter Legge Consultants to assess the feasibility of the Courthouse for office accommodation for the Area Office/Town Council/Branch Library and to include/exclude the Courts Service. The cost of the study is €15,000 plus VAT.*

Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- f) What Strategy has Monaghan County Council going forward in relation to the very important issue of climate change? Have we any plans to establish an Energy Officer for the county? What progress have we made in relation to the establishment of an Energy Agency for the County?

REPLY: *The E.P.A. is currently preparing a template on which Local Authorities can base their individual Climate Change Strategy and it is due for issue in the coming weeks. Monaghan County Council will prepare its strategy on the basis of this template and issues of resources will be considered in the context of the current environment in which we are operating.*

- g) What is the delay in relation to the upgrading of the Carrickmacross Waste Water Treatment Plant? What is the completion date for the entire project?

REPLY: *Carrickmacross Waste Water Treatment Plant DBO contract documents were formally submitted to the Department of Environment Heritage & Local Government in July 2007. To date Monaghan County Council have not received approval to proceed to tender stage from the DEHLG. The expected completion date of the Carrickmacross Wastewater Collection Network is end 2010. A projected completion date for the Wastewater Treatment Plant is contingent on DEHLG's approval to proceed to tender.*

- h) How many people are currently on our Social & Affordable Housing lists for the Carrickmacross Town area? What progress has the Council made in relation to the purchase of a land bank to address the current and future housing needs of the people in the area?

REPLY: *At June 2008, there were 177 applicants for social housing and 32 applicants for affordable housing applicants on the Carrickmacross Housing Waiting List. The Council is currently examining options for the purchase of land in Carrickmacross.*

Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- i) In relation to Inniskeen Village, what safety measures will be put in place before the diversion commences, in particular, what extra safety measures will be carried

out in and around the school and also when is it hoped to start work on the footpath out to the new Inniskeen Grattans Football pitch? When is it hoped to have a presentation evening to ensure that as little impact as possible is caused to residents along the diversion route and also will the Council arrange a special presentation evening for parents and their children who attend the school?

REPLY: *A number of projects are under way for the village. A new pedestrian crossing will be installed at the play park in the coming weeks. Road marking and traffic control markings are to be placed; at the school, on the roads approaching the school and at the junction in the village in the coming weeks. The first phase of the new footpath is planned to start shortly. Monaghan County Council has written to Louth County Council in relation to holding an information evening and are awaiting a reply. The Road Safety Officer has arranged a meeting with the school.*

- j) (a) In relation to Waste Water Schemes for the village of Inniskeen, when is it hoped to open the new public toilets adjacent to the Pitch & Putt Club and hand over the old ones to the Community Centre?

REPLY: *The new toilets adjacent to the pitch & putt club are being constructed by the club. MCC have agreed to contribute €40,000 on condition that the toilets will be available to the public. Construction work is substantially completed and the new toilets should be open to the public by the end of 2008. In the meantime the old toilets are still in use.*

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

- k) Further to a query presented last February relating to protracted delays on finishing civil works in Monaghan Town, when is it anticipated the unfinished footpath and kerbing works will be completed along the Cootehill Rd. in the vicinity of Drumbear and Beechgrove Lawns?

REPLY: *It was proposed to carry out the completion of this footpath from Drumbear to Beechgrove Lawns last April in conjunction with the completion of the additional footpath works on the Upper side of the Cootehill Road opposite the entrance to the Drumbear wood development. This would have enabled the contractor on site to complete the footpath along the Cootehill Road in its entirety. However, the County Council has not reached agreement with the landowner concerning the section of proposed footpath opposite Drumbear Wood. The current landowner has issues with the route of the proposed footpath along this section, as it will require the removal of existing trees and hedgerow to facilitate the positioning of the proposed footpath.*

It is envisaged that MCC will proceed with the completion of the footpath from Drumbear to Beechgrove Lawns in the immediate future while negotiations with the landowner on the Upper Cootehill Road continue.

- l) As requested by the DoEHLG every three years, Monaghan County Council has recently submitted Housing Needs Assessment Figures to the Department. Can the Housing Section make the entire contents of this Assessment report available to the members and also a category by category comparison with 2005?

REPLY: Monaghan Local Authorities undertook an assessment of need for local authority housing and an assessment of need for residential caravan park for Travellers, as at 31st March 2008. The data from the assessment was transferred to the Local Government Computer Services Board as required by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The result of the assessment is expected to be published by the DOEHLG before the end of 2008. I give hereunder the net need figures as requested and when the full assessment results become available it will be made available to the members.

| Comparison with Previous Return by Local Authority | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Local Authority | 2005 Housing waiting list | 2008 Housing waiting list |
| Monaghan CC | 183 | 161 |
| Carrickmacross TC | 209 | 178 |
| Castleblayney TC | 128 | 106 |
| Clones TC | 52 | 74 |
| Monaghan TC | 207 | 261 |
| | 779 | 780 |

Cllr Benny Kieran asked:

- m) In the interests of safety to motorists driving on the Rockcorry to Cootehill Road, would Monaghan County Council notify the relevant agency as to their responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the fence to control deer at Dartry?

REPLY: Monaghan County Council has met the relevant agencies in relation to this issue on a number of occasions in the past. At the most recent meeting it was accepted that the most practical way to prevent straying deer was to manage stock numbers and grazing areas for the deer. The Clones Area office is currently investigating what additional warning measures can be undertaken to alert motorists to the presence of deer on this road.

Cllr Heather Humphreys asked:

- n) What plans have Monaghan County Council to improve safety on the R183 at the Rockcorry junction, known locally as Nolan's Cross?

REPLY: Monaghan County Council is proposing to pipe the existing road side drain adjacent to the R183 to allow for a new embankment to be constructed to stabilise the existing road. It is envisaged that these works will commence in November.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

- o) Would the Council consider doing a survey or asking the ESB to do a survey of public lighting in the villages in North Monaghan to ascertain any deficiencies in the location of lighting or any improvements that might need to be made?

REPLY: The ESB in conjunction with MCC carried out a public lighting survey previously in the North Monaghan Area in 2002. Since this survey all towns and villages in the North Monaghan Area have had additional public lighting installed or existing public lighting upgraded. The Council will discuss the matter of conducting a new survey with the ESB and will include the matter on the agenda for the next Roads Area Meeting.

- p) What is the current status in relation to the proposed new fire station for Monaghan Town?

REPLY: Having submitted a revised cost plan to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, our Architects are proceeding to produce tender documents which will also require approval. Once approval is received the Council can proceed to tender. It is hoped that this process will be completed by Spring/Summer next year.

- q) With regard to the Per Cent for Art Scheme in relation to the Monaghan and Castleblayney bypasses:
a. Have tenders or proposals been selected?

REPLY: The Percent for Art Committee have selected the art-pieces.

- b. If so, what are the proposals?

REPLY: The art piece for the Castleblayney Bypass is a diving pig and the artist is David Annand. The art-piece for the Monaghan bypass is a stretched Mini and the artist is David Mach.

- c. What is the likely completion date of works?

REPLY: It is likely that the art-pieces will take in the region of 18-24 months for completion and installation.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

- r) Will Monaghan County Council consider the provision of plastic bottle collection banks at their Bring Bank sites. How many other local authorities nationally offer this facility at their Bring Bank sites?

REPLY: Consideration will be given to the implementation of this proposal. However regard must be had to the fact that the operating costs for Bring Banks for plastic bottles is high and hence the proposal will be examined in the light of the diminishing value of recyclables in general, including plastics. As part of the assessment of the proposal a survey will be carried out of other local authorities providing this service to gain insight into their experience.

- s) What is the up to date position of Monaghan County Council on the extension of the Ballybay Town sewerage scheme to include residences on the Castleblayney Road and Keady Road in the town. When will works commence on the Scheme and when can residents expect connection to the town sewerage scheme?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council has included the extension of the foul sewer network on the Castleblayney Road in the Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay Sewerage Scheme Preliminary Report. The local topography will require the construction of a pumping station at the eastern boundary of the development boundary and the provision of a 1km length of rising main to extend the collection network and serve future development in this area. The proposed extension is expected to cost in the region of €250,000. Construction will commence following preliminary report and contract document approval of the bundled scheme.*

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

- t) Will Monaghan County Council examine the possibility of providing extra car parking spaces at the Lisdrumclave housing estate, Lisdrumclave Latton?

REPLY: *There are currently 8 parallel parking spaces available in the estate to accompany the driveways of the houses. There are no plans to provide extra spaces.*

Votes of Congratulations:

The Council agreed to extend votes of congratulations to the following:

- The Donaghmoynne Ladies football team on winning the Ulster Senior Football club championship.
- The Emyvale Ladies football team on winning the Ulster Intermediate Football Club championship.
- The Truagh Ladies football team on winning the Ulster Junior Football Club championship.
- Latton O’Rahilly’s GFC on winning the 2008 County Monaghan Senior Football Championship
- Drumhowan GFC on winning the 2008 Monaghan Junior Football Championship
- Mr. Padraic Duffy Director General of the GAA and Mr. Paul Finlay Ballybay GFC on their distinguished representation in Australia at the Australian Football (Compromise Rules) series.

18. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the Members listed.

| Promoting Authority | Subject/ Theme | Venue | Dates | Cost | Members |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Local Authority Members Association | Annual Winter Seminar | T.F. Royal Hotel, Westport, Castlebar, Co. | 26 th and 27 th November 2008 | €55 | B. Kieran S. Coyle J. O’ Brien J. Keenan |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|------|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Mayo | | | H. Humphreys D. Maxwell H. McElvaney N. Keelan |
|--|--|------|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------|

Meeting with delegation from PDFORRA:

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Gerry Rooney, General Secretary, and Mr. Simon Devereux, Deputy General Secretary, PDFORRA and Mr. Brian Byrne, Monaghan Military Post to the meeting to discuss the proposed closure of the Monaghan Military Barracks and invited them to address the meeting.

In addressing the Council Mr. Rooney and Mr. Devereux referred to the following:

- The Department of Defence announced that the barracks will be closed and that staff will relocate to Dundalk by 31st January 2009
- The barracks is situated on a 20 acre site and provides accommodation, security facilities, stores, garage, catering facilities, administration offices, training rooms and parking.
- There are over 200 military personnel permanently occupying this post.
- The total wage bill for military personnel in Monaghan is approx. €12 million. In addition further income that would be lost to Monaghan were the barracks to close include those of civilian workers in the barracks, family members living and working locally and other local purchases.
- The families involved have been not been given proper consideration – they have less than 14 weeks to re-locate.
- The physical infrastructure in Dundalk is not capable of taking the additional 200 people from Monaghan.
- The closure of the barracks will save the State as little as €100,000 per annum and will lead to the following increased costs
 - Change of station allowances - €600,000
 - Securing and maintaining the vacant barracks - €120,000
 - Permanent and temporary building works at new locations of €8m

Following the address, Mr. Rooney and Mr. Devereux responded to queries from the Members.

The Mayor thanked the delegation for their presentation.

On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the Minister for Defence Mr. Willie O’Dea, T.D., to discuss the closure of the Monaghan Military Barracks.

It was further agreed that the Fianna Fail Members and Cllr Martin would liaise with their Oireachtas members to ensure that the meeting takes place.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
