

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 6th November 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Cllr P McNally, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, Co. Manager, M. Fitzpatrick, D. Fallon, A. King, D. Fallon and P. Clifford Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Drew Hurley, Senior Planner, Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Mackle, Acting Staff Officer.

Register of Electors

The Mayor said that he had received numerous calls in relation to the Register of Electors. He said that it was important to get the message across to people that they should check to see if their name is on the register and if not the onus is on them to make sure they fill up a form to put their name on the register. This exercise was an example of how thorough the process was. He asked that an advert be placed on the radio and through the local press to ensure that people are aware of how they can have their names added to the register.

The Mayor confirmed that he had received two proposals to deal with Urgent Business, as follows:

“That this Council discuss the potentially serious situation that is apparent in relation to the 2007 draft register of electors”

Signed: Cllr Brian McKenna, Carthy, Treanor, McAnespie, Keelan and Cllr Crowe.

“That we introduce urgent business to discuss the publication or non publication of the Draft Register of Electors. This should have been available from November 1st according to the Minister”

Signed: Cllr Maxwell and Cllr McElvaney

It was unanimously agreed that a discussion would take place on the draft Register.

A lengthy debate following during which Members raised the following issues:

- The delay in circulation of the Draft Register to Members
- The large scale deletion of electors from the register when many of these are still resident in the county
- Individual instances of people being incorrectly removed
- The resources available to the Council for the process
- The deadline of 25th November being too short to allow people to make corrections/additions.
- The process used in the recruitment of fieldworkers

- That the Revenue Collectors were not engaged to carry out the process
- The fact that a number of post offices and garda stations were now closed would create difficulties for the public who wanted to check the draft register
- The position in relation to a supplement to the Register
- The use of the PPS number as a unique identifier
- The payment of fees to the fieldworkers

Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Services said that the Minister, Dick Roche, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government had raised the Register of Electors issue. After the completion of the Census it was found that the register was inaccurate right across the country. A Working Group that included representation from the revenue collectors had been established and they had decided that an interim solution was needed. This involved fieldworkers calling door to door - if a person did not answer a form was left, and a second call was made. The date of birth was required to differentiate between two people in the same house/area.

He said that there had normally been only nine Revenue Collectors working on the register but for the purpose of compiling an accurate register thirty-four field workers were employed along with ten staff members who keyed in the data collected by the fieldworkers. The Revenue Collectors were contacted to see if they were interested on working on this years register however all but three opted out.

The Field workers had returned workbooks showing evidence of when people were called to, dates etc. The figures for the draft register are similar to the census figure. The last register had 45,800 people registered, this register had 40,996 which is closer to the census figure. 9,400 people had been taken off the register and 4,500 added. 2,800 deletions arose from forms that had been left and not returned.

Regarding the publication and availability of the register, he had made the decision not to release the register to the Members on Friday afternoon. The staff in the office were full time answering the phones and it was imperative that the public's queries were dealt with. He had wanted to give a report and statistics to the Members along with the draft Register. The procedure in previous years had been to issue the draft register to the members on the day of the November Council meeting and he had followed this procedure.

In relation to the fee payable to the fieldworkers this was based on the actual numbers on the draft register, so there was no incentive for a fieldworker to delete someone from the register.

The following proposals were made during the debate:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell the Members agreed to write to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government emphasising the gravity of the situation regarding the Register of Electors.

Cllr McElvaney proposed that the register be placed in local shops for public view; - there was no seconder for this proposal.

Cllr McElvaney proposed that the field workers call back to the homes of people who were deleted and apologise for this - there was no seconder for this proposal.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to request the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that an extra week be added to the 25th November deadline so that people are not disenfranchised.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that in future the draft register of electors be circulated to the Members on the same day as it was circulated to other bodies.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed to have a list of all people deleted from the register forwarded to the members.

The Mayor said that there were 19 days left until the 25th of November, which was the closing date for the submission of additions/corrections to the draft register. He felt that, it was adequate time for people who had been taken off the register to check their names; he said that no one in Monaghan County Council had set out to disenfranchise people. He appealed to the general public, through the media present, to check the draft register as soon as possible.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Humphreys said that in relation to Minister O’Cuiv’s meeting at the Iontas Centre, she had not been asked to contact the Fine Gael party members, she was not the party whip. She said that the staff in Corporate Affairs had contacted her because they could not contact the Mayor. The Staff later made contact with the Mayor and informed her accordingly. She requested that the minutes of the October be amended to reflect this.

It was agreed that the Minutes of the October Council meeting be amended as follows - last paragraph on page three of the minutes should read as follows:

“Efforts were made on Tuesday morning to contact the Mayor - as the Mayor was not available Council staff had made contact with the Deputy Mayor and also the party whips but were unable to contact Cllr McElvaney. The Deputy Mayor Cllr Humphreys was contacted and subsequently advised that contact had been made with the Mayor”

Cllr McElvaney said that the Mayor had not requested that all Parties attend the protest at the Iontas centre.

Cllr B McKenna said that this Council had adopted a motion which said that if a Minister visiting the county refused to meet with a deputation from the Council they would protest at the particular event/function the Minister was attending.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2006 as amended.

2. Correspondence

- Letter from Cathy Burton, Private Secretary to Mr. Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to a resolution sent by the Members calling for mandatory identification at polling stations.
- Letter from Cathy Burton, Private Secretary to Mr. Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the Local Improvements Scheme allocations.
- Letter from Thora Burgess, secretary to Professor Brendan Drumm, EEO of the Health Service Executive, regarding the Teamwork Report.
- Letter from Patricia Perry, secretary to Professor Brendan Drumm, CEO of the Health Service Executive acknowledging receipt of a letter in relation to Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from John O'Brien acknowledging receipt of a letter in relation to Monaghan General Hospital
- Letter from Marie Deighan, Town Clerk regarding a letter they had received from Michael McMahon, Derryolam, Carrickmacross which they unanimously agreed to forward to the County Council and also in relation to a letter they agreed to send to all General Practitioners in Monaghan Town calling in the possibility of having a more localized Doctor-on-Call service.
- Letter from Geraldine Killen, Town Clerk, Clones forwarding a Notice of Motion to the County Councilors, which called on the National Government to implement a National Youth Development Project.
- Letter from Ms Phil Shovlin, secretary to Professor Brendan Drumm, CEO of the Health Service Executive in relation to alleged comments made by Professor Drumm on the occasion of his visit to the Oireachtas Health Committee.
- Letter from Seymour Crawford, TD in relation to a letter from An Taoiseach's Appointments secretary, Ms. Lorraine Dunne, regarding the on going difficulties with Monaghan General Hospital.

Clones Town Council Motion – National Youth Development Projects

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Kierans it was agreed to support the Clones Town Council motion, which read:

“That Clones Town Council urges National Government to ensure the implementation of the National Youth Development Project and ensure that adequate financial resources are allocated to voluntary youth organisations to develop quality youth services with mainstream funding”

North East Doctor-on-Call Service

Cllr Martin said that he supported the motion from Monaghan Town Council in relation to the phasing out of the North East Doctor-on-Call Service. He thought that the introduction of a smartcard system for all persons would allow private medical records to be stored onto his card and would be available to the doctor on call.

Cllr McElvaney said that the doctor-on-call system was anything but helpful to the patients and supported Cllr Martins idea.

Cllr Carthy said that he had a couple of issues with Doctor-on-call, one was the reluctance of Doctors to call to peoples homes. When people telephoned the service they were told about the cost rather than the provision of good health. He was calling on the HSE to revert back to having doctors-on-call locally and to providing a system that actually worked.

Cllr B McKenna said that the G.P's in Monaghan had not originally signed up for the Doctor-on-Call but had their own system. Now they had joined the Doctor-on-Call system and he was requesting that a service centre be established in Monaghan Town. He said that he would raise this issue at the regional health forum.

Cllr Coyle said that he has been told of a situation where a lady had taken seriously ill at 7.55 a.m. and was told there is no service during that period and to contact her own doctor after nine o'clock.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was proposed agreed to write to the HSE expressing concern at the services provided by the North East Doc-on- Call Ltd., and calling for the voluntary liquidation of this service in favour of a town based doctor on call system, staffed by local doctors, on a rota, with access to patients medical records.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to write to the HSE requesting that the Doctor-on-Call service cover the hours from 5.00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and from 8.:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. in the morning as these hours are not currently covered by the service.

Cllr Gallagher proposed sending a letter to all the doctors in the region outlining their concerns of the HSE Doctor-on-Call service.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to write to Professor Drum to say that they had indeed found his remarks given at the Oireachtas Health Committee insulting.

Minister O Cuiv – Clar Program

Cllr McElvaney referred to the meeting with Minister O Cuiv. There had been no officials present from the Community & Enterprise Section at this meeting to query Minister O Cuiv. The electoral divisions of Scotstown, Kilmore and Drumsnatt were omitted from the CLAR program. He had a revised map of the CLAR area and requested that it be circulated to the members.

Cllr McElvaney proposed writing to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to include these areas in the Clar area.

The County Manager said that he had a long conversation with the Minister prior to this meeting; he had another appointment in Dublin and had apologised to the Minister for not been able to attend the meeting. Mr. M. Fitzpatrick had deputised for him at this meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that a subcommittee on CLAR be set up and that the matter be placed on the next agenda to select representatives.

Cllr Kierans said that €500,000 additional funding was been placed in the Clar Programme for the Local Improvement Scheme.

Cllr Coyle said that he welcomed the announcement by An Taoiseach in relation to the Ulster Canal

Cllr Kieran stated that An Taoiseach had given a commitment to the restoration of Annaroe and Knockaginney bridges, which were, closed as a result of the Northern Ireland troubles.

Road Safety Campaign

Cllr McElvaney commended the Roads Department of Monaghan County Council on the recent launch of the Road Safety Campaign and the issuing of reflective arm bands. He requested that armbands be made available to all school children and to people taxing their cars as a reminder of road safety.

The County Manager said that they would get enough armbands to cover the schools in rural areas. Initially the campaign was targeted at people in rural areas and such groups as cyclists and pedestrians.

Cllr McElvaney referred to a newspaper article written by a Mr. Joe Osbourne, which attributed blame to Monaghan County Council for an accident that occurred along the main Castleblayney to Monaghan road, because of the condition of the road at the time. He rejects these allegations and he asked the officials to reject them.

The County Manager said that he absolutely rejected it.

3. Section 183 – Disposal of lands:

(i) Monaghan Courthouse

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to approve the disposal of 41.4 square metres of ground to the front of Monaghan Courthouse in accordance with notice dated 16th October 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

3. Section 183 – Disposal of lands:

(ii) Bree Castleblayney

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed to approve the disposal of 0.038 acres at Bree Castleblayney in accordance with notice dated 18th October 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(iii) Ard Na Lorgan, Bree, Castleblayney

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville it was proposed to dispose of houses at Ard Na Lorgan, Bree Castleblayney in accordance with notice dated 20th October 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

4. Approval to Overdraft Accommodation:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed to approve the Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €8m for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2007

5. To approve borrowing requirements:

(i) *On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to approve the raising of a loan of €10,688,448 from the Housing Finance Agency for housing purposes.*

(ii) *On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to approve an increase in the loan for Monaghan County Library HQ & Branch Library Project from €1.6m to €1.9m*

6. To consider Annual Financial Statement & Auditors Report for year ended 31 December 2005

In response to a query from Cllr Maxwell in relation to the breakdown of the county demand the County Manager stated that this would be clarified as normal when considering the Annual Budget. The Members noted the Annual Financial Statement and Auditors report for year ended 31/12/2005.

7. To consider recommendations from Corporate Policy Group:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to approve the recommendations from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9th October 2006

8. To fill vacancy on Roads & Environment SPC:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to approve the nomination by Monaghan Community Forum of Ms. Olive Bolger to fill the vacancy on the Roads & Environment SPC arising from the resignation of Christina Cassidy

10. To fix dates for Meetings:

Statutory Budget Meeting:

The Members agreed to hold the Statutory Budget Meeting on the 4th December from 10:00 a.m. – 1: 00 p.m. and to hold the regular Council meeting from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on that day.

13. Matters Arising out of the Minutes of 2nd October, 2006

Sports Partnership

Cllr McElvaney asked why the item on the Sports Partnership was omitted from this month's agenda when it had appeared on the two previous agendas. He stated that there was something sinister going on because it was omitted.

Carmel Thornton, Meetings Administrator assured Cllr McElvaney that this was due to an oversight and that there was nothing sinister involved. The item would be reinstated on the next agenda.

The County Manager said that he would be glad to report on the Sports Partnership to the Members at any meeting. Tremendous progress has been made in progressing the Sports Partnership. He would give a full report for the next Council meeting.

Long Service Awards Ceremony

Cllr McElvaney said that he was disappointed that the Members were not invited to the long service awards ceremony held for staff members and that he would have liked to attend this function. He said that Members should be invited to any function first and then the staff.

The County Manager said that this was a staff function, organised by the Partnership Committee and was for staff members only.

Billy Fox Memorial Park

Cllr Bannigan asked what was the situation in relation to Billy Fox Memorial Park.

Mr. Adge King, Director of Services said that he had a meeting with Coillte and they had agreed that they would not install a traditional park but would make it child friendly and in keeping with the environment. Coillte had drawn up similar plans in Wicklow where the play facilities were distributed throughout parks.

Farm Plastics

Cllr McElvaney asked what was the situation in relation to the collection of Waste Farm Plastic.

David Fallon, Director of Services said that he had written to Conor Falvey in the Department and had been told that Monaghan County Council was not included in this round but that they could apply to be included in the next round of pilot projects for the collection of waste farm plastics.

Speed Limits

Cllr Carville asked that temporary speed limits be installed along the Cremartin Road as it is being used as a rat run, during the construction of the Castleblayney bypass, as is the Carrickagarven and Carrickaslane roads

Cllr Crowe said that he has previously queried road signs at the Carrickagarvan Road and had been told that road signs would be installed; he asked what was the present situation?

David Fallon, Director of Services answered both these queries by saying that the problem was the sheer volume of traffic using these roads. He said that he would speak to the area office in relation to the matter and also in relation to the issue of hedge cutting on these roads.

Sewerage Works Latton

In response to a query from Cllr O'Brien regarding the sewerage scheme at Latton, Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Services said that the contractors and Bord na Mona have been working on the sewerage problem at Latton

Irish Officer

Cllr P Treanor asked was there any decision regarding the Irish Officer?

The Manager replied that Coiste Gaeilge had suggested a budget for a part time officer and said that it would be referred to the CPG for consideration

Report of Accident at Threemilehouse

Cllr Kieran said that at the Development Plan meeting in Carrickmacross he had expressed concern with the coverage of the accident at Threemilehouse, by the media. He wished for it to be put on record that he had not referred to the local press.

An Garda Siochana

Cllr McElvaney asked was there any reply to his letter relating to the An Garda Siochana requesting that continuous patrols be placed in vulnerable areas of the county and that all Garda Stations within the County be continuously manned on a twenty four hour basis. He also enquired as to the situation regarding the washed diesel found at Latton.

David Fallon, Director of Services replied that this was a major incident and he was currently waiting for a report and would bring it to the December meeting.

Roads Matters

Cllr Conlon said the Riverside residents were concerned about the N54 Inner Relief Road and he asked what is the sequence of events.

In response to queries from the Members in relation to roads matters Mr. David Fallon replied as follows:

The N54 Inner Relief route needs to be finalised. The proposed route is currently on public display as part of the Part VIII Planning process and will be an item on a future Council Agenda.

A letter had issued to the NRA regarding the Emyvale bypass but had not received any reply as yet.

Cllr Gallagher said that the upgrading of the Derry/Dublin Road, which was announced by An Taoiseach, would hopefully speed up the Emyvale bypass.

The extension of a gas pipeline to Castleblayney would not appear to be a priority for Bord Gais – towns are required to be within a certain distance of the gas pipeline.

Cllr Maxwell asked what was the tender price for the Monaghan Bypass?

The County Manager said that he could not disclose this as the works are not complete but was satisfied that it was within the budget.

Cllr Kieran's proposed that it should be policy that when public lights are been installed, that footpaths are also installed.

Dog Control

Cllr McElvaney said that the Roads & Environment SPC had a meeting with Brendan Smith the Vet and he had given some great ideas about the control of dogs. He would like the minutes circulated at the next Council meeting so that the members could view these recommendations.

David Fallon said that there would be a publicity campaign regarding the control of dogs in the near future.

Toilets at Ballybay Town Park

In relation to a query from Cllr Coyle regarding toilets at Ballybay Town Park, Mr. Adge King stated that they are currently costing the installation of toilets at the gatehouse, however there is an issue as to who would manage the toilets.

Cllr Bannigan said that with the opening of the new bowling green should a condition have not been placed on the planning that funding from both task force and the Council could be put forward for the installation of toilets.

Invitation to Mayor of Miramichi and Peterboro

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed to make an official invitation to the Mayor of Miramichi to visit County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to invite the Mayor of Peterboro to visit County Monaghan.

Civic Reception of Killylough Tug of War Team

Cllr B. McKenna referred to the decision taken at the previous meeting not to hold a civic reception for the Killylough Tug of War team. This team had achieved outstanding success in winning a World Title for the second time and he felt they should be honoured with a Civic Reception.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed to hold a civic reception for Killylough Tug of War Team in honour of their success at the World Tug of War Championships.

G.A.A

Cllr McElvaney, Cllr P McKenna seconded that the Council call on the Monaghan County Board of the G.A.A. to correspond with their Head Quarters in the G.A.A. to advise them to immediately cease competing in the Australian Rules Football competition following the thuggery involved in yesterdays game in Croke Park ”

A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for 11 Against. The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

Cllr McElvaney stated that he had not received the agenda for the November meeting and asked for an explanation. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that all agendas had issued in the normal way. Cllr McElvaney proposed that the Council write to An Post outlining its concerns at their failure to deliver letters to customers.

14. Presentation from Mr. Andrew Ogle, North East Regional Drugs Task Force

Mr. Ogle gave a PowerPoint presentation, which gave a summary of the structures and the work carried out by the North Eastern Regional Health Board. The following points were made

- It was a partnership of key stakeholders within the region that allowed for a networking of information and allowed policy and project development
- These policies are in keeping with the National Drugs Strategy 2001 – 2008
- Membership of the Forum comes from Community, Voluntary and Statutory bodies.
- The Forum sets out to establish services to achieve its National and Regional proprieties
- They have a number of projects for the 2006 year including an aftercare programme and a Family Support venue
- They have established a Director of Services, have researched into drug problems and solutions and have applied for grants to meet their targets
- From 2008 onwards they have to establish new national and regional policies.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Ogle for his presentation and the Members raised the following queries

- Is the North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force funded by the HSC or is it independent
Reply: Mr. Ogle replied that it is independent and currently has two staff.
- Is there a service available locally because there is a growing problem of drug abuse in County Monaghan and if services are limited within the county people will be reluctant to travel
Reply: There are limit services in County Monaghan but it is hoped to extend this from 2008 onwards when new national and regional policies are established.
- Recreational drug abuser, solvent abusers and alcohol abuse, were these all taken into consideration? And what about social deprivation, this all contributes.
Reply: It is hoped to employ a project Development Worker. The HSC already have a counseling service in County Monaghan but they are hoping to extend into the county. The Garda are also trained to identify and deal with this problem and a handbook has been established to help people. They are hoping to develop links with Sister Concillia in Ballybay to offer alternative treatment.

Cllr Maxwell said that he was the North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force representative from Monaghan County Council and he would forward any information to the Members. The problem of drug abuse is still small in Monaghan but is growing and if they can control it now before its gets out of hand it will be more effective.

15. Presentation from Mr. Pat Lennon, Bawn/Latton Rural Transport Initiative Group

Mr. Lennon made the following points

- The service was established to create transport links in rural parts of the county where little transport service was available.
- They established a door-to-door service and the majority of their users are free travel pass holders. It gives people their independence and they no longer have to rely on a neighbour to give them a lift into town.
- It was originally set up as a pilot scheme and was funded by Pobail with €50,000 - however from 2007 funding will be mainstream.
- He said that he was giving this presentation to make people aware of the service and to open it to new areas. If there is a demand from people in an area for the service they will provide it.
- The service is offered to local contractors and it offers employment locally.
- He gave the members a report, which summarised their services along with a copy of their annual report.
- Another project they are thinking of offering is a night time service for people who enjoy a couple of pints but can no longer go to their local pubs because of drink driving laws.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Lennon for his presentation and the following questions were asked.

- Is there any charge for the Service
Reply: Most of there customers are free bus pass holders but if they wanted to contribute a small amount they can, but no more than €2.
- Drink driving is causing a lot of problems and the provision of a night service one night a week for people who enjoyed a social pint would be a great idea. Did he fear that the state service would take over their service?
Reply: Yes they did fear that there would be a take over of their service by the state. They offer a door to door service to their clients and know them personally which is a great benefit, and offer employment in the locality.
- Clones Town Council tried to establish a similar cross border service but was refused; this presentation could give helpful hint, what would this group need to do to establish a similar service?
Reply: At present their service cannot offer a cross border service.
- What criteria is needed to expand the service

Reply: They offer this service to 15,000 annually and only need a demand in a locality from seven to eight people to offer a service. Once they establish a service in an area it tends to develop rapidly.

16. Questions

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

- (a) In view of the amount of housing development and the increased traffic at the new school and learning centre at Ballyoisin and in the interests of safety, would the Council consider introducing some form of traffic control or filter lane on the N2 at the junction where traffic turns off the N2 at Knockconan?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is submitting a proposal to overlay the N2 at this location in 2007. If funding is made available Monaghan County Council will assess the feasibility of a turning lane at this location, and if feasible, will incorporate the turning lane into the overlay design.

- (b) With respect for the concerns of local residents regarding the location of the zebra crossing in Emyvale village close to a junction would the Council consider a safety review?

Reply: Monitoring of pedestrian movements in Emyvale showed a clear pedestrian desire line at this location. Locating the crossing at another location would result in pedestrians continuing to cross without facilities at the junction, resulting in fewer pedestrians using the actual pedestrian crossing location. The build outs provided at the junction to facilitate the Zebra crossing have improved safety, as sightlines are now clearer for motorists pulling out of the junction. The location of the zebra crossing minimised the parking loss on the street. Monaghan County Council will ask the NRA Road Safety Engineer to carry out a site visit and propose measures necessary to improve safety at the crossing.

- (c) Could the Council clarify the position with regard to the speed limit on the N12 near Tyholland chapel?

Reply: The NRA Road Safety Engineer has been made aware of the request for a speed limit. Monaghan County Council will propose a speed limit at this location to the Speed Limit Committee when NRA approval is obtained.

- (d) The green space in front of the Corlat housing estate in Knockatallon is an important amenity for local people and especially children. Unfortunately the green area is poorly drained and during the oncoming winter months is likely to be too wet to be used in a recreational sense. Would the Council therefore be prepared to examine the possibility of drainage of this green area as soon as possible?

Reply: The Council will inspect the green area and prepare costing's on any works deemed necessary.

Cllr Heather Humphreys asked:

- (a) What progress has Monaghan County Council made regarding the provision of collection sites for farm plastic throughout the county?

Reply: A number of Councils are currently collecting farm plastics under a pilot scheme funded by the DoELG. Monaghan County Council has written to the DoELG requesting that we are included in the next group of councils to be brought into the pilot project. When we are approved as a pilot project we will provide the sites necessary for the collection of the farm plastics.

- (b) Would Monaghan County Council consider reducing the speed limit on local county roads to 70km in order to increase road safety?

Reply: In order that a speed limits change may be introduced under the new regulations, the Council must carry out a speed survey on the proposal roads. This will be considered in the context of the available resources. The matter may then be referred to the Speed Limit Committee.

- (c) What is the present position regarding the provision of additional public lighting in Rockcorry Village?

Reply: Additional public lighting has been ordered from the ESB for Rockcorry Village. The ESB has indicated that the new lights will be installed in February 2007.

19. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

The Members agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to

- Truagh Ladies U-16 on winning County League Final.
- Clontibret O'Neills on winning County Senior Championship.
- Latton O'Rahilly's G.A.A. Club on winning the Monaghan Senior Football League, Owen Wand Cup.
- Donaghmoynne Ladies on winning the 2006 Ulster Senior Ladies Championship.
- Drumhowan G.A.A. Club on winning the 2006 Monaghan Junior Football Championship.
- Emyvale Boy's U-13 team on winning the league final.
- Emyvale Ladies G.F.C. on winning the 2006 Ulster Junior Ladies Championship.
- Monaghan Harps on winning the County Minor Championship.

