

**Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny,
Monaghan on Monday 1st October, 2007 10.00 a.m.**

Chair: Cllr G Carville, Mayor

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

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr P. Clifford and Mr D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. A. Mackle, A/Staff Officer.

Votes of Sympathy

On the proposal of Mayor Carville, seconded by Cllr Carthy, the Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the following: -

- (a) **The Families and Colleagues and Wicklow County Council on the recent deaths of Brian Murray and Mark O'Shaughnessy, Fire-fighters, who died fighting a fire in Bray, Co. Wicklow.**
- (b) **Cllr Vincent P Martin on the death of his uncle Larry Martin**
- (c) **Tom Carron, Reporter from the Anglo Celt on the death of his wife Mary**
- (d) **To the family of the late Denis Connolly former Member of An Garda Siochana, Carrickmacross.**

The Mayor informed the Members that he visited Bray over that weekend and signed the Book of Condolences on behalf of the Council.

All Members stated that they wished to be associated with the votes of sympathy as did the County Manager on behalf of the Staff of the Council. A minute's silence was observed by all present, as a mark of respect

1. Minutes:

“On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 2nd September, 2007 be confirmed”

Urgent Business

The Mayor referred to three Notices of Urgent Business, which had been submitted

(1) In the names of Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Keelan, McAnespie, McKenna and Treanor:

“That this Council expresses its disappointment with the government for its intention to implement a new Community Childcare Subvention Scheme without any real consultation with Community Childcare providers.

That we further declare that the present system of providing staffing grants is a more equitable measure rather than the direct subvention proposed under that new scheme which will benefit a small minority of parents and which will likely lead to the closure of many community crèches and playschools.

We hereby call on the government to support the role of community childcare outlets recognising that they have been responsible for providing a vital service, which has allowed many parents to return to the workplace and in turn assist the development of local economies. We demand that the proposed scheme be abandoned in favour of a more equitable scheme based on the current model”

(2) In the name of Cllr P McKenna and B McKenna

“That this Council materially contravenes the County Development Plan, in order to grant planning permission to Seamus and Enda McMeel Reference number OT/1578 on the site at Tydavnet, County Monaghan to erect 35 number dwellings”

It was agreed to take the items of Urgent Business at 1.00 p.m.

(3) In the name of Cllr O’Brien and Coyle

“That this Council discusses Lough Muckno Water Ski club lease with Monaghan County Council in the next meeting of the Council. What is the up to date position with regard to this lease”?

Cllr O’Brien said that Lough Muckno was trying to pursue funding from Leader and this item would need to be dealt with soon in order to assist them.

The County Manager stated that the leasing of property at Lough Muckno from Monaghan County Council to the Muckno Water Ski Club was subject to the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and would require a formal notice being issued to the Members at least ten days prior to the Council considering the proposed disposal. He stated that a “letter of comfort” could be issued to the Water Ski Club confirming that the matter would be dealt with by the Council at the November meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr O’Brien, seconded by Cllr Coyle the Members agreed to sanction this proposal and send a letter of comfort to the Lough Muckno Water Ski Club, indicating that the Members approve the granting of a lease.

2. Correspondence

- Letter from Dr Rory O’Hanlon with attached acknowledgement from Mr John Gormley, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to a proposed meeting regarding the County Development Plan.
- Letter from Mr Eddie Kiernan, Private Secretary to Minister John Gormley, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of a letter in connection with Monaghan County Development Plan 2006-2012.
- Letter from Mr Larry McCluskey, Chair of the Drumlin Players in relation to a Japanese Tour and seeking a subsidy.
- Letter from St Patrick’s Interagency Support Forum in relation to a Campaign to Restore Universal Child Benefit.

Campaign to Restore Universal Child Benefit

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed to support the proposal from St Patrick’s Accommodation Centre Interagency Support Forum calling on the Government to

“Reverse the Habitual Residency Condition which must be met by certain people seeking certain social welfare payments including Child Benefit and that this payment is reinstated to the most vulnerable people in our society”

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that the following be added to Cllr Kieran’s motion.

“That this Council calls on the Government to speed up the process of determining the status of those seeking asylum in this country. Child Benefit should be paid on a monthly basis through the Community Welfare Officer until their status is determined ”

Cllr Kieran accepted the addendum and the amended motion was put to the meeting and agreed.

Gaelic Athletic Association

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr B McKenna the Members agreed to accept the GAA request to attend the adjourned meeting of Monaghan County Council to give a presentation on the role and future plans of the GAA in County Monaghan.

Freedom of Information

Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr Humphreys seconded that the Council appeal the decision of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government not to release two emails containing advice it had received from the Attorney General in relation to County Monaghan Development Plan.

In response the County Manager explained that the FOI Act does not apply to a record held or created by the Attorney General or the Director of Public Prosecutions so it would be very unlikely that this information would be released. Cllr Bannigan then withdrew his proposal.

County Development Plan:

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded that Monaghan County Council request the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to revise the designated Areas under Strong Urban Influence contained in the Minister's Direction of 22 July 2007, around Monaghan and Carrickmacross towns back to the original three kilometre radius and to remove the area designated under Strong Urban Influence around Castleblayney, as adopted by the members of Monaghan County Council on 20 March 2007.

The County Manager stated that any Member could make a submission to the Minister before October 5th in relation to the County Development Plan. The Planning Department would be making its own submission.

A number of Members stated that Minister Gormley's decision was having a huge impact on people who had already made planning applications – a lot of people had been refused permission.

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director, clarified the position in relation to applicants who may qualify under local needs.

3. Part VIII – Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 - Ref No: 07/8005

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to approve the construction of 1 no. Demountable dwelling with associated site works, septic tanks and percolation area at Lisnalee, Scotshouse, Co Monaghan, as per the Director of Planning Services report dated 24 September 2007.

4. To consider amendments to Standing Orders:

The Members considered the minutes of the Standing Orders & Procedures Committee meeting held on 17th July 2007 recommending a number of small amendments to the adopted Standing Orders.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that the recommendations from the Standing Orders & Procedures Committee be approved.

Cllr McElvaney proposed an amendment – that the first sentence of the proposed addition to Standing Orders (S.O. 14.2.3) be deleted. Cllr McNally seconded the proposal.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, 7 against and 1 abstention. The Mayor declared the motion carried subject to amendment.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and agreed.

The amended S.O. 14.2.3 is as follows -

“The number of speakers to an item of urgent business shall be limited to two per political grouping with the proposer having a right of reply.”

5. **To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group:**

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed to approve the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meetings held on 9th July 2007 and 10th September 2007 respectively.

6. **Traffic Bollards**

Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services stated that there is a system in place with the ESB that power will be shut off to a bollard if it is damaged. The County Manager had circulated a letter to the Director of Services and Area Engineers asking for details of any outstanding issues regarding the ESB which would be discussed at a future meeting with that agency.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Kieran seconded that any bollards that remain unlit by the ESB by 1st November be removed and that the opening of the Castleblayney Bypass be postponed if the bollards on the bypass remain unlit.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 4 for, 8 against and 5 abstentions. The Mayor declared the motion lost.

7. **Social Inclusion Unit**

The County Manager referred to a Circular from the Department of the Environment and Local Government in relation to the establishment of additional Social Inclusion Units under the Local Authority Social Inclusion Unit Programme. This programme was now being extended to Monaghan County Council and funding of 50% had been allocated for the core staffing costs for a two person unit (a Senior Staff Officer and a Staff Officer) on the basis that the local authority meets the remaining 50% of such costs.

A general discussion was held on this subject. Some Members felt this project might duplicate the work of other groups in the county, particularly Co. Monaghan Partnership who were complimented by the Members for their efforts in addressing social inclusion in the county over the past few years.

The County Manager responded by saying he welcomed the Members comments. He had met with representatives from Monaghan Partnership and Mr. Jim Mullery. He assured them there would no duplication and that the Council will work with Monaghan Partnership in ensuring a co-ordinated approach to these projects and that there is no overlapping of service. The Matter will be placed on the agenda for the November Meeting.

8. **Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee held 6th September 2007.

9. **To agree dates for Committee meeting/Presentations**

Cllr Carville proposed holding all remaining presentations on the current agenda on the 3rd Monday of the Month and if they are unable to attend their details be forward to the relevant SPC's. This was agreed.

Cllr McElvaney enquired if could the press attend the Strategic Policy Committee Meetings.

Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Director stated that the media could attend these meetings. However, issues discussed at such meetings might be reported in the press prior to being discussed at a full Council meeting.

It was agreed that the press would be invited to future SPC meetings.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to invite the Donaghmoyne Group Water Scheme and their Consultants to attend a presentation alongside T.J. O'Connor, Consultants for the Monaghan County Council DBO project.

(a) **The following dates were agreed for Road Area meetings:**

North Monaghan, Monday 8th October at 9.30 County Council Offices

Clones, Monday 8th October at 4.30 in the Clones Town Council

Castleblayney, Friday 5th October, at 11.00 in Ballybay Town Council

Carrickmacross, Wednesday 10th at 9.30, Carrickmacross Town Council

(b) **Roads and Environment SPC Committee** - scheduled for Tuesday 23rd October at 10.00 a.m. in Ballybay Town Council Meeting room.

(c) **Twinning Committee** - scheduled for Monday 15th October at 9.00 a.m., Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan.

(d) **Local Improvement Scheme Committee** – Scheduled for Monday 8th at 2.00 p.m. in County Council Offices

(e) **All Party Committee** on job creation within the county – scheduled for November 7th at 10.00 a.m. It was agreed that an invitation would be extended to Mr. Pat Doherty and Mr. John McEntegart.

(f) **Corporate Policy Committee** – Scheduled for 10.00 a.m. Tuesday, 9th October 2007.

10. Business submitted by County Manager

Director of Services

The County Manager said he wished to inform the Members that a number of Directors would be changing directorate effective from October 2nd 2007.

- Michael Fitzpatrick to be Director of Roads and Environment
- Paul Clifford to be Director of Housing and Corporate Services
- David Fallon to be Director of Planning, Economic Development and Water Services

The Manager also informed the Members that the Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees were meeting with the Management Team Meeting on October 12th, 2007 to discuss a number of issues.

The Members wished the Directors of Services well in their new posts.

Cllr McNally raised the matter of outstanding issues in relation to the Carrickmacross bypass. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed by the SPC and a report brought forward to the full Council.

Cllr McNally requested that a person be designated to act as Liaison Officer with whom the Members can make contact regarding issues which require to be followed up. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the meeting with the Management Team on 12th October.

Audit Committee

The County Manager stated that the Minister for the Environment has requested that each Local Authority set up an Audit Committee. The Committee will have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control risk management and audit matters. He proposed to discuss this matter with the Corporate Policy Group.

Diesel Wash

In response to a query from Cllr Keenan in relation to the dumping of diesel wash near Inniskeen, Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services stated that 7/8 containers containing diesel wash had been dumped near a water course. The water supply had been turned off as a precaution – thankfully, the dumped material had no adverse effects on the water supply. Inniskeen water supply was turned off and Louth County Council were also notified.

12. Matters Arising out of Minutes

Matters arising out of the Minutes were responded to by the relevant Director.

Bus Eireann

Cllr Maxwell gave the Members a summary of the meeting held with Bus Eireann officials in the Hillgrove Hotel. He stated that the meeting had been a positive one. Signage at the Monaghan Bus Station and Bus Aras is to be improved as well as updating the information on the Bus Eireann website. An application has been made to the Department of Transport to increase the current 177 Bus Service from Monaghan via the Port Tunnel.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that this Council write to the Department of Transport in support of the case for the proposed new 177 Bus Route for County Monaghan and onwards to Omagh ”

Water Services Report

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to place the report circulated to the Members as an item on the November Agenda.

Local Needs Area

Cllr Bannigan stated that the list of townlands presented in the report was incorrect. The townland of Modeese was excluded and he was aware of at least four other townlands that were also excluded. The County Manager stated that he would have this checked out.

Urgent Business

Item 1.

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Humphreys seconded

“That this Council expresses its disappointment with the government for its intention to implement a new Community Childcare Subvention Scheme without any real consultation with Community Childcare providers.

That we further declare that the present system of providing staffing grants is a more equitable measure rather than the direct subvention proposed under that new scheme which will benefit a small minority of parents and which will likely lead to the closure of many community crèches and playschools.

We hereby call on the government to support the role of community childcare outlets recognising that they have been responsible for providing a vital service, which has allowed many parents to return to the workplace and in turn assist the development of local economies. We demand that the proposed scheme be abandoned in favour of a more equitable scheme based on the current model”

In proposing the motion, Cllr Carthy gave a brief outline of a directive received from the Department of Social and Family Affairs, which would have major implications for Community Crèches. He stated that because of the staffing grants received by community childcare facilities each crèche was in a position to have a two tier fee structure, with people regarded as coming from disadvantaged backgrounds paying less. Under the new scheme only people who qualify under strict guidelines and are in receipt of a Social Welfare payment would qualify. This will have serious implications for childcare facilities with some people having to pay 60% more than they do at the minute, which would render it not financially viable for many parents to avail of these facilities. This policy will result in the closure of playgroups/crèches.

Cllr Humphreys seconded the motion and expressed her disappointment at the Minister's decision to introduce such a scheme, which will result in a reduction in funding for childcare facilities and will force them to increase their charges.

A number of members joined in the sentiments expressed by Cllrs Carthy and Humphreys and called on Minister Smith to review his decision.

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

Urgent Business - Item 2

Cllr P McKenna proposed, Cllr B McKenna seconded

“That this Council materially contravenes the County Development Plan, in order to grant planning permission to Seamus and Enda McMeel Reference number O7/1578 on the site at Tydavnet, County Monaghan to erect 35 number dwellings”

In proposing the motion Cllr P McKenna asked that the Members agree to this proposal in light of the history of the site. This site was originally a soccer field and was zoned recreational in the draft development plan. However, this was amended to residential zoning following the public consultation process. Minister Gormley's direction to amend the County Development Plan meant that the zoning on this area of land had reverted to recreational.

Cllr B McKenna said he wished to second this proposal and bring it forward as a material contravention.

A number of members spoke in favour of the proposal.

The Mayor put the proposal to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

13. Presentation by Eirgrid

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Crowe, welcomed Mr. Aidan Corcoran, Manager Transmission Projects, Eirgrid and Jarlath Doyle ESB to Monaghan County Council.

Mr. Aidan Corcoran began by saying Eirgrid is a semi-state body established in June 2006 and he outlined the following:

Eirgrid is the independent electricity Transmission System Operator in Ireland. Eirgrid's role is to deliver quality connection, transmission and market services to generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system and to put in place the grid infrastructure required to support the development of Ireland's economy. Eirgrid is playing a key role in the establishment of the new All-Island Market for electricity as well as developing a second north-south interconnector.

Demand for electricity has grown four percent annually for the last twelve years. By 2013 the capacity level will be close to full and in light of this Eirgrid has proposed upgrading and extending the current network. Eirgrid are planning two projects to facilitate cross-border sharing of electricity, promote better competition and to ensure a future secure supply of electricity throughout the north east. The 2 projects are

- 80km long Cavan/Tyrone 400kV power line – the new North-South interconnector
- 58km Woodland (Co. Meath) to Kingscourt (Co. Cavan) 400kV power line.

The current 220 kV lines are not capable of being upgraded to accommodate this surge in power.

Strategic Infrastructure Planning Application

The planning application to extend the network will be dealt with under the Strategic Infrastructure Act by a special division of An Bord Pleanála. Part of the process involves consulting with the general public and with local communities. Eirgrid have chosen to put the network over ground as opposed to under ground for a number of reasons including security, cost and fault repair times. If a fault is detected in the line a crew can be mobilised and the line repaired in a short space of time. Underground repairs take longer. The cost over the upgrading an over ground network costs three hundred million, underground costs three billion.

Public Consultation

Eirgrid intend to publish details of the routes in the local newspapers and hold public open days at selected locations along the route of the line, as follows:

- **Castleblayney** – Tuesday 16th October at 3.00pm to 8.00 pm in the Glencarn Hotel, Castleblayney.
- **Kingscourt** – Wednesday 17th October 3.00pm – 8.00 pm in the Castle Cabra Hotel, Kingscourt.

This will allow stakeholders to make their views known before route option studies are completed and a final route is chosen. The final route will be selected in the New Year.

Health & Safety

Independent review bodies have carried out studies and to date all have reported that there are no adverse affects from overhead power lines. Also workers who work on these lines have not reported health issues.

Benefits

The following benefits were highlighted to the Members

- Support growth and development
- Boost existing industry in Cavan, Monaghan and N. Ireland when competing for business and inward development in the area
- Ensure security of supply for the future
- Comply with European Union policy which states that links between electricity systems are a key way of ensuring secure and competitively priced electricity markets into the future
- Facilitate the Single Electricity Market due to come into effect in Ireland later this year.
- Promote competition and better sharing of generation resources between North and South
- Fuel savings
- Fewer emissions
- Facilitate integration of wind generated energy
- Make more bulk high quality power available for the North East

Following the presentation the Members raised a number of queries which were replied to by Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Doyle.

The County Manager welcomed Eirgrid and said it was important that Members would take an active part in the process. He highlighted the need for a contact person from Eirgrid, to whom queries that arise may be referred.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Doyle for their presentation and they withdrew from the meeting.

14. Questions

Cllr Padraig McNally asked: -

- a. Who is responsible for the Roundabout linking the Bypass with Carrickmacross on the northern side of the road, as it is in a deplorable state, and needs to be rectified immediately?

Reply: *The contractor for the Carrickmacross Bypass, Jons Moneley JVL, is still responsible for this roundabout. At a meeting 4 weeks ago they agreed to get this roundabout tidied up and landscaped. The Council will contact them again to remind them that this work is still outstanding.*

- b. Has this Council received any further correspondence from Louth County Council regarding their plans to detour traffic via Inniskeen to Carrickmacross to allow work to start on the section of road known locally as Red Bog?

Reply: *Following a discussion at the Carrickmacross Area Roads Meeting on 20-7-07 in relation to the information provided by Lough County Council on how the traffic is to be managed, Monaghan County Council have informed Louth Co. Co. on the points raised. To date Monaghan County Council has not formally received any reply. The Council's Engineering staff has ongoing contact with the Roads Section of Louth County Council - they have indicated that the start of construction will be in 2008, however this is to be confirmed.*

- c. Has this Council plans and costings in place for the final phase of the Industrial Link Road in Carrickmacross, as to allow an application for funding to be made to the Department of Transport?

Reply – *Monaghan County Council intends to proceed to Part 8 planning for the second phase of the Industrial Link Road before the end of 2007. This project is included in the submission the Council is making to the Department of Transport for funding under the 2008 Specific Improvement Grant scheme.*

- d. Has this Council plans to install public lighting on the newly developed footpath on the Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross?

Reply - *The Council has no funding for public lighting this year for the Kingscourt road. However this newly developed footpath fronts a green field site, and when it and other zoned sites further out the Kingscourt road begin to be developed, the Council will ensure that adequate Public lighting and further extension of footpaths are installed at the time the developments commence under planning conditions.*

- e. When is it expected to have our new Landscape plan finalised, as its absence is stopping people from building on their own land?

All remaining fieldwork on the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has been completed in September 2007. The following work remains outstanding:

- *A public consultation period (approximately 4 weeks) remains to be carried out on the draft document. It is anticipated that this consultation period will be held in October 2007 and will include a public display at the offices of Monaghan County Council and Carrickmacross Town Council. An additional public presentation/workshop, facilitated by ERM, will be held in the Hillgrove Hotel towards the end of the public consultation period.*

- *ERM also proposes a meeting (date to be agreed) with the Planning, Water Services and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) towards the end of the public consultation period. A copy of the draft document will be circulated to all members of the SPC well in advance of the above meeting.*
- *Following public consultation, the draft (and amendments) will be forwarded to the members of the County Council for their consideration.*

The LCA shall form part of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 (Chapter 4, Policy ENV 1) and will be implemented by way, of a variation to the Development Plan, under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

The objective of the LCA was to complete a thorough assessment of the character, value and sensitivity of Monaghan's landscapes in order to provide the basis for policy formulation and informed decision-making regarding landscape management in the county. The absence of this document is not inhibiting any individual from building on their land.

Cllr Carville asked: -

- f. What is the current update on the North East Broadband Project (Phase I & ii), which is led by this Council and why is broadband via the Mans not available yet?

Reply: - *Monaghan County Council acted on lead authority for the NE Broadband Project incorporating schemes in Monaghan, Louth and Cavan. On completion the facilities were handed over to an independent entity who are charged with their management and marketing. The Metropolitan Area Network is dependent on Broadband Powers providing backhaul connections to a national network. These providers have not linked in to the Mans.*

- g. What is the current position of plans to regulate or ban the use of Jet-Skis on lakes in County Monaghan and specifically when will they be banned from Lough Muckno and what structure will be put in place to accommodate local usage of licensed users?

Reply - *In 2006, Monaghan County Council became increasingly aware of the public's concerns over "jet-ski" usage particularly on Lough Muckno. Consequently, it was agreed to explore the possibility of making byelaws to regulate their usage. The matter was referred to the Environment and Roads SPC and Appendix 1 lists the steps that were taken in order to try to establish the most appropriate course of action. . Of the presentations made to the SPC that of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland was the most influential: "Jet Skis" in themselves are not inherently bad – it is their inappropriate use which gives rise to problems. At the SPC meeting in June it was agreed that the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer and Water Safety Officer would carry out a joint education and awareness exercise. It was also agreed to carry out a survey of Lough Muckno over the course of the summer in*

order to ascertain the extent of “jet ski” usage and to monitor the behaviour of users. An information leaflet was prepared and signs were erected on the lakeshore. The results of the survey will be presented to the members of the SPC at their next meeting to enable them to make recommendations on whether or not the Council should continue with the education and awareness exercise or whether we should proceed to prepare Bye Laws.

Appendix 1

List of Actions Taken By Monaghan County Council Regarding Use Of Jet Skis

1. Advert advising of proposed introduction of Bye Laws put in Dundalk Democrat on 9 & 23 August 2006, and Northern Standard on 10 & 24 August 2006, requesting submissions from general public.

2. *Due to response from public, SPC meeting held on 6/12/06.*

Presentations made by:

- i. Muckno Water Ski Club
- ii. Eastern Regional Fisheries Board
- iii. Northern Regional Fisheries Board
- iv. Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI)
- v. Kevin Mc Kenna
- vi. Paddy O’Kane
- vii. Joe Brennan
- viii. Castleblayney Tourist Association
- ix. Monaghan Sub Aqua Club

Submissions received from:

- x. Castleblayney Fishing Club
- xi. James Kingham

Decision made to request Colin Becker from IWAI to make a further presentation to the SPC to assist the committee in preparing a policy statement on the regulation of jet skis on Lough Muckno.

3. *SPC meeting held on 12/2/07.*

Presentation made by Colin Becker (IWAI)

Decision made to prepare position paper for consideration by SPC.

4. **SPC meeting held 12/6/07**

Decision made to carry out an education and awareness exercise as well as a survey of “jet- ski” usage on the lake

h. When will the much needed safety measures be implemented at the Scotch Corner and will they include public lighting?

Reply - It is planned to carry out these works in conjunction with the adoption of the Proposed speed limits, which were agreed at the recent Speed Limit Committee meeting. The proposed signage incorporates the speed limit plus the junction warning information. As soon as the speed limits are adopted by

the full council the signage and road markings will be carried out. The proposed works includes the provision of public lighting.

Cllr Coyle asked:

- i. When will public lighting be erected on the LP03012, Latton Village to Five Crosses, Shercock Road as proposed by Monaghan County Council as this road adjacent to St. Mary's Church, Latton is currently very dangerous for those attending St. Mary's Chapel and parking on this roadway on dark evening?

Reply - *The majority of the civil works have been completed. The order will be placed in 2008 when new funding becomes available.*

- j. When will Monaghan County Council erect public lighting at the junction of the Ballybay, Catleblayney Road, with the Cremartin Road (R183-14 to LP03410) as this is a very dangerous junction during the hours of darkness

Reply - *The public lighting has been ordered and it is planned to commence the civil works and ducting within the next 2/3 weeks.*

- k. Re: Castleblayney Bypass, what is the current position of Monaghan County Council, with regard to the Castleblayney Bypass under the following

- a. A definite date for the official opening? **Reply - *Tuesday 30th October 2007***

- b. How many landowners/Farmers have now reached final settlement of compensation with the Council for lands taken for the bypass and how many claims are still outstanding?

Reply - *There are 90 paid/agreed and 24 outstanding.*

- c. What progress has been made by Monaghan County Council regarding the concerns expressed by Landowners/Residence on the bypass drainage system and the recent flooding adjoining the bypass?

- d. **Reply – *The contractor has been made aware of the problems raised by landowners with regards to drainage and possible flooding. The council will ensure that these problems are rectified by the contractor as soon as possible.***

- l. What is the expected date for completion of all works on the bypass scheme?

Reply - *The contractor has advised us that all works on the scheme will be complete by the end of 2007.*

Cllr Keelan asked:

- m. What is the up-to-date position in relation to having our Council housing development completed and ready for occupation at Bawn.

Reply – It is expected that the housing scheme and site works at Bawn will be completed by the end of December 2007.

- n. In relation to a motion in the name of Councillor Keelan, which was unanimously adopted by the Council members, some time ago, calling for defibrillators to be available in every fire station, throughout the county -. Can the Executive confirm that the wishes of the Council members have been carried out in this regard?

Reply - All fire stations have defibrillators and to date 31 fire fighters throughout the county have been trained in their use. This training has to be updated every 90 days. No station has yet used them in anger at an incident to my knowledge.

- o. (i) Given that the Hedge-cutting Season has just begun (1st September 2007 to 29th February 2008), has the council ever prosecuted anyone for non-compliance with the Law (Road Act 1993), in relation to hedge cutting?

(ii) If not, why not? It is my view that compliance with this Law is vital for the protection of all Road- Users and especially Pedestrians.

Reply: - This has not been the practice to date. This will be dealt with in the near future by assigning additional resources to the area

- p. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the Dundalk/Carrick Regional Route, R178, given that we are working closely with Louth County Council on this project.

Reply: Following the discuss at the Carrickmacross Area Roads Meeting on the 20-7-07 in relation to the information provided by Lough County Council on how the traffic is to be managed, Monaghan County Council have informed Louth Co. Co. on the points raised. To date Monaghan County Council has not formally received any rely. The Council's Engineering staff is in ongoing contact with the Roads Section of Louth, and they have indicated that the start of construction will be in 2008 however this is to be confirmed.

- q. In relation to Inniskeen Village, what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of two pedestrian Crossings in the interest of Road Safety, which was agreed by the Council, some-time past. In light of the fact, that traffic will be diverted through the village when work begins on the upgrading of the Dundalk/Carrick Regional Route, R178.

Reply: Monaghan County Council is looking at road safety measures at present, with a view to seeking funding in 2008. A local development, which has been granted planning permission, has been conditioned to provide a capital contribution towards the provision of a pedestrian crossing in the village.

It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. McKenna to extend the time beyond 1.30 p.m.

16. Votes of Congratulations:

The Council extended votes of congratulations to the following:

- Ryan McAnespie on winning the Ulster U-12 Football Skills competition
- Donaghmoynne Ladies Team on winning the League final
- Damien & Thomas Freeman, Gary McQuaid, Owen Lennon, Dessie Moen, Rory Woods and Vincent Corey, on their recent achievements.

17. Conferences:

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

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Approx. cost Per member | Members Selected |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|---|
| Roscommon County Council | Douglas Hyde Conference 2007 | St Nathy's College Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon | 26 th – 28 th October 2007 | €730.00 | Gary Carville David Maxwell Owen Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Seamus Coyle John O'Brien |
| Local Authority Members Association LAMA | Annual Winter Conference | Dolmen Hotel Carlow | 9 th & 10 th November 2007 | €555.00 | Gary Carville Patrick McKenna David Maxwell Heather Humphreys Hugh McElvaney John Keenan Padraig McNally Robbie Gallagher Benny Kieran Matt Carthy |

Signed: _____
Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
