

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 2nd October 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, and P. Clifford Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr Patrick Johnson, Senior Engineer, Ms Rosemary McManus, Mr Drew Hurley, Mr Adrian Hughes, Mr Pdraig Maguire, Maire Smyth, Roisin Nic An Iarla, Ms C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Mackle, Acting Staff Officer.

Vote of sympathy – Mr Tom Fitzpatrick, Former Ceann Comhairle

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the wife and family of the late Tom Fitzpatrick, Cavan, former Ceann Comhairle Dail Eireann.

Cllr McElvaney paid tribute to the late Mr. Fitzpatrick who represented the Cavan/Monaghan constituency with great dignity and respect during his term in office. The party Whips associated themselves and their party members with the vote of sympathy.

As a mark of respect it was agreed to adjourn the October Council meeting for ten minutes.

Monaghan Hospital Protest

The Mayor, Pdraig McNally acknowledged the hospital protest at the opening of the Monaghan bypass. He said that he understood and accepted people's anger regarding the hospital issue but he regretted that what should have been a very bright occasion for the county had turned into a farcical situation. The Hospital Alliance had requested a peaceful demonstration but this was not the case. He wished for it to be put on public record that he condemned the behaviour of a few people. Junior Minister Pat "The Cope" Gallagher is a friend of the county and welcomed the opening of the Bypass, as it would not only benefit County Monaghan but also County Donegal. He said that Minister Pat Gallagher's car, was badly damaged, Dr. O'Hanlon had a missile thrown at him, libellous comments were made and barriers were pushed through by the crowds. There were only enough stewards for about four thousand and not for the ten thousand who attended. He had received telephone calls from near and far to say that the violent scenes did not portray Monaghan in a very good way. He called on all parties to condemn the violence.

Cllr McElvaney condemned the behaviour of a few but wanted to complement the Hospital Alliance for getting such support. He asked why there were two opening

ceremonies, one official and one later on with just a few attending. The Fine Gael Members had stood with the people but were offended that they were not made aware of the second opening - he himself had said that he would be attending a HSE meeting later that afternoon.

The Mayor, Padraig McNally said he wished to clarify that there was not a second opening but merely the taking of an official photograph to record the event. This opportunity had been denied at the cutting of the official tape due to crowd behaviour. He said that he had sought out any Member who had attended the meal in the Four Seasons Hotel after the official opening and who wished to be part of the photograph.

Cllr B. McKenna said that the Sinn Fein Members had made a conscious decision to stand with the people over the hospital issue, however he saw no violence just pushing and shoving and said that the situation had been badly handled by those handling security. He said that people's frustration was becoming evident. The Elected Representatives were being badly treated, by both the Taoiseach and Minister for Health. When the Oireachtas members request a meeting with the Taoiseach or Minister for Health to discuss the hospital situation, they are told to refer questions to Professor Drum.

The Mayor said that he was disappointed that Cllr B. McKenna had not condemned the violence. He also said that Cllr Maxwell had originally proposed that the protest take place and that he had not condemned the violence.

Cllr Maxwell said that he had condemned the violence about an hour after the protest on the radio and asked for the Mayor to withdraw his comment

The Mayor withdrew his comment regarding Cllr Maxwell

Cllr Kieran stated that Monaghan General Hospital is not going to close. He commended the Gardai for their actions during the protest and said that a lot of students were disappointed with the behaviour of a number of adults at the protest – some of whom were in this Chamber.

Cllr B. McKenna and Cllr McElvaney said that they had never stated that the hospital would close but services would be removed.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that Cllr Kieran withdraw his comment that certain Members were at fault on the day of the hospital protest or substantiate the claim.

Cllr Maxwell wanted it put on record that he had behaved himself that day.

Cllr Kieran withdrew his comment.

Cllr Bannigan stated that it appears to be acceptable that wild and accusing statements, which are not being substantiated, can be made in the Council Chamber and that Members are not allowed to protest against them.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee be called to address this matter

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council compliment the vast number of people who turned up to protest over Monaghan Hospital and to condemn the minority involved in the violence.

Cllr V.P. Martin said that he would like to commend both Sinn Fein and Fine Gael and Oireachtas members for supporting the Hospital campaign and would like to see a similar protest when the opening of the swimming pool takes place.

Urgent Business

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

1. "Following on from the protest at the opening of the Monaghan Town By-pass, that we have a discussion as to what steps this Council can take in support of the campaign for the restoration of services to Monaghan General Hospital.

Signed: Sinn Féin Members

2. "That this Council calls on Dr. Brendan Drumm, Head of the Health Service Executive to apologise to the people of County Monaghan for his recent insultry remarks".

Signed: Cllr Hugh McElvaney, Bannigan, Humphreys, Keenan, Carville, Maxwell and P. McKenna.

It was agreed to take the two motions together.

Cllr B. McKenna said that the Members had been writing to the Taoiseach and Minister for Health regarding the Hospital issue and they had not received a direct response from either. As elected representatives their rights were being ignored by the Taoiseach and Minister for Health and he asked where are the rights of this Council as elected representatives to make representation for the people of Monaghan. He said that he was disappointed with the lack of representation of other members at the protest outside the Iontas centre when Minister O'Cuiv visited the county and was especially disappointed with Fine Gael's lack of representation.

Cllr McElvaney said that he was not made aware of the protest in Castleblayney on Tuesday 5th September - there had been a Council meeting the day before but he had not been informed at that meeting..

Meetings Administrator Ms Carmel Thornton said that she had been contacted by Cllr Brian McKenna who had requested that she seek a meeting with Minister O'Cuiv. Due to time constraints Minister O'Cuiv was unable to meet the Council and she had omitted to convey this message to the Council at the September meeting (the day before the visit). 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 Carthy said that he would like the minutes to reflect the fact that eight Members of the Council picketed the visit of Minister O’Cuiv to the Iontas Centre in Castleblayney.

The Mayor said that his party had met with the Minister after the opening of the Iontas Centre; it would not have been helpful if they had protested against him when they had arranged to meet with him. They had discussed the hospital issue and the Ulster Canal. The Minister was very willing to meet with the Council but time constraints had prevented him from doing so. He has said that he would be willing to meet with the Council at the November meeting even though his area is the Clar programme. He said that he would be willing to bring back the message from the Councillors in relation to the hospital.

On the proposal of Mayor, Pdraig McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed to invite Minister O’Cuiv to the November Council meeting.

The Manager said that the Members should advise staff of any Ministerial visits to the county as staff would not always be aware of these visits. In this particular instance he stated that the Members knew that the Minister O’Cuiv was visiting Castleblayney as they had been issued with an invitation to attend the function. He undertook to do all in his power to notify the Members of any future Ministerial visits, where he had prior knowledge of them.

Cllr Bannigan said that he believed that the Minister for Health, Mary Harney, TD had no intention of meeting anyone from Monaghan County Council and had set out her own agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that elected members should protest outside Dail Eireann on a suitable date to be arranged.

Cllr Bannigan proposed an addendum that Cllr B. McKenna’s proposal to protest should also include the Town Councils and the Oireachtas Members. Cllr Humphreys seconded the addendum.

Cllr B. McKenna accepted the addendum – the substantive motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Kieran it was agreed that the Mayor should lead this protest outside the Dail.

Voting:

For Cllrs O. Bannigan, G. Carville, M. Carthy, S. Conlon, S. Coyle, J. Crowe, R. Gallagher, H. Humphreys, N. Keelan, J. Keenan, B. Kieran’s, V.P. Martin, D. Maxwell, B. McAnespie, H. McElvaney, B.

McKenna, P. McKenna, P, McNally, J. O'Brien, P. Treanor.

Total 20

Against: Nil

The Mayor declared the motions carried.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Amendments:

Cllr Bannigan requested that the minutes of the September Council meeting be amended in relation to the Playground Scheme. He had sought a report on the up to date position in relation to the provision of a playground in the Billy Fox Memorial Park. This had not been recorded in the minutes and he wished to have it recorded.

Cllr Martin also requested that the Minutes be amended so that he be recorded as expressing his gratitude for the circulation of a valuation for the land being disposed of at Ednamo, Inniskeen (item 4(i) in the minutes)

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that the Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 4th September, 2006, be confirmed, subject to the amendments outlined above.

2. Correspondence

- Letter from the Taoiseach's Private Secretary, Michael Sludds in relation to Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D. acknowledging receipt of letter dated 5th September 2006 regarding Mr Peadar McMahan.
- Letter from Dr. Rory O'Hanlon T.D. acknowledging receipt of letter and stating that he was to request a meeting with An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern and Minister for Health, Mary Harney, TD in relation to Monaghan General Hospital and stating that he would not be attending the October meeting as he is precluded from attending due to his role as Ceann Comhairle.
- Letter from Paul Flanagan, Private secretary to Mary Harney, TD, Minister for Health and Children acknowledging receipt of recent correspondence.
- Letter from Paul Flanagan, Private secretary to Mary Harney, TD, Minister for Health and Children regarding a request for the Minister to meet with a delegation from Monaghan County Council.
- Letter from Caoimhghin O'Caolain, TD acknowledging receipt of letter and stating that he has requested a meeting with the An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD and Minister for Health, Mary Harney TD in relation to Monaghan General Hospital and stating that he was unable to attend the October Council Meeting.

- A copy of the letter, Caoimhghin O'Caolain, TD, sent to Mary Harney, TD in relation to Monaghan General Hospital and his request to meet with her to discuss the situation.
- Letter from Caoimhghin O'Caolain, TD in which he attached the response he received from Minister for Health and Children Mary Harney TD acknowledging receipt of his letter
- Letter from Caoimhghin O'Caolain, TD in which he attached the response he received from the Taoiseach's office acknowledging receipt of his letter.
- Letter from Brendan Smith, T.D. stating that he had requested a meeting with An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD and the Minister of Health and Children, Ms Mary Harney, TD regarding Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Michael McDowell, Tanaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding policing arrangements and operational strategies for the Country.
- Letter from An Garda Siochana regarding additional Garda Resources in Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding the 2007 Budget Meeting
- Letter from Carrick Baptist Church requesting an opportunity to meet with the elected members.

Farm Plastics

Cllr Humphreys asked would designated sites be provided this year on a temporary basis by the local authority to allow farmers to deposit stockpiled farm plastic as farmers may be penalised if the plastic is not collected.

Cllr Bannigan endorsed this.

David Fallon, Director of Services said that he had been in contact with Conor Falvey in the Department in relation to this and had told him that both Monaghan County Council and the IFA were very interested in having the Pilot waste farm plastic collection scheme extended to Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to have Monaghan included in the next round of designated pilot sites where farm plastic can be collected

Carrick Baptist Church

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed to invite the Carrick Baptist Church to meet with the Planning SPC.

Cllr Carthy asked that the minutes of this SPC meeting be circulated to all members.

Peace II Task Force – Aghmullen

Both Cllr Bannigan and Cllr Crowe asked the Manager to comment on the decision of the SEUPB to overturn the decision of the Assessment Panel and award funding to the Aghnamullen Group.

The County Manager said he had received no communication from SEUPB as of today's date (2/10/2006). He stated that the procedures adopted by the Assessment Panel and the Task Force Board were appropriate. The allocation of grants was always subjective and different assessors may regard particular aspects of an application in different ways. Consequently, marking schemes may differ from one assessor to another. In the light of the Board's experience with this application, the determination process will have to be reviewed. External consultants may have to be engaged and closer liaison with the SEUPB established.

He did not envisage a difficulty with providing funding for the Aghnamullen project, as unallocated funds were available. If these funds were insufficient he would contact the SEUPB.

Matters Arising

Ballybay Forum

Cllr Bannigan referred to the motion passed at the September Council meeting regarding the establishment of a Forum in Ballybay to encourage business and redevelopment of the area. He said that the wording of the motion meant it was up to Monaghan County Council to establish a forum but the only correspondence received so far on the issue stated that Ballybay Town itself was establishing the forum. He said that it was up to the Council to provide the lead in this matter

Cllr Treanor supported this request as he said that Clones was in a similar situation. He suggested that an economic support worker be appointed to deal with this.

An Garda Siochana

Cllr McElvaney asked that An Garda Siochana be written to again in line with the request as set out in the September meeting, (1) that continuous patrols be placed in vulnerable areas of the county and that (ii) that all Garda Stations within the County be continuously manned on a twenty four hour basis.

Percent for Arts Scheme

The County Manager referred to the information circulated with the agenda in relation to this scheme and that he wanted the Members to be aware of the methodology behind the Percent Arts Scheme.

Cllr Carthy requested that when the title of the new road “The Kavanagh Way/Sli an Caomhánaigh” is used that both the English and Irish versions should be quoted.

Traffic matters:

In response to queries from the Members Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services confirmed as follows:

- Regarding traffic using the Cremartin road, diverted traffic was not diverted through Cremartin but through Ballybay.
- that he would follow up on the hedge cutting notices for the Carrickagarvan road - speed is generally low on this road, the problem is volume, not speed.
- the only real solution to traffic congestion in Castleblayney town was the bypass; the traffic lights were needed to control the flow of traffic.
- Some progress is being made regarding improvements to the junction of the Leck/Beaghkearns roads with the Monaghan/Cootehill road
- He had consulted with the Fisheries Board and Inland Waterways and it was hoped that the Council have byelaws in place for the next season to regulate the use of jet skis on Lough Muckno.

Sewerage Works – Latton

Cllr Coyle said that the Sewerage Works problem at Latton was on going and asked what was the up to date situation?

Michael Fitzpatrick, Director of Services said that a contractor had been appointed the previous week to deal with this situation and that the Council had been in contact with Bord na Mona with a view to having the work carried out within the next month.

Irish Officer

In response to a query from Cllr Treanor regarding the recruitment of a full time Irish Language Office, the County Manager said that the Council was considering a number of options in relation to this matter.

Traffic Lights Ballybay

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed that following the public consultation regarding the proposed traffic lights at the Clones Rd junction in Ballybay Town, this Council does not proceed with the traffic lights at the junction and that this Council now pursues alternative solutions such as the purchase of property at this junction to allow for

necessary widening and the expedition of the proposed link road from the Clones Road to the Monaghan Road.

3. Section 183 – Disposal of Lands

(i) North Road, Monaghan

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed to approve the disposal of 42.32m² at Mullaghmonaghan, (North Road) Monaghan in accordance with notice dated 21st September 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(ii) Tonyglasson, Doohamlet

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed to approve the disposal of 0.26 acres of land on Plot A and 0.15 acres of land in Plot B in the townland of Tonyglasson, Doohamlet in accordance with notice dated 21st September 2006 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider proposed variations to County Development Plan 1999

(1) Killycard Manor, Bree, Castleblayney (Ref 06/622)

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Carville it was agreed to approve the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 1999 as per report dated 22nd September 2006 to deal with re-zoning at Killycard Manor, Bree, Castleblayney, Ref: 06/622.

(2) Tydavnet Village, Co. Monaghan Ref: 06/1124.

On the proposal of Cllr P. McKenna, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed to approve the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 1999 as per report dated 22nd September 2006 to deal with re-zoning at Tydavnet Village, Co. Monaghan Ref: 06/1124.

(3) Aghnahola Td, Scotshouse, Co. Monaghan, Ref: 06/872

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. Kieran's it was agreed to approve the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 1999 as per report dated 22nd September 2006 to deal with re-zoning at Aghnahola Td, Scotshouse, Co. Monaghan, Ref: 06/872.

(4) Cloughvalley Upper Td, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (Ref 06/603)

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan, seconded by Cllr J. Keenan it was agreed to approve the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 1999 as per report dated 22nd September 2006 to deal with re-zoning at Cloughvalley Upper Td, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan - Ref 06/603

(5) Drumbear Wood, Drumbear Td, Monaghan, (Ref: 06/894)

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed *to approve the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 1999 as per report dated 22nd September 2006 to deal with re-zoning at, Drumbear Td, Monaghan, Ref: 06/894*

(6) Drumass and Lacklum, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan (Ref 06/699)

Cllr Martin enquired that if this variation were approved would it put the Mill at Inniskeen at risk. He had concerns about the scale of the development and asked was there anyway that the Mill could be preserved. He proposed postponing this item until the next meeting - this proposal was not seconded.

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Services said that the item before the Council is to consider a variation to the County Development Plan and not the restoration of the Mill which would have to form the basis of a separate planning application.

On the proposal of Cllr Keenan, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed not to approve the proposed variation to the County Development Plan 1999, Ref: 06/699 – Drumass and Lacklum, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan.

Cllr Martin abstained from the voting on this proposal

10. Fixing dates for the following meeting:

(i) Road Area Meetings

South Monaghan – Friday 13th October, 2006 at 10.30 a.m., Lisdoonan, (Invite extended to Lisdoonan Development Association)

North Monaghan – Monday 9th October 2006 at 2.30 p.m., Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan.

Clones Area – Monday 23rd October, Clones Town Council at 10:00 a.m.

(ii) Special Meeting to discuss new Council Offices

Cllr Bannigan said that the political grouping's wanted to meet with the executive to discuss this topic and requested that a meeting be arranged as soon as possible. All Agreed.

14. Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre Presentation

The Mayor welcomed Ms Claire Dunne, Education co-ordinator for the North East and Ms. Philomena Lynch, Counsellor for the Monaghan area, both from the Dundalk Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre.

Ms Dunne started the presentation by saying that based on research from 2002 41% of women had experienced sexual violence within their lifetime and that 28% of men would also suffer sexual violence. 47% of people did not tell anyone of their experience and schools do not have a programme of education or their students on what sexual violence is.

They were interested in setting up an office in Monaghan but due to under funding were unable to, however they did set up an outreach Counseling service, one day a week in Monaghan. They had asked to speak to the Members today because they were trying to raise awareness of their service.

In response to queries from the Members, Ms Dunne and Ms Lynch replied as follows:

1. They have approached the Institute of Technology in Dundalk and provide a service there and are currently in the process of contacting schools to offer an education program.
2. They are not in competition with other service providers.
3. The Centre tries to provide a twenty-four hour service but their telephone operators are voluntary. Two years ago they got funding from the HSE to train eleven people but they will now need further funding to retrain a voluntary work force.
4. They have three clients in Monaghan at the moment and received 21% of calls from Monaghan in 2005 and 44% from Louth in the same period.
5. Only 1% of people report an assault
3. An advocacy service is offered; they are not legal experts but do assist and support their clients through the legal system.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was proposed writing to the HSE and to the Minister for Health, Mary Harney TD to ask that funding to the Dundalk Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse service be increased.

15. Presentation by Mr. Gerry Finn, Director of BMW Regional Assembly on the Draft Operational Plan 2007 – 2012

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Finn and thanked him for his time.

Mr. Finn made the following points

- a. Ireland had lost its objective one status called Convergence and was now entering objective two status called Competitiveness and Employment.
- b. The BMW would operate Objective Two.
- c. Ireland would be receiving €31 million, which was a great reduction on what they had previously received. €29m of this would go to the BMW region. Any shortfall in investment in projects would be made up by increased Exchequer expenditure.
- d. They were currently working on an Operational Programme on the best way to distribute the funding and were currently in consultation with various groups.

- e. Priority 1 objectives were to increase the BMW Region's Research and innovation capacity to generate and absorb new technologies; and to increase entrepreneurship, to increase interaction between firms and higher education institutes.
- f. They would have to look at supporting developments and infrastructure and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation measures.

In response to queries from the Members, Mr. Finn replied as follows:

- a. Yes funding would still be available up until 2008, however the money has to be committed by the end of 2006.
- b. Infrastructure would be a small part of their aim; the National Development plan will deal with this along with the Governments programme Transport 21. The Ulster Canal has received regional support but he did not know if it was part of their programme.
- c. There was no break down per county of monies but was of for the region, he would forward that in the weeks to come. There would not be a 50/50 split of monies but it would be allocated according need.
- d. Yes there was consultation with various cross border groups.
- e. Although there was a dramatic decrease in funding form the EU, the exchequer would continue to increase their contributions
- f. The Enterprise Boards funding will be based on past performance and what their future plans are. The level of funding varies from County to county.

16. Presentation by Susan Joyce, RPS Consultant Engineer regarding the N54 Route X

Ms Joyce began the presentation by outlining the reason for this proposal. One of the objectives of the draft County Development Plan 2006-2012 was to complete the N2/N54 Link Road from the Clones road to Coolshannagh. She outlined the benefits including promotion of economic development of the area, opening up of zoned lands, reducing traffic through the town, reduction in accidents and improvement in accessibility. In June of this year there was NRA approval to proceed with part 8 planning, and they are now proceeding with this. The Inner Relief road is a viable option and will service Monaghan Town. This presentation is to brief the members and will be followed by public notice and receipt of submissions. A report will be presented to the Members on all submissions received. After that the steps include CPO process, detailed design, contractor procurement and construction.

In response to queries from Members Ms. Joyce replied as follows:

- A presentation can be arranged for Monaghan Town Council
- It is technically feasible to place an inner relief road here.
- The Consultants would consider putting a wall in place to help with noise – a noise survey would be conducted as part of the planning for the development.

- It is more beneficial having a relief road close to the town centre. The vast amount of traffic would be going to Monaghan Town and that this would benefit local traffic.
- It would be difficult to find alternative route, the cost would be about nine million to construct the road based on 2002 prices.
- Footways and cycles would be provided along both sides of the development

In response to comments from Members that a corridor to facilitate the construction of the road had not been preserved by the Planners and the Council would be liable to pay compensation to house owners, the County Manager stated that this was not the case. The relief road project was part of the discussions with the developer of the lands at Hillside Estate. It was taken into account when planning permission was granted for the estate. It was always the case that the development would consist of two elements, one north of the new Inner Relief road, accessed directly off the Coolshannagh Road with another estate South of the new Inner Relief road assessed from the new road itself. He vehemently rejected the view that the planners had made a mistake.

Mr. P. Johnson, Senior Engineer stated that compensation would be payable in the normal way for the land needed to construct the road. There was no question of further compensation being payable.

Following a query Mr. David Fallon, Director of Services informed the members that the developer of Riverside had knowledge of the proposed road prior to seeking planning permission.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed to write to the NRA seeking a meeting to discuss the fast tracking of the N2 Emyvale to Monaghan Town Road Realignment Scheme including a bypass of Emyvale

18. Questions

Gary Carville asked

- (a) What plans do the Council have to improve the Regional Road R181 (Castleblayney- Keady) and specifically-

(i) Will the Council work with Armagh District Council and the Keady Re-Generation committee to maximise funding for the restoration and improvement of this road

Reply: Monaghan County Council will meet with our counterparts in District Councils to maximise the benefits of road restoration

(ii) Will it remove the very dangerous "hidden-dips" in the road in the town land of Killygola and the dangerous bend in the town land of Creighanroe?

Reply: A topographical survey will be commissioned to allow feasibility of changes to the realignments to be determined.

- (b) In relation to the Control of Dogs, which is a function of this Council,
- (i) How many dogs have been licensed with the Council in Co Monaghan for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006?

Reply: There were 2894 dogs licensed in 2004, 2988 in 2005 and 2140 at the end August 2006.

(i) What measures does the Council employ to ensure compliance with the law by dog owners and to prevent attacks on sheep.

Reply: The Council employs one dog warden to collect and/or seize stray and unwanted dogs in the county, thus preventing them from posing a risk to sheep. The dog warden, in the limited time available after collecting strays, also checks that dog owners are complying with the law by ensuring that their dogs at all times wear a collar with their owner's name and address on or attached to it, that dog owners keep their dogs under control at all times and that dog owners have a current licence for their dog. Monaghan County Council has also advertised, in local press and on local radio from time to time, advising dog owners of their duties under the law.

(ii) Will the Council engage in a Publicity Campaign to make dog owners and members of the public aware of the responsibilities of dog owners?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has advertised advising dog owners and the public of dog owner's responsibilities, on the basis of the advertising funding allocated. Increased funding would allow for more frequent and effective publicity.

(iii) What measures will be put in place by Monaghan Co Council to ensure compliance with the law in this area?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will examine the possibility of allocating greater resources to dog control, both in terms of funding and manpower.

- (c) Will Monaghan Co Council work in conjunction with Castleblayney Town Council and other interested bodies in making a submission to the Energy Regulator to ensure that the Gas Pipeline is connected to Castleblayney as soon as possible in view of the growth of the town and the need to attract new industry and jobs to the town and area?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has incorporated the following policy

in the draft County Development Plan 2006-2012:

“It is the policy of the Council to promote the extension of the gas network throughout the County”.

- (d) When will the promised children's playground at Doohamlet be provided?

Reply: The civil works for the playground have been practically completed and the contract for the supply and installation of the play equipment is currently being prepared by Monaghan County Council's solicitor. As soon as the solicitor has prepared the contract the supplier will be contracted to supply and install the play equipment.

The play equipment can be installed within one month of signing of contracts and should be ready for use in October or November depending on when the contracts are received.

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

- (e) The Mullan road out of Emyvale has been greatly improved. However according to residents the road out of the village is now experiencing a good deal of speeding traffic leading to concerns for families living there. In the interests of safety for residents, pedestrians and particularly of young children living in the area would the Council consider traffic calming measures on that road?

Reply: The Mullan Road is classified as a Local Primary Road LP 01200. The road has had extensive works carried out in 2005, such as strengthening of the existing road surface, improved drainage works, the provision of a pedestrian footpath for a distance of 200 metres from Emyvale Village, as well as the widening of the existing Mullan Road Bridge. The increased traffic volumes can be monitored, with traffic calming measures being provided if the need can be determined.

- (f) Could the Council give an outline of the progress to date on the Emyvale Bypass?

Reply: The Emyvale bypass scheme has been the subject of the Part X planning process. The scheme is being considered for conversion to a 2+1 scheme. The assessment of suitability is ongoing.

Cllr. Brian McKenna and Cllr. Brenda McAnespie asked:

- (g) Will this council examine the feasibility of erecting a bus shelter at the Emyvale Leisure Centre to cater for the many children who congregate there every school day, sometimes in atrocious weather, waiting on the school bus?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will liaise with Bus Eireann as the provision of bus shelters is generally their function, however there are

private operators within the county who may be interested in providing facilities. The matter will be brought to the SPC to develop a policy.

Cllr. Matt Carthy asked:

- (h) What stage is the procurement process at in relation to the Mixed Used Development Project at Convent Lands, Carrickmacross? Will the proposed development include significant recreational facilities for the area, and particularly for young people? Is the council in a position to outline what these facilities will be?

Reply: *The procurement process is continuing with the preferred bidder and it is anticipated that a final agreement can be reached by the end of December. It is not appropriate to discuss elements of the proposal until final agreement is reached. However, a report on the project will be brought before the Council in due course.*

- (i) In relation to the recreational lands on the Convent Lands, when is it expected that works on the playing pitch will commence? What size will the pitch be and when is it expected to be operational? Will provision be made for a running track at this site?

Reply *The Council sought quotations from interested parties to develop the playing pitch on the Convent lands. However, as it was necessary to proceed with the provision of water and sewerage facilities to service the Industrial Site, it was decided to defer the development of the playing field until the spring of 2007. It is not possible to accommodate a running track together with playing facilities on the land available. The playing area is approximately 160m * 120m*

Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- (j) What is the up to date positioning relation to the much needed upgrading/realignment of the Carrickmacross/Dundalk Regional Route (R.178), including Essexfort Bridge?

Reply: *Louth Co. Council has published a part 8 in relation to the Red Bog section of the R178. It is hoped works will commence in the year 2007 through the red bog- LCC's section of the R178. Monaghan County Council will engage consultants to carry out a detailed design in relation to the Essexford area of the R178*

- (k) What steps have Monaghan County Council, in conjunction with Louth County Council, taken to insure that if and when works commence on this roadway, that this very busy regional route's traffic will not be diverted through the very important historical village of Inniskeen, given the obvious safety considerations.

Reply: *Diversion routes will be selected to ensure that westbound traffic through Inniskeen will not be encouraged.*

- (l) What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of a Civic Amenity/Recycling Centre for Carrickmacross Town and surrounding areas.

Reply: In order to develop the site additional funding is required. A request for additional funding was sent to the DOEHLG in July 2006 and a reply is awaited.

Cllr Bannigan asked:

- (m) What steps have Monaghan County Council taken since the September meeting to put in place the Forum in Ballybay Town, as requested by Ballybay Town Council and passed by the Council at that meeting?

Reply: At the Ballybay Town Council meeting of 10th July 2006 it was agreed to set up a sub group comprising of Cllr E Duffy, Mayor, Cllr M Gilmour, Cllr M McGinnity and Cllr J Traynor. This group have arranged an initial meeting for Monday 25/09/06 to decide on how best to proceed in terms of the Forum Membership and establishing terms of reference.

Cllr Coyle asked:

- (n) What further safety measures do Monaghan County Council propose to put in place on what is a very dangerous accident black spot with numerous accidents occurring over the past two years involving heavy goods vehicles on the Lough Egish – Castleblayney Road (R181 – 6), on the dangerous corner, at what is known locally as Drumlane Cross?

Reply: Extensive remedial low cost accident measures have been undertaken at this location. The causes of the incidents will be investigated and the location will be re-examined.

- (o) Will Monaghan County Council consider the erection of additional public lighting at Latton Village on the road leading to the Ballybay – Shercock Road (LP03012)?

Reply: A Proposal will be sought from the ESB for additional public lighting at Latton Village on the road leading to the Ballybay – Shercock Road

- (p) What plans have Monaghan County Council for the installation of Toilet facilities at the gatehouse at the town park, Ballybay to facilitate the town park and the Ballybay – Derryvalley outdoor bowling club?

Reply: The Council is currently looking at the possibility of installing public toilet Facilities at the Gatehouse building on the Castleblayney Road entrance to Ballybay Town Park. Other considerations in this project will not only be the cost but also maintenance and upkeep of the facility and also supervision of such a facility.

Cllr Maxwell asked

(q) In light of the opening of the Monaghan Town Bypass

(i) What was the tender price for the contract when it was awarded?

Reply: €7,223,793.03

(ii) What is the most up to date costing as of the 25th September, 2006?

Reply: The scheme is within budget at opening – The Engineer is in on-going discussions with the Contractor on various matters affecting cost.

(iii) Is it possible to give the overall cost now as there is still some works to be completed?

Reply: No. The final cost has not been determined as various matters affecting overall cost are under consideration and discussion with the Contractor.

Cllr V.P. Martin asked

(r) What is the criteria used by Monaghan County Council governing the amount of recreational, open, public space to be designated and/or deemed necessary for the following?

(i) Recommendations made in relation to zoning parameters

(ii) Housing estate planning applications

Reply: The County Development Plan 1999, Development Control Guidelines (Section 4.4.) outline the standards required for open space provision on all new Housing Developments in the county which states:

Open Space Provision 4.4.5

- **Private Open Space:** - The minimum private open space requirement per individual dwelling is 100 square metres. A minimum back to back distance of 35 metres between houses is required.

- **Public open space:** - In general, open space will be required at a rate of 1 hectare per 125 dwellings, or a minimum of 10 % of total site area, whichever is greater.

Table B Residential Open Space Requirements

Type	Maximum distance from dwellings	Use	Desirable Unit Size	Rate of Provision Per 1,000 pop
Children's Play Area	100-200m	Play 2-5 yrs old	200m+	0.3 acres
Playground	800m	Active recreation	3 acres +	1.5 acres

Active Play area	200m	Active	0.25 acres	1 acre
Parkland	100m +	Passive & Visual	2 acres +	1 acre

- Open space shall be provided as detailed above in Table B.
- The use of backlands, steep gradients or marsh areas as public open space will not be permitted as it is intended that public open space form a central part of any development. Road areas, pavements and grass verges shall not be included in the assessment of open space provision.
- A contribution may be required from a developer towards the provision of an area of open space.

20. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council would be represented at the following conferences by the Members indicated:

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Approx. cost Per member	Members Selected
Confederation of European Councillors	Annual Conference 2006 Theme: '1916 – A Time of Rising and A Time of War: The Impacts and Legacy for Modern Ireland, North and South'	City Hotel, Derry	12 th & 13 th October 2006	€400	Vincent P. Martin Hugh McElvaney Owen Bannigan David Maxwell Patrick McKenna
Cori Justice	18 th Annual Social Policy Conference	Tara Towers Hotel, Merrion Road, Dublin 4	17 th October 2006	€270	Vincent P. Martin
Combat Poverty Agency	Community Voices: Poverty and Policy – Annual Conference <i>Having Your Say Programme</i>	Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 3	17 th October 2006	€300	Gary Carville
Chambers Ireland – Chamber of the Year, County Carlow CHAMBER	Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) An opportunity to rejuvenate your Town or City?	Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co Carlow	20 th October 2006	€550	Benny Kieran Padraig McNally Owen Bannigan John Keenan Patrick McKenna
Roscommon County Council	Douglas Hyde Conference	St Nathy's College, Ballagherreen, Co Roscommon	20 th – 22 nd October 2006	€450	Vincent P. Martin John O'Brien Robbie Gallagher Seamus Coyle Padraig McNally Hugh McElvaney Owen Bannigan John Keenan Gary Carville
LAMA	L.A.M.A Winter Seminar	Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow, Co Wicklow	10 th & 11 th November 2006	€500	Jackie Crowe John O'Brien Robbie Gallagher Seamus Coyle Benny Kieran Padraig McNally Hugh McElvaney Heather Humphreys

					Gary Carville David Maxwell Patrick McKenna
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21. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

Cllr Maxwell informed the meeting that Killylough had become World Tug of War Champions for the second time and proposed that a civic reception be arranged for them.

The Mayor, said that the Council hosted an annual Awards Ceremony and all award winners during 2006 could be recognised at this event which would take place early in 2007.

Cllr Maxwell requested that there would be no departure from this precedent in future.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McKieran it was agreed that Cllr O'Brien be congratulated on the occasion of his recent engagement.

- David McGregor Jnr on his selection as Captain of the Ulster U-18 Rugby Team.
- Carrickmacross Emmetts G.F.C. on winning the Monaghan Intermediate football championship.
- Killylough Tug of War Team on winning the world championships.
- Castleblayney Hurling Club on winning Ulster Intermediate league final.
- Emyvale Ladies Football Team on finishing runners-up in the All-Ireland Seven a sides.
- Clones Ladies Football Team on winning the Intermediate Championships.

The Members agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to

- the family of the late Padraig Clerkin, former Museum Attendant.
- Padraig Sherry on the death of Annie Sherry.
- Paul Clarke on the death of his father Michael Clarke.

The vote of sympathy was passed in silence - all present standing.

The meeting then concluded.

