

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan on Monday 6th October, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr M. Carthy, Mayor

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

Mr. Declan Nelson, Co. Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. M. Fitzpatrick, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. D. Fallon and Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Mr Con McCrossan, Senior Engineer, Ms Rosemary McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. L. Brannigan, A/Staff Officer.

At the outset congratulations and good wishes were extended to Ms. Alison Mackle, Staff Officer, on her promotion and transfer to Castleblayney Town Council.

1. Minutes:

Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr Keenan seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September be amended as follows:

Item 5 – page 9 of the minutes – sentence commencing “It was agreed ...” should read as follows:

It was agreed that parts (i) and (iv) of the motion be agreed and that parts of (ii) and (iii) be referred to the Roads and Environment SPC for consideration.

The amendment was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st September 2008 be confirmed, subject to the amendment detailed above.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in relation to the Crowley Report into the death of Aidan McAnespie.
- Letter from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources in relation to Broadband.
- Email from Ms Kathy Sinnott, European Parliament together with letters to the European Commission and the Minister for Agriculture in relation to Farm Waste Management Scheme.
- Letter from Marian Harkin, M.E.P., (dated 15/09/08), in relation to FWMS, together with response received from Mariann Fischer Boel, Member of the European Commission.

- Letter from Marian Harkin, (dated 24/09/08), together with letter from Minister Brendan Smyth, T.D., Minister John Gormley, T.D., letter to Commissioner Fischer Boel and copy of Marian Harkin's speech in relation to FWMS.
- Letter from Brian Crowley, M.E.P., together with letter from Tina Svendstrup, (on behalf of European Commission), in relation to FWMS.
- Minutes of Meeting held on 15th September 2008 to discuss an application to An Bord Pleanala to construct Biomass Combined Heat & Power Plant and associated Ash Landfill at College Rd., Nobber Co. Meath, together with letter to Mr Kieran Somers, An Bord Pleanala in relation to same.
- Letter from William Coventry, Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment seeking submissions from interested parties in relation to 'Best Practice Guidelines for Farmers' Markets'.
- Letter from Carrick Aces Athletic Club in relation to South Monaghan Athletic Track & Playing Pitch development.
- Resolution from Ballybay Town Council in relation to the East West link road
- Resolution from Ballinasloe Town Council in relation to children travelling from Belarus to Ireland
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council in relation to Meals on Wheels
- Report from Eirgrid on the update on Eirgrid power line proposals for North East
- Letter from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources in relation to 440Kv Inter-Connector

Farm Waste Management Scheme:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that this Council calls on the Government and the E.U. Commission to be pro-active and innovative in ensuring that an extension is granted to farmers for the completion of works under the Farm Waste Management Scheme to 31 December, 2009. And that the Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture to apply to Brussels for a new state aided scheme and that this scheme be limited to applications that have already been approved by the Department as a one year period of time will suffice.

Resolution from Ballybay Town Council:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Ballybay Town Council calling on Monaghan County Council to make an immediate submission to the consultants carrying out a review of the 2001 Strategic Report of the development of an East West link road for the new Sligo-Dundalk route to run through Castleblayney, Ballybay and Clones. The Town Council further requests Monaghan County Council to enter into discussions with Fermanagh District Council and other interested local authorities to advance the development of this strategic route which would greatly benefit Ballybay and the mid-Monaghan area.

Farmers' Markets:

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council make a submission in relation to the proposed Best Practice Guidelines for Farmers Markets.

It was agreed that any Councillor who wished to do so would forward their submission to the Meetings Administrator by Friday 10th October, 2008.

Urgent Business:

The Mayor indicated that he had received a notice of Urgent Business, as follows:

Notice in the name of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr McElvaney - that in accordance with Standing Order 14.2 that the following motion be taken as Urgent Business.

“ That this Council write to Minister Ó Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding an application for Clar funding for €355,319 submitted by Monaghan County Council on behalf of the Drumgole Water Scheme and impress upon the Minister the urgency of this application and inform him that it is vital that Clar funding is forthcoming so that the Drumgole Water Scheme is not forced into ceasing work that will result in breaking contractual agreements and cause extremely serious financial difficulties for the Group Water Scheme. ”

It was unanimously agreed to deal with Urgent Business to discuss this motion.

In moving the motion Cllr Humphreys called on the members to support the call to Minister Ó Cuiv to ensure that Clar funding is made available so that the upgrading of the Drumgole GWS is completed without breaking contractual agreements and causing serious financial difficulties for the committee. Cllr McElvaney seconded the motion, which was agreed by the full Council.

3. Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme 2008:

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Housing gave a detailed presentation to the Members in relation to the Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme in which he outlined the allocation received and expenditure to date in 2008 for the various schemes. He advised the Members that both the Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People were over-subscribed and that allocations under these schemes are fully expended for 2008. Having regard to this he recommended the following course of action:

- Approve only “Priority 1” cases under the Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme
- Direct other applicants towards the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme
- Limit on the cost of works in place – review by Quantity Surveyor for 2009
- Review the operation of the scheme with DOEHLG and SPC
- Seek funding to permit completion of HSE programme.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to highlight the advantages of the scheme in keeping the elderly in their homes and also in re-energising the construction industry and to seek additional funding to enable the continued operation of the scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to request the local Oireachtas members to make contact with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that additional funding is made available for the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme.

4. Update on Cohesion process:

Mr. Adge King, Director of Services updated the Members in relation to the Cohesion Process. He indicated that substantial progress has now been made in advancing the cohesion process in the county. The basis of the agreement is the setting up of a single integrated company in each of the counties Cavan and Monaghan with each of these new companies agreeing to the setting up of a Joint Venture Structure with representation from both counties and which will have responsibility for the Rural Development Programme in both Cavan & Monaghan.

The first Directors (i.e. four members from each of the two organisations Cavan Monaghan Rural Development Co-op and County Monaghan Partnership have now met on a number of occasions. The company will be known as Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd. Membership of the new board which, must comprise representation from the various pillars, has been agreed for the following sectors – Community & Voluntary, Elected Members and National Social Partners. Cllrs Keenan, Crowe and Kieran have been nominated by the Council to the company.

5. To approve recommendations from Corporate Policy Group:

- (1) The Members noted the minute in relation to the new format of the Annual Budget Document.
- (2) The Members agreed with the CPG's recommendations in relation to budget committee (5th November) and Statutory Budget meeting (1st December at 10.00 a.m). The members also agreed with the Mayor's proposal to hold the December meeting at a south Monaghan location.
- (3) The Members noted the minute in relation to the correspondence from the Department of the Environment regarding payroll cuts and loan approval together with the Manager's report on these matters.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of the Environment requesting that they deal favourably with the provision of funding for the proposed Treatment Plant in Carrickmacross.

- (4) The Members noted the CPG minute in relation to correspondence received from Monaghan V.E.C. regarding the re-location of the outdoor education centre at Dartrey and the proposed Garage Theatre project.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism to ensure that the €2m allocation for the Garage Theatre is secure and to advise the Minister that Monaghan County Council is keen on progressing this project with the V.E.C.

Cllr Humphreys proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that Monaghan County Council pay €110,000 to the VEC to enable that body acquire a site for the re-location of the outdoor education centre at Dartrey.

The County Manager advised that he had given a letter of commitment to Mr. O'Brien, CEO in April 2008 which stated that in the event of the application from Monaghan VEC for funding from Failte Ireland and the Department of Education for the provision of the centre at Dartrey being successful, that the Council will provide funding in the sum of €10,000 to cover the land acquisition. Failte Ireland had confirmed that the letter of commitment was sufficient to allow the grant application to be considered.

The motion in the names of Cllr Humphreys and McElvaney was withdrawn following the Manager's report.

- (5) **Community Development Fund** – The Council agreed to approve the allocation of a grant of €700 to the Border Bowlers Group.
- (6) The Council approved the recommendation from the CPG in relation to the Council's non participation in a study visit to Brussels.
- (7) The Council approved the recommendation from the CPG in relation to the allocation of funding of €6,500 to the Community Network on the basis that it be a condition of the offer of support that the money be recouped to the Council when IFI funding is received by the Network.
- (8) **Development Contributions Scheme** – The Manager advised that, in relation to development contributions, the date on which a planning application is determined is the date which determines what level of contribution is levied. Every time a planning permission is granted the Manager or delegated Director has to sign a formal Manager's Order. The Manager's Orders after the 1st December would be subject to the new contribution scheme.

During a brief debate on this item, a number of members expressed the view that it was their belief that only applications submitted after 1st December, 2008 would be liable for the development contributions.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council seek legal advice on the effective date on which development contributions become due.

6. Establishment of Joint Policing Committees:

The Members considered letter dated 29th September 2008 from Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Corporate Affairs together with guidelines for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees which had been circulated with the agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed to proceed with the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee for County Monaghan.

It was agreed that the Council's representation on the Joint Policing Committee would be four from each political grouping on the Council plus Cllr Martin (a minimum of 2 members from each electoral area). The Mayor to be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

7. Proposed 440kv Eirgrid Interconnector:

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that this Council seeks a meeting with An Bord Pleanála to put on the record with them our total opposition to the over-grounding option of the North South Inter-Connector being pursued by Eirgrid and impress on them why the undergrounding of the power lines, for this important project, makes sense."

Following a vote by show of hands (4 for, 1 against) the Mayor ruled that the motion had been carried.

Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr Keenan seconded that this Council write to the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources seeking a meeting to put forward the strong case for undergrounding of the proposed 400kv Inter-Connector lines and that it is the view of the Council that the proposed PROJECT KELVIN, a joint telecoms link, funded by Interreg, which is to run underground from N.I. to Dublin via Co. Monaghan be used for the purposes of co-alignment of infrastructure, including the Interconnector and that this view also be communicated to D.E.T.I. in Northern Ireland as the lead agency for PROJECT KELVIN."

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed to write to Eirgrid seeking the report compiled by P B Power as referred to in letter (Ref CT716) from Eirgrid.

8. To receive presentation from the Blackwater Regional Partnership (timed for 11.30 a.m.)

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Catherine Fox, Blackwater Regional Partnership (BRP) to the meeting. He then invited Cllr Sean Conlon, as Chairperson of the Partnership to address the Council.

Cllr Conlon gave a very detailed presentation to the Council. He stated that the BRP is a cross border joint Partnership between Monaghan County Council, Armagh City & District Council & Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council. He highlighted the following projects and explained each in more detail. –

- **Blackwater TRACE** – Water Framework Directive Initiative (Interreg IIIA Measure 2.2) €2.2 m.
- **Blackwater Natural Resource Tourism** (Interreg IIIA Measure 1.1) €1.1m.
- **Human Resource Development & Re-skilling** (Interreg IIIa Measure 1.3) €235,000
- **Community Support Programme** (Interreg IIIA Measure 3.1) €267,000

Following the presentation the Mayor and Members complimented Cllr Conlon on his very informative presentation.

Cllr Conlon acknowledged the compliments from the Members and the contributions of his fellow members on the BRP, Cllrs Maxwell, P. McKenna and Kieran and those of the staff from the Community & Enterprise office.

9. To fix dates for the following meetings/functions

(i) Statutory Budget Meeting

It was agreed that the Statutory Budget meeting be held on Monday 1st December, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

(ii) Road Area meetings

Road Area meetings were agreed as follows:

North Monaghan – 13th October, 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

Clones – 20th October, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Carrickmacross – 21st October, 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

Castleblayney – 21st October, 2008 at 2.30 p.m.

(iii) Economic Development Committee meeting

It was agreed that a meeting of this Committee would be scheduled for either the 23/24th October, 2008.

(iv) Civic Reception for Mr. Pat Beagon, Corcaghan

Cllr McElvaney stated that he would propose a suitable date at the next Council meeting.

10. Report from meeting with HSE officials on 15th September (to follow)

This item was deferred to the November meeting.

11. To receive minutes of meetings:

The Members noted the minutes of the following meetings:

(a) Minutes of An Coiste Gaeilge meeting held on 9th June, 2008.

(b) Minutes of An Coiste Logainmneacha meeting held on 23rd July, 2008.

12. Reports from Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Martin, Coyle, McNally, O'Brien, Gallagher and McElvaney in respect of their attendance at the following conferences:

Humbert Summer School 2008, Ballina & Killala, Co. Mayo
Parnell Summer School, Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow
John Hewitt International Summer School, The Market Place Theatre, Armagh
Tourism & Technology, Portaferry, Co. Down
William Carleton Summer School, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
Housing in a Changing Climate, Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Co. Meath
Byrne-Perry Summer School, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Bridging the Gap, Radisson SAS Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

13. Matters arising out of Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1st September:

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 1st September, 2008 were responded to by the relevant Directors.

14. Business submitted by County Manager:

The Members considered report dated 6th October, 2008, circulated by David Fallon, Director of Services, in relation to lead occurrences in water supply samples. The Council was advised on 1st October by the testing laboratory, of historical drinking water analysis results which contained lead above the 2004 limit of 25 micrograms per litre (1,000 micrograms = 1 milligram) This was due to a review of check samples for aluminium, contamination, pH, colour and turbidity. The particular laboratory instrument records many other parameters including lead but these do not require to be tested or reported. The Council's staff advised the HSE and the EPA on Friday 2nd October of the exceedances for lead in drinking water. The HSE advised that households with lead service connections flush out their system by filling the kitchen sink from the cold water tap, following six hours of non-use. Where households propose to use natural mineral water for bottle feeding babies it should state clearly that it has a sodium content of less than 20mg per litre.

The ultimate solution is to replace these lead service connections which are partly public owned (up to the property boundary) and partly privately owned. The extent of the replacement programme is to be assessed by Monaghan County Council. The Water Services Investment Programme is funded by the DoEHLG and the Council will be in contact with the Department in the matter.

Mr. Fallon then responded to queries from the Members.

15. Questions:

Cllr Benny Kieran asked:

- (a) When will work commence to improve road safety at Skeagh Bridge?
REPLY: Works are due to commence in October on the road safety improvement measures on the N54 at Skeagh Bridge.
- (b) Has the ESB given a date to connect the power supply to the new street lighting in Rockcorry?
REPLY: The ESB has indicated that the new lights in Rockcorry will be operational before the end of October.

- (c) Would Monaghan County Council consider carrying out an assessment as to how traffic flow could be improved in Scotstown at the junction adjacent to McMahon's shop?

REPLY: *There are no plans to carry out an assessment of this junction in 2008. An assessment can be carried out in 2009 to determine what the perceived traffic flow issues are and whether or not they can be improved.*

- (d) Has Monaghan County Council made any more progress at securing site locations for bottle banks in (a) Newbliss (b) Smithboro and (c) Threemilehouse?

REPLY: *Under the North East Regional Management Plan 2005-2010 the objective is to provide 1 bring bank per 500 households in the county.*

From the 2006 CSO Census there are 18,655 households in Monaghan which requires to MCC having 37 Bring Banks in place by 2010. Since 2002 the number of bring sites in the county has increased significantly from 7 sites to 29 sites.

The overall aim is to provide bring banks in all the major towns and villages plus a number of the smaller hamlets. Unfortunately, it has proved difficult to provide sites in certain villages such as Threemilehouse, Smithboro, Newbliss, and Ballinode. A site was recently identified in Newbliss and it is currently under part 8 planning process. Subject to sites becoming available in the other villages we hope to provide bring banks as per the North East Regional Waste Management Plan.

Back in 2002 at the start of the bring bank roll-out, approx 150 tonnes of glass and aluminium cans were collected from the sites. By 2007 this had increased to 960 tonnes and as of June 2008, 527 tonnes of glass and cans have been collected to date. It is hoped that we will break the 1,000 tonnes milestone this year.

Cllr Pat McKenna asked:

- (e) Will Monaghan County Council carry out remedial work on newly constructed footpath at Town of Monaghan Co-Op on the Monaghan/Emyvale due to the fact that the kerb of the footpath is going out to a point on the road and is not visible to the motorist coming from Monaghan town?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council will re-align a small number of kerbs at this location before the end of November.*

- (f) Will Monaghan County Council request the N.R.A. to provide funding to carry out repairs to the N2 road at Tiernaneill, Emyvale as a matter of urgency, as there are a number of serious potholes and it is subsiding in places.

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council will be carrying out overlay on the corners of the N2 road at Tiernaneill (approx. 700m long) in the next few weeks. An application for funding of other improvements has been made in respect of 2009.*

Cllr Carville asked:

- (g) What progress is Monaghan County Council making in securing from the National Roads Authority the necessary funding for the repair of roads damaged by construction work on the Castleblayney By-Pass and for the repair of streets in

Castleblayney which were used by the NRA and the Government for many years as the National Route N2, specifically,

- (i) How much money has been secured?
- (ii) When will work commence on restoring the seriously damaged Knockagolis Road and the Cremartin to Annayalla (past the GAA Training & Development Centre at Cloghan) and the Priests' Road, all of which bore exceptional damage and all of which are arterial routes in the Mid-Monaghan area?

REPLY: Monaghan County Council has been informed by the NRA that €282,000 will be provided for the repair of local roads damaged by the scheme. Proposals will be brought to the next Castleblayney Road Area meeting for consideration by the Members.

- (h) Will the Council seek funding to provide for a pedestrian protection railing at Doohamlet from the National School to the junction of the Cremartin Road?

REPLY: There are no plans to provide a barrier at this location. However Monaghan County Council will examine the possibility of a barrier and examine the issues that may arise if located along this stretch of road. Accident statistics in this location will also be examined

- (i) What measures is the Council taking to secure and protect for future generations and for historians the records of the Council and those papers and collections entrusted to it, in compliance with national Archives legislation, and is it proposed to establish a permanent County Archives and to fill the vacancy in the post of County Archivist?

REPLY: It is proposed to progress the establishment of a Monaghan Local Authorities Archives Service whose objectives would include:

- **The identification of those archives which constitute a unique and valuable source of information;**
- **The permanent preservation of archives under optimum conditions which ensure that they are physically and morally protected;**
- **The promotion of the information contained in the archives in a variety of ways of the purpose of knowledge, research and legal protection, thus benefiting the organisations in which the archives originated, society and posterity;**
- **The management of current and non-current records for the purposes of organisational convenience and efficiency;**
- **The disposition of non-current records either by destruction or by preservation by an archive service.**

The archives service will be committed to achieving the following goals:

- **To fulfil the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1994**
- **To fulfil the objectives of Monaghan Local Authorities Archives Service (See above);**
- **To be pro-active in the acquisition of private archives (as time and resources permit) relating to the development of County Monaghan.**
- **It is proposed that suitable accommodation be found for the Archives Service to enable the retention, management, preservation and restoration of records in secure and suitable premises which would also facilitate public access to the archives.**
- **The archives are currently housed in the old Library Building in Clones. They have been processed, preserved, catalogued, coded and boxed.**

- *As part of the Monaghan County Library Development Plan 2005-2009 it is intended to commence the selective digitisation of key archive material in 2009.*
- *It is proposed to put a records management programme in place in Monaghan County Council under the direction of a qualified archivist.*
- *To fulfil Monaghan County Council's responsibilities under Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1994, it is proposed that, resources permitting, a County Archivist be appointed in 2009.*

(j) Does the Council have further plans for the building of new social houses in Oram?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council has contracted for 15 houses to be acquired under Part 5 in Oram. It is expected that 5 of the houses/apartments will be completed in 2008 and the balance will be delivered in 2009/2010.*

(k) What is the current position regarding the completion of a Business Case for the re-alignment of the Ballinacarry Bridge on the N53 and when will it be presented to the NRA for a decision on allocation of Infrastructure funding under Interreg IVa as a cross-border project, supported by the East Border Region Committee?

REPLY: *The matter has been discussed with the NRA and we have been informed that they are presently preparing a Business Case for this project to support their application for funding as a cross border project under Interreg IVa.*

Cllr O'Brien asked:

(l) What is the up to date position with regard to lighting at Carrickatee Chapel?

REPLY: *There are two lights currently at Carrickatee Chapel. The ESB has been notified to look at the lights to see if they are in need of repair or upgrading.*

(m) Can Monaghan County Council take measures to extend the footpath and public lighting out the Shercock Road out of Castleblayney (R181) to the Blackhill Community Centre and football field?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council does not have any plans to extend the footpath and public lighting to the Blackhill Centre. A cost estimate will be provided to the members at the next Road Area meeting for discussion, however the cost may be prohibitive.*

(n) What is the current position in relation to the ongoing foul smell in the Drumillard/Monaghan Road area of Castleblayney town?

REPLY: *Work is ongoing on this problem. Monaghan Council is working with a local industry in the area to alleviate the problem, which is caused by operational difficulties at a particular plant.*

(o) Could the Council provide an update on progress regarding the placement of a footpath in Conabury Hill?

REPLY: *The footpath itself has been completed. Some accommodation works are to be completed and it is hoped the work will be finished before the end of October.*

(p) Call on Monaghan County Council to look at the possibility to increase public lighting on Ballybay Main Street.

REPLY: *A public lighting design has been completed for the main street in Ballybay and ducting is underway for its provision. As soon as the ducting and substation is completed the lights will be erected.*

Cllr P Treanor asked:

- (q) What is the up-to-date position in relation to the N54, Clones to Monaghan road – realignment of dangerous corners, Clones By-Pass, and Smithborough By-Pass?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council has applied to the NRA for funding in 2009 for the N54. We have requested funding for an overlay at Thornhill and funding to carry out design work on the Clones Bypass, Monaghan Road Clones and the realignment of the N54 from Clones to Monaghan.*

- (r) What is the status of the East-West Link through mid-Monaghan? Did Monaghan Co County make a submission to the review process yet?

REPLY: *The Border Regional Authority at it's Meeting in May 2004 agreed that the Regional Transport Infrastructure map in the Regional Planning Guidelines should indicate the East West Link as being Dundalk-Carrickmacross-Shercock-Cootehill-Cavan-Enniskillen-Sligo as recommended by the consultants and as previously agreed by the Regional Authority.*

Cavan County Council has yet to appoint consultants for the review. However it is anticipated that Consultants could be appointed by the end of the month. A meeting of the Roads SPC needs to be arranged to prepare a submission in accordance with the motion passed at the June meeting of Monaghan County Council.

- (s) How can Monaghan County Council assist the Scotshouse community install a properly equipped children's Playground?

REPLY: *There is currently no funding available under the Peace Programme or the Clar Programme. If such funding becomes available, an application for funding could be considered.*

Cllr Crowe asked:

- (t) "Regarding the ongoing lobbying for the full re-alignment of the treacherous Ballinacarry Bridge and the many lives it has claimed and the unanimous backing of the ten member Councils of East Border Region."

(i) "Have Monaghan County Council raised this project with the Department of Transport and National Roads Authority in regards to the forthcoming funds under the Infrastructure Measure of Interreg IVA.

(ii) "If not will Monaghan County Council call on the Minister for Transport and the National Roads Authority to have the project prioritized for the funds available under the EU Infrastructure Measure of Interreg IV A and also write to Pat Colgan SEUPB stating their support for this truly worthy cross border project.

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council has no record of any fatality on the southern side at this location since 1996. The matter has been discussed with the NRA and we have been informed that they are presently preparing a Business Case for this project to support their application for funding as a cross border project under Interreg IVa.*

Cllr Crowe asked:

(u) "Monaghan County Council have proposed to install gates and fencing to all Council properties on the Ard na Lorgan estate in Castleblayney."

(i) " When is the proposed works scheduled to start and will affordable homes on the estate be included".

REPLY: *The Council is currently seeking quotations to assess the cost of the works requested. A decision will be made on receipt of same.*

(v) "The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has made funding available to Local Authorities to purchase smoke alarms for 500 homes in 2007 - 2008. Each home will receive two 10 year, self contained, battery operated, smoke alarms."

(i) " What plans have Monaghan County Council in place to roll out this scheme and does it include private homes".

REPLY: *The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government made €10,000 available to Monaghan County Council to roll out Phase II of the above scheme. With this funding we were able to purchase 828 10-year, self contained, battery operated smoke alarms.*

The project was promoted through The Community Forum and its associated groups and networks. We also advised individuals of the scheme through the Monaghan County Council website and notified Council Staff and Elected Representatives. Alarms were also distributed through the Public Health Nurses and Age Action Ireland. It was felt that these groups were best placed to identify vulnerable households and to fit the alarms on behalf of the residents.

This scheme has now been fully rolled out. All 828 alarms have been distributed and we are currently awaiting the return of the evaluation forms. 2 Smoke Alarms were fitted in each vulnerable home identified. This scheme did not apply to Local Authority Housing.

(w) "Now that the Country is in recession and house prices are falling dramatically."

(i) "Will Monaghan County Council reflect the situation of house prices falling and afford purchasers under the Tenant Purchase Scheme to avail of the situation and buy their homes at the current competitive market prices.

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council will comply with the terms of the Tenant Purchase Scheme and offer houses for sale at current market valuations.*

(x) " Regarding the refusal from the Department of Transport and the NRA to meet Castleblayney Town Council in relation to funding for repairs to roads in the area damaged and left in a dreadful state as a result of the construction of the by pass and the deaths and injuries inflicted when the N2 ran through the heart of the town."

Cllr Crowe asked:

(i) "Will Monaghan County Council seek an urgent meeting with the NRA to demand immediate funding for damaged roads in Castleblayney and also consult with Castleblayney Town Council on the issues involved".

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council has been informed by the NRA that €282,000 will be provided for the repair of local roads damaged by the scheme. Proposals will be brought to the next Castleblayney Road Area meeting for consideration by the Members.*

Cllr P McNally asked:

(y) When does Monaghan County Council hope to be in a position to erect additional public lighting at Lisdoonan Village?

REPLY: *The ESB has provided the Council with design requirements for the provision of three lights. Some clarification is needed as regards the type and style of lights to be erected. Once this is complete the Council will undertake the civil works and instruct the ESB to erect and connect lights.*

(z) Have Monaghan County Council got any more information back from either Louth County Council or the Department of the Environment regarding the red bog section of the Carrickmacross / Dundalk Road and the need for a detour via Inniskeen?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council understands that Louth County Council has received approval to proceed with the project. Staff from the two Councils are to meet this week to discuss the matter.*

(z1) Could this Council make contact with Louth County Council regarding the possibility of us declaring Killanny a village settlement in conjunction with Louth County Council?

REPLY: *Killanny is currently considered to be an undesignated Tier 6 settlement in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 – 2013. It is not recognised as a village in the Louth County Development Plan.*

Louth County Council is currently reviewing their development plan. Their planning section has advised that a formal submission can be made to this review and that it will be considered in the preparation of their settlement strategy.

Cllr Conlon asked:

(z2) With a view to improving the effectiveness of speed reduction/traffic calming signage on approach roads to towns/villages, will the Roads Section agree to installing any other statutory signage at least one kilometre from speed reduction signage?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council erect speed limit/traffic calming signage in accordance with the statutory requirements. The introduction of additional signage may cause confusion.*

Cllr Conlon asked:

- (z3) What assurances can be given that the quality of water carried through the Local Authority water supply infrastructure throughout the county is within the upper limit of 25 micrograms lead content per litre and what system exists for testing. Is there a log of such tests indicating dates and locations?

REPLY: *In accordance with the current Drinking Water Regulations [SI 278 of 2007], all Public (and private GWS also) Drinking Water Supplies are sampled and tested for a range of parameters, including lead, on a regular basis. The frequency of the testing is dependent upon the volume of water distributed or produced in a water supply zone.*

Samples from each scheme are taken by an Environmental Health Officer. The samples are sent for analysis and reporting by an approved independent laboratory. There are two types of samples – Check Samples that include a small number of parameters and Audit Samples that include a large number of parameters. Check samples are taken more frequently and Audit samples are taken less frequently. It is the Audit Sample that includes the lead parameter.

The sampling program, detailing each scheme in the county, and the planned sampling frequency, is prepared at the start of each year and sent to the EPA in Dublin for their consideration. The results of this sampling are compiled and returned to the EPA at the end of each year and are used by the EPA to compile the Annual Drinking Water Report.

Records exist for all water quality testing carried out on behalf of MCC and these test results detail the date taken and location of the sample. During 2007 and to date in 2008 there have been no exceedances of the 25 microgram per litre limit for the lead parameter from any of the audit samples analysed.

A review of historical data for check samples has indicated a problem with approximately 10 out of 1100 samples. These exceedances are due to lead service connections and were reported to the HSE and the EPA on 2nd October following the alert from the EPA testing laboratory on 1st October 2008.

- (z4) Due to the limit of 25 mgs per litre being reduced to 10 mgs by 2013, will there be a need for remedial/replacement works of existing infrastructure to meet these new requirements?

REPLY: *There is no lead pipework used in the mains distribution of public water in County Monaghan but many service connections and internal house plumbing may be lead pipework.*

It is possible that remedial works will be needed to achieve the proposed level of 10 micrograms per litre for the lead parameter in 2013. It is most likely that these works will relate to the replacement on lead service pipework. While a portion of the service pipework falls under the responsibility of the local authority – the portion from the water main to the boundary of the private property – the bulk of this pipework lies within the confines of private property.

- (z5) Due to traffic and pedestrian safety issues presenting after closing hours alongside the Bus Eireann depot, North Rd. in Monaghan, will the Council Executive write to Bus Eireann asking them to install a bus shelter to accommodate their passengers?

REPLY: *Monaghan County Council will contact Bus Eireann in relation to the installation of a bus shelter at North Road, Monaghan.*

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

- (z6) When will the consultants appointed to progress the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme be ready to make their recommendations and the review of the previously selected route from Monaghan to Emyvale?

REPLY: *Consultants have not yet been appointed for this scheme. However it is hoped to do so within the next month. A timescale for their recommendation and the review of the previously selected route from Monaghan to Emyvale is not yet available.*

- (z7) Who is currently responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the Monaghan Bypass and what plans are there for the planting, appearance and upkeep of the roundabouts?

REPLY: *The ongoing overall maintenance of this scheme is now the responsibility of Monaghan County Council. However the landscaping contractor is still responsible for grass cutting on this scheme until Sept 2009 and the maintenance of plants and shrubs until Sept 2010.*

Cllr. Brian McKenna asked:

- (z8) Following on from the very well attended "Information" evening in Emyvale recently in relation to the parking proposals, when is it expected that the final proposal will be completed, taking into account the many worthwhile suggestions that have come forward.

REPLY: *It is hoped that most of the work will be carried out this year. This will include new pedestrian push button lights, marking out of on-street car parking spaces and pedestrian ramp at Glaslough Road junction.*

Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- (z9) What plans have Monaghan County Council to upgrade the Blackstaff road at Inniskeen (LP832), and in particular, will the Council upgrade some of the most dangerous junctions on this roadway such as Magoney and Blackstaff Cross. Magoney Cross is nothing short of a death trap, which has an accident history that is compounded by the increase in traffic volumes in recent times.

REPLY: *This road will be brought forward to the Road Area meeting for consideration as part of next years roads programme*

- (z10) When will Monaghan County Council resurface the access road in Deery Terrace, and complete the resurfacing of the access road to Dunard estate in Inniskeen Village. There was an expectation that this much needed work would have been completed before now.

REPLY: *This road will be brought forward to the Road Area meeting for consideration as part of next years roads programme*

- (z11) Will the Council examine the possibility of putting in place a pedestrian crossing adjacent to Highfield Estate in Carrickmacross, in order to serve the people of that estate and surrounding area, as there is no safe place to cross this busy route, which is a link road to the town centre, and other retail outlets and housing developments in that area.

REPLY: *The Council can investigate the provision of a pedestrian crossing in this vicinity, with a view to apply for funding for it.*

Cllr Noel Keelan asked:

- (z12) What plans have the Council to resurface the roadway from Highfield Estate to the Kingscourt Road junction which is in a poor state of repair & also will the Council resurface the Ballybay road, when works are completed on the laying of a new sewage line. It is important that all our approach roads to the town of Carrickmacross are maintained to a high standard.

REPLY: *The Council have no plans to resurface this section of road until after work on the Carrickmacross Sewerage Improvement Scheme is completed on this road.*

Cllr. Matt Carthy asked:

- (z13) Is the Council satisfied that public water is not being facilitated by lead or asbestos piping anywhere in County Monaghan?

REPLY: *The distribution of drinking water through the various networks throughout the county is conveyed through a variety of pipe materials including ductile iron, cast iron, asbestos, uPVC, MDPE and HDPE. There are no known lead distribution mains in the county. There is approximately 62 Km of asbestos network piping in the county and this equates to 12% of the total network. There is no known health risks to consumers associated with the distribution of drinking water through asbestos pipework.*

The connections from the distribution mains into the various properties in the county are known as service connections and can be made from either lead, copper and PVC. There has not been a survey done of the extent of the various material types of service connection pipework – a significant amount of this exists on private property. It is generally accepted that properties constructed after 1972 will have either copper or PVC service and internal plumbing pipework. Properties constructed prior to 1972 may have lead service connections in addition to internal plumbing.

- (z14) When is it expected that fencing will be erected around the perimeter of the Convent Lands adjacent to Farney Street in Carrickmacross in order to improve safety and security of properties in the area?

REPLY: *This portion of the Convent Lands abutting properties to the rear of Farney Street is owned by Carrickmacross Town Council.*

- (z15) How many individuals and families are currently on social and/ or affordable housing waiting lists in County Monaghan? Will the Council outline the current plans to provide social and/ or affordable housing (by electoral area) in County Monaghan? Have housing plans been affected by government direction in recent weeks/ months?

COUNTY HOUSING NEED at 13/6/08										
AREAS OF CHOICE	5 Bed	4Bed	3Bed	2Bed	2Bed OPD	1 Bed (SU55)	Intellect. disability	Physical Disability	TOTAL	2008/2009 Prog.
ANNAYALLA	0	0	1	4	1	2	0	0	8	2
BALLINODE	0	1	2	3	3	3	0	0	12	0
BALLYBAY	0	0	3	4	9	7	0	0	23	4
BAWN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

COUNTY HOUSING NEED at 13/6/08										
BROOMFIELD	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
CARRICKROE	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4	8
CLARA	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
CLONTIBRET	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	7	0
CONNONS	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	5	0
DEMOUNTABLE	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	3
DOOHAMLET	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	6	0
DRUM	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0
EMYVALE	0	1	3	7	2	6	0	0	19	0
FARM HOME	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
GLASLOUGH	0	2	0	6	2	0	0	0	10	9
INNISKEEN	0	0	1	5	1	1	0	0	8	0
KNOCKATALLON	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
LATTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LISDOONAN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
MAGHERACLOONE	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
NEWBLISS	0	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	7	0
ORAM	0	0	3	4	1	3	0	0	11	0
ROCKCORRY	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4	4
SCOTSHOUSE	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	5	0
SCOTSTOWN	0	0	0	4	4	2	0	0	10	1
SMITHBORO	0	1	2	2	1	4	0	0	10	6
THREEMILEHOUSE	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	0
TYDAVNET	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	0
TYHOLLAND	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	6	0
TOTAL	1	10	23	58	46	46	0	0	184	38
Carrickmacross Town	2	4	36	73	8	30	18	6	177	20
Castleblayney Town	3	4	14	48	7	29	12	0	117	13
Clones Town	1	3	8	21	8	24	9	0	74	29
Monaghan Town	0	9	59	59	23	78	31	2	261	97
TOTAL	6	20	117	201	46	161	70	8	629	159
Overall Total	7	30	140	259	92	207	70	8	813	197

No. Details of the funding allocation for the next housing construction programme is expected to issue in early 2009.

Cllr D Maxwell asked:

(z16) With the recent drainage works on the N2 Monaghan to Castleshane road what is the time frame for the overlay of bitumen on same.

Reply: *Work on the overlay will start early in November 2008.*

Cllr D Maxwell asked:

(z17) Following on from the recent public meeting in Emyvale about on street parking and pedestrian safety what is the time frame for any works to take place.

REPLY: *It is hoped that that most of the work will be carried out this year. This will include new pedestrian push button lights, marking out of on-street car parking spaces and pedestrian ramp at Glaslough Road junction.*

(z18) Does Monaghan County Council have any plans to put public lighting on the road from Ballyalbany church to the road junction on the Monaghan Emyvale Road at the seminary school and from the same church to Milltown on the Blackwater vale road in the interest of pedestrian safety.

REPLY: *The Council will liaise with the ESB to prepare a cost estimate for these works. The proposal will be brought forward for consideration at the Roads Area Meeting.*

(z19) With the recent An Bord Pleanála decision regarding the scenic walk around Emy Lough will Monaghan County Council now be in a position to offer any grant aid to this project.

REPLY: *There are a few possible funding opportunities for this type of tourism infrastructure development. These are as follows:*

- *Failte Ireland – NDP Programme – Looped Walks*
- *Interreg IVA*
- *LEADER Programme*

Failte Ireland

The applications for 2008 were submitted in March and 2 projects from Monaghan have received funding. However, there is no indication from Failte Ireland yet as to what monies, if any, will be available for similar developments in 2009.

Interreg IVA

Monaghan County Council sought funding for walks development in the submissions to both ICBAN and East Border Region Interreg. We have been informed that the ICBAN Walks proposal has been unsuccessful and will know in November what monies will be available under East Border Region for these types of developments.

LEADER

Cavan-Monaghan Rural Development has applied to deliver the LEADER Programme in Monaghan. Their application includes the following measures: provision of infrastructural need for tourism, including paths for walking, cycling etc and the development of infrastructure to facilitate tourist activity. If this CMRD application is successful, the local Community Group would have to apply to them directly for funding.

16. Notices of Motion:

(a) Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Humphreys seconded, and it was resolved,

“Following the Members unanimous decision at the budget meeting held on Monday 17th December 2007 to provide a Civic Amenity Centre for Clones Town, that this Council immediately identifies a site and seeks funding from the Department of Environment and Local Government in order to put this much needed project in place”.

(b) Cllr Humphreys proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded, and it was resolved,

“That this Council write to the Minister for Communications & Natural Resources, Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D., requesting that he take immediate action to address the lack of broadband in rural areas in County Monaghan”

(c) Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded, and it was resolved,

“That this Council calls on the Minister of the Environment, Mr. John Gormley, T.D., to immediately reverse his and the Department’s decision to link planning with the Clár areas, as this is totally inequitable and unfair.”

In moving the motion, Cllr McNally proposed that the Council seek a meeting with Minister Gormley to discuss the seriousness of this matter. Cllr Carthy seconded the proposal which was agreed by the Council.

Cllr McNally requested that in advance of such a meeting with Minister Gormley that the Council’s Planners would collate some documentary evidence to highlight the inequalities which exist in areas of the county, such as Magheracloone and Donaghmoynne to name two such areas, that are suffering as a result of the Minister’s directive which limits planning permission in certain “non Clar” areas.

17. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

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

- Tommy Maguire, a member of the County Development Board, on the death of his father, Pat Maguire.
- Matt Prunty, on the death of his brother, Owen Prunty.

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

- Ballybay GFC on winning the Intermediate Championship on 5th October, 2008.
- Monaghan United Ladies soccer team on winning the Intermediate Cup Final.
- Ballybay Pearse Bros GFC on winning the Monaghan Intermediate Football Championship.

- Castleblayney Hurling Club on winning the Monaghan Senior Hurling Championship and the 5 in a row. Best wishes in the Ulster Intermediate Hurling Championship.
- Bernard O'Brien on his selection to the Ulster Railway Cup Campaign.
- Monaghan Harps Hurling club on winning the Monaghan Hurling Shield.
- Monaghan Ladies County Senior football team on reaching the All-Ireland Senior Final.

Visit by An Tanaiste to Monaghan Town:

It was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with Ms. Mary Coughlan, Tanaiste during her visit to Monaghan Town on Friday 17th October, 2008, to highlight the current situation at Monaghan General Hospital.

18. 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	Cost	Members
TJK CONFERENCES LTD	Freedom of Information seminar for councillors	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick	10 th & 11 th October	€95	Padraig McNally John O'Brien David Maxwell Pat McKenna Hugh McElvaney
Third Sector Forum	Local Authority Financing A crisis brewing, the challenge for Councillors	Killarney Plaza Hotel, Kenmare Place, Co. Kerry	16 th – 18 th October	€107	Seamus Coyle Robbie Gallagher Hugh McElvaney Gary Carville Owen Bannigan Jackie Crowe
Dublin City Council	Climate Change – The Way Forward for L.A.	Croke Park Dublin	16 th October	€65	Noel Keelan David Maxwell Benny Kieran
Roscommon County Council	Douglas Hyde Conference	Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon	17 th – 19 th October	€54	Vincent P. Martin Pat Treanor
Association of Irish Regions	11 th Annual conference	Inchydoney Island Lodge, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	17 th October	€81	Sean Conlon Benny Kieran John O'Brien David Maxwell H. Humphreys
Fingal County Council	Green Infrastructure Connecting nature, People & Places	Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin	4 th & 5 th November	€35	John Keenan H. Humphreys Owen Bannigan Padraig McNally Robbie Gallagher Noel Keelan

18. Conferences (contd):

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Cost	Members
Ulster Local History fund (Trustee)	Across the narrow sea; Plantations in Ulster	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	7 th – 8 th November	€25	Gary Carville Benny Kieran Sean Conlon Brian McKenna Pat Treanor Noel Keelan Matt Carthy Jackie Crowe
Chambers Ireland - Co. Carlow Chamber	5th National Conference on Local Government Financing	Mount Wolseley Hilton Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow	7th November	€182	John Keenan Pat McKenna Owen Bannigan Robbie Gallagher Seamus Coyle V. P. Martin Brian McKenna
Esperanza Enterprises	Irish Language for Councillors	Connemara Coast Hotel, Furbo, Co. Galway	26 th -29 th October	€1,048	Matt Carthy Seamus Coyle Padraig McNally Pat McKenna Gary Carville
Institute of Public Administration	CPO Seminar – Implications for L.A.	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore	21 st October, 2008	€175	Hugh McElvaney H. Humphreys Owen Bannigan

Signed: _____

Meara

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____