

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 6th September, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs. Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Humphreys, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. McKenna, S. McKenna, McNally, Murray, O'Brien, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. D. Nelson, County Manager, Mr. D. Fallon and Mr. P. Clifford, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. R. Manus, SEO Housing and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th July, 2010, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated to the Members:

- Letter from Co. Monaghan GAA Coaching Committee seeking to make presentation to the Council at a future meeting.
- Letter from Co. Monaghan ICA in relation the organisation celebrating its Centenary this year.
- Letter from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce thanking the Council for the opportunity to address it at the July meeting.
- Letter from Peadar Morgan, inviting the Council to hold a meeting at the Wildlife and Heritage Centre at Listinny, Monaghan.
- Letter from Monaghan Community Forum in relation to 'Active Citizenship Week' from 27th September to 1st October 2010.
- Letter from Muintir na Tire informing the Council of the 25th Anniversary of the formation of Community Alert Groups throughout Ireland.
- Letter from Rev Shane McCaughey thanking the Mayor for his participation at the ordination ceremony of Bishop Liam MacDaid, Bishop of Clogher.
- Letter from the Office of An Taoiseach in relation to a resolution from the Council regarding the Eirgrid planning application for the Interconnector.
- Letter from An Bord Pleanala regarding the Eirgrid planning application for the north/south interconnector.
- Letter from Deputy Ó Caolain confirming support for the undergrounding of the proposed 400kv north/south interconnector.
- Letter of acknowledgement from Mr. Eamon Gilmore, T.D., Labour Party, in relation to a resolution from the Council regarding the Eirgrid planning application for the Interconnector.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of the Minister for the Environment in relation to a resolution from the Council regarding the Eirgrid planning application for the Interconnector.

- Letter of acknowledgement from the Chief Executive of Eirgrid in relation to a resolution from the Council regarding the Eirgrid planning application for the Interconnector.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the office of the Minister for the Communications in relation to a resolution from the Council regarding the Eirgrid planning application for the Interconnector.
- Letter from the Reception and Integration Agency refusing the Council's request for permission to visit the St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre.
- Letter from the Joint Committee on Health and Children regarding the Council's request for permission to visit the St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre.
- Letters from the Minister for Transport and the National Roads Authority in relation to Ballinacarry Bridge improvement scheme.
- Letter from the private secretary to Conor Murphy, Minister for Regional Development, N.I., in relation to Ballinacarry Bridge improvement scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to Council resolution regarding Student Services charge.
- Letter from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to Council resolution regarding the collection of enrolment data from third level institutions in Ireland.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for the Environment regarding the discarding of litter on Co. Monaghan roads.
- Letters of acknowledgement from the Offices of the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Communications regarding the provision of a cycle path on the proposed N2 Clontibret to the Border road scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for the Environment regarding the Council's resolution in connection with the RISE campaign.
- Letter from the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the reduction of Special Needs Assistants in primary schools.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in relation to Council resolution regarding the incident aboard the Free Gaza Flotilla.
- Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Services in relation to approval for construction of 22 houses at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health and Children in relation to the publication of the 2007 report on Electric and Magnetic Fields.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health and Children in relation to the centralisation of medical card processing.
- Letter from the Minister for Health and Children in relation to the removal of a rapid recovery ambulance vehicle from Monaghan General Hospital and advising that the responsibility for delivery of health services rests with the Health Service Executive.
- Letter from the National Ambulance Service in relation to the relocation of a rapid recovery ambulance based at Monaghan Hospital to Castleblayney.
- Letters of thanks from Bishop Liam MacDaid and retired Bishop Joseph Duffy for the Council's good wishes on their respective appointment/ retirement.

- Notice of Motion from Cork County Council calling on the Government to apologise for the abuse inflicted on women and young girls in the Magdalene Laundries.
- Email from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce extending an invitation to representatives from the Council to attend the 'Monaghan 2015 Forum' which is being held on 15th October, 2010 in Monaghan town.
- Press release in relation to alcohol awareness initiative undertaken by Comhairle na nOg in conjunction with Monaghan Town JPC

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council record a vote of thanks to the I.C.A. for their contribution to Co. Monaghan and its people over the last 100 years.

Cllr Murray proposed that a Civic Reception be held in honour of Muintir na Tire Community Alert Crime prevention programme which has been in operation for 25 years. In seconding this motion, Cllr S. McKenna proposed that the I.C.A. would be also be honoured with a Civic Reception.

It was agreed that a joint Civic Reception in honour of both Muintir na Tire and the I.C.A. would be held during the month of October.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the CEO of the Health Service Executive outlining the impact that the removal of the rapid response vehicle from Monaghan Town will have on the people of Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Health and Children stating that it is not happy that the Minister is removing herself from the responsibility for health services in the county.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council receive a presentation from County Monaghan GAA Coaching Committee at the October Council meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr O'Brien it was agreed that the Council explore the possibility of holding a Council/committee meeting at the Clontibret Wildlife Centre.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council be represented at the 'Monaghan 2015 Forum' in the Four Seasons Hotel on the 15 October, 2010.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that following the presentation by Monaghan Chamber of Commerce at the July meeting that the Council would meet with the Chamber twice yearly.

Following a suggestion by the Mayor that all Chambers in the county be invited to these meetings, it was agreed that the Corporate Policy Group would meet with the various Chambers of Commerce in the county on behalf of the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Waterways Ireland be invited to a future meeting of the Council to update the Council on progress to date in relation to the Ulster Canal project.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation Mr. Batt O’Keeffe T.D., to discuss job creation in Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council write to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, requesting that Carrickmacross and other towns in the county be included in the Project Kelvin initiative.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform commending his action in refusing the Israeli Government access to security information relating to Irish citizens.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that Cllr McElvaney be congratulated on his year as Chair of the HSE Dublin and North East Forum.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with the National Roads Authority in relation to Ballinacarry Bridge improvement scheme and that the Oireachtas Members be requested to raise the matter at Government level.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council condemn the recent assault in St. Patrick’s Accommodation Centre which resulted in a court action.

3. To consider Section 183 notices, as follows:

(i) Approval to sub-lease of 7.5 square metres at Corrybrennan, Ballybay by Monaghan VEC to Electricity Supply Board

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr O’Brien, it was agreed that the Council approve the sub-letting of 7.5 square metres of land at Corrybrennan, Ballybay by Co. Monaghan Vocational Education Committee to the ESB Networks, Dublin, in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 20th August, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

3. To consider Section 183 notices, as follows:

(ii) Disposal of 0.059 acres of land at Magheross, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.059 acres of land (3 access points) at Magheross, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross to McEaney Development Ltd. Dundalk, Co. Louth in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 20th August, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(iii) Disposal of property – 25 year lease – St. Patrick’s Church, Donaghmoyne, Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that the Council approve the sub-letting of St. Patrick’s Church, Donaghmoyne to Donaghmoyne Heritage Group for a period of 25 years in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 18th August, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(iv) Disposal of 0.243 acres of land at Crossmoyle, Clones

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.243 acres of land in the townland of Crossmoyle, Clones, Co. Monaghan, to Clones Town Council in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 20th August, 2010 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

4. To receive Financial Report for year to 31st July, 2010

The Members noted the report from the Head of Finance which outlined the Council’s financial position at 31st July, 2010. The Members welcomed the format and content of the report.

Cllr O’Brien queried the decision made, during the preparation of the budget for 2010, not to allocate funding to the Ballybay Wetlands Centre.

Cllr O’Brien proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded that the Council contribute €25,000 to Ballybay Wetlands in 2010 and €25,000 in 2011 in accordance with decision taken by the Council in 2007.

The County Manager indicated that a decision had been taken at the preparation of the 2010 Budget to exclude provision for the payment of contributions to various groups as the money was not available to the Council at that time - the Ballybay Wetlands was one such group. He stated that he would examine expenditure across the various divisions to see if funding is available so that a contribution can be made to the Ballybay Wetlands project in 2010 and that he would advise the

Council at the October meeting. He further stated that in advance of any payment that might be made to the group a detailed statement on the Ballybay Wetlands Project should be submitted.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that where grant assistance is being provided by the Council outside of the Community Development Fund that full financial details of the beneficiary is submitted to the Council in advance of any payment being made.

5. To approve borrowing of €243,270.00 from the Housing Finance Agency - Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme

The Members considered the report from Mr. Adge King, Director of Services Housing recommending the raising of a loan of €243,270.00 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of funding the Capital Loan & Subsidy Scheme element of the Voluntary Housing project at Convent Lands, Carrickmacross.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that in accordance with the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 and Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, we, the members of Monaghan County Council hereby authorise the raising of a loan in the sum of €243,270.00 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of funding the Capital Loan & Subsidy Scheme element of the Voluntary Housing project at Convent Lands, Carrickmacross.

6. Water Services Investment Programme:

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Water Services referred to the Report which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The report outlined the following –

- achievements under the previous programme,
- the needs assessment 2009;
- details of contracts at construction stage
 - Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme (Contract 2 network) and
 - Water Conservation Scheme Stages 1 and 2 works
- details of contracts to start –
 - Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme (Contract 3),
 - Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme (Water treatment plant)
 - Castleblayney Sewerage Scheme Phase 1
 - Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme
 - Monaghan Town Sewerage Scheme
 - Water Conservation Stage 3 Works (contract 1)
- together with schemes at planning stage
 - Water Conservation Stage 3 Works

- 7. Part VIII Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001**
- To consider granting permission for the realignment of N2 Emyvale Road from Kilnadreen to Tirraneill and associated stream diversion

Ref 10/8006 - permission for realignment of the existing N2 road for a distance of 1520 metres starting at Kilnadreen crossroads – works to include road drainage, a stream diversion for a distance of 200 metres and all ancillary works. The proposed road cross section is a single carriageway 7.0 metres wide, plus 2 no. hard shoulders giving an overall pavement width of 8.0 metres. The realignment of the N2 National Primary Road through the townlands of Kilnadreen, Derrynagrew, Coolkill East and Tirraneill.

Ms. T. Gourley, Senior Planner referred to the report of the Director of Planning Services dated 2 September 2010 which had been circulated to the Members. The report recommended that the Council proceed with the development in accordance with the plans and documentation submitted on 24th June, 20th, 25th, 26th and 31st August, 2010 and the conditions specified in the report.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon it was agreed to approve the proposed development as per Director's report dated 2 September, 2010"

- 8. To fix dates for Road Area Meetings**

The following dates were agreed for Road Area meetings –

Carrickmacross Area	24 September, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.
Castleblayney Area	24 September, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.
Clones Area	22 September, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.
North Monaghan Area	20 September, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

- 9. To elect one representative to the Social Inclusion Steering Committee**

It was agreed that Cllr Brian McKenna be nominated as the Council's representative to the Social Inclusion Steering Committee.

- 10. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences (attached).**

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Bannigan, Carthy, Carville, Connolly, Coyle, Gallagher, Humphreys, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McNally, Murray and O'Brien in relation to their attendance at the following conferences.

- Tipperary Peace Convention, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary
- Promoting Growth & Jobs in the Region, Cavan.
- The Integration of Joint Policing Committees, Roscarberry, Co. Cork
- Being Positive in a Negative Climate, Westport, Co. Mayo

- The Law of Defamation Conference, Limerick
- Social Networking for Councillors, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
- A Taste for Tourism, Portaferry, Co. Antrim
- Business Improvement Development Conference, Dundalk, Co. Louth
- Byrne Perry Summer School, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
- John Hewitt Summer School, Armagh, Co. Armagh
- Magill Summer School, Glenties, Co. Donegal
- William Carleton Summer School, Clogher, Co. Tyrone.
- Humbert Summer School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

11. Business submitted by County Manager.

The County Manager advised the Council that, he would be resigning from the position of County Manager when his contract expires later this year. His last day in office will be Friday 5th November, 2010.

The Members agreed to refrain from paying formal tributes to the County Manager until the November Council meeting.

Lough Muckno update:

The County Manager updated the Members in relation to the current position regarding Lough Muckno. He stated that the date for appeal proceedings against the Circuit Court decision had been fixed for 11th October, 2010. The sub-Committee had met with the Golf Club on 19th July and a further meeting scheduled for 30th August was postponed at the request of the club. It was agreed that this meeting would be re-scheduled for Monday 13th September at 4.30 p.m.

Regarding the two gate lodges at the entrance to Lough Muckno, he stated that the Council has engaged the National Building Agency to prepare a feasibility study on these buildings.

Gate fee at Recycling Centre:

Cllr Conlon queried the gate fee of €2 per vehicle which has been imposed at the recycling centre. He proposed that the fee be removed as it would be a disincentive to recycling and would be a retrograde step. A number of members supported Cllr Conlon's proposal.

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Services states that it was operator who charged the gate fee. It was part of the subvention towards the running costs of the facility. If the Council were not going to permit the operator charge €2 then this funding would have to be provided by the Council and that ratepayers would be subsidising the recycling centres.

The County Manager advised that the contract for the Scotch Corner facility would expire at the end of December and the Council would have to consider whether or not to include the running of the landfill in the new contract. Recycling had been so successful that intake at the landfill had dramatically

reduced. He stated that he would bring a report on this matter to the Members at a future meeting.

12. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meeting held on 5th July, 2010.

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th July, 2010 were responded to by the relevant officials.

In response to a query from Cllr Conlon Mr. D. Fallon stated that the closing date for receipt of submissions from members of the public in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border road scheme has been extended to the 30th September, 2010. Mr. Fallon welcomed the level of public engagement in the consultation process to date.

13. Proposed Eirgrid Interconnector

Cllr Bannigan stated that he was disappointed with the response of the Taoiseach, Minister Gormley and the leaders of the main political parties to the Councils request for meetings regarding the Eirgrid issue.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that the Council seek a meeting with An Taoiseach Brian Cowen to discuss the Eirgrid Planning application for the North South Interconnector and the deep concerns existing within County Monaghan regarding the implications of over-grounding the project using pylons.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan seconded by Cllr Murray it was agreed that in light of the decision of Minister Poots to order a public enquiry into the pylons and high density power line in Northern Ireland and the very real possibility that it will be at least seven years before this enquiry takes place, this Council calls on the Government, Eirgrid and An Bord Pleanala to suspend any further action on a new planning application for the North South Interconnector.

14. To receive presentation from Dr. Leslie Lennox, Office of Public Works

The Mayor welcomed Dr. Leslie Lennox and Mr. Gavin Poole from the Office of Public Works and invited them to address the Council.

In a joint presentation to the Members, Dr. Lennox and Mr. Poole outlined the following -

- The background to the OPW role in Flood Risk Management
 - Arterial Drainage Acts
 - 2004 Flood Policy Review Report
 - 2007 EU Floods Directive/SI 122 of 2010 – transposition of directive.
 - Database/website of historic flood events

- The implementation of the EU Floods Directive
 - Preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA)
 - Flood risk assessment and Management study (FRAMS)
 - Flood mapping
 - The preparation of Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans

Following the presentation Dr. Lennox and Mr. Poole responded to queries/ issues raised by the Members.

Dr. Lennox stated that criticism has often been made that there was no single authority looking after the waterways in the country. Ireland was one of the first countries to have the 2007 EU Floods Directive transposed and this document provided for a single authority in the country having absolute responsibility for the assessment and management of flood risk – this body being the OPW.

Regarding the issue of responsibility for maintaining the Shambles River, Dr. Lennox stated that he would revert back to Council officials later that week with clarification on this matter.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that representatives from Monaghan County Council and the Office of Public Works meet to discuss responsibilities for the future maintenance/drainage of rivers in Co. Monaghan so as to enable funding opportunities to be maximised when applications are being made.

15. Questions

Cllr G. Carville asked:

1. Will the Council provide a footpath on the Knockagolis Road, Castleblayney, from the end of the First Bree Road at Rosevale to the Second Bree Road at Knocktornagh, as this road is used by many pedestrians (including children) daily and this particular piece is especially dangerous?

Reply:

Monaghan County Council currently has no plans to extend the existing footpath on the Knockagolis road from the First Bree Road at Rosevale to the Second Bree Road at Knocktornagh. The council can investigate the possibility of providing a footpath along this section of the Knockagolis road in relation to any design and land acquisition requirements in order to allow a cost estimate to be calculated. The issue can then be discussed at a Castleblayney Road Area Meeting.

2. What measures has the County Council taken in recent months to deal with the worsening condition of the Courthouse / Market House in Castleblayney, a property in the ownership of this Council?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council management met with the Castleblayney Enterprise Board in July regarding the future use of the Market House. The*

Board is to examine the feasibility of renovating the building with a view to providing County Council and Town Council offices and other facilities. Their proposals are awaited.

3. Has the Council received notification of approval of grant aid of its Tourism measures put forward under the Interreg IVa programme, in conjunction with East Border Region Committee; what is the level of investment expected; what range of measures are covered and when will these measures affecting the developing of our tourism product in Monaghan be progressed?

Reply: *East Border Region Interreg IVA – General Tourism Application Through its involvement in the East Border Region Tourism Partnership, Monaghan County Council is involved in a general tourism product development application to improve existing infrastructure and facilities and to provide better visitor servicing. This is at the final stages of the evaluation process and is due to go before an SEUPB Steering Committee meeting in September 2010.*

Proposed Monaghan projects are as follows:

<i>Enhancement/Landscaping works €95,000</i>	<i>Barry McGuigan Park, Clones</i>
<i>Develop walking trails/signage €92,000</i>	<i>Dartrey Forest</i>
<i>Resurface car park & angling stands €35,000</i>	<i>Creevy Lake</i>
<i>Information boards & path widening €15,000</i>	<i>Errigal Truagh Graveyard</i>
<i>Develop walking trails, signage & guides €15,000</i>	<i>Ballybay Walking trails</i>

In addition, the Council will participate in a regional Visitor Servicing Strategy (to include signage & information provision) for which the partnership is seeking €300,000.

On receipt of a Letter of Offer, the expectation is that the projects would commence on a phased basis immediately.

4. What is the up to date position concerning the completion of accommodation works for landowners affected by the Castleblayney-Clontibret By-Pass? Has the Council met with GAMA in recent weeks, what is the outcome of these meetings and what is the timetable for completion? Who will be completing the works? What financial implications will this have for the Council?

Reply: *Most of the accommodation works have been completed on the Bypass. There were a number of gates stolen which have to be replaced by the contractor and a further gate and signs to complete agreed works at the Glennyhorn underpass.*

The contractor has been instructed to complete all outstanding works and remedy defects or damage by 30th September 2010 under the terms of the contract at no additional cost.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

5. In view of the increased number of patients travelling for day procedures to Monaghan General Hospital, particularly from the Cavan area, and the need to find the hospital in the event of minor injuries (A) Will Monaghan County Council consider replacing signage to the Hospital which has been recently removed? (B) Had there been a request from the HSE to remove the signage?

Reply: *Signage was removed at the request of the HSE and it is understood that they are to arrange for any required new signage.*

6. In relation to the granting of planning permission to housing developments in excess of two houses how many commencement notices are awaited by Monaghan County Council and how many have commencement notices for housing developments have been received since the beginning of 2008?

Reply: *Three Commencement Notices have been received for housing developments since 1 January 2008.*

7. What is the total number of housing planning permissions granted that have as of yet to tender commencement notices to Monaghan County Council?

Reply: *Twenty-one planning permissions for housing developments were issued by Monaghan County Council since 1 January 2008.*

8. In view of the fact that parts of Monaghan have scored very poorly in the recent IBA survey, what plans have Monaghan County Council to try and improve the litter situation in Co. Monaghan?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council together with the five Town Councils is in the process of replacing the current Litter Management Plan. This plan sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter, as well as measures to achieve these objectives and raise public awareness. The principal aim is to eliminate litter in the County, by expanding the litter enforcement service, working in partnership with statutory and voluntary bodies and continuing the current programme for street cleaning for towns and villages subject to the availability of finance.*

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

9. What progress has Monaghan County Council made to erect a Bus shelter at Swann's Cross, so that children waiting on their connecting school bus are safe and don't have to wait in the rain and snow?

Reply: *Clones Area Staff have arranged a meeting with Bus Eireann next week to discuss the possible location of a Bus Shelter at Swans Cross and to determine the cost implications.*

10. In relation to the County Monaghan Conservation Project taking place on the Clones Public Water Scheme: (a) What are the consequences for customers in the Clones, Scotshouse and Drumully area? (b) What benefits are likely to accrue from the project?

Reply:

a) Customers on the Clones Public Water Supply Scheme will experience intermittent disruptions to their water supply for the months of September, October and November. The areas affected by the disruptions will include Clones, Drumully and Scotshouse. Disruptions will be frequent, but for a short duration, possibly two to three hours on each occasion. It is recommended that customers who rely on a significant volume of water for day to day business operations take appropriate measures to ensure that they have an adequate volume of water available for periods of disruption.

b) Water Conservation is an integral component of the Water Services Investment Programme and is a key to the sustainable use of water resources. Apart from environmental gains, the delivery of additional water supply through leakage control is a viable alternative to capital infrastructure provision. Water conservation also protects capital investment in water supplies and reduces operational costs. The proposed works for Clones are funded through Stage 2 of the County Monaghan Water Conservation Programme. Similar type works were completed in Monaghan Town, Castleblayney Town and the Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme area in 2009 / 2010.

11. Will Monaghan County Council work with the residents of Mulladuff, Smithborough, to erect a low fence round the playground which will improve safety and stop young children wandering out onto the road?

Reply: *The Council has examined the request by residents for a low fence around the playground within the Mulladuff estate. The cost of acquiring and installing a fence has been estimated at €11,000/12,000. There are no funds available for such works at present. The Council will include the request on a list of works requested on Council estates and will consider the matter further if funds become available.*

Cllr S. Treanor asked:

12. Would it be possible to implement a traffic calming measure at the entrance to Monaghan Leisure Centre situated on the Clones Road?

Reply: *This matter will be investigated and can be discussed at the next Roads Area meeting.*

Cllr S. Treanor asked:

13. When will the Council carry out traffic calming measures and road alignment including lighting at Tyholland G.F.C.?

Reply: NRA funding was received in 2010 which enabled the provision of road markings and signs on the N12 at Monaghan Mushrooms and road markings at Tyholland G.F.C. Additional funding will be sought to provide further road markings and signs.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

14. What plans has Monaghan County Council to carry out a programme of insulation works, including cavity wall insulation, on our housing stock throughout the county?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received an allocation of €225,000 in 2010 to improve energy efficiency in local authority houses. It is expected that up to 27 houses will have been upgraded by the end of the year.

15. In relation to the Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) €200 charge per house, per year, what funding has been collected to date in the county? How much funding can be retained in the county? What is this funding used for? Is it the case, under new legislation, that local authorities have the power to access records such as ESB and phone records to establish who is living where, for the purpose of collecting the NPPR charge?

Reply: The NPPR notification of 31st August 2010 shows that €880,980 (€472,600 for 2009 and €408,380 for 2010) has been collected for County Monaghan. This amount is net of fees deducted in respect of administration of the NPPR website and system administration. All of the above amount is retained within the County and is split between the County Council and Town Councils. The NPPR income is used to substitute the reduction in the Local Government Fund allocation.

At present Local Authorities do not have access to ESB or phone records for the purpose of collecting the NPPR charge.

16. In relation to the ongoing upgrading of the sewerage collection network in Carrickmacross, when will reinstatement / resurfacing take place on the remainder of the approach roads to the town, such as the Drumcondra, Castleblayney and Dundalk Road, which are in a poor state? What is the up to date position in relation to the treatment plant?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council will undertake permanent reinstatement of all roads affected by the ongoing pipelaying works, as provided for in the contract. The specific roads mentioned in the question are programmed for permanent re-instatement as follows:
Castleblayney Road will be complete by 24th September;**

Dundalk Road (from Pumping Station towards Inniskeen) by 8th October; Drumconrath Road by 22nd October. (subject to satisfactory testing of the completed pipelines in each case)

Pipe-laying works on the other approaches to Carrickmacross are incomplete at this time or have outstanding elements yet to be addressed by the main contractor. The contractor will continue to maintain the temporary reinstatements as provided for in the contract.

Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme – Contract 3 (Treatment Plant Upgrade & Outfall) is included in the recently published Water Service Investment Programme 2010 – 2012. The works are estimated to cost € 5.5M. The treatment plant upgrade and outfall technical proposal was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The works are contingent on Departmental approval of the technical submission and the associated Water Pricing Report. Monaghan County Council currently awaits the Department’s sanction to proceed to contract document and tender stage.

17. In relation to the old Ardee Road, approach to the town of Carrickmacross from Highfield to the Kingscourt Road junction, when is it hoped to put in place proper drainage and resurface this road? When will work commence on the pedestrian crossing adjacent to Highfield? What progress has been made to replace the hoarding along the road which is very unsightly and potentially dangerous?

Reply: Works on this road to be completed by November 2010.

18. In relation to dangerous trees or over-hanging branches on our road network, who is liable should damage be caused to a vehicle, in particular, heavy goods vehicles? Is it the local authority or the land owner?

Reply: Responsibility for overhanging trees etc. is the responsibility of the Landowner.– Section 70 2(a) & 2(b) of Roads Act 1993 refers:

(2) (a) “The owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road”.

(b) “Where a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or where it obstructs or interferes with the safe use of a public road or with the maintenance of a public road, a road authority may serve a notice in writing on the owner or occupier of the land on which such tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is situated requiring the preservation, felling, cutting, lopping, trimming or removal of such tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation within the period stated in the notice.”

Cllr H. Humphreys asked:

19. In order to alleviate flooding problems what plans have Monaghan County Council to carry out drainage works on the Bunnoe River commencing at Doapey Co-Op and continuing to the border with Co Cavan?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council are proposing to make an application to the OPW for funding in 2011 to carryout a survey and remedial works on the Bunnoe River from Dopey Co-Op to the Cavan Border.*

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

20. What immediate plans have Monaghan County Council to alleviate the flooding problems on the LT39003 (Corryhagan, Rockcorry – Edenaneane, Ballybay) and the LT39102 (Closagh Beg, Rockcorry – Corryhagan, Rockcorry) roads? Residents are experiencing great difficulties during moderate-heavy rainfall rendering them unable to access their homes.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council are currently investigating the cause of the flooding on the LT 39102 to determine what remedial works are required in both the short and long term to alleviate the flooding problem.*

21. Have Monaghan County Council any information on when E.S.B. networks will connect the public lighting on the Monaghan Road, Threemilehouse? The columns etc. have been erected for a long period without any further progress.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council are still waiting on a date from the ESB for the lights to be switched on as all works and application forms have been completed.*

22. When will Monaghan County Council complete works under the low cost safety improvement scheme at the Five Crosses, Latton (R16210 – LP03012 – LS07110) as this is a dangerous junction?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council envisage that works will be completed in October on the low cost safety improvement scheme at the Five Crosses, Latton.*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

23. Would the Council consider investigating or exploring the possibility of working with FAS to tackle potential small local schemes or projects as footpaths and minor works which would be additional to the Council's current schemes and therefore not affecting working conditions of council employees and for which the Council could provide materials and machinery and FAS could provide labour?

Reply: *The Council was in contact with FAS in recent months regarding minor works projects to be informed that they did not have such schemes at present.*

The Department of Social Protection recently announced that they are about to expand the Community Services Programme and the Rural Social Scheme as part of the Government's job activation measures. The programmes are to transfer from the Department for Education and Skills to the Department of Social Protection this autumn. Monaghan County Council will investigate if there are opportunities for suitable employment under the Scheme.

24. In the light of some recent vehicular collisions would the Council review the safety measures on the road from Market House Lane out of Emyvale with regard to emerging traffic from housing estates on that route?

Reply: *This matter will be investigated and can be discussed at the next Roads Area meeting.*

25. What is the expected date for completion and opening to traffic of the border bridges at Knockaginny and Annaghroe and when will the resurfacing of the local roads leading to the bridges as previously promised commence?

Reply: *The contract work at Annaghroe and Knockaginny bridges is nearing completion. Monaghan County Council has commenced drainage work on the approach roads prior to resurfacing. It is expected that the work will be completed in early October and the roads and bridges will then be open to traffic.*

26. Can the Council clarify the process going forward with regard to the public consultation on the proposed new road from Clontibret to Aughnacloy and confirm that those effected with continue to receive personal contact regarding same?

Reply: *The development of any Major Project Road Scheme has seven phases outlined as follows:*

- *Phase 1 Scheme Concept & Feasibility Studies*
- *Phase 2 Route Selection*
- *Phase 3 Design*
- *Phase 4 Environmental Impact Assessment / Environmental Assessment Report & The Statutory Process (CPO, Notice to treat, land acquisition, planning process, legal consents, etc)*
- *Phase 5 Advance Works and Construction Document Preparation, Tender & Award*
- *Phase 6 Construction & Implementation*
- *Phase 7 Handover, Review & Closeout*

The current public consultation process is part of the Phase 2 Route Selection process. The next stage of that process will be the appraisal of the project

using the five common criteria of: Economy, Safety, Environment, Accessibility & Social inclusion and integration.

It is envisaged that the appraisal will be complete by the end of 2010. The preferred route corridor will then be presented to the elected members, all persons affected by the preferred route will be notified and further public consultation will take place.

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

27. Will the Council examine the possibility of placing speed ramps in the Clonseady estate, Magheraclone in the interests of the safety of residents?

Reply: *This matter will be brought to the Area Roads Committee.*

28. Will the Council consider placing 'Children at Play' signs at Crumlin, Magheraclone (Road No. LT49113)?

Reply: *The Traffic Signs Manual does not provide for such signs in Non-Urban locations. It is Council policy not to erect such signs in rural locations.*

29. What is the up-to-date position regarding the proposed Group Home in Carrickmacross for women with physical and sensory disabilities? When is it expected that work on this project will commence?

Reply: *In May 2010 Monaghan County Council submitted a Project Appraisal together with revised drawings and plans to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. In July 2010 the Department issued a letter stating that, subject to a number of layout changes, they have no objection to this project proceeding to the next stage.*

A detailed cost plan and all-in-cost is currently being prepared by the Council and will be submitted to the Department in order for them to determine the funding budget.

30. Will the Council agree to present a costing for the alleviation of dangerous bends on the 'Old 'Blayney Road', Carrickmacross particularly at Cloughvalley Lower and at Lisgall?

Reply: *This matter will be brought to the Area Roads Committee.*

31. What is the expected timeframe for the completion of the Remedial Works Scheme at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross; when will the new houses be allocated to applicants?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has engaged a contractor to complete the demolition of 21 houses and the construction of 18 social and 4 houses to be sold under the new incremental purchase scheme, within a period of one year. The houses will be allocated when the work has been completed. This project*

is the final phase of works, the first of which was a programme of remedial works to 10 other houses adjacent to this development which was completed by the Council in 2007.

Cllr Maxwell asked:

32. Can Monaghan County Council provide directional signs for Carrickroe and Emyvale at Dundian cross roads?

Reply: *There is an existing directional sign for Carrickroe at this Crossroads. A sign for Emyvale has been ordered and will be erected in the coming weeks*

17. Votes of sympathy/congratulations:

The Council agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the following:

- Cllr John O'Brien, on the death of his aunt Rosaleen Shannon, Scotshouse, R.I.P., to her husband Hugh Shannon and her daughter Adrienne Burns, an official of the Council.
- The family of the late Shane O'Connor, Bawn RIP who died in a road traffic accident that weekend
- Cllr Sean Conlon on the death of his uncle, John Conlon, late of Philadelphia R.I.P.
- The wife and family of the late Raymond Boylan, Surveil, Scotstown R.I.P. an employee of the Council.
- Cllr Pearse McKeogh, Louth County Council on the death of his mother Kathleen McKeogh, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth R.I.P.
- The wife and family of the late Michael McCaffrey, Davagh, Emyvale R.I.P, a cousin of the McAnespie family.
- Ms. Brenda McAnespie and the wider McAnespie family on the death of Lizzie McAnespie, Aughnacloy R.I.P.

The Council agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the following:

- Monaghan Camogie players, team management and all involved in winning the Gala All Ireland Junion 'B' Camogie title.
- Castleblayney Minor Hurling team on winning the Minor Hurling League
- Truagh Ladies Football Club on winning the Intermediate Championship title
- Inniskeen Hurling club on winning the Senior Hurling Championship for the first time.
- Scotstown Ladies football club on winning the Junior championship.
- Sean McCaffrey for his commitment, dedication and success with the Irish Youth Soccer Teams during his period as Manager.
- Mr. Jack Keyes, Cavan County Manager and the Fleadh Committee on the success of the All Ireland Fleadh 2010 held in Cavan during August 2010.

18. Conferences:

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members
Local Authority Members Association	Local Government Efficiency and Financing	Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co. Kerry	8th - 9th October, 2010	Hugh McElvaney John O'Brien Sean Conlon Paudge Connolly

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara Meetings Administrator

Date: _____