

Minutes of Council Meeting held in the Mtek Building, Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 1st September, 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, P. McNally, J O'Brien and Treanor.

Mr. Declan Nelson, Co. Manager, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. D. Fallon, Directors of Service, Mr. Martin Murray, A/Director of Service, Mr Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr Drew Hurley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Ms Rosemary McManus, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. L. Brannigan, A/Staff Officer.

At the outset the Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting, following the summer break. He proposed a vote of congratulations to the Monaghan Ladies Football Team on reaching the All Ireland final and wished them every success in the final. He appealed for as many people as possible to turn out and support the team. Cllr McElvaney seconded the proposal which was agreed by the full Council.

The Mayor also proposed a vote of congratulations to the Monaghan County Board and the Management Teams on the success of the Mens Minor and Senior Football Teams in 2008. Cllr McElvaney seconded the proposal which was agreed by the full Council.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr McNally seconded and it was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Cllr Carthy on the occasion of his recent wedding.

Cllr Keenan proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded and it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the families of the two men killed in a recent accident at Broomfield on the N2 road.

A number of members joined in the vote of sympathy and appealed for works to be undertaken on this stretch of road so as to make it safer for motorists.

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Bannigan seconded and it was agreed that the Council write to the National Roads Authority requesting them to carry out a safety audit on the N2 Carrickmacross/Castleblayney road at Broomfield.

The Mayor referred to the proposed incinerator at Nobber, Co. Meath and the fact that oral hearings had been arranged and Monaghan County Council had not been notified of the original planning application.

Mr. M. Murray, A/Director of Services advised that the oral hearings had been suspended by An Bord Pleanala. He agreed to circulate correspondence to this effect to the members.

1. Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th July, 2008 be confirmed.

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.
- Email from the Monaghan Pylon Pressure Group in relation to the meeting with Eirgrid on 7th July, 2008.
- Letter from Eirgrid in relation to information sought by the Members at the meeting on 7th July, 2008.
- Letter from the Clár Section of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in relation to the suspension of the Clár Three Phase Electricity Conversion Scheme.
- Letter from the Housing Section of the Department of the Environment in relation to the termination of the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme operated by the HSE with effect from 1st August 2008.
- Letter from the HSE Dublin North East enclosing contact details for the members of the Regional Health Forum Dublin North East.
- Letter from Jean Luc Demarty, Director General of the European Commission in relation to the extension of the deadline for the completion of works under the Farm Waste Management Scheme (FWMS).
- Email from Mr. Gay Mitchell MEP in relation to the FWMS.
- Letter from Mr. Brendan Smith, Minister for Agriculture advising that there would be no extension of the deadline of 31st December, 2008 for the FWMS
- Letter from Marian Harkin, MEP in relation to the FWMS
- Letter from Jim Higgins, MEP in relation to the FWMS.
- Letter from Avril Doyle, MEP in relation to the FWMS
- Letter from Liam Aylward MEP in relation to the FWMS
- Letter from Brian Crowley MEP in relation to the FWMS
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science in relation to the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2008/2009.
- Letter from the Environment Policy Section of the Department of the Environment in relation to public consultation on the control of posterage for elections and referenda.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Children in relation to funding for Comhairle na nÓg.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging resolution from the Council in relation to the inclusion of Clones in any proposals for decentralisation.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing acknowledging the Councils resolution in relation to issues of local discretion to decide housing policy and land bank acquisition for social housing.
- Letter from the Border Regional Authority indicating contact details for the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach of the Authority.

- Resolution from Killarney Town Council in relation to the Back to Education Allowance.
- Resolution from Westmeath County Council in relation to the accommodation of domestic turf-cutters in areas protected by the EU Directive on the Protection of Habitat Species.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council in relation to funding for MABS
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council in relation to the use of Fair Trade Products in Council office canteens.
- Resolution from Kildare County Council calling for a high standard in the completion of road works/repairs so as to improve road safety.
- Resolution from Fermoy Town Council calling for legislation to allow ratepayers to vote in that local authority's elections.

Clar funding:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs expressing its disappointment at the suspension of funding for the Clar Water and Sewerage Measures and the ESB Three Phase Supply Scheme and requesting the Minister to meet a deputation from the Council to discuss the matter.

Farm Waste Management Scheme:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., enclosing the copy response from Commissioner Fisher Bole which referred to "a period of grace" which may be available. And that Minister Smith be requested to reconsider his decision not to extend the closing date for the Farm Waste Management Scheme beyond the 31st December 2008, to at least the 31st March 2009.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Carville, it was agreed that the Council request the Minister for Agriculture to meet a deputation from the Council to discuss the Farm Waste Management Scheme.

Election posters:

Cllr Humphreys proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded that in the interest of road safety, litter and the environment that Monaghan County Council make a submission to the Minister for the Environment advocating that posters are not used in the local and European elections in 2009.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 6 for, 10 against. The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that the proposed 440Kv Interconnector be an item on future Council agendas until the matter is concluded.

Crowley Report:

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed to write again to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform requesting that the Crowley Report is made available to the McAnespie Family, with the names of the various witnesses erased from the report.

Decentralisation:

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Humphreys it was agreed that Monaghan County Council examine the possibility of decentralising one of its departments to Clones Town to the former County Library H.Q.

Broadband:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to write to the Minister for Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., asking him to ensure that all areas of County Monaghan have access to broadband as soon as possible.

Interreg IVa programme:

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council support ICBAN's actions in relation to the Interreg IVa funding application.

HSE Briefing re health services in Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that the members of the five Town Councils be invited to attend the briefing session, as observers only, to be held on the 15th September 2008 in the Mtek Building.

Failte Ireland:

It was agreed that the Council would accede to a recent request from Failte Ireland requesting an opportunity for the new Chairman of Failte Ireland North West, Mr Paschal Mooney to attend a future Council meeting to meet with the Members. It was agreed that Mr. Mooney would be invited to attend the November Council meeting.

Meeting re potential to establish rail links to Donegal:

Cllr Martin referred to a letter the Members had received from Donegal County Council in relation to a forum that is being established for political representatives regarding the potential to establish rail links to Donegal. A meeting is taking place on 16th October, 2008 in the Donegal Council Chamber in Lifford.

It was agreed that one member from each political grouping be nominated to attend this meeting – the names of those attending to be notified to the Meetings Administrator.

Resolutions from other local authorities:

On the proposal of Cllr Humphreys, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Leitrim County Council requesting that the valuable service provided by MABS would not be affected by Government cut-backs.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Westmeath County Council calling on the Department of the Environment to accommodate domestic turf cutters in areas affected by the EU directive on the Protection of Habitat Species.

On the proposal of Cllr Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council write to Killarney Town Council seeking clarification as to what changes they are proposing to the Back to Education Allowance Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Treanor it was agreed that this Council call on the Minister for Social, Community & Family Affairs to change the rules governing the Back to Education Allowance Scheme to allow those in receipt of the relevant payments to qualify for the allowance after a period of six months as opposed to twelve months, that currently applies.

On the proposal of Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Leitrim County Council in relation to the use of Fair Trade products in Council office canteens.

Urgent Business:

The Mayor indicated that he had received three notices of Urgent Business, as follows:

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

“ That the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 be varied to amend the policy governing the provision of Nursing Homes in the County (NHI) ”

The County Manager stated that he was not in favour of this motion being discussed under the ‘Urgent Business’ provision which was intended solely for items which could not wait until the next meeting of the Council to be dealt with. He said that it was not appropriate to deal with a major policy issue and a proposal to change the County Development Plan in this way. He added that the matter should be dealt with through the Strategic Policy Committee and he was opposed to it being discussed at the meeting before going out for public consultation.

Cllr Carville referred to the fact that a precedent had already been set, in that a similar motion had been dealt with, under Urgent Business, at a previous Council

meeting. He wanted to commence the process to have the County Development Plan varied to amend the policy governing the provision of nursing homes in the county.

The Mayor put the proposal to deal with this motion as urgent business to the meeting. A show of hands vote resulted in 11 for 0 against. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Cllr Carville then formally proposed the motion

“ That the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 be varied to amend the policy governing the provision of Nursing Homes in the County (NH1). The amended policy to read as follows:

For reasons of sustainability, accessibility, social inclusion and availability of services, nursing homes and nursing home/retirement villages should be located:

- *within or adjacent to towns and villages or,*
- *within a rural area where demand has been established.*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Carville gave the following reasons for the proposed variation:

1. To take account of the increased and increasing number of older members of our county community and the need for more choice in terms of affordable nursing home care both now and in the future, with due regard to the overall needs for sustainable planning in the county.
2. To enable older people to live in a secure community in a rural setting, with access to 24 hour medical care, community facilities and social networking that is provided in a nursing home/retirement village setting.
3. To create enhanced opportunities for the provision of nursing home care/retirement villages in County Monaghan.
4. To allow greater choice and opportunity to older people and their families through the provision of more options for nursing home care and retirement villages in a controlled manner which does not seek to promote the development of such facilities in all parts of the open countryside.

Cllr Crowe seconded the motion.

Following a debate on the matter, Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the matter be referred to the Planning SPC. This was agreed.

It was agreed that Cllr Carville be invited to attend the SPC meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that, in future, all proposed policy changes to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 are first referred to and discussed by the Planning SPC.

Urgent Business - Motion No. 2

Notice in the names of Cllrs Bannigan, Keenan, Carville, McElvaney, Humphreys and P. McKenna that in accordance with Standing Order 14.2 that the following motion be taken as Urgent Business.

To discuss the proposal by Eirgrid to build a 440kv high density power line through Co. Monaghan. And, in particular to discuss the findings of the independent report by Golder Associates and ECOFYS as commissioned by the Minister for Energy Deputy Eamon Ryan.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council welcomes the findings of the independent report by Golder Associates/Ecofys. That this independent report proves what this Council and local communities have been saying “that the technology exists to underground high density transmission power lines, that it is technically possible to do so”.

That Monaghan County Council calls on Minister Ryan and the Government to now do as the report recommends – introduce the technology into the project. Use the opportunity to research and develop the technology and let Ireland become world leaders in the use of undergrounding technology for electricity transmission. The opportunity exists to do this. The Government’s own independent report says so. Does the political will exist to underground the cables? Only a political decision will allow the cables to be put underground.

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed to write again to Eirgrid requesting that they provide the information sought by the Council in relation to the 440Kv Interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seek a meeting with Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources to discuss Eirgrid’s and N.I.E’s plans to develop a 440Kv interconnector through the north east region.

Urgent Business Motion No. 3:

Notice in the names of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle that in accordance with Standing Order 14.2 that the following motion be taken as Urgent Business.

In light of the proposed detour of traffic from Carrickmacross to Dundalk via Inniskeen that this Council immediately puts funding in place to carry out the extension to the footpath and public lighting from Inniskeen Church to Kednaminsha/Inniskeen GFC new football grounds in order to eliminate what will be a very dangerous stretch of road for pedestrians and cyclists.

Following a vote by show of hands (9 for) the Mayor ruled that this motion could not be dealt with under urgent business as it required the consent of one half of the total number of the Council (ie 10 members voting in favour)

It was agreed that a meeting of Carrickmacross Road Area Committee would be held on Thursday 4th September, 2008 to discuss this matter.

3. Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Clonsedy, Magheracloone:

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Keenan it was agreed that the Council disposal of 2 acres, 2 roods and 9 perches at Clonsedy, Magheracloone, to Sean Dermody in accordance with notice dated 6th August, 2008 under the terms of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

4. To consider takeover of Clontibret Group Water Scheme:

The Members considered the report dated 25th August, 2008 from Mr. David Fallon, Director of Water Services recommending that the Council take in charge the Clontibret Group Water Supply Scheme. An inspection of the scheme has been carried out and it is in good order and repair.

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that Monaghan County Council take in charge the Clontibret Group Water Supply Scheme in accordance with Section 95(1) of the Water Services Act 2007.

5. To receive report on flooding in the county:

The Members were circulated with a report dated 29th August, 2008 from Mr. John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Roads, in relation to the flooding which occurred in the county arising from the very heavy rainfall on August 16th. The report detailed the calls received from the public, the flooding sites attended by the Council's staff and the actions taken to alleviate the flooding.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council commend the Council's staff for the excellent service given by them during the recent flooding in the county.

Cllr Carville proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded

“That Monaghan County Council,

- (i) “ invites relevant personnel from the Office of Public Works to attend a meeting of this Council and that a presentation be made to them on the seriousness of the flooding situation in parts of our county and for the members and officials of the Council to engage with them on measures to address the situation.*
- (ii) Calls on our officials to raise with our Consultants and with the contractors of the Castleblayney-Clontibret bypass, the occurrences of flooding under bridges at Castleblayney and along the Ballybay road, Castleblayney and to report back to the Council as to what measures are to be taken.*
- (iii) Calls on the officials of the Council to seek funding to address the issues within our remit which will address the serious flooding that regularly occurs in the*

Annadrummond, Toome area and which leaves people of that area stranded in their homes for long periods, and in particular the raising of the road (LP03720 and LP 04410) at the parts that are most vulnerable and also the dredging of the river from the water station at Toome.

- (iv) *Appoint a delegation to meet with Louth County Council to discuss the management of the sluice gates at Toome and calls on Louth County Council to open the gates at the water works station in order to reduce water levels at times of high rainfall.*

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

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that, having regard to the serious flooding that occurred in Monaghan Town recently, that the Council write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requesting that work on the Monaghan Town Main Drainage Scheme are expedited.

On the proposal of Cllr Kieran, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council write to the relevant authority in Northern Ireland requesting them to carry out the necessary drainage works to the River Finn to alleviate the flooding risk to affected areas in County Monaghan.

6. To receive report on water contamination at Foxfield and Woodvale, Carrickmacross.

Mr. D. Fallon, Director of Water Services referred to the recent contamination of the private water supply to the Foxfield and Woodvale estates, Carrickmacross. He advised that boil notices had been issued to residents and the estates were connected to the public water-main late on Saturday 23rd August. The mains on the estate were scoured on Monday 25th August 2008. Bacteriological tests were undertaken the previous week and are expected to be clear. It is considered prudent to maintain the boiling notice in places for a further period to ensure that all service connections and storage tanks have been flushed out with mains water.

Agenda Items 7 & 8 were deferred to the October meeting.

9. To agree nominations to the Development Contributions Scheme sub-Committee:

The following members were nominated to the Development Contributions Scheme Sub-Committee:

Cllr Owen Bannigan and Cllr John Keenan
Cllr Pat Treanor and Cllr Matt Carthy
Cllr Pádraig McNally and Cllr Benny Kieran
Cllr Vincent P. Martin.

10. To approve list of Newspapers for planning notices:

It was agreed that the following newspapers be approved by the Council for the publication of planning notices:

National Newspapers

Irish Independent; Irish Star; Daily Star; Irish Times.

Local/Regional Papers

Monaghan Electoral Area Northern Standard, Monaghan Post and Anglo Celt.

Clones Electoral Area Northern Standard, Monaghan Post and Anglo Celt.

Castleblayney Electoral Area Northern Standard, Monaghan Post, Dundalk Democrat and Anglo Celt.

Carrickmacross Electoral Area Northern Standard, Monaghan Post, Dundalk Democrat and Anglo Celt.

11. To fix date for Civic Reception for Chilean Ambassador to Ireland:

It was agreed that a joint Civic Reception hosted by Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town Council in honour of the appointment of Ms. Cecilia McKenna as Chilean Ambassador to Ireland would be held on 1st October, 2008 – the 8th October being an alternative date if the 1st is not suitable.

It was also agreed that a Civic Reception would be held in honour of Mr. Pat Beagan, Corcaghan who had received the Gradam Award from the National Council of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann. A date for the Civic Reception to be agreed at the October meeting.

12. Appointment of Traveller Representative to Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee:

It was agreed to approve the nomination of Patrick McDonald as the Traveller Representative to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

13. To receive minutes of meetings:

The Members noted the minutes of the following meetings:

- (a) Minutes of An Coiste Logainmneacha meetings held on 26th May and 25th June, 2008.
- (b) Minutes of Local Traveller Accommodation Committee meeting held on 10th July, 2008.

14. Reports from Conferences:

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs McElvaney, Coyle, McNally, Treanor, Pat McKenna, Keelan, O'Brien, Conlon, Kieran, Carville, Crowe, Martin and Maxwell in respect of their attendance at the following conferences:

EPA National Water Conference, Salthill, Co. Galway.
Byrne Perry Summer School, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Green Paper on Local Government Reform, Sligo
Friel Summer School, Glenties, Co. Donegal
William Carleton Summer School, Clogher.
Sustaining development on the edge of Europe, Tuam, Co. Galway
Cross Border Co-operation, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Nineteenth Century Ireland, Limerick
National Hub Town Conference, Mallow
Water Conference, Carrigaline, Co. Cork
Housing in a Changing Climate, Dunboyne, Co. Meath
Tourism & Technology, Portaferry, Co. Down
Respond National Conference, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

15. Matters arising out of Council meetings:

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 3rd June, 16th June and 7th July, 2008 were responded to by the relevant Directors.

16. Business submitted by County Manager:

There was no business submitted by the County Manager.

17. Questions:

Cllr Gallagher asked:

a. Could the Council provide an update on progress regarding the improvements to the junction where the county road LT56001, known locally as the Beaghkearns Road, meets the Cootehill road?

Reply: *The Road Design Office are looking at options to improve the junction of the Cootehill Road and the Beaghkearns Rd. and are considering options to improve sight lines on the adjacent Leck lane/Cootehill Road junction When the design is finalised it is intended to commence discussions with landowners for the purchase of land.*

b. What plans does the Council have to address regular flooding in areas such as Kilnadrain for example?

Reply: *The Council are in contact with the landowners where these issues arise with a view to reaching a solution*

Cllr Gallagher asked:

- c. Could the Council provide an up to date account of the number of people with disabilities employed by the Council and Council policy with regard to same?
Reply: *19 employees of Monaghan County Council were identified as having a disability, representing 3.17% of the workforce. Monaghan County Council operates a Code of Practice for the Employment of People with Disabilities.*

- d. Could the Council implement an audit of its housing stock with regard to energy efficiency and insulation?
Reply: *In 2004, the DOEHLG introduced a programme to enable local authorities to install central heating facilities in local authority rented dwellings. The programme incorporated measures to ensure the energy efficiency of the dwelling such as attic insulation to Building Regulation Standards, draught-proofing to existing windows and external doors and the lagging of exposed pipework and hot water storage cylinders and the installation of a mains operated smoke alarm. The following table outlines progress to date:*

Central Heating Programme

| Housing Authority | Central Heating provided 2004-2008 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monaghan County Council | 121 |
| Monaghan Town Council | 72 |
| Castleblayney Town Council | 10 |
| Carrickmacross Town Council | 32 |
| Clones Town Council | 14 |
| Total | 249 |

Monaghan County Council will be preparing a Housing Action Plan for the period 2009-2013 in the coming months and a programme of works will be prepared based on an audit of its housing stock to include energy efficiency and insulation and any other improvement works necessary.

- e. Could the Council provide an update on the success so far of the free smoke alarm scheme operated in conjunction with the community groups across the county?
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-years, 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.
We are still in the process of rolling out the scheme and to date 619 alarms have been distributed. The alarms are self-contained and battery-operated, so installation consists merely of fixing the units to the ceiling with self adhesive strips.*

We are currently working with Monaghan Foróige Club in their Youth Citizenship Project which will support young people in identifying vulnerable homes in their community and in installing the smoke alarms.

It is envisaged that all the alarms will be distributed and installed by mid Autumn.

Cllr Padraig McNally asked:

- f. (i) How many landowners affected by the Carrickmacross Bypass have yet to be paid?
(ii) Is this Council now financially liable for any accommodation works yet to be carried out even in cases where they were part of the original agreement?

Reply:

- (i) *11 landowners have yet to be paid.*
- (ii) *Monaghan County Council are obliged to provide all accommodation works listed in the "Schedule of Accommodation Works" attached to each landowners signed Agreement.*
- g. What is the latest position regarding the Cavan to Dundalk road re-development i.e. are Cavan County Council planning the entire route and is there any time scale emerging for the entire project?

Reply: Response: Cavan County Council are currently procuring Consulting Engineers. The date for return of tenders is the 5th September 2008. The expected time for the Consultants to complete their brief is 2 years.

- h. When does this Council expect to complete the safety barrier and footpath at Magee's Corner in Inniskeen?

Reply: A contractor has been selected to erect the safety barrier. Once Health and Safety measures have been finalised works can be undertaken. It is expected that works will be completed within in the next 6 to 8 weeks.

- i. Has this Council made any progress with the Department regarding its Civic Amenity site in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Following the completion of the tender process Monaghan County Council is awaiting confirmation from the Department of Environment to proceed with the scheme. The existing funding programme which the initial application was made under expired in June '08 however the application will be considered under the 'Waste Recycling Capital Grants Scheme National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 and Border and Midland Regional operational programme 2007 – 2013 which was announced under Circular WPR 15/08 dated August 2008.

Cllr Brian McKenna asked:

- j. Following the information meetings in Glaslough and Caledon in relation to the re-opening of the Annaghroe & Knockaginney bridges

(i) What is the current status of this project.

Reply: A Part VIII Planning application has been made by Monaghan County Council. A Planning Application is being prepared for submission to the Roads Service Northern Ireland

Cllr Brian McKenna asked:

(ii) What are the different stages this project will go through and what are the timeframes for each of those stages?

Reply: *Design Build Documents are currently being prepared by the Council's Consultants and subject to the outcome of the planning applications referred to previously and availability of funding it is expected to go to construction the second quarter of next year.*

k. How many applications and what is the total value of applications for both Water & Sewerage (Public & Group Water) for funding under Clár, have this Council with the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. When were these applications submitted to the Department?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council has submitted one application for Clár funding for Drumgole GWS. An application was made to the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs on the 25th of June 2008 for the amount of €355,319 in respect of this scheme – Monaghan County Council is still awaiting a response to this application.*

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

l. In reference to the proposed N54 Inner Relief Road in Monaghan and issues raised concerning the Blackwater River flooding along the proposed route, what degree of consultation occurred between RPS Consulting Engineers and/or the County Council Roads Section with the County Council Heritage Section prior to presentation at last Council meeting?

Reply: *At the debate at the Council meeting in July 2008 the concerns of the elected members regarding flooding and other environmental issues were acknowledged. These issues will be examined as part of the environmental assessment of the scheme required as part of the normal planning process.*

m. In the interest of improving our ratings in IBAL and Tidy Towns competitions, can weeding of excessive growth be undertaken along the footpath kerbing on the Threemilehouse Road between Monaghan United grounds to entrance at Rossmore Park?

Reply: *The Council will carry out local road maintenance works in this area.*

n. In light of increasingly frequent accidents occurring on the N2 approach road to Monaghan (Drumhirk/Corlat), will the roads section implement additional traffic safety measures at this location that may include rumble strips and larger signage?

Reply: *The Council has made an application to extend the 50km/hr speed limit at this location. The Council intends to carry out pavement improvement works at this location in the coming months. This will include new lane markings and increasing the size of the speed limits signs and erection of new speed limits signs subject to approval of the speed limit application.*

o. What degree of co-operation/facilitation have Council officials engaged in with Monaghan V.E.C. in an effort to secure the €2m grant towards a new theatre for Monaghan?

Reply: Monaghan County Council officials have cooperated fully with the VEC in advancing this project. The issue is included on the agenda of the upcoming Corporate Policy Group.

Cllr Sean Conlon asked:

- p. In an effort to minimise the risk of flooding that can occur due to unauthorised damming/diverting along rivers and watercourses, can this Council get reassurances from the Office of Public Works or other relevant agencies that a regular inspection is undertaken to prevent same?

Reply: The Council will consult with the Office of Public Works to determine their policies regarding this matter.

Cllr Owen Bannigan asked:

- q. Regarding the traffic bye laws in Ballybay Town when is it proposed to introduce the much needed bye-laws? Will public consultation take place before the bye-laws are introduced?

Reply: Following receipt of legal advice the Council has established that it is not necessary to make bye-laws in order to put in place the proposed traffic management scheme in Ballybay : Bye-laws would only be necessary if we were considering introducing pay –parking . The Council is required, however, to consult with An Garda Siochana. A formal letter has been forwarded to the Chief Superintendent along with a schedule and map of the proposed parking zones. The Council has consulted widely in the Town (with the support of the Town Council members) with business people and others affected by the proposals .Since Bye-Laws are not appropriate – then there is no need to enter into a formal Public Consultation exercise i.e. Public notice etc . However, if Members feel that such an exercise would be worthwhile we can, of course , arrange to do so.

- r. (i) When will the lights be erected at the pedestrian crossing in Ballybay Town?
(ii) What is the reason for the delay?
(iii) When will the ESB remove the poles from the Main St in Ballybay Town?

Reply: Monaghan Co. Council is required to build a new ESB switching kiosk in Ballybay on the R183 Ballybay/Clones road in order to facilitate the undergrounding of the overhead cables in Ballybay. The county council has been investigating various location options for this new kiosk as the recommended cover requirements on the public road for the ducting linking the existing ESB substation and the new proposed kiosk are not achievable due to the levels of the main foul sewer and stone arch bridge on the R183 in this area. Monaghan Co. Council have now reached agreement with ESB in relation to overcoming this problem and it is proposed to commence the remaining ducting works and construction of the new kiosk in early September. Once these works are complete the ESB networks can commence undergrounding of all existing overhead lines in Ballybay and following this all new public lighting and pedestrian crossing beacons can be erected and connected to the power supply.

Cllr Owen Bannigan asked:

- s. (i) Due to the recent severe flooding at the new bridge on the R181 Castleblayney to Shercock road, is Monaghan County Council satisfied that the drainage on this new section of road is sufficient to prevent flooding?
(ii) If not then who is responsible for solving the problem?
(iii) What action will Monaghan Co Council take to ensure that no further flooding will occur at this location?

Reply: *The area where flooding occurred was within the site of the works for the N2 Clontibret to Castleblayney Road Realignment scheme. The matter has been referred to the Contractors for their response and where it is determined that it is their responsibility, immediate action.*

- t. From 1st August the responsibility for operating the Housing Aid for Older People has been transferred from the HSE to Monaghan County Council.
(i) How much additional funding has been provided by the Government to Monaghan County Council to operate the scheme in 2008?
(ii) Is this level of funding sufficient to ensure that all necessary works will be carried out in 2008 and that no elderly people in Co. Monaghan will suffer due to insufficient funds provided by Government?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council was allocated a sum of €1,911,390 to administer all the grant schemes in 2008. No additional allocation has been received*

All applications for payment under the Housing Aid for the Elderly Scheme have been paid to date where works have been completed. Monaghan County Council will shortly be meeting with the HSE to put in place arrangements locally to ensure effective liaison regarding grant applications in order that the best outcome is achieved for all applicants in terms of timeliness and urgency of need.

Cllr Gary Carville asked:

- u. In view of the flooding problems which have again occurred in the Castleblayney area due to recent high rainfalls, what measures does Monaghan County Council propose to take, within its own remit, to avert these problems in the future and, specifically, has the Council engaged with GAMA-Tubin Construction and our Consultants in relation to design issues associated with the By-Pass that are giving rise to flooding on the Lough Egish/Shercock Road and on the Ballybay Road (Killycard, Mulldrummond); and with Dundalk Town Council in relation to major flooding problems in the Annadrummond area due to sluice gate management and associated road issues?

Response: *The recent exceptional heavy rainfall caused high water levels throughout the County. The Council has compiled information they have gathered regarding the flooding for presentation to the meeting of the Council. It is the Council's intention to forward this information to the Office of Public Works.*

Flooding events on the Shercock and Ballybay Road have been referred to GAMA - Tubin Construction Ltd for their response and where it is determined that it is their responsibility, immediate action.

The Council has contacted Louth County Council Water Services and proposes to consult with the Office of Public Works on the matter.

Cllr Gary Carville asked:

- v. Will the Council provide public lighting at Lisnagrieve Community Centre and at Garmony's Grove Presbyterian church?

Reply: *The County Council have contacted the ESB to arrange a design and costing for both these locations, these will be included on the public lighting programme for discussion at the next Castleblayney Road Area Meeting.*

- w. Will the Council review and address the poor levels of signage for the village of Doohamlet on all roads (regional and local) that lead to the village in view of the fact that it is the only village in Co. Monaghan that has no directional signage to it?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will review the issue of signage for Doohamlet village and this can be included on the agenda for discussion at the next Castleblayney Road Area Meeting.*

- x. Has there been any response yet from the National Roads Authority to repeated demands from this Council to have more public lighting provided at the Shercock Road junction, the Ballybay Road junction and the Annayalla (old N2) junction and has the issue of filter lanes at these junctions been addressed yet by the NRA?

Reply: *The Council has asked their Consulting Engineers to carry out an analysis of these junctions to inform future discussion with the National Roads Authority.*

- y. What are the current numbers on the housing waiting list for the Castleblayney Electoral Area and how do they compare with this period in 2007? Does the Council have any plans for a new Housing Scheme in the Castleblayney town area?

Reply:

| Location | No. of Applications on waiting list at June 2007 | No. of Applications on waiting list at June 2008 |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Castleblayney | 105 | 117 |
| Ballybay | 34 | 23 |
| Doohamlet | 10 | 6 |
| Latton | 1 | 1 |
| Annyalla | 6 | 8 |
| Oram | 2 | 11 |
| | 158 | 159 |

Monaghan County Council is examining options for land purchase in Castleblayney Town at present

Cllr Vincent P. Martin asked:

- z. Briefly outline the public consultation process undertaken to date regarding deciding on the location which is now being proposed for the pelican type crossing at Inniskeen and when is the work likely to commence

Reply: *A public consultation period finished on Friday the 29th August, seeking observations on the proposed location of the new pedestrian pelican crossing. The outcome of the consultation process will determine when works can start.*

Cllr Vincent P. Martin asked:

z(1) Regarding Louth County Council carrying out significant road improvements to the R178 Dundalk to Carrickmacross road at the red bog area:

Can Monaghan County Council ascertain from Louth County Council when the contractor for the said works is to be appointed (sign the contract) and the most likely commencement date for the said works?

Reply: *Louth County Council has completed the selection process for a contractor which has been submitted to the Departments of Transport approval to proceed. Once approval is granted the contractor can be appointed.*

z (2) Approximately when will the houses in the Foxfield and Woodvale housing estates in Carrickmacross be connected to the town council water supply?

Reply: *These estates were connected to the public water-main late on Saturday 23rd August, eight days after the boiling notice was issued. The mains on the estate were scoured on Monday 25th August 2008.*

Bacteriological test were arranged for Tuesday and Wednesday and are expected to be clear. It is considered prudent to maintain the boiling notice in places for a further period to ensure that all service connections and storage tanks have been flushed out with mains water. The Council is in negotiations with the Developer regarding air valves and scour valves which have to be installed.

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked:

z (3). What road safety measures can Monaghan County Council take at the very dangerous junction on the Ballybay – Carrickmacross road (R-180-1) with the LT71001 known locally as “Sra Bridge”, this is a very dangerous road junction for traffic exiting and entering the LT71001 on to the R180 – 1, with immediate safety improvement works essential to avert serious accidents?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council currently have no plans or funding available in 2008 to carry out any road safety improvement works at this junction but this issue can be included on the agenda for discussion at the next Castleblayney Road Area Meeting.*

Z(4) What is the up to date position with Monaghan County Council in regard to the Housing Aid Scheme for people with a disability, the Housing Adoption/Grant for people with a disability, the Mobility Aid Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for older people scheme:

(i) How many applicants for the above scheme’s are awaiting a decision on their application?

(ii) How many applicants to the above schemes have been granted approval and are ready to commence works under the scheme’s but have not been sanctioned by Monaghan County Council?

Reply:

| | No. of Applications on hand at 29th August 2008 | No. of applications approved at 29th August 2008 |
|--|---|--|
| Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability | 69 | 45 |
| Mobility Aids Grant Scheme | 21 | 15 |
| Housing Aid for Older People | 58 | 31 |
| Total | 148 | 91 |

(iii) Have Monaghan County Council received any response from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to their application for additional funding for the above schemes?

Reply: No

Z(5). Following the very welcome approval of a new Fire Station for Ballybay Fire Service, what is the procedure and time frame for the project and when can construction of the new Fire Station for Ballybay be expected to commence?

Reply: *The new Fire Station for Ballybay Fire Service is the third station which has been approved for the county. It is unlikely that the Dept will fund these projects concurrently; it is more likely that the funding will come consecutively. Monaghan HQ is at tender document stage and we hope to be in a position to commence construction on it next year. Castleblayney and Ballybay stations will follow on subsequent to this. At this point in time we are in discussion with consultants to negotiate a fee to design and supervise these projects. The process normally takes 2-3 years but it is dependant on Department approval at each stage. We hope to shorten the process by having similar designs on both sites. The earliest we expect Ballybay to commence is 2010.*

19. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

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

- Mr. Paul McCabe and family on the death of his wife Eilish (nee McAnespie) and the broader McAnespie family.
- The wife and family of the late Malachy McGowan Ballybay a former member of the Castleblayney area outdoor staff.
- Ms. Carol Lambe, Community and Enterprise office on the death of her father Peter Lambe.

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

- The Monaghan Senior Ladies football team on reaching the All-Ireland Final and best wishes to players and management in the final.
- The Tyrone Senior Football team on reaching the All-Ireland Senior and Minor Football finals and wishing them good luck in the finals.

Votes of congratulations (contd):

- The Monaghan winners at the recent All-Ireland Fleadh Ceoil held in Tullamore -
 - Ms. Amelia Murphy, Emyvale CCE – 1st in Ladies Singing competition
 - St. Mary’s Band, Broomfield, 1st in Senior Band competition
 - George McAdam, Drumar, Ballybay, 1st in 12-15 Mandolin competition
 - Michael MacSuibhne, Carrickmacross – 1st in U/12 Piano competition
 - Ceoltoiri Drumlin winners in the under 12 Ceili Band competition
- Pat Beagon, Corcaghan Branch being awarded the Gradam Ceol award by Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann in recognition of his service to C.C.E.
- Caoimhghin Kelly on winning the gold medal in the marathon in Mosney @ Community Games
- Truagh Gaels U-16 team on winning the County Division I League.
- Ms. Charlene McKenna, former Garage Theatre performer and Glaslough native in her starring role in RTE’s drama “Whistleblower” based on Dr. Neary and Drogheda Hospital.
- Mr. Willie McKenna, former Chieftain & the McKenna Clan on their successful trip to New Brunswick, Canada and their efforts in enhancing our twinning agreements.
- The organizers of the Flat Lake Festival on a very successful event.

It was agreed that the Council extend a vote of good wishes, for a speedy return to good health, to Mr. Seamus Sherry, Technical Services Supervisor, North Monaghan Area who was hospitalized recently.

20. Conferences:

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

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Members attending |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| AMAI | 95th AMAI Annual Conference 2008 | Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo | 11 th – 13 th September 2008 | Pat McKenna John Keenan Benny Kieran Seamus Coyle |
| Omagh District Council | Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend 2008 | Strule Arts Centre, Townhall Square, Omagh | 12 th – 14 th September 2008 | Hugh McElvaney John O’Brien Padraig McNally |
| NCCRI | 7th North South Intercultural Forum | Tower Hotel, Derry | 12 th September 2008 | Owen Bannigan |
| National Advisory Council Conference | Valuing Our Waters | Lyrath Estate Hotel Dublin Road, Kilkenny | 18 th September 2008 | Brian McKenna Benny Kieran Owen Bannigan V.P. Martin |
| Mid-West Regional Authority | Citizen First International Conference | The Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare | 25 th – 26 th September 2008 | John Keenan Heather Humphreys Gary Carville Vincent P. Martin Pat Treanor Robbie Gallagher Benny Kieran |

20. Conferences (contd):

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Kerry Life Education Ltd | Getting a Grip 2008 'Addiction Proofing our Communities' | The Malton Hotel (Formerly the Great Southern) Killarney, Co. Kerry | 2 nd & 3 rd October 2008 | John Keenan Pat McKenna David Maxwell Vincent P. Martin Brian McKenna John O'Brien Padraig McNally |
| Greystones Town Council in assoc. with Ards Borough Council | 2008 La Touche Legacy Seminar (20th Year) | Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow | 3 rd – 5 th October | Heather Humphreys Owen Bannigan Hugh McElvaney Noel Keelan Seamus Coyle Robbie Gallagher |

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Meara **Meetings Administrator**

Date: _____