

Minutes of meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan on Monday 2nd September, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs Bannigan, Bennett, Carthy, Carville, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. D. Fallon, County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, and Mr. D. Treanor, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr O'Brien.

Votes of sympathy:

The Mayor informed the Members that Timothy O'Hanrahan, a former member of Monaghan County Council for a period from 1990-1991, had passed away.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the wife and family of the late Tim O'Hanrahan, RIP, Killyconnigan, Monaghan and also to Bernie O'Flaherty, Council employee on the death of her father-in-law.

A number of members paid tribute to the late Mr. O'Hanrahan as did the County Manager on behalf of the staff.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Cllr Cathy Bennett on the death of her mother-in-law, Kathleen Bennett, RIP, Tonyclea, Tydavnet.

A number of members expressed sympathy to Cllr Bennett as did the County Manager on behalf of the staff.

A minutes silence was observed by all present. The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a period of five minutes as a mark of respect.

On resumption, the Mayor informed the members that Social Inclusion Week is being held from 9th to 16th September. He stated that many people in Monaghan experience social exclusion every day. Everyone is an important part of county Monaghan regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexuality or ability. There are many academic and philosophical explanations as to what social exclusion is, many debates about whom and who doesn't experience social exclusion. Monaghan Social Inclusion Measures Group believe that people who experience social exclusion don't get the same opportunities to participate in society and community as other people. People are often treated differently because they are different, but here in Monaghan we are saying it is ok to be different and we are asking everyone to celebrate being different because we are all different.

He asked the elected members and the public to participate in some of the many events being held throughout the county during Social Inclusion Week.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(i) Minutes of Adjourned Annual Council meeting held on 25th June, 2013

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Adjourned Annual Council meeting held on 25th June, 2013, be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 25th June, 2013

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 25th June, 2013, be confirmed.

(iii) Minutes of Council meeting held on 1st July, 2013

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st July, 2013, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence:

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to allocations to Cavan/Monaghan Leader.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine regarding the importation of poultry products.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine regarding the early payment of the Single Farm Payment to farmers.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine regarding staffing levels in the Teagasc Advisory Service.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to Special Needs Assistants.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to social housing assessment.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Finance in relation to Council resolution regarding proposed increase in carbon tax.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance in relation to AIB/EBS SVR mortgage rates.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance in relation to the responsibilities of Public Interest Directors.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance in relation to the Council's resolution regarding the findings of the Regional Quality of Life report.
- Email from Breda O'Toole, IDA Ireland confirming a willingness to meet a delegation from the Council regarding Foreign Direct Investment.

- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation declining a meeting with the Council and outlining his Department's activities in relation to job creation.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection regarding the rent limit threshold for Co. Monaghan recipients.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection regarding the Councils request to increase the state pension.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection regarding the means assessment of Rent Allowance.
- Letter from the Minister for Social Protection regarding the Farm Assist Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources regarding the EirGrid Interconnector.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources enclosing a copy of the Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure.
- Letter from the Chief Executive of EirGrid regarding comments made by Minister Rabbitte at the Energy Ireland Conference.
- Letter from the Commission for Energy Regulation in relation to the EirGrid Interconnector.
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the level of sugar in minerals (soft drinks)
- Letter from the Minister for Health in relation to the Council's resolution on the medical card scheme.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Health in relation to the National Epilepsy Care Programme.
- Letter from the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to Clones Courthouse.
- Letter from the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to Council resolution calling for a review of the legislation dealing with the failure to stop and remain at the scene of an accident.
- Letter from the National Roads Authority in relation to signage for Monaghan at Junction 14 on the M1 motorway.
- Letter from the Health and Safety Authority regarding the ASSIST Suicide Prevention Programme.
- Letter from the Department for Regional Development in relation to funding for the Ballinacarry Bridge Project.
- Letter from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding revised rates of the Representational Payment for Councillors.
- Letter from Concra Wood Golf Club thanking the Council for its sponsorship of the PGA EuroPro Golf tournament.
- Email from PJ Blake, Anti Drugs Campaigner seeking the support of the Council for the retention of the Drugs Unit in Donegal.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council calling for the abolition of the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI).
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister for Education and Skills to reverse his decision to reduce support hours for children with special educational needs.
- Resolution from Monaghan Town Council calling on the Minister to examine EU Directive Regulation 56, Sub –Section 7 of the European Communities Regulations 2007 to prohibit companies in receivership or liquidation from tendering for public contracts for a period of 5 years.

- Resolution from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Minister for Education and Skills to allow some choice based on the old second level school catchment areas when it comes to assessing school transport eligibility.
- Resolution from Carrickmacross Town Council regarding legislation before the US House of Representatives in relation to the undocumented Irish in the USA.
- Resolution from Dundalk Town Council calling on the Government to give official recognition status to Irish Sign Language.
- Resolution from Clones Town Council calling on the Minister for Health to confirm that discretionary medical cards will not be withdrawn from cancer patients who are not considered terminally ill.
- Resolution from Offaly County Council calling on the Minister for Health to highlight the importance of community care and the role of the Public Health Nurse.
- Resolution from Offaly County Council supporting the radical reform of Seanad Eireann.
- Resolution from Kildare County Council calling for the allocation of funding in a fair manner across the proposed Municipal Districts within local authorities.
- Resolution from Kildare County Council calling for the Department of the Environment to invest a minimum of €100,000,000 on a house building programme.
- Resolution from Macroom Town Council calling on Minister Hogan to write to all Town Council explaining the breakdown of exact saving that are to be made by the proposed abolishment of Town Councils.
- Resolution from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Government to carry out a serious review of its present policies on free legal aid.
- Email from Clones Town Council confirming support for the Council's resolution calling for an increase in the old age pension.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting –

- Letter from the Chief Executive Officer of Bus Eireann in relation to the discontinuation of the Bus Route 177 – Monaghan – Dublin.
- Emails from the National Transport Agency indicating its intention to meet a delegation from the Council in relation to changes to the Bus Route 177.
- Letter from Peter Clarke Bus Driver regarding changes to the Bus Route 177.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture to urge the banks to provide realistic loans to farmers who suffered from the fodder crisis and poor weather conditions in 2012. Loans should be for terms of at least 3-5 years, not the very short term loans which are currently being offered.

On the proposal of Cllrs Murray and Connolly seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that this Council writes to the National Roads Authority asking it to reconsider the decision not to include Monaghan on the signage at Junction 14 on the M1 motorway. We do not accept there is not room for an additional word – Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Kildare County Council calling on the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Housing Section to invest a minimum of €100,000,000 on a house building programme. This is to alleviate the huge housing waiting list while at the same time providing employment for a sector of people who have gone through very difficult times.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council meet with the IDA and also that it again seeks a meeting with Minister Richard Bruton to discuss the need for a job creation strategy for the border region.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Carrickmacross Town Council – that this Council notes that a significant piece of immigration reform legislation is currently due to come before the US House of Representatives. This has the potential to positively transform the situation for the estimated 50,000 – 70,000 undocumented Irish people in the United States. That we hereby agreed to write to Congressman John Boehner, Speaker in the US House of Representatives commending this legislation and encouraging its approval by Congress

It was agreed that a copy of the motion be circulated to each local authority and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council receive a report from the Director of Housing regarding the Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, to immediately restore, following the 31st August review, to Cavan/Monaghan Leader the €2.1m cut in funding to allow our counties benefit and fund the approved projects of the Cavan/Monaghan Leader group.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council prepare an application in advance of Interreg V for funding to re-align the Ballinacarry Bridge. In the meantime the Council should write to the National Roads Authority and the Department of Regional Development N.I. asking that this project be considered for funding under Interreg IV money that has not been spent.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Clones Town Council calling on the Minister for Health to confirm that discretionary medical cards will not be withdrawn from cancer patients who are not considered terminally ill.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council writes to the Minister for Justice and Equality asking him to intervene on our behalf with the Courts Service Board and instruct them to reverse their decision to close Clones Courthouse.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the Council writes to the Minister for Social Protection asking her to reverse cutbacks to the Farm Assist Scheme announced in Budget 2013.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council write again to the Minister for Finance requesting that he meet privately with each of the Public Interest Directors of the bailed out banks to ensure that the boards of the banks are carrying out their business in a proper manner and one that doesn't have an undue negative impact on the taxpayers, who are paying for the bail-out of these banks.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council writes again to Minister Simon Coveney, TD, seeking a breakdown of the staffing numbers (1200) and outlining how many of these are working on the ground directly with the farming community.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney seconded by Cllr Bannigan it was agreed that the Council requests the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to clarify comments made by Minister Hogan in relation to applications for funding from the Cavan/Monaghan Leader.

On the proposal of Cllr Gallagher, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council support the efforts of all political voices in Donegal in their efforts to retain the Garda Dedicated Drugs Unit in Co. Donegal.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council seeks a presentation from the Special Action Group on Obesity (SAGO) in relation to the prevention of obesity.

It was agreed to refer this proposal to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher it was agreed that the Council calls for the re-introduction of more checks at the point of entry of meat products from both inside and outside the EU.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy seconded by Cllrs McKenna and O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Jan O'Sullivan, TD requesting that this local authority be considered for additional funding under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme 2013, considering that Monaghan has a significant record in spending all available funds under this scheme and the important contribution these grants have made to improve people's lives.

Report on Housing Adaptations Grant Scheme:

Director of Services for Housing, Adge King outlined that in 2012 the Council had made an overall allocation of €1,516,817.40 in support of 227 approved applications. For 2013 the overall allocation is €89,661.00. A total of 236 applications have been received and €39,574.00 has been approved for 149 projects (as at end Aug 2013). While there is a possibility of some funding, the Department has indicated that this will only be made available to the council where initial allocations have been drawn down. As there is

currently an excess of applications the scheme has been closed from 28th August 2013. Despite this, applications for emergency work will be still be accepted and processed.

3. To receive recommendations from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 28th August, 2013

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 28th August, 2013, be noted and approved.

4. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences

The Members noted the reports from Cllrs Carville, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences –

- East Border Region Conference, Trim, Co. Meath.
- ACCC Annual Conference, Waterford.
- Economic Recovery, Horse & Jockey, Tipperary
- Identifying the Tourism Product, Rosscarberry, Co. Cork
- EU Cohesion Policy, Kilmainham, Dublin
- Information Seminar for Councillors, Bunratty, Co. Clare
- Living an Ordinary Life, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
- European Movement Ireland, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

The Members requested that they be circulated with a report outlining expenditure to date on the Conferences/Meetings budget for 2013. This was agreed.

5. Proposed Eirgrid 440kv Interconnector

During the course of a debate on this item the following proposals were agreed -

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that in view of EirGrid's refusal to take on board the very real concerns of the people (landowners) of County Monaghan this Council has 'No Confidence in EirGrid.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed

- (i) *that the Council writes to the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) noting our disgust at its proposal to offer financial incentives to EirGrid to fast-track the planning application and completion of the North-South Interconnector, despite the objections to the current proposal by the people of this region.*
- (ii) *That we ask the CER to explain why their consultation paper (Ref CER/13/149) was not circulated to statutory authorities such as Monaghan County Council.*
- (iii) *That we ask the CER to detail their evidence that the absence of the North South Inter-connector is currently costing €20m annually (and the assertion that this could rise to €30-€40 million).*

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Communications noting the Council's disgust at the proposal outlined by the Commission for Energy Regulation in their consultation paper CER/13/149. That we ask the Minister to outline the source of funding for the CER incentive to EirGrid. And we further request a meeting with Minister Pat Rabbitte TD to discuss the North-South Interconnector and its potential impact on our county.

6. Business submitted by County Manager:

Electoral Boundary changes:

Mr. D. Fallon, County Manager advised that maps, documenting the proposed changes to electoral area boundaries in the county, had been circulated to each member.

Cllr Keelan requested that copies of these maps would be circulated to local community centres to inform constituents of the changes.

Mr. Fallon advised that when the Minister signs the Local Electoral Area Orders, the Council will make arrangements to publicise the changes being proposed.

Memorandum of Understanding –Armagh City Council/Monaghan County Council:

Mr. Fallon advised that a meeting to discuss this matter has been arranged for the Council Chamber, Mtek Building on 11th September, 2013 at 1.15 pm.

Ulster Canal:

Mr. Fallon informed the members that a meeting of the Inter Agency Group will be held on the 9th October, 2013 in the Canal Stores in Clones.

Position of County Manager:

Mr. Fallon informed the members that he proposed to retire from the position of County Manager in December 2013. He thanked the Members for their co-operation and assistance during his term of office. He also thanked the Management Team and the officials of the Council. He stated that it was anticipated that a new County Manager would be announced before the end of October.

The Mayor, on behalf of the members wished Mr. Fallon well during his time remaining and advised that there would be an opportunity for the members to pay tribute to the County Manager at a future meeting.

7. Matters arising out of minutes of Council meetings held on 25th June and 1 July 2013

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 25th June and 1 July, 2013 were responded to by the relevant officials.

8. To receive presentation from Comhairle na nÓg:

The Mayor welcomed Fiona McEntee, Youth Development Officer and Comhairle na nÓg members - Shauna Feely – St Louis Secondary School, Monaghan, Aaron Mc Elroy – Largy College, Clones and Stephen Sherry – Ballybay Community College.

The students gave a presentation to the Members on Mental Health. They stated that mental health problems are becoming more common as it is said at least one in four people will suffer from a mental illness through any given year. A mental illness is as real as a physical injury even if there is no physical scar. Unfortunately there is still a stigma attached to this topic. Being able to talk openly can take the taboo out of something that affects us all. Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg feel strongly about this issue and that is why their 2013 project was to work on a campaign that would help young people to reach out for help. As a group they decided that they could contribute to this important issue by developing an information leaflet that contained all the contact numbers of existing services that are out there, but locally and nationally, that can help people who feel they need some support with mental help issues. They hope that the elected representatives will support, promote and help them increase awareness of the availability of these leaflets.

Following their presentation the Comhairle members responded to queries from the elected members. They circulated copies of their information leaflet to all present.

The Mayor thanked Fiona, Shauna, Stephen and Aaron for an excellent presentation and wished them well with their project.

9. Questions:

Cllr P. McNally asked:

1. Has this Council received any correspondence from Louth County Council regarding Village status for Killanny? If not, can we write to them asking are they considering same and requesting that they communicate with this Council as County Monaghan runs within a few metres of Killanny Church and GAA grounds as this would be important for the proper development of such a settlement.

Reply: *The Planning Section of Louth County Council has confirmed that it has no plans to designate Killanny as a settlement.*

2. How many planning bonds are overdue payment in County Monaghan either by way of planning conditions or lodged bonds? Are they all being pursued on an even basis as it is alleged that some are being dealt with in a more aggressive manner than others.

Reply: *The total amount of bonds due to be lodged with the planning authority, where commencement notices had been received, up until the end of 2012, was €6,543,746. Cash deposits or performance bonds have been submitted in relation to €6,101,585 of this. The remaining outstanding bonds, totalling €442,161 are being pursued through the normal enforcement procedures.*

The outstanding bonds are being pursued in an equitable manner, with the appropriate action being determined on a case by case basis, having regard to the particular circumstances pertaining to each case.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

3. Has this Council got a reliable data base in which it can properly notify all hedge owners where danger exists, from September onwards?

Reply: *Where the owner is unknown, the area engineering office will consult with the land registry to identify the owner.*

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

4. When will the Council carry out repair works to the verges on Regional Road No. 186 between the townlands of Derrykenighbeg and Crossnacalduo? The road edges have subsided and are liable to cause motorists to veer off the road and cause fatalities at this location. A similar problem needs to be addressed on the same road at the townland of Tullylone just below Tydavnet village. Both these locations present serious danger to road users and need urgent address in the immediate future.

Reply: *Each of above areas have been investigated. It is proposed to carry out interim repairs this year. Subject to available funding it is proposed to undertake more extensive remedial measures in 2014.*

5. Will this Council ensure that a directional sign is erected indicating 'Tiernaneil' crossroads on the completion of the current realignment of the N2 from Coolkill East to Corracrin? There have been many enquiries over the years from road users as to this location and the appropriate sign would be very necessary.

Reply: *This matter will be discussed with the NRA at the next Meeting regarding the N2 Realignment between Monaghan and Emyvale.*

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

6. In relation to concerns about the height of the ramps along the upper Bree road in Castleblayney, would Monaghan County Council consider reducing them to the same height as ramps in other areas in Castleblayney?

Reply: *This location will be examined to establish if it is appropriate to reduce the ramps at this location.*

7. Has Monaghan County Council concluded their speed survey through the village of Oram and if so, what are the results and appropriate actions to be taken?

Reply: *It is proposed to make application to the Dept. of Transport for funding under the Low Cost Improvement Scheme to implement additional safety measures at this location.*

Cllr J. Crowe asked:

8. Is Monaghan County Council in talks with the developers of the Coill Darach Estate in Castleblayney in relation to finishing the development in accordance with the conditions outlined in their planning permission?

Reply: *The Council is in ongoing discussions with the developer and their agents in respect of the preparation and implementation of a site resolution plan for this development. In the event that this does not lead to a satisfactory conclusion, the Council will move to draw down the related bond to fund remedial works*

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

9. What is the current position in relation to the on-going negotiations between the Council and Coillte with regard to the Council taking in charge the parking areas and walking trails in Rossmore Forest Park?

Reply: *An initial meeting was held with Coillte staff in July and further meetings are planned this Autumn with a view towards completing an agreement for 2014.*

10. In relation to the NPPR (2nd home tax) what amount has the Council collected to date for 2013 and how does it compare with previous years?

Reply: *The amount collected to date for each of the years since the introduction of the NPPR are as follows:*

Paid NPPR 2009 €599,520

Paid NPPR 2011 €597,140

Paid NPPR 2011 €567,780

Paid NPPR 2012 €562,380

Paid NPPR 2013 €480,440

The figures for each year are constantly increasing as there are liabilities for previous years being discharged on a regular basis.

11. Can the Council provide clarity with regard to the proposed procedure for septic tank inspections and guidelines for householders with regard to how to determine whether their septic tank is functioning properly and whether they will need to upgrade?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will notify the owner 10 days in advance of the inspection. Specially trained inspectors will check that the septic tank, as constructed, is fit for purpose and is not giving rise to a risk to public health or the environment. The owner will be notified about the findings of the inspection within 21 days. If the septic tank is deemed to pose a risk to either public health or the environment Monaghan County Council will issue an Advisory Notice. It should be noted that a total of 33, risk based, inspections will be carried out in the first year.*

Information leaflets regarding the function of a septic tank and what to expect from a septic tank inspection are available from Monaghan County Council and all

public counters such as Town Councils, libraries etc. The information is also available on the Council's website.

Cllr R. Gallagher asked:

12. As the route of the Monaghan bypass is used extensively by walkers and cyclists what is the current position with the discussions between the Council the NRA in relation to taking measures to make the route safer for all road users?

Reply: *Monaghan Co. Council is in discussion with the NRA with regard to making an application under the Low Cost Accident Remedial Scheme for funding to facilitate walking and cycling along the route.*

Cllr M. Carthy asked:

13. Will the Council provide an update on the current status of the Group Home at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross for women for physical and sensory disabilities; what are the expected dates for commencement and completion at this stage?

Reply: *In relation to the New Group Home, tenders have been issued on the e-tenders website for contractors on the 28th August 2013.*

Tenders will be due back end of third week in September, with a start date on site at the end of October, subject to receipt of approval from the DOE.

Note - *In respect of the proposed Proposed Group Home Extension (Steadfast) Development at Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan we have been informed by Respond that the following timescale is in place*

23 August 2013 Submission of Disability Access Certificate Application (1 month approval period)

23 August 2013 Submission of Fire Cert Application (1 month approval period)

29 August 2013 Final Planning Grant to issue by Monaghan County Council (1 month approval period)

30 August 2013 Receipt of Fire Certificate

11 September 2013 Tenders issued (1 month tender period)

02 October 2013 Tenders returned (2 day report turnaround)

04 October 2013 Tender report lodged with Monaghan County Council (1 week to prepare councils report)

10 October 2013 Receipt of Disability Access Certificate

11 October 2013 Funding Approval issued by DOE (4 week approval from DOE)

14 October 2013 Letter of Acceptance to issue to contractor (Bond, Insurances, mortgages to be put in place)

21 October 2013 Start on Site (9 week construction period)

20 December 2013 Construction Completion

14. Will the Council provide a list of each housing estate in County Monaghan for which there is an application to be taken-in-charge by the local authority? What is the status of each application?

Reply:

Development Name	Location	Current Status of TIC Application	Comment
Inver park	Carrickmacross	Developer addressing outstanding matters	
Clairmont Rise	Rockcorry	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	
Glenowen	Ballinode	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	
Ascail Dubh	Carrickmacross	Developer addressing outstanding matters	
Sliabh Dubh	Corduff	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	Bond drawn down. Remedial works to commence upon completion of reports by Roads & Water Sections
Gola Crest	Scotstown	Awaiting determination of regularising planning application	Regularising planning application submitted on 13 May 2013. Additional information requested on 05 July 2013
Old Coach Manor	Castleblayney	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	
Drumbear Wood	Monaghan	Awaiting determination of regularising planning application	Regularising planning application submitted on 03 July 2013. Additional information requested on 22 Aug 2013
Thorndale	Castleblayney	Developer addressing outstanding matters	
Hillcrest Manor	Clontibret	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	
Maple Grove	Smithborough	Developer addressing outstanding matters	
Carrowbarra Island	Smithborough	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	
Meadowview	Ballybay	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	
The Ferns	Scotstown	Under assessment by the Planning Authority	Bond drawn down and remedial works carried out by the Planning Authority

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

15. In the interest of the maintenance and also of road safety, could this Council please address the issue of road signs in the Scotstown and Knockatallon areas? Road signs in these areas are in a very bad state of disrepair and need to be replaced as the signs have become discoloured and illegible. Signs that need to be replaced urgently include
- (i) The road sign at Urbleshanny Church
 - (ii) The road sign at the Entrance to Scotstown village from Monaghan
 - (iii) The road sign in Scotstown Village sign posting for Knockatallon.

Can this Council make a guarantee to the people of Scotstown and Knockatallon that these signs shall be replaced, it is of extreme importance that all our towns and villages are maintained and road signs are easy to read in order to prevent accidents.

Reply: *The Council will investigate and replace any signs that require replacement.*

16. With reference to work that Monaghan County Council had previously carried out on the hump back bridge which exits Scotstown on the Tydavnet road.
- (i) The area alongside the footpath on the Tydavnet side of the bridge has not been completed and requires urgent attention. The issue has been raised by Tidy towns and the area would need to be levelled out with top soil to complete the project. The tidy towns committee in Scotstown would appreciate Monaghan County Councils support in the completion of this project.

Reply: *Monaghan County Council will arrange to place topsoil to this small area on the field side of the fence.*

- (ii) The walk way on the Scotstown side has also become very unlevel and uneven, with an Eircom box protruding and the paving misplaced. The bridge walkway is used by pedestrians, which include school children and older people. So I urge this Council to deal with this issue urgently as it is only a matter of time before a treacherous accident shall happen.

Reply: *This will be investigated and any urgent repairs will be carried out.*

17. With reference to the forecourt of the Telecom Installation on the Monaghan side of Scotstown Village, can this County Council clarify whether it could tarmac this area, as it is a hazard to passing cars, as the surface is very loose and in need of a more structurally sound surface.

Reply: *This site belongs to Eircom and therefore it is their responsibility to maintain same. They have been contacted in this regard.*

18. In relation to a previous question submitted to this Council, has Monaghan County Council made any arrangements with regard to a footpath being constructed between Scotstown Village and the Housing Developments on the Roslea Road. This continues to be a particularly dangerous area of road for residents of both Gola Crest and The

Ferns. I urge Monaghan County Council to look at the feasibility of a much needed footpath here.

Reply: *Initial investigations indicate that there may be difficulty in obtaining land. Monaghan Co. Council will endeavour to progress the matter.*

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

19. I would like to highlight the issue of the hard water in Scotstown and Ballinode

- (i) The people of Scotstown and Ballinode have not yet received any supplementary information that could help them to use the hard water to its best ability. Could Monaghan Council address this issue and have information forwarded to all residents that are supplied with this hard water.

Reply: *An information notice giving advice to householders who are connected to a hard water supply is available on Monaghan County Council's website. A notice will be put in the Northern Standard to inform householders that the information will also be available, in the form of a leaflet, through public offices such as Area Offices, Town Councils and Libraries.*

- (ii) The hard water is a long term issue within the vicinity and I call on this County Council once again, to consider some measure that would help the people of Scotstown and Ballinode to avail of softer water that other towns and villages are supplied with. Local people are having to pay upwards of one thousand euro's to have their water softened. This should be an issue that our County Council should be addressing at once. Does this government allocate any funds to help areas in Ireland that are supplied with hard water?

Reply: *There are presently no government funds available to local authorities with regards to softening hard water.*

Cllr S. Treanor asked:

20. As Armagh City & District Council look set to spend almost €2 million on improving the road from Milford Village to Foyduff at Tyholland border, due to start this month, is it not now time for Monaghan County Council to move ahead with the plan to re-align the road from the Tyholland border to Silverstream, as this is the second busiest road in County Monaghan after the N2? It is imperative that this Council install proper turning lanes at Tyholland Creamery junction, Tyholland Chapel, Pipers Bridge, road to New Houses, Monaghan Mushrooms and turn for Skinnagin.

Reply: *The current NRA allocation will allow work to commence on the Tamlet project in September 2013. Subject to further NRA funding, it is proposed to complete these works in 2014. However, there are no proposals for turning lanes for the New Houses at Tyholland, Monaghan Mushrooms or Skinnagin.*

Cllr C. McPhillips asked:

21. Can Monaghan County Council please advise of the changes to the mobile library service since January 2012, to include, what are the changes, how were these changes decided upon and why were they necessary?

Reply: *As a result of the retirement in February 2012 of both our rural mobile and primary school mobile library drivers Monaghan County Library reviewed both services.*

Regarding the Primary school mobile library all rural primary schools are visited twice a year. 22 stops from the Rural Mobile service have been re-established. These stops provide services specifically to Pre-Schools, Play Schools and After School facilities.

In order to provide further opportunities to provide access to the service it is hoped in the near future to pilot a scheme similar to the Taobh Tíre project successfully established in County Donegal. The scheme involves the establishment of small static collections of stock placed in suitable accommodation within the community. These would replace the mobile stops originally provided.

22. Will Monaghan County Council immediately contact those landowners who were written to in Spring 2013 but who failed to cut their hedges prior to the ban on hedge cutting, advising them that hedge cutting is now permitted and that it is their responsibility to maintain roadside hedgerows? What action will Monaghan County Council take if hedgerows are not maintained?

Reply: *Monaghan Co. Council will continue to alert landowners/occupiers to cut their hedges. The Roads Act gives the Road Authority power to serve notice with a timeframe for completion of the works. Non compliance with a notice can lead to prosecution proceedings, a fine or imprisonment for 6 months or both.*

23. Can Monaghan County Council please advise how it proposes to manage traffic once works commence on the Threemilehouse-Newbliss road in coming weeks and when works commence in Threemilehouse village on both the works at the Corcaghan junction and the flood prevention works? Can Monaghan County Council please bear in mind that people travelling to Monaghan town along this road already face considerable delays in the morning on the Clones road?

Reply: *Traffic management plans will be prepared to carry out the works in a safe manner. Monaghan County Council will endeavour to minimise any disruption to the public for the duration of the works.*

24. Can Monaghan County Council, in particular, the Community & Enterprise Section, please advise of recent correspondence received in relation to potential funding for playgrounds/play parks?

Reply: *The Dept of Children and Youth Affairs have announced a call for applications for funding for playgrounds. There is €50k per local authority on*

offer, but the LA must match the funding. Funding may be used to upgrade existing playgrounds or provide new facilities.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

25. (i) How many houses has Monaghan County Council in its housing stock?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council owns 765 houses.*

- (ii) How many of these houses have been upgraded with attic and wall insulation to-date?

Reply: *To date 289 houses owned by Monaghan County Council have either been upgraded or are under contract to be upgraded within the next 3 months.*

- (iii) What plans has the Council to complete the Insulation Programme?

Reply: *Work is ongoing with priority given to the older housing stock in order to complete a Fabric Upgrade Programme to all Monaghan County Council dwellings within current budgetary constraints whilst complying with the Energy Retrofitting Programme 2013, and any future programme, for local authority housing stock as defined by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government. It is intended that all Monaghan County Council houses older than year 2000, will have had a Fabric Upgrade by the end of 2013 and depending on funding from the Department it is envisaged that all Council owned houses will be upgraded over the next two years.*

- (iv) Are Monaghan County Council housing tenants entitled to get an energy rating certificate for their home?

Reply: *When houses are newly constructed or when a new tenancy commences Building Energy Rating Certificates are available. All houses that are being upgraded will have new Building Energy Rating Certificates produced and can be provided to tenants.*

- (v) Where a house has a poor energy rating, will this result in a reduced rent, given the extra costs involved in heating such a home?

Reply: *The differential rent scheme does not facilitate variations in rent according to Building Energy Rating and it is envisaged that the energy efficiency of all Council owned houses will be improved over the next two years.*

26. In relation to the Home Tax which was sold to the people as a (Local Property Tax), how much tax has been collected in County Monaghan? Will this funding be spent in the county to subvert the huge shortfall in our roads and housing aid for older people budgets for example?

Reply: *Monaghan County Council does not have details regarding the amount of Local Property Tax collected as this function is being carried out by the Revenue Commissioners. No additional funding is available to the Council as a result of the*

introduction of the Local Property Tax. The income generated from this tax is being used to fund the shortfall in the Local Government Fund.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

27. In relation to Inniskeen, and the community call for traffic calming measures to be put in place, in order to reduce the excessive speed of some vehicles going through the village & increase public safety, what is the up to date position on this request?

Reply: *An application for funding for Traffic Calming at Inniskeen is to be submitted to the Department of Transport under for Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes for 2014. This item will also be placed on the agenda of the next Carrickmacross Road Area meeting.*

28. In the interest of road safety what action will Monaghan County Council take to ensure that all landowners comply with hedge trimming/cutting notices? Has the Council ever prosecuted a landowner for none compliance, after all other avenues have been exhausted?

Reply: *The legislation for dealing with non compliance with hedge cutting notices is the Roads Act 1993, section 70. If notices are not complied with in the period specified, the Road Authority can initiate prosecution proceedings. The owner/occupier of land is liable to a fine or imprisonment or both if found guilty of such an offence.*

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

29. When a hedge grows out on to the road, creating a danger to road users, who is ultimately responsible for correcting the situation and who is liable if an accident occurs?

Reply: *Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 requires landowners or occupiers of land, or the owners or occupiers of structures on land to take all necessary steps to ensure that trees, shrubs, hedges or other vegetation on their land is not, or could not be a danger to those using a public road or to somebody carrying out maintenance or improvement works on the road. If it is the case that a danger is posed, the Road Authority can serve notice on the owner or occupier requiring him/her, within a specified period, to take whatever remedial action is deemed necessary to ensure the safety of those using the public road. Failure to comply with a notice could result in the initiation of prosecution proceedings. A person found guilty of an offence for non compliance with a notice could be liable to a fine or to imprisonment of up to six months or both.*

Cllr G. Carville asked:

30. What is the up to date situation in relation to the resolution of outstanding issues concerning the Cul Darach Estate in Castleblayney and what is the critical path for the taking into charge of the estate by the Co Council?

Reply: The Council is in ongoing discussions with the developer and their agents in respect of the preparation and implementation of a site resolution plan for this development. In the event that this does not lead to a satisfactory conclusion, the Council will move to draw down the related bond to fund remedial works

Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provides that when a development has been completed in accordance with the relevant planning permission, to the satisfaction of the planning authority, the authority shall initiate proceedings under Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 to take it in charge when requested to do so by the developer, or if so, by a majority of the owners of the houses.

10. Notices of Motion:

Consideration of Notices of Motion 10(1) to 10(9) was deferred to the October Council meeting.

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations:

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following:

- Mrs. Aileen Scott, Corlatton, Monaghan on the death of her husband Robert RIP
- Ms. Ann Durnin, Council employee, on the death of her mother Rose Breen, RIP late of Ardee.
- The wife and family of the late Seamus Heaney, Dublin
- Cllr Padraig McNally on the death of his cousin Aidan Murray, Dublin.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the following:

- Monaghan Ladies Senior Football Team on reaching the All Ireland Football Final on 29th September and wishing them good luck in the final.
- Carrickmacross Emmets on winning the Division 1A Coyle Cup U.12
- Killany GFC on winning the Division 2A U.12 competition
- Inniskeen GFC on winning the Division 6 U.12 competition
- Corduff Pipe Band on winning the All Ireland Fleadh Title in Derry
- Marie Curley, Moyles, Monaghan on being elected Chieftain of the McKenna Clan
- Aaron McKenna, Old School Boxing Club on winning
- Eleanor McQuaid on being an excellent Ambassador for Co. Monaghan in the Rose of Tralee Final 2013.
- Monaghan Harps U.14 on winning the Division 5 All Ireland Title at the Limerick Féile na nGael Final 2013
- Clontibret Camogie Club on winning the Monaghan Senior Camogie Championship 2013
- Cllr Matt Carthy on being nominated by Sinn Fein to contest the European Parliament Elections for the Connacht-Ulster Constituency.

12. Conferences:

On the proposal of Cllr Carville, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Seanchaí Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre	A Decade of Commemoration 1913-1923 The Role of Local Authorities	St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry.	27th – 28th September 2013	Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr G. Carville
Good Energies Alliance Ireland	2030 Vision: The Future of Energy in Ireland	Bush Hotel, Carrick-On-Shannon	19th September 2013	Cllr N. Keelan
TGR Seminars	Poverty in Ireland today – overview of contemporary facts & figures	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co Clare	27th- 28th September 2013	Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon Cllr A. Murray
ICLRD	Executive Training and Animation Programme	Glencarn Hotel Castleblayney	5 Modules 24/913 – 5/12/13	Cllr S. Coyle Cllr B. McKenna

The meeting concluded at 3.00 pm