

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 7th September, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr Noel Keelan, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Maxwell, McElvaney, McPhillips, B. McKenna, McNally, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive, Mr. A. King and Mr. P. Clifford, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr Bannigan.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr N. Keelan, proposed a vote of sympathy with Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive on the recent death of his brother, Kenneth Owen Cummins, RIP. The proposal was seconded by Cllr B. McKenna and agreed unanimously.

Cllrs McElvaney, McNally and McKenna associated themselves and their groupings with the vote of sympathy, as did Cllr Connolly on behalf of the independent group.

Mr. Cummins thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members for the vote of sympathy and expressed his sincere thanks to all those who attended the removal and funeral of his late brother and also to those who contacted him, by phone, text and email to express their sympathy.

Following a minute's silence, the meeting adjourned for five minutes as a mark of respect.

On resumption, the Cathaoirleach that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of Cllrs McNally, Coyle, Gallagher and O'Hanlon in relation to the serious situation facing dairy farmers as a result of a worldwide collapse in milk prices.

It was agreed that the motion of urgent business would be discussed later in the meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

- (i) On the proposal of Cllr. J. Crowe, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of Council meeting held on 6th July, 2015, be confirmed.*
- (ii) On the proposal of Cllr. P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr R. Gallagher, it was agreed that the minutes of Special Council meeting held on 12th August, 2015, be confirmed.*

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Letter from the Department of Transport and Sport to the Chief Executive in relation to the maintenance and repair of the regional and local road network in County Monaghan.

- Letter from the Minister for Transport and Sport advising that responsibility for the construction, improvement and maintenance of individual national roads is a matter for the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and that he had forwarded the Council's resolution relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border road to its Chief Executive.
- Letter from the Minister for Housing, Paudie Coffey, T.D., declining a meeting with a deputation from the Council in relation to the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Letter from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to criteria for the Housing Aid for Older People Grant scheme.
- Email from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to funding announced for the 2015 Scheme for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability.
- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in relation to zero hour and low hour contracts.
- Letter from the Minister for Diaspora Affairs giving an update on the Government's work to achieve relief for the undocumented Irish migrants in the USA.
- Letter from the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in relation to the closure of the BOSE facility in Carrickmacross and outlining the work undertaken by the inter-agency group that was established to provide support.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation regarding the application of the EU Globalisation Fund to the former BOSE workers.
- Email from IDA Ireland Dundalk confirming date for a meeting in relation to job creation in County Monaghan.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in relation to home help hours.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister Kathleen Lynch T.D. in relation to home help hours.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Director General of the HSE in relation to home help hours.
- Letter from the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton, T.D., declining a meeting with the Council in relation to the Public Service Card office in Ballybay.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach in relation to cuts to social welfare payments.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton, T.D., in relation to reversing cuts to the social welfare payments and advising that the matter will be considered in the context of the forthcoming budget.
- Letter from Minister Alex White, T.D., in relation to the delivery of a quality broadband service in Co. Monaghan.
- Acknowledgement of the Council's resolution of sympathy from the family of the late Albert Reynolds, T.D.
- Resolution from the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calling on the Minister for Agriculture to intervene to ensure that maps that are being used for the new GLAS Environmental Scheme, are the same as those used for the REPS Scheme.
- Resolution from Cork County Council calling for State job activation measures to be available to all who are unemployed, not just those on the Live Register.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister for Agriculture to reverse the unjust cuts to the Single Farm Payment Scheme and the penalties imposed on farmers.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council calling on the Taoiseach to formally ask the US Ambassador to Ireland to include Ireland in the next round of visa waivers for our undocumented Irish.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council write again to the Dept. of Health and request that the home help hours be restored in this region as this scheme keeps older people in their homes with an acceptable level of care.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council write to the Dept. of Transport pointing out that due to substantial cut backs over recent years, our regional and county roads are deteriorating and requesting an additional roads allocation in this year's budget.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Transport Paschal Donohoe to make additional funding available for local roads and regional roads, a reduction of almost 50% since 2011.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government to increase the funding for Housing Adaptation Grants to Monaghan County Council as applications for this funding closed on 31st August (4 months before the end of the year)

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council welcomes the work being carried out in relation to finding replacement jobs in Cavan/Monaghan after the closure of the BOSE Manufacturing Plant. However, we ask the Minister of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton, TD to push for new employment/jobs, specifically in Carrickmacross and South Monaghan in order to replace jobs lost at BOSE.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that a delegation from Monaghan County Council go to meet the Tanaiste Joan Burton, TD and Minister for Social Protection in Leinster House to discuss the need to keep the Department of Social Protection Office in Ballybay. The Tanaiste's unavailability to meet the County Councillors in Monaghan only shows her total disregard for the people of Ballybay and her disregard for the loss of jobs at the office of Social Protection. The loss of this office only adds to the demise of our rural towns and communities.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council brief Members on the roll out of high speed broadband and seek details of the ESB/Vodafone €450m investment in fibre broadband and how it will benefit County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District calling on the Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney T.D., to ensure that maps that are being used for the new GLAS Environmental Scheme are the same as those used for the REPS Scheme which ends this year as there are serious discrepancies in the maps being used presently.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on Minister Simon Coveney T.D., to reverse the unjust Single Farm Payment cuts and penalties imposed on farmers in marginal and disadvantages areas across rural Ireland. Many farmers are struggling to survive, with loss of income and penalties imposed on farm land which had been actively farmed and properly maintained for generations but was deemed ineligible and not fit for farming in 2013. We call

on the Minister to cease all land eligibility, ground and aerial satellite inspections until this unfair situation is resolved.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Donegal County Council calling on An Taoiseach to formally ask the US Ambassador to Ireland to include Ireland in the next round of visa waivers for our undocumented Irish.

It was agreed to take Notice of Motion 14(4) at this time.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

That this Council seeks Minister Charlie Flanagan and the Department of Foreign Affairs to pursue the US Government through the office of the US Embassy, the allocation of Visa Waivers on the basis of compassionate and humanitarian grounds that would realise the opportunity for undocumented Irish citizens to undertake a return journey home in family related emergency situations.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Conlon's motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

3. To consider proposed variation of Policy HDP8 of the County Development Plan relating the provision of childcare facilities in housing developments.

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner informed the elected members that the rationale behind the proposed variation was to allow the planning authority discretion to determine as to whether it was necessary for childcare facilities to be required in every housing development of 75 units or more. He added that the wording of Policy HDP8, although based on the Department's Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities, was stricter than the guidelines in requiring childcare facilities in larger housing developments by default, and thus did not allow for the consideration of existing provision, thereby creating a potential situation where there could be two under capacity crèches in the same catchment area. He explained that there had been previous occasions where developers had sought removal of the condition requiring the provision of a crèche within their development on the basis that there was sufficient provision of places within an existing crèche in the area, and the planning authority had to invoke the material contravention procedure to permit the removal of the condition on every occasion that this arose due to the restrictive wording of Policy HDP8 in the County Development Plan.

Cllr Coyle agreed with the rationale and cited an example where a voluntary/community crèche was providing an effective service, had sufficient capacity to accommodate additional children and that its viability could have been compromised by the requirement of another crèche in a nearby housing development under Policy HDP8 on the basis of the policy wording and not necessity.

Mr Gourley made it clear that the developer would have to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the planning authority that there was no need for the facility within that development and that the County Monaghan Childcare Committee would be consulted when considering these cases.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr McNally it was unanimously agreed that the variation of Policy HDP8 of the Monaghan County Development Plan relating the provision of childcare facilities in housing developments be made.

4. Management Report – July/August 2015

The members noted the Management Report for July/August which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The Chief Executive and relevant Directors responded to queries from the members arising from the report.

Cllr. O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr. McNally seconded, that Monaghan County Council invites members of the media: UK, Scotland, Wales in relation to the festivals we have in Monaghan e.g. Muckno Mania – Castleblayney, Harvest Blues Festival – Monaghan, Summer Festival – Carrickmacross.

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services advised the meeting that the Council’s Tourism Officer liaises with media both in Ireland and abroad in relation to the promotion of events within the county.

It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

5. To approve recommendations and minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 3rd September, 2015

The members considered the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 3rd September, 2015 which were outlined in detail by the Meetings Administrator.

Civic Reception – Monaghan Senior Football Team:

It was agreed that a Civic Reception would be held to honour the County Monaghan Senior Football Team on winning the Ulster Final 2015. It was further agreed that the Civic Reception would be held on the evening of the 2nd of November and that the November Council meeting would be held at 2pm on that date.

International Famine Commemoration – Canada:

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that Monaghan County Council accept the invitation from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to participate in the International Famine Commemoration in Canada in late October 2015.

There proposals were made during the course of a discussion on the matter.

(i) *Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that the Council be represented at the Famine Commemoration in Canada by the Cathaoirleach and an official.*

A vote by show of hands on this proposal resulted in 8 for 9 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

- (ii) *Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that the Council be represented by the Cathaoirleach, one member and an official and that the selection of the additional member be decided by lot from among interested Councillors.*

A vote by show of hand resulted in 14 for 2 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

- (iii) *Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that the Council be represented by the Cathaoirleach, and official and one member from each political grouping on the Council.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 2 for 14 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

Cllrs Conlon, Connolly, Maxwell, O'Hanlon and McNally each expressed an interest in travelling to Canada. The decision by lot resulted in Cllr O'Hanlon's name being selected.

It was agreed that, in accordance with proposal (ii) that the Cathaoirleach, Cllr O'Hanlon and an accompanying official would represent the Council at the event.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 3rd September, 2015 be confirmed.

6. To fix date for Special meeting re Council Landfill/LPT determination of rate for 2016.

It was agreed that a Special meeting to discuss the future viability of the Council's landfill at Scotch Corner and the determination of the LPT rate for 2016 would be held on Friday 25th September. It was also agreed that a site visit to the Landfill would take place at 9.30 am and that the Special meeting would take place at 10.30. The members suggested that the meeting would take place in the GAA Training Facility at Cloghan, if available.

7. To consider and approve the Draft County Monaghan Ireland 2016 Commemoration Plan:

Ms. C. Thornton, Ireland 2016 Co-ordinator referred to the Draft County Monaghan Plan which outlined proposals for the County's commemoration of the events of 1916 and which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The Draft Plan outlines the background to the events of the 1916 rising in County Monaghan and the County's plans to commemorate them under the five themes – *Remembering, Reconciling, Presenting, Imagining and Celebrating*.

The commemoration of these events that eventually led to the Irish Republic will be multifaceted. The people of County Monaghan will come together to remember and reflect on how 1916 changed the history of Ireland, and how those events have brought us to the modern Republic of today. This will be done through a broad range of events including, talks, tours, exhibitions, performances and local community events. A detailed overview of the programme, as it is currently, is presented in the draft Plan.

She stated that following the public consultation meeting in late May, a scheme of seed funding for the development of projects/events to commemorate the events of 1916 had been advertised. 43 applications had been received from interested groups. The Assessment Group met in early August and assessed all applications. Three applications were deemed unsuccessful as they did not meet the relevant criteria. Funding of €24,850 was allocated and 50% of this will be issued to successful applicants in the next week or so.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Draft Ireland 2016 Plan for County Monaghan be adopted and that it be submitted for inclusion in the National Plan.

8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

It was agreed that the reports received from Cllrs Bennett, Conlon, Connolly, Maxwell, McElvaney, O'Hanlon, and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG Training (Housing & Finance) Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
- AILG Training (Economic Development), Galway.
- AILG Training (Community Development/LCDC), Sligo
- Local Economic and Community Plans, Clonakilty, Cork.

9. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 6th July and 12th August, 2015

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meetings held on 6th July and 12th August were responded to by the relevant officials.

10. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

The following correspondence was circulated with the Agenda:

- Email from Minister Humphreys, T.D., enclosing a letter from Mr. Alex White, T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
- Email from Mr. Alex White, T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to the North South Interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council that the Council write to An Bord Pleanála and insist that oral hearings take place on this application.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that the Council invite Mr. John Boylan, Liaison Officer for Eirgrid, to our October Council meeting to explain to us and the Monaghan Community what his role involves and to inform him of our views.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that this Council supports the Anti-Pylon Committee in calling on Minister Humphreys to seek a meeting with Minister Whyte and An Taoiseach Enda Kenny that a "project of common interest" be allowed in parallel with An Bord Pleanála considering the planning application from Eirgrid. That the members of the Fine Gael bench accompany the Minister on the delegation.

11. To receive update on Ulster Canal project.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

- Letter from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin enclosing a letter which he had forwarded to Minister Heather Humphreys in relation to the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from Brendan Smith, T.D., outlining that he had made representations to Minister Humphreys in relation to the Ulster Canal.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the Council write to Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D., seeking an allocation in the upcoming budget for the re-opening of the Ulster Canal from Belturbet to Clones and that a meeting be held at Council level with Minister Humphreys.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that she had received notification that a provisional date had been agreed for a meeting with both Minister Caral Ni Chuilín and Minister Heather Humphreys in relation to the Ulster Canal – the date being Friday 6th November, 2015.

The following members were selected to represent the Council at the meeting – Cllr N. Keelan, Cathaoirleach, Cllr C. McPhillips, Cllr S. Coyle, Cllr P. Connolly and Cllr P. Treanor.

12. Business submitted by Chief Executive.

Mr. E. Cummins, Chief Executive advised the members that as previously announced he was taking up the position of Chief Executive with Roscommon County Council from 1st October and therefore, this was his last Council meeting. He stated that he had been speaking with the Public Appointments Service and they had assured him that the vacancy would be filled in the near future – he expected it would be advertised later that week. He confirmed that Mr. Adge King, Director would be appointed Deputy Chief Executive to cover a period of annual leave until the 30th September. It was a matter for the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to appoint a temporary Chief Executive with effect from 1st October.

Mr. Cummins stated that it was a great privilege to have worked with the members over the past 20 months. He had felt wanted and part of a community. He acknowledged the difficult job the members had and he had the deepest respect for each of them. He took up the post of Monaghan County Manager in January 2014 and since then the local authority had experienced the biggest change in the history of the State. The people of Monaghan were a people of deep friendship and had a deep commitment to their county. He would leave stronger, with a stronger sense of community and a greater understanding of the effect the troubles could have on and across a community and the power of peace and what it can bring. He admired the entrepreneurial spirit of Monaghan people and their get up and go attitude. He paid tribute to all the Council's stakeholders referring in particular to Cavan Monaghan ETB, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, businesspeople, tourism providers and community groups throughout the county.

Regarding the staff of Monaghan County Council he said they were the hardest working people he had met in all his 32 years in the local authority service. He also acknowledged the media for the excellent reporting of Council meetings and for their assistance in promoting Council activities.

In conclusion, he wished the Cathaoirleach, members and staff all the best in the future in driving County Monaghan forward. He hoped that the people of the county continued to be cohesive and singularly focused in developing a better future for themselves and future generations. He also hoped that the Council's Local Economic and Community Plan proved effective and that jobs continued to be created by the county's SME's.

Cllrs McNally, B. McKenna, Maxwell and Connolly spoke on behalf of their respective groupings. They acknowledged the work done by Mr. Cummins during his time in Monaghan and expressed the view that projects which he had initiated such as the re-furbishment of Council HQ, branding of the county, and a new Museum would continue, as well as a continued focus on economic development and job creation. They wished him good health and success in his new post with Roscommon County Council.

13. Questions:

Cllr P. McNally asked:

- 1 (a) Regarding County Monaghan Library service on a branch by branch basis, how many people are using the service?
- (b) How does this compare with five years ago?

Reply: Monaghan County Library Service

2014 and 2009 statistics are provided for a full year comparison

In 2014 in addition to the numbers supplied below:

- 1,071 events were organised, attended by 16,665 members of the public
- 400 computers classes were taught
- 2,953 book requests were answered
- 783 Genealogy and Local History enquiries were answered.
- 10,361 items were borrowed through the Mobile Library Pre-school, Play-school and After-school Service

Please note: Our book stock fund for 2015 is €68,175, or €1.13 per head of population in the County.

This has a direct bearing on our ability to retain existing customers and attract new ones. This is also well below the Department's current per capita stock fund target of €3.77 as published in 'Opportunities for All' the National Strategy for Public Libraries 2013-2017, which would represent an annual Book Stock Fund for Monaghan of €228,021.

Library Members

Please note, figures relate to active members who have used the service at least once in the last year

	2009	2014	% Difference
Monaghan	3,649	3,763	3%
Carrickmacross	1,820	3,473	91%
Castleblayney	1,035	788	-24%
Clones	1,571	1,503	-4%
Ballybay	428	519	21%
	8,503	10,046	18%

Total Number of Items Borrowed

This includes Books, DVDs, Music CDs, Magazines etc. borrowed

	2009	2014	% Difference
Monaghan	71,570	140,970	97%
Carrickmacross	35,572	102,988	190%
Castleblayney	19,047	28,758	51%
Clones	33,449	27,570	-18%
Ballybay	16,205	18,814	16%
	175,843	319,100	81%

Total Number of Library Visitors

Visitor numbers were not collected for all branches in 2009.

In the first four months of this year we have had a total of 81,904 visitors to the five branches

	2009	2014
Monaghan		100,029
Carrickmacross		77,472
Castleblayney		14,063
Clones		57,039
Ballybay		8,313
		256,916

Internet Usage

Library users entitled to one 45 minute Internet session per day

	2009	2014	% Difference
Monaghan	15,296	13,458	-12%
Carrickmacross	3,898	10,379	166%
Castleblayney	1,596	1,231	-23%
Clones	11,652	10,729	-8%
Ballybay	386	588	52%
	32,828	36,385	11%

WIFI

WIFI was not available in 2009

Free WIFI access is available to Library Members throughout the day

	2009	2014
Monaghan	-	5,488
Carrickmacross	-	2,582
Castleblayney	-	13
Clones	-	690
Ballybay	-	-
		8,773

- 2 Has Monaghan County Council received any response from the Department of the Environment following the submission of our Road conditions Survey?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received a response from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport by letter dated 30th July, 2015 which will be circulated at the September Co. Council Meeting.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

- 3 In order for this Council to consider the development of Local Authority Housing in the rural areas, how many applicants have we from the following rural locations:-
Lisdoonan – Corduff – Magheraclone – Killanny – Inniskeen – Donaghmoynne – Broomfield - Lough Egish - Oram.

Reply: The application form for social housing support indicates specific areas of choice throughout County Monaghan where the Council owns properties. Monaghan County Council do not specify areas of choice for Lisdoonan, Corduff, Killanny, Donaghmoynne, Broomfield and Lough Egish. The application numbers in respect of Magheraclone, Inniskeen and Oram are as follows:-

Magheraclone	- 24
Inniskeen	- 31
Oram	- 19

- 4 How many vacant houses have Monaghan County Council got across the County and how many of these have been unoccupied for more than 3 months?

Reply: There are a total of 20 vacant houses at present, 9 are vacant over three months. These 6 units in Oliver Plunkett Park, Drumillard awaiting major refurbishment.

- 5 Has this Council's Road Section finalised a route for a link road between the N2 Castleblayney by pass and the Dundalk Rd (N53) in Castleblayney as indicated in answer to my question in May/June 2015?

Reply: A detailed survey of the proposed route corridor is scheduled to commence in September 2015. The completion of this survey will allow for preliminary alignment designs to be developed and assessed in accordance with TII Design Standards. It is anticipated that the preferred alignment design will be finalised in early 2016.

Cllr C. McPhillips asked:

- 6 Will Monaghan County Council consider extending the speed limit in Smithboro village, in the direction of Clones so that the junction for Magherarney National School, Church, housing development and Old School Boxing Club is within the 50km limit?

Reply: The alteration of speed limits on National Roads requires consultation with and approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII, formerly NRA). It is proposed to discuss the extension of the 50Km/h in Smithboro with the TII in the context of the ongoing national review of speed limits as recommended by the new Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in March 2015.

- 7 Have Monaghan County Council been in further contact with the NRA or An Garda Síochána regarding the issue of speeding traffic in Smithboro village?

Reply: Roads engineering staff recently met with the TII road safety inspector on site to review the results of additional speed counts conducted in recent weeks and to evaluate

possible solutions to reducing traffic speeds. A number of options were discussed and the Council are currently developing a final proposal in consultation with the TII. An Garda Síochána were advised of the earlier survey findings of excessive speed through the village and the issue will be raised again at the next Collision Prevention Committee Meeting.

- 8 Will Monaghan County Council consider the implementation of a speed limit at Shantonagh, together with the erection of appropriate signage?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will be carrying out a speed limit review in 2016 in accordance with the recommendations of the new Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland and consideration of a speed limit at Shantonagh will be included in the review.

Clr R. Gallagher asked:

- 9 What is the projected completion date for the traffic calming works on the north side of Emyvale village and what will be the total cost of the works when complete?

Reply: The traffic calming works on the northern approach to Emyvale are expected to be substantially completed by the 4th September 2015 at a total cost of €120,000.

- 10 With regard to housing -

- (a) How many people are currently on the county council housing list overall and in each municipal district?

Reply: There are 1327 households on the waiting list. This is broke down as follows:-

552 Monaghan MD ;
226 Ballybay Clones MD ;
549 Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD

- (b) How do these figures compare to 2012, 2013 and 2014?

Reply:

	People on Waiting List
2012	497
2013	984 – incorporates Municipal District Areas
2014	961 – Incorporates Municipal District Areas

- (c) How many new housing units has the council provided in each of these years?

Reply: The allocations made in the following years are as follows:-

2012 – 142;
2013 – 95;
2014 – 153;
2015 to date – 61

	Acquisitions
2012	31
2013	6
2014	7

- 11 Regarding the mortgage to rent scheme - how many people have secured housing through this scheme in the county since 2012?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has not received a completed applications that has been processed through the Mortgage Arrears Resolution process (MARP). There are currently two pending with the Local Authority Mortgage to rent (LAMTR) Scheme and one awaiting approval.

- 12 In light of the continued lack of quality broadband in many parts of the county and the deterioration of same in others what steps can the council take to assist in rectifying the situation and has the council any update on the new fibre broadband network promised by the Government some time ago for Monaghan Town?

Reply: The council has no direct responsibility for the provision of broadband services. This falls to the various telecoms providers. Expansion of the service is therefore on a commercial basis.

The national broadband scheme is designed to provide high speed broadband where the commercial operators are absent. The scheme is in the procurement stage which is to be completed by December 2015. The construction is to begin in 2016. For full details check <http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/communications/en-ie/Broadband/Pages/Connecting-Communities.aspx>

Monaghan town is being serviced at present by the Eircom efibre product which is available widely in the town. Check <http://www.eircom.net/efibreinfo/map/> for exact locations.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

- 13 Is it still envisaged by Monaghan County Council that works will commence on the Group Home for People with Physical/Sensory Disabilities in Carrickmacross this month (September)?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received a letter from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government on the 1st of September 2015 requesting further information and reaffirmation of H.S.E. support for the project and confirmation of the number of individuals with disabilities that require the specialised accommodation that is to be provided in the proposed Group Home at Tailte an Chlochair (Convent Lands) Carrickmacross The Council replied to the Department on the 2nd of September 2015 providing the further information and stating that there is a need for the type of specialised accommodation proposed AND confirmation of H.S.E. support for the project was again provided by the H.S.E. If Department approval to proceed to Construction Stage is received before mid-September 2015 it will hopefully be possible for Respond! Housing Association to appoint a Contractor within a short timeframe to allow the project to proceed on programme.

- 14 Can the Housing Section of Monaghan County Council consider adding the remainder of fencing works required in Valley Close, Carrickmacross to their list of works to be carried out in the near future to avoid neglecting a small number of residents affected?

Reply: The Monaghan County Council and Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government combined budgets for maintenance, upgrade and adaptation of Monaghan County Council owned houses in 2015 is €2million and it has been fully committed with the exception of the Response Maintenance budget which is required for minor repairs and urgent work arising throughout the year. The additional fencing work requested will be included in the 2016 Planned Maintenance Programme and it is intended that the work will be undertaken in Quarter 1 of 2015.

- 15 Has there been any update from Richard Bruton TD or the IDA in relation to getting alternative employment in Carrickmacross following the closure of the Bose Manufacturing Plant in the town?

Reply: IDA Ireland states that it has been marketing the proposition (location, labour force and facility) throughout its global network, since the announcement of the plant's closure. Whilst there is very limited interest at this time IDA Ireland will continue to propose and push the location for every possible investment and job creating opportunity.

- 16 Has the County Council received the required number of dwelling houses to meet its quota under the Housing 2020 policy for 2015 following its recent publicised request for the public to engage with the Local Authority with a view to selling their houses?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received in excess of 50 expressions of interest directly from members of the public and a significant number of expressions of interest and marketing correspondence from Estate Agents as more than 300 dwellings are advertised for sale in County Monaghan at present. The response to the advert has been excellent and it has resulted in the negotiation of nine potential house purchases agreed to date; five in Castleblayney-Carrickmacross M.D.; three in Clones-Ballybay M.D. and one in Monaghan M.D. with others under negotiation or consideration. Contracts are being prepared for the house purchases agreed so far and it is envisaged that sufficient funding will be available to complete between 10 to 15 house purchases before year end. Applications for additional funding have been submitted and it has been indicated by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government that it is intended that the purchase programme will be continued into 2016 and proceed on a "rolling basis" thereafter. The move to a rolling purchase programme in place of an annual purchase programme will allow the Council to acquire houses in a more proactive and considered manner.

- 17 Has the Housing Section of this Council highlighted the major flaws in the HAP scheme to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government seeing as this county was one of the first counties to implement it (i.e. the lack of landlords willing to accept its parameters, the high number of those seeking accommodation in the private sector, the increase of rents versus the cap on subsidies through HAP etc)?

Reply: The HAP scheme has supported the housing of 115 households in 2015. External factors in respect of the private rental market including the limited housing stock availability are not matters that the local authority can control however it is understood that consideration is being given to investigate rent control options to address the rising rental prices.

The local authority have indicated to the department the difficulties of applicants sourcing accommodation within their financial means, having regard to the monthly payment limits available for the individual household sizes.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

18 In relation to the unfinished housing development Chapel Court, Carrickroe

- (a) Have Monaghan County Council's efforts to contact the developer been successful ?
- (b) Is there an Enforcement order in place in relation to the unfinished part of the development?
- (c) In view the fact that no works have taken place at this site for approximately 8 years what plans have Monaghan County Council to resolve outstanding issues at this site?

Reply: Monaghan County Council secured €18,387 of PSI funding in 2011 to implement essential health and safety works at Chapel Court. These works, which were carried out by the Council, included; the closure of open manholes, the securing of openings to the uncompleted retail unit, completion of footpaths around the uncompleted retail unit, and hoarding to cordon off the building site.

In 2012 a Dangerous Place Notice was issued. The following works were carried out by Monaghan County Council on foot of this; the clearing of all construction waste/ materials and partially completed residential units from the building site (to the rear of the occupied units) as well as the redistributed of topsoil in order to return ground levels to a safe and even contour.

In 2013 the jetting and unblocking of drains was carried out and a CCTV survey of the drainage network was completed.

In total Monaghan County Council have spent approximately €38.352 on site resolution. This includes €20,000 (bond), €18,387 (PSI funding) and approximately €5165 (Monaghan County Council).

The Planning Authority did submit a second application for funding under the Special Resolution Fund in 2014, but were unsuccessful.

There are no plans to carry out any additional site resolution works at this juncture.

19 In relation to the unfinished part of the development Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet village which was reportedly sold in December 2014 and remains derelict for the past 7/8 years

- (a) Have Monaghan County Council received any response from their written request of approximately 7 weeks ago seeking a meeting with the new owners?
- (b) What plans have Monaghan County Council for this site into the future?
- (c) Is the enforcement notice still in place for this site?

Reply: The planning authority understands that Tydavnet Construction Ltd are now the owners this development. Correspondence was issued to this company in early July 2015 seeking a meeting, but no response was received.

A Derelict Site Notice was subsequently issued to Tydavnet Construction Ltd in early August 2015.

A representative acting for Tydavnet Construction Ltd contacted the Planning Authority during the week beginning the 1st September 2015. He outlined the intention of the company to carry out remediation works to include;

- The removal the existing security fencing on site and its replacement with alternative fencing.
- The construction of a new footpath along the public road.

The representative advised that broken windows in the unoccupied units had been replaced and doors repainted.

The planning authority will continue to engage with the owner of this development with a view to achieving a satisfactory site resolution.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

20 Is it the Council Executive's intent to engage with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for the purpose of making application to the recently launched Designated Urban Centre's Grants Scheme 2014 – 2020 that will provide funding for initiatives to improve the urban environment and revitalize urban areas throughout the county?

Reply: The Designated Urban Centre's Grants Scheme 2014 – 2020 offering grant aid for sustainable urban development initiatives in a number of Urban Centres nationwide was launched on 27th July 2015 by the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Special Responsibility for Housing, Planning and Coordination of the Construction 2020 Strategy, Paudie Coffey TD.

Under the two Regional Operational Programmes 2014-20, funding from the European Regional Development Fund is managed by the Regional Assemblies. A number of urban centres designated under the National Spatial Strategy as Gateways were invited to avail of the funding for projects that contribute to the social, economic, and environmental development of those urban areas.

In light of the substantially reduced funding allocation under the EU programme, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) invited the 7 gateway towns/cities in the region to apply for assistance totalling €14m - Sligo, Galway, Letterkenny, Dundalk, Athlone, Tullamore and Mullingar. The Scheme was adopted by the Assembly and funding allocated to the seven gateways in the region in August.

Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon asked:

21 Has Monaghan County Council made an application for further funding for Local and Regional roads in the last couple of weeks?

Reply: A submission was made to the DTTAS on the 7th July seeking additional funding for Regional and Local roads based on the findings of the road condition survey. A letter in response dated 30th July 2015 and received on 5th August is being circulated at the September Co. Council Meeting. The Council received notification on the 17th July 2015 of an additional allocation of €629,050 from the DTTAS as part of the additional €24 million of funding being provided nationally for regional and local roads. This additional allocation has allowed for pavement restoration works to commence on 2 Regional Roads and 5 Local Roads within the county.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

22 In relation to Monaghan County Council's Road Salting Programme, will this programme be carried out in full as in previous years; what is the current status of the council's salt supplies?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is currently carrying out a review of its winter maintenance operations in conjunction with the Municipal Districts. There is currently 1,200 tonnes of salt stock piled in the county at present.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

- 23 What progress has been made in relation to the purchasing of housing units across the county, given the ever increasing housing waiting lists?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received in excess of 50 expressions of interest directly from members of the public and a significant number of expressions of interest and marketing correspondence from Estate Agents as more than 300 dwellings are advertised for sale in County Monaghan at present. The response to the advert has been excellent and it has resulted in the negotiation of nine potential house purchases agreed to date; five in Castleblayney-Carrickmacross M.D.; three in Clones-Ballybay M.D. and one in Monaghan M.D. with others under negotiation or consideration. Contracts are being prepared for the house purchases agreed so far and it is envisaged that sufficient funding will be available to complete between 10 to 15 house purchases before year end. Applications for additional funding have been submitted and it has been indicated by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government that it is intended that the purchase programme will be continued into 2016 and proceed on a "rolling basis" thereafter. The move to a rolling purchase programme in place of an annual purchase programme will allow the Council to acquire houses in a more proactive and considered manner.

- 24 Can Monaghan County Council confirm that the Inniskeen area, in particular the areas of Carrickakelly and Blackstaff, will not be used as an official diversion route during the closure of the N53 (Dundalk to Culloville) road?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has no plans to use roads in the Carrickakelly and Blackstaff area of Inniskeen as official diversion routes for the N53 (Dundalk to Culloville) Road. The official diversion routes for the N53 National traffic, is via the N2 from Castleblayney to Ardee and the N33 to the M1 or the Regional Road, R178, Carrickmacross to Dundalk.

14. Notices of Motion:

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded and it was agreed,

1. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Taoiseach and the government to enlist the E.U, the U.S., the United Nations and all international assistance, to have the British government, release all files and fully co-operate, with an Independent International public inquiry into "COLLUSION" between loyalist paramilitaries and British state/securities agencies, which resulted in massive murders, like the Dublin/Monaghan Bombings, which left 33 people dead and 200 injured, the murder of Pat Finucane and many others, particularly in the border area.

Cllrs Carthy proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded,

2. For the purpose of addressing the chronic housing shortage that exists in County Monaghan, that the elected members seek of the Housing Section a presentation that will set out a strategy aimed at providing solutions to the escalating shortage of rental accommodation for a continuously lengthening list of applicants for social housing.

During the course of a debate on the motion to which a number of Councillors contributed, Cllr McPhillips suggested that the motion should first be referred to the Council's Housing SPC where the members and staff could have input into finding solutions to the problem, prior to a presentation being made to the full Council.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Carthy's motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

It was also agreed that the matter be discussed by the Housing SPC following which a presentation would be made to the full Council.

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded and it was agreed,

3. For the purpose of serving the democratic rights of our disabled and elderly citizens, that this Council seeks of the Electoral Returning Officer to initiate an accessibility audit of all polling booths throughout the county to ensure the venues comply with Part M Building Regulations - Access for People with Disabilities.

15. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Madeleine Fitzpatrick, Senior Staff Officer on the death of her mother Una Ronan, Cavan, RIP.
- Michael Leonard, Road Overseer, his wife Monica and daughter Aoife on the death of Mark Leonard, Garron, Newbliss, RIP

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

- Gaeil Triucha U-16 Team on winning the Division 1 Football League title.
- Darren Doherty, Emyvale on winning silver medals in the 40x20 and 1 wall singles competitions in the World Handball Championships in Calgary, Canada.
- Conor McDonald, Tydavnet on winning gold in the Emerald Masters and Gold in the 40x20 singles
- Eoghan McGinnity, Tyholland on winning gold in the U13 40x20 singles and silver in the 1 wall singles.
- Sean Callan, Monaghan on winning gold in the U11 40x20 doubles and silver in the 1 wall doubles
- Louise McGinnity, Tyholland on winning silver in the U13 1 wall doubles and bronze in the 40x20 doubles.
- Ryan Wylie, Dessie Moen, Conor McManus, Killian O'Connell and Vinny Corey on winning Irish News Ulster GAA All-Star Awards 2015

- Conor McManus on winning the 2015 Player of the Year Award at the Irish News Ulster GAA All Start Awards.
- Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer and the Organising Committee on another very successful Harvest Time Blues Festival which took place in Monaghan Town last weekend.

16. Conferences/Training:

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following seminars by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	Autumn Seminar	Inchydoney, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1 st /2 nd October 2015	Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Cathy Bennett Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. Seamus Coyle Cllr. Pdraig McNally Cllr. Robbie Gallagher Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Aidan Campbell Cllr. Ciara McPhillips Cllr. Hugh McElvaney
LAMA	Autumn Seminar	Hotel Kilkenny, College Rd, Kilkenny	9 th /10 th October 2015	Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. Pdraig McNally Cllr. Robbie Gallagher Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr. Seamus Coyle Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Urgent Business:

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded

That this Council discuss the very serious situation facing Dairy Farmers as a result of worldwide collapse in milk prices as it is having a very negative effect on a huge number of farming families across Co. Monaghan and lobby both the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and the EU Agricultural Commissioner, Mr. Phil Hogan.

In moving the motion, Cllr McNally called on the Taoiseach, Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney TD, and Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture to immediately address the

serious situation facing dairy farmers. He referred to a situation where a farmer who has been farming for 17 years has less income now than when he started out initially. He stated that huge super levy fines were imposed on farmers earlier this year. He referred to the major expansion plans of local co-ops – Town of Monaghan and Lakeland being dependent on farm incomes improving. Cllrs O’Hanlon, Connolly, B. McKenna and McPhillips all contributed to the debate on the motion.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach Meetings Administrator

Date: _____