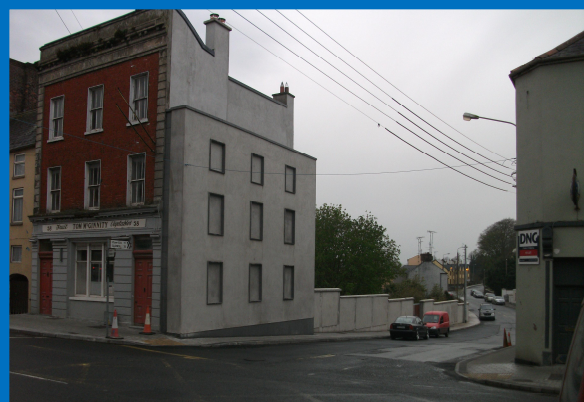




# Monaghan County Council

## Annual Report 2011



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## Mayor's Message



Ba mhaith liom mar Mhéara Chontae Mhuineachain, a mholadh as an Tuarascáil Bhliantuil seo. Is mor an onoir dome a bheith tofa mar mhéara ar an chontae. Ba mhaith liom buiochas a ghabhail le baill agus foireann chomhairle contae Mhuineachain as ucht a dtacaíocht leanúnach agus Cunamh.

It's a great personal honour & privilege to introduce the 2011 Annual report of Monaghan County Council as mayor of County Monaghan. I wish to take this opportunity to record my thanks to the elected members of Monaghan County Council for having elected me to this prestigious position in June 2011 to serve for the 2011-2012 term of council & to acknowledge my predecessors who served the role with honour & distinction, I wish to thank them for their continued courtesy, co-operation & support.

As mayor of Monaghan County Council I am acutely aware of the responsibilities entrusted to me to represent all the members & staff of our local authority, who work tirelessly to serve the people of the County. 2011 was indeed a challenging year for all of our people. The economic downturn both nationally & internationally has placed severe pressure on all of us. However, as a local authority we must continue to plan, develop & promote County Monaghan for the future. This is illustrated in many areas of this annual report with the completion & progression of many projects during 2011 by Monaghan County Council while assisting with & hosting many events of local, national & international significance during the year.

The completion of Monaghan Fire Station, Carrickmacross Civic Centre & Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme are prime examples of this investment. Indeed substantial progression of works such as Cloughvalley Housing Scheme, the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale road, the continuance of the water services investment programme 2010-2012 in addition to a number of other projects outlined are helping Monaghan develop for the future.

Monaghan County Council, its members & staff work closely to promote & develop the county's infrastructure, both economically & socially in conjunction with all statutory & non-statutory agencies. This is clearly shown by the financial commitment of €800,000 by our local authority to County Monaghan V.E.C. Educational Campus & Theatre project, which will offer enormous opportunities for the future of the region. In addition, there's Monaghan Town Councils commitment of €500,000 to this inspirational investment project for the County, with contracts signed & work commencing in 2011 & to be completed by the end of 2012.

The continued work of Monaghan County Council, along with our fellow authorities in this & neighbouring counties, is to be commended. Indeed our membership of cross border bodies continues to deliver great benefits & offers great opportunities for the future development of the region. The Ulster Canal project is the flagship of this potential development & in 2011 work continued on the realisation of this dream with the lodging of the planning application and associated works. We must now all work together to ensure this project is delivered, particularly in these financially challenging times, as the future rewards are great.

The CASA project for Lough Muckno & Ballybay Industrial units got the green light in 2011, with works to commence shortly in delivering world class facilities for Castleblayney & the border region. The Clones Erne East Sports Project worth €7.8 million will also commence in 2012. With Monaghan County Council acting as the lead partner, the €2.6 million awarded to Monaghan County Council & Fermanagh District Council to develop Clones as a Tourism hub will offer an enhanced amenity infrastructure in the Clones Erne East area.

As a local authority, we must be the leaders & be continuously responsive to the needs of all the people of the County. We must ensure that each household is located in good surroundings with enormous work being done in environmental awareness in the county by the section. However, it's of grave concern the large amounts of money being spent on cleaning up litter & waste materials. In this message, I urge all the residences of the county & our visitors to be environmentally friendly in 2012 & in the years ahead. We can all agree that this money spent on 'waste' can be much better spent for all our benefits.

County Monaghan is very fortunate to have a very vibrant & active community & voluntary sector. Indeed Monaghan County Council endorses this & financially assists through our Community Development Fund & giving grants to bodies at budget time, our membership of voluntary bodies is indicative of this support.

We must all work together, to assist & promote support for the more vulnerable members of our communities. The launch of the Monaghan Age Friendly Initiative in 2011 will ensure engagement with older people so that we come to harness everyone's needs for the future, regardless of age.

In 2011, Monaghan County Council played a lead role in promoting many events of local, national & international significance & we commend all members & staff involved. The hosting of the National Famine Commemoration in Clones on September 10<sup>th</sup> & the International Blacksmiths event in Monaghan Town in June brought high profile status to our towns & county.

In conclusion, I again pay tribute to the members & staff of Monaghan County Council and the town councils around the county. 2011 tested us all on many fronts & you delivered excellent services under the pressure of cutbacks & tighter budgets. Toughest of all was the record-breaking inclement weather of 2011, the snow & frost of January & the flooding during October seriously tested us. But you met the challenge bravely & with excellent resolve you ensured that the people of County Monaghan could lead as normal a life as possible in those most horrific conditions.

I hereby recommend this annual report for 2011, for showing delivery of our services, for planning for the future & for the commitment shown by Monaghan County Council to work for the betterment of all our people.

Le gach déa-mhéin

Cllr. Séamus Coyle

Mayor of Monaghan Council

Méara an Chontae

## **Introduction – County Manager**



I am very pleased to present the Annual Report for 2011 on behalf of the Monaghan Local Authorities. This report provides information about the services provided by the Local Authorities, the Councillors, staff and departments. It enables the local authorities to review performance and progress measured against the targets set in the annual budget and the departmental business plans.

The Annual Budget for 2011 presented difficult challenges both in terms of its adoption and implementation. Despite the reduction in discretionary sources of income and central government funding, Monaghan Local Authorities continued to deliver their services in a cost effective manner. This was achieved with some further reductions in staff numbers through flexible working arrangements, organisational adjustment and prudent financial management. It must be acknowledged that there is an ongoing commitment on the part of the Elected Members and staff to these measures in the interest of the business sector and the entire community.

Despite the economic downturn it was possible to progress a number of projects throughout 2011. Monaghan Fire Station was completed at an overall cost of €3.5m and the Carrickmacross Civic Centre was also completed at a cost of €4.5m. The year also marked further progress on the N2 Monaghan Emyvale road which is to continue in 2012.

The Monaghan Age Friendly Initiative was launched in September 2011. This Initiative seeks to engage older people and their communities in improving their social environment with the collaboration of the various state agencies. It harnesses the commitment and dedication of the community and voluntary sector in responding to demographic ageing and augurs well for the future.

Once again I commend the performance of our staff during the episodes of severe frost experienced in early 2011 and severe flooding in October. This repeated the service delivery provided in 2010 in the face of very difficult conditions. Such performance goes to the core of public service and was widely acknowledged by the Elected Members and the general public.

The Local Authorities continue to deliver on the commitments under the Public Service Agreement (Croke Park Agreement). Both staff and management are committed to maintain high service delivery standards and to improve efficiency.

In conclusion I wish to pay tribute to the Mayors and Cathaoirligh who held office in 2011 and to the Oireachtas Members on their election, particularly Ms. Heather Humphreys who served on the County Council from 2003 until 2011.

**David Fallon**  
**A/County Manager**

## COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHUINEACHÁIN - NA COMHALTAÍ



**Padraig  
McNally**



**Matt  
Carthy**



**Aidan  
Murray**



**Noel  
Keelan**



**PJ O'Hanlon**



**Gary  
Carville**



**Jackie  
Crowe**



**Owen  
Bannigan**



**John  
O'Brien**



**Heather  
Humphreys**



**Seamus  
Coyle**



**Hugh  
McElvaney**



**Pat  
Treanor**



**Robbie  
Gallagher**



**Paudge  
Connolly**



**David  
Maxwell**



**Brian  
McKenna**



**Sheila  
McKenna**



**Séan  
Conlon**



**Seamus  
Treanor**



**Ciara  
McPhillips**  
(Co-opted March 2011)

## Housing and Building

The aim of the Council is to ensure that every household can obtain an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment, and as far as possible in a tenure of its choice. In order that the aim can be achieved it is important that:

- Unfit and overcrowded houses be eliminated.
- The demand for houses be met as it arises.
- The structural and environmental standards of housing be improved.
- Owner occupation be encouraged to the fullest extent compatible with national economic and social development.

The County Council contributes to these aims by:

- Managing housing provided by the Council and encouraging tenant involvement.
- Providing long term housing for those who need it.
- Providing good quality rented accommodation for people receiving rent supplement through the Rental Accommodation Scheme.
- Helping persons to provide their own housing.
- Provision of private sites where possible.
- Helping to improve existing private housing.
- Provision of housing and residential caravan parking sites for travellers.

### Services Provided and Future Plans

Monaghan County Council is actively pursuing Government policy on social, voluntary and affordable housing provision. An outline of the output from 2011 and the proposed 2012 programme is given below. The 2012 programme will be subject to the necessary finance being provided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Completed in 2011</b>	<b>Under Construction/To commence or be acquired in 2012</b>
Bree	0	3
Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross	0	22
Demountable units	0	3
Farm Homes	0	0
Purchases (second hand)	9	0
Totals	9	28

<b>Location</b>	<b>Completed 2011</b>	<b>Stage and Numbers of Units Proposed 2012</b>
Castleblayney Care Association	0	Funding approved and tender documents being prepared ó 18 units
Group home for persons with a physical disability	0	CAS Application submitted to DoEHLG ó awaiting decision ó 6 units including carers
Group Home for persons with Intellectual Disabilities	0	CAS Application submitted and awaiting decision ó 6 units including carers
Extension to Steadfast House, Carrickmacross	0	CAS Application submitted. Awaiting decision. 1 unit
Newgrove Housing Association	0	(Funding approved by DOEHLG). Awaiting closure of sale. 6 units
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>

### **Retrofitting Voids**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government providing funding in 2011 of €403,422

### **Maintenance Programme**

Maintenance is a key activity for the councils housing service with €441,200 spent in the current year in response, cyclical and planned maintenance in respect of the current stock of 743. A further €49,200 was spent on Estate management improvement works and services.

### **Allocations of tenancy**

All allocations were made under the Scheme of Letting Priorities. There were forty two offers of tenancy to persons on the housing waiting list, including eleven transfer offers to existing tenants, from within the existing stock. This enabled the Council to combine the best use of stock whilst addressing the needs of tenants. Thirty casual vacancies arose in the year.

<b>Monaghan County Council</b>	<b>Stock of Rented at 31.12.11</b>	<b>No of Tenant Purchases</b>	<b>Average Rent</b>	<b>Waiting List at 31.12.11</b>	<b>New Tenancies 2011</b>
	745	13	€45.50	389	42

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme (R.A.S.)**

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, there were 278 long term recipients of rent supplement in Co. Monaghan. The following is a summary of the Rental Accommodation Scheme activity to 31/12/12 in Co Monaghan.

Voluntary housing RS recipients to RAS	3
Recipients housed in Local Authority Housing	13
Private transfers	<u>49</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

### **Tidy Areas Competition**

There were **15** entries for the Tidy Areas Competition and the Judges reports showed that many Residents Associations continue to be actively involved in improving their estates. The principal prize winners in 2010 were

### **Best Overall Village**

Tyolland Residents Association



**Best Floral display**

Cappog Residents Association



**Most Improved Village**

Arbannagher Residents Association



**Finance**

A capital allocation of € 3,890,000 was made to Monaghan County Council from the Department of the Environment and Local Government in 2011 for the direct provision of social housing and single instance housing for travellers.

**Service Indicators – See Appendix 1**

## Road Transportation and Safety

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of the road network within the county, which consists of 110 kilometres of national roads, 288 kilometres of regional roads and 2011 kilometres of local roads.

An initial allocation of **€9,118,083 for National Roads** was notified from the National Roads Authority in 2011 which included **€8.5m** for Improvements and the remainder for National Primary and National Secondary Maintenance. Additional funding of **€1m** was allocated from the National Roads Authority in June 2011.

The total 2011 funding from the NRA is broken down as follows:

N2 Monaghan Castleblayney and Carrickmacross By-passes Schemes	€2,648,747
N2 Clontibret to N.I. Border Scheme	€261,000
N.P. Safety Improvement Schemes	€285,000
NP Pavement & Minor works	€5,175,145*
N.S. Safety	€400,000
N.S. Pavement & Minor Works	€1,840,000

Improvements to the N2 Monaghan to Emyvale road extending from the townland of Kilnadreen to the townland of Tirnaneill for a distance of 1.5km were completed. The scheme was designed by our roads design team and constructed by the North Monaghan Roads Area staff. A total of 15 acres of land was acquired by agreement, negotiated locally with the co-operation of landowners along the route.

*\*The NRA provided funding for the N2 Monaghan – Emyvale Improvement Works under the above heading NP Pavement and Minor works.*

### Non-National Roads

The total budget for non national roads for 2011 amounted to €15,170,528 - grants of €12,656,721 from the Department of Transport through the NRA and the remainder from Monaghan County Council's own resources.

The NRA funding for non national roads included the following:

Specific Improvement Schemes (8 projects)	€1,400,000
Low Cost Accident Schemes (11)	€155,000
Local Discretionary Improvement (53)	€5,425,592
Regional Improvement (14)	€1,587,321
Discretionary Maintenance	€1,471,710
Restoration Maintenance	€1,600,000
Training	€44,324

### Non Public Roads

Local Improvement Schemes allocation amounted to €297,000 and together with contribution by participants allowed for the completion of 19 lanes throughout the county.

## **Winter Maintenance**

### **Salt barn**

A second salt barn, located in Lislanley, Annyalla has now been completed. This, together with the salt barn at Knockaconny allows for a storage capacity of three thousand (3,000) tonnes. Funding for both projects was provided by the National Roads Authority.

### **Flooding**

There was severe flooding in both October and November of 2011. Due to the continuous heavy rainfall many roads and bridges were severely damaged and required immediate attention, some required longer term action. A request was forwarded to the Department of Transport for funding to repair or rebuild the damaged roads/bridges which is estimated to be in the region of €1.5m. An amount of €162,455 was received for this purpose in 2011.

### **Drainage**

Funding received from the Office of Public Works and from the Council's own resources amounting to €255,000, facilitated the execution of alleviation works on three drainage projects. Works were carried out to the Shambles River in Monaghan and funding was also received for drainage works in Seaveagh, Glaslough.

In the Clones area the works being carried out at the N54/R183 junction in Clones town are nearing completion.

### **Plant Replacement**

Six pickup trucks were replaced with 8 newer pickup trucks at a total cost of €151,506.

Eight new mini-gritters were purchased costing €60,621 and one large 9m<sup>3</sup> gritter costing €66,510 was also purchased.



## Motor Taxation

Eisíonn Comhairle Chontae Mhuíneacháin Cead nais Tiomána is Feithiclí don Rialtas Iárnach. Seoltar an t-airgead go léir go dtí an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Áitiúil le creidiúint don gCiste Rialtais Áitiúil.

The Motor Taxation/Driver Licensing Section deals with transactions relating mainly to ownership of vehicles, taxation of vehicles and the issue of driving licences. The total number of licensed vehicles is steadily on the increase which has an escalating effect on the volume of transactions processed in Motor Tax.

The National Vehicle and Driver File (NVDF) is a national computerised database which is centrally controlled. The purpose of this database file is:

- To facilitate the Penalty Points System
- Provide greater on-line facilities in the Motor Tax Office
- Improve the level of service offered to the public

Monaghan Motor Taxation office has welcomed the Motor Tax Online System ó a component of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government eGovernment strategy. Renewing online minimises the impact of geographical constraints on the delivery of services. For year ending 2011 64,239 stock items were issued and revenues collected amounted to €11,070,107

### Transaction Levels

Description	Total No of transactions	Total Income
Motor Vehicles/Trade Plates/ C.R.W./VR.C.	55,857	€10,920,407
Driving Licences	8382	€149,700
Total	64239	€11,070,107

### Service Indicators 2011

Motor Tax applications dealt with on:

Same Day	84%
Third day or Less	15%
Fifth Day or Less	1%
Over Five days	0%

Driving Licence applications dealt with on:

Same Day	27%
Third day or Less	72%
Fifth Day or Less	1%
Over Five days	0

Service Indicators ó see Appendix 1

## **Water Services**

Monaghan County Council's role and responsibilities in the provision of sustainable water services were redefined under the Water Services Act 2007. The Act incorporates a comprehensive review, update and consolidation of all existing water services legislation, and facilitates the establishment of a comprehensive supervisory regime to ensure compliance with specified performance standards. Under section 39 of the Water Services Act 2007 Monaghan County Council became the Water Services Authority in County Monaghan responsible for the provision and operation of Water Services (Water and Waste Water) throughout the county serving domestic, agricultural, industrial and commercial customers.

In addition to our management of public water and waste water schemes - the council administers the Rural Water Programme. The water services section holds a monitoring role, overseeing the workings of 12 Group Water Schemes within the county. This role is performed in partnership with the Group Water Schemes and other rural organisations under the ambit of the Local Water Monitoring Committee.

Monaghan County Council also implements relevant European Environmental legislation, in particular the EU (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2004 and the Urban Wastewater (Authorisation) Regulations 2007. The Environmental Protection Agency has now been assigned specific new powers in relation to the supervision of local authorities and their role in the provision of drinking water supplies under SI Nos 278 of 2007. The Council performs a similar role in relation to the supervision of group water and private water supplies.

## **Water Service Investment Programme 2010 – 2012**

The Water Services Investment Programme 2010 ó 2012 is a three-year rolling funding plan for the provision of major water supply and wastewater infrastructure. Together with the Rural Water Programme, it plays a key role in giving effect to the Government's commitment to:

- preserving and protecting our water resources as a key element of environmental policy,
- achieving good status in water by 2015 and ensuring that water quality does not decline in any waters, in line with the Water Framework Directive,
- meeting National and EU standards for drinking water and wastewater treatment,
- putting critical infrastructure in place that will ensure ongoing support for industrial, commercial and other development, and
- Prioritising investment in water conservation measures including remedying leaks and demand reduction measures.

Strategic environmental and economic objectives have provided the rationale for investment in water services infrastructure since 2000. With the changed economic climate and the emergence of the first cycle of River Basin Management Plans by local authorities there is a greater need than ever to focus on key environmental and economic priorities.

The Programme for 2010-2012 prioritises projects that target public health and environmental compliance issues, rehabilitation of existing water supply networks and projects which support economic and employment growth (WSIP 2010).

### County Monaghan Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL			
Scheme Name	Contract Name	W/S	Estimated Cost €
<b>Contracts at Construction</b>			
Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme	Contract 2 (Network)	S	15,140,000
Water Conservation Stages 1 & 2 Works	Water Conservation Stages 1 & 2 Works	W	3,992,000
			<b>19,132,000</b>
<b>Contracts to Start</b>			
Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme	Contract 3 (Treatment Plant Upgrade & Outfall)	S	5,500,000
Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme	Water Treatment Plant - DBO	W	5,500,000
Castleblaney Sewerage Scheme Phase 1	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	S	3,927,000
Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme	Contract 2 (Water Treatment Plant Upgrade)	W	1,300,000
Monaghan Town Sewerage Scheme (H)	Contract 2 (Network)	S	3,910,000
			<b>20,137,000</b>
Water Conservation Stage 3 Works	Watermains Rehabilitation, including lead replacement of public mains (Contract 1)	W	2,500,000
			<b>2,500,000</b>
	<b>Contracts Total</b>		<b>41,769,000</b>
<b>Schemes at Planning</b>			
Water Conservation Stage 3 Works		W	

#### Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme - Network Contract

Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme provides for the construction of new foul and surface water sewers, the replacement of existing stone culverts and the refurbishment of existing sewers as well as the construction of pumping stations and rising mains in the town centre and extension of the collection network to surrounding environs.

P & S Civil Works Ltd., Stradone, Co. Cavan were awarded the contract in 2008. Construction was substantially completed by the end of 2011 at a total contract cost of c. €14.5M ex. VAT. Over 200 existing households will be able to connect to the new network commencing 2012.

### **Water Conservation Stage 2 Works**

The County Monaghan Water Conservation Project aims to reduce water wastage and unaccounted for water to an economic level through water conservation measures and improvements to existing infrastructure. Water Conservation is concerned with the reduction of unaccounted for water (UFW) and is a key to the sustainable use of water resources. Apart from environmental gains achieved through water conservation, the delivery of additional water supply through leakage control and network management is a viable alternative to capital investment in new infrastructure.

The Project commenced in February 2008. UFW within the county, at that time, was in excess of 50%. Stage 2 of the project, Active Leakage Control, yielded very satisfactory results with countywide daily production volumes falling from 16,884m<sup>3</sup>/day to 10,722m<sup>3</sup>/day over the period 2007 to August 2011. The overall UFW for the county now stands at 23.5%. Stage 2 of the Project was completed in October 2011.

### **Water Conservation Stage 3 Works**

Stage 3 of the National Water Conservation Programme as outlined in Department Circular L6/2007 involves the rehabilitation and replacement of defective supply networks where Active Leakage Control and repair has proven to be uneconomic due to the age and/or condition of the pipes, based on the results of work carried out under Stage 2.

Network Rehabilitation will commence in 2012 and build on the Water Conservation Team's Stage 2 achievements. The county's watermain rehabilitation requirements have been prioritised into three distinct work packages. The estimated cost of the first work package is €2,477,180.

Monaghan County Council has appointed Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers to manage Stage 3 of Rehabilitation (Works Package 1). Funding of Stage 3 costs is limited to 90% of the actual expenditure incurred, subject to the application of a Water Pricing Policy where relevant. Works Package 1 will focus on mains replacement / rehabilitation in the following DMA's (District Meter Areas):

Monaghan Town	MN Town Centre DMA
Monaghan Town	MN Hospital / Milltown Road DMA
Newbliss	NB Newbliss DMA
Monaghan Town	MN Clones- Scotstown Road DMA

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Outfall**

Carrickmacross Sewerage Scheme - Contract 3 (Treatment Plant Upgrade and Outfall) provides for the construction of the following infrastructure at the existing wastewater treatment plant:

- Inlet Pumping Station
- Stormwater Holding Facility
- Inlet Works
- Final Effluent Pumping Station
- 400mm diameter final effluent outfall

This project is now at an advanced stage of design and it is expected that construction will commence in 2013.

### **Carrickmacross Water Supply Scheme – Water Treatment Plant DBO**

The scheme comprises the proposed addition of new groundwater sources, the construction of a water treatment plant and reservoir at Nafarty at an estimated contract cost of € 5.5 M.

The Design, Build Operate contract includes for the design, construction and operation for a period of up to 20 years of facilities to abstract water from a number of production wells, pump the water to the headworks, treat the water and store it for distribution the existing network. Accordingly, the design and build element of the works will include:

- Construction of new pumping stations (incorporating existing production wells) together with all associated site works including landscaping, fencing, access roads etc. at Spring Lake, Nafarty, Donaghmoyne and Monanny.
- Installation of new pumps in production wells
- Construction of new rising mains
- Construction of a new water treatment plant to satisfy an initial design demand of 3,200 m<sup>3</sup>/day and an ultimate demand of 4,800m<sup>3</sup>/day.
- Construction of a new 5000m<sup>3</sup> Clearwater storage reservoir adjacent to the new water treatment plant together with all associated site works including landscaping, fencing, access roads, etc...
- Construction of reservoir scour pipeline at Nafarty
- Refurbishment of existing pump house at Nafarty
- The operate element of the contract comprises the operation and maintenance of the designed and constructed facility (including the wells, rising mains and other existing infrastructure incorporated in the facility ) for a period of up to 20 years including replacement of all worn and damaged parts as necessary to keep it in perfect working order.

The Carrickmacross Water Supply Augmentation Scheme 6 Design, Build Operate Contract was advertised in August 2011. It is expected that construction will commence mid-2012.

### **Castleblayney Sewerage Scheme**

Contract No. 1, Castleblayney Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade seeks to improve the current plant condition and reduce the overflow of untreated effluent during storm conditions. The proposed upgrade to 14,000 p.e. does not represent a significant increase in the capacity of the existing plant, currently 12,960 p.e. The estimated cost of Contract 1 is €3.927M. In September 2011, An Bord Pleanála approved the EIS for the scheme.

### **Monaghan Sewerage Scheme**

Contract No. 2 includes the:

- a) Construction of a wastewater pumping station and associated control building as well as the provision of odour control plant and ancillary site works at the Old Cross pumping station site.
- b) Construction of a number of sections of replacement sewers
- c) Replacement of Shambles River culvert on N54

The estimated cost of Advanced Works Contract No. 2 is € 3.91M.

The contract is scheduled to proceed to tender / construction stage in 2012

## **Group Water Scheme Programme**

It is Monaghan County Council's objective to pursue a planned approach to investment in this programme, in partnership with the group water scheme sector and other rural organisations. The Local Water Monitoring Committee Members, consisting of Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Owen Brannigan, PJ O'Hanlon and Paudge Connolly, Mr. John Morris, (Macra Na Feirme), Ms. Kathleen Ward, (Irish Farmers Association), Mr. Hugh O'Reilly and Mr. Paddy Ward (County Federation of Group Water Schemes), Mr. David Fallon Director of Service and Mr. Gearoid McCarthy as Rural Water Liaison Officer, manage and monitor investment in this area.

Group Water Schemes continued to carry out necessary upgrading and improvement works which were grant aided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Grants to the value of €780,108.36 were paid to the following schemes in 2011:-

• Killanny Reaghstown,	€ 221,850.00
• Donaghmoyne,	€ 55,200.00
• Magheracloone,	€ 27,694.81
• Churchill Oram,	€ 25,257.25
• Aughnashalvey	€ 69,300.00
• Glaslough Tyholland,	€ 20,400.00
• Corduff Corracharra	€ 29,097.94
• Drumgole,	€ 63,700.00
• Stranooden,	€ 87,500.00
• Doohamlet.	€ 180,108.36

Subsidy of €2,303,739.04 towards the operational cost of supplying water for domestic use was paid to the following group water schemes:

• Glaslough/Tyholland	€195,901.27
• Magheracloone	€ 33,875.18
• Killanny/Reaghstown	€269,620.10
• Corduff/Corracharra	€151,626.57
• Churchill/Oram	€196,388.20
• Donaghmoyne	€222,488.00
• Truagh	€198,149.35
• Doohamlet	€131,926.80
• Stranooden	€302,938.82
• Drumgole	€134,182.30
• Aughnashalvey	€184,907.36
• Tydavnet	€281,735.09

Four grants totalling p 8,126.32 were paid to private householders for the provision or necessary improvement of individual water supplies to their house.

The Source Protection Pilot Project in Churchill, Oram concluded in 2011 with the publication of their final report.

# **Planning**

## **Development Management**

Monaghan County Council received a total of 402 planning applications and issued 401 decisions in 2011. The Planning Office also processed a total of 47 planning applications received by the four Town Councils. 28 applications were refused during the year, representing a refusal rate of approximately 7%. 12 decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2011. Of these, 2 decisions were overturned, 9 were upheld, and 1 was undecided.

A comprehensive review of unfinished housing developments and performance bonds in respect of housing developments was progressed in 2011. Works were carried out by the Council on three unfinished developments and costs recouped from the DoECLG.

## **Forward Planning**

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for drafting, reviewing and publishing planning and development policies for the entire county.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 ó 2013, incorporating the plans for the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay, is the principle policy document used to manage physical development in the county. It translates national and regional planning policies to a local level and provides a vision for the future development of the county up to and beyond 2013. To fulfill the obligations of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, a Core Strategy for incorporation into the development plan, by way of variation was prepared during the Summer and Autumn of 2011 and a consultation period was held from November to December.

In 2011 the statutory review of the development plan and the formulation of a new County Development Plan for the period 2013-2019 commenced with preparation and publication of Issues Papers. An eight week consultation period from March to May sought submissions on the main issues relating to development and infrastructure provision in County Monaghan and the associated environmental consequences. Following the consultation period, work progressed on the formulation of the draft development plan and the associated environmental and appropriate assessment reports.

The Local Area Action Plan in the Dublin Street area of Monaghan Town was adopted early in 2011 and the review of the Retail Strategy for County Monaghan was progressed in 2011. A revision of the Development Contribution Scheme for County Monaghan was carried out in 2011 in respect of the contributions due in relation to overhead power lines. A revision of the Development Contribution Scheme for Clones Town Council in respect of car parking development contributions was also commenced.

## **Service Improvement**

The Planning Authority's commitment to improving services to the public was indicated by the commissioning of a computerised self-service planning system. This service, became operational in early 2011, and allows users to identify their proposed

development site and access details in respect of Council and government policies which may impact on it.

Work also continued on the scanning of planning files to a digital format. This will provide for easier and more convenient inspection of historic files via the Monaghan County Council website.

Planning Staff continued to be available for weekly pre-planning meetings and telephone enquiries throughout the year. While this requires a significant commitment in terms of resources from the Planning Section, it is considered that the time invested in pre-planning discussions results in the speedier processing of planning applications and represents value for money for all parties.

### **Enforcement**

Generally when a breach of permission or an unauthorised development is detected by the Council, discussions with the offender(s) are sufficient to ensure that breaches of planning permission are regularised. However, where issues are not addressed by the offender(s) then formal enforcement action is taken. This is detailed in the statistics shown below.

### **2011 Enforcement Statistics**

No. of cases subject to complaints	102
Warning Letters under Section 152	68
Enforcement notices under Section 154	38
No. of cases dismissed	14
No. of cases resolved through negotiation	33
Prosecutions	17

### **Development Contribution Scheme**

The revised Development Contribution Scheme, which was adopted in 2008, in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, provides funding to improve infrastructure throughout the county.

The total amount of contributions that will accrue, when or if development commences, on planning applications granted in 2011 was €1,879,194. The total amount of financial contributions received in 2011 was as follows:

Water	€115,770.00
Waste water	€86,392.00
Footpaths & Lighting	€10,610.00
Development Levy	€826,267.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,039,039.00</b>

## **Community and Enterprise**

### **County Development Board**

A core function of the Community & Enterprise Directorate is to support the County Development Board (CDB) and its associated structures. Monaghan County Development Board was established in 2000 and was one of 34 CDBs set up in each City and County Council across the Country. The Board comprises representation from all the key players in the county including elected representatives, state agencies, social partners and the Community & Voluntary sector

The CDB process has established a framework whereby all the relevant stakeholders have the opportunity to work in unison to tackle the challenges and opportunities facing the County.

The Board and its various Sub Committees provide the opportunity for key staff from the various organisations and agencies to meet and network, to understand each others roles, functions and plans and most importantly to work together where and when the opportunity arises.

Over the past ten years, the role and remit of Monaghan CDB has been substantially developed and expanded. Its role and impact has been well recognised in the developing of many initiatives from the Congolese Resettlement Project, and Peace III Programme to the development of various Business Leaders Fora to partake and lead Economic Development in the County.

These initiatives could not have been delivered without the active collective involvement of all the relevant agencies.

We continue to operate in a difficult environment and the resources available to all will continue to be reduced. In light of recent changes within the new programme for government and public sector reform, the CDB and all its member agencies have placed even greater emphasis on working together to maximise resources at local level and to ensure continued social and economic development in the county.

In support of the successful undertaking of its role and in delivering on the agreed strategic actions, the board has established three working groups covering the areas of economic, social and cultural development.

-Ni Neart go Chuir le Cheileó -We can achieve a lot more by working together

### **Economic Development**

The Economic Development Sub-Committee held 4 meetings in 2011. The main focus of the committee in 2011 was to oversee the implementation of the Economic Strategy for the county which was developed in 2010, which was to be delivered by six (6) Business Leaders Fora (BLF). To assist in evaluating the progress of the BLFs an Interim Report was produced in May 2011. In addition, an Economic Development Workshop was held in September 2011 to update all participants and contributors on actions achieved to date and to discuss how the BLFs can build on progress to date and plan to meet the continuing challenges facing businesses today.

### **Business Leaders Fora**

The six key thematic areas critical to the economic development of the county were identified as Industry, Retail & Services, Food, IT, Training and Education, Tourism and Amenities. Six Business Leaders Fora (BLF) were set up under these headings with each comprising of personnel from the relevant State Agency and individuals from the business sector with specific knowledge and expertise. Each BLF held regular meetings throughout the year and regular progress reports were provided to the wider Economic Development Sub-Committee. Monaghan County Council facilitates four of the BLFs ó Tourism & Amenities, IT, Food and Retail & Services.

Successes to date include the following:

### ***Development of Monaghan Tourism App***

In June 2011 the Tourism BLF launched an Iphone app for tourism and heritage facilities in the County. An Iphone App or application is a software programme which can be downloaded directly onto your touchscreen phone and it enables users to have easy access to information. The Monaghan Tourism app is *free* to download, and visitors and locals alike can access up to date information on what to see and do in Monaghan.

The app cost p12,000 to develop as a joint initiative between the Tourism & Heritage sections of Monaghan County Council. It was developed with the assistance of a Dublin-based company called Autopilot.

### **Tourism Trade Networking Session**

Forty five of Monaghan's tourism providers attended a tourism trade networking session in Castleblayney in June 2011 to gain an understanding of the importance of selling Monaghan to the international tourist markets; to learn how to grow tourism through networking; and to hear how developing specific themes will attract more visitors to Monaghan. This master class in growing tourism was provided by Monaghan County Council and Failte Ireland who joined forces to coordinate and run the event.

### ***Food Seminar***

The Food BLF organised a free, one-day seminar in October entitled 'Information Day on Funding and Support for Monaghan Food Sector and Related Companies'. The keynote speaker was Shane McEntee TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Approximately 50 people attended the event and along with hearing what the support agencies have to offer, participants also had an opportunity to meet and discuss their individual needs and requirements with the agency staff. The seminar also provided opportunities for networking and interaction with other food sector companies from Monaghan.

### ***Training Analysis Survey***

The Education & Training BLF undertook a Training Analysis Survey among employers in Co Monaghan in order to identify the following:

- Current training need of businesses
- Their future requirements over the next three years
- Gaps in training provision

- Difficulties businesses have in terms of recruiting specialised skills locally
- Difficulties businesses have in terms of awareness of and accessing local training programmes

The report will be published in Spring 2012.

### **Social Inclusion Measures group**

Social inclusion measures group brings together the key social inclusion agencies and organisations in the county to have a collective approach to addressing social inclusion issues. The SIM group has three key functions

1. To oversee the implementation of 3 actions within the CDB strategy. These actions focus on promoting and addressing Social Inclusion in the County.
2. To oversee the implementation of key national social inclusion programmes at local level.
3. To endorse local development plans on behalf of the County Development Board.

### **Social Inclusion Actions within the CDB Strategy**

#### **Improving Access to local transport through a co-ordinated approach**

This action aims to improve the co-ordination of transport service throughout the county. This action is led by Baltibus the rural transport company and is supported by the HSE and Community & Enterprise. As part of this action an integrated pilot service was established, within this pilot scheme the HSE allocated the responsibility of co-ordination of transport services for the following to Baltibus

- Monaghan General Hospital
- St Mary's Castleblayney
- Shuttle service running between Monaghan & Cavan Hospitals

To date the pilot scheme has worked well for those availing of it. User numbers have increased on some of the service routes. Under the new programme for government 2011, a new rural transport national pilot programme was proposed. The CDB saw this as an opportunity for Monaghan to be included in the new pilot programme. A formal request for inclusion in the programme was forwarded to Minister for Transport Leo Varadkar TD, it is hoped that the request will be granted.

#### **Improving Access to Services, Information and Decision Making for the most marginalised.**

This action aims to look at how services are currently delivered by statutory providers and identify barriers to access. In 2011 it was agreed this action would focus on raising awareness of the New Primary Community Care Centres set up by the HSE in the county. This action brought the community forum and HSE together to explore issues of concern for communities regarding primary healthcare with a view to removing barriers to access. It is hoped to build on this action in the future to promote the awareness and use of the primary healthcare service in the community.

#### **Promoting Positive mental health in particular among young people**

This action is working on mapping all services and supports for mental health in the county. In 2011 a number of SAFETALK training sessions took place throughout the county, SAFETALK training is a suicide awareness training programme to take place for CDB members. This training helps people to identify the signs of someone who

may be at risk from suicide and to direct them to where they can get help. In late 2011 it was agreed to organise and host a positive mental health conference in early 2012, to promote the services and supports available to people experiencing mental health difficulties and to attempt to remove some of the stigma associated with mental health issues.

### **Endorsement of Local Development Plans**

Under the revised programme for government 2011 the CDB was requested to endorse the strategic plans of the local development agencies in the county. The endorsement process was initially carried out by the Social Inclusion measures group who forwarded a recommendation to the County Development Board. The purpose of the endorsement process is to ensure local development plans are complementary to the CDB Strategy and to avoid potential duplication of programmes and resources at local level.

### **National Social Inclusion Programmes at local level**

#### **Traveller Interagency Plan**

The SIM oversees the implementation of the Integrated Traveller plan, this plan aims to improve service delivery to Travellers in the county. In 2011 the existing Integrated Traveller plan was reviewed. Considerable improvements in service delivery were achieved as part of this plan in the 2009-2011 period, particularly with regard to key services such as the Local Authority and HSE. Monaghan took part in Traveller Focus week for the first time, in 2011. This was a week long programme of events to promote an awareness and understanding of Traveller culture among the wider community. A new Inter-agency plan was developed in 2011, priority actions focus on building the capacity of the local Traveller community and continued development of relationships with key service providers.

### **Integration Strategy for Migrants**

In March 2011, as part of International Day Against Racism, a series of intercultural events were held throughout the county. The events were aimed at migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who have come to live in Monaghan. The purpose of the events was to identify issues or barriers to integration faced by them, with a view to removing those barriers. Over 400 people attended the events in 4 locations throughout the county. The key issues that emerged were around opportunities for integration and cultural awareness. As a result of these consultation events it was decided to pursue the establishment of the County of Sanctuary Programme in Monaghan.

### **Monaghan A County of Sanctuary**

Arising from the consultation process with migrants in March 2011, Monaghan County Council decided to pursue the establishment of a County of Sanctuary. A county of sanctuary is an international movement. It brings together all the key players in the community from the local authority to community groups to promote the county as a place of sanctuary, a place where people who arrive from other countries are made to feel welcome and are supported to integrate into community life. In late 2011 Monaghan County Council members ratified the declaration for Monaghan to become a County of Sanctuary, the first county in Ireland to do so. A working group will be set up in 2012 to develop the programme further.

### **Refugee Resettlement Programme**

In 2011 the resettlement programme formally came to an end, the two year programme supported by the Department of Justice saw the successful integration of 66 programme refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The families have settled well in their new life in Monaghan. A team of local volunteers and the community & enterprise department continues to support them in their resettlement.

### **Monaghan Age Friendly County Initiative**

In September 2011 Monaghan County Council launched the Monaghan Age Friendly Initiative. Over 175 older people in the county attended the official launch by Paddy Cole, in Castleblayney. The Age-Friendly County initiative seeks to engage older people and their communities in making their neighbourhoods better, healthier and safer places for older people to live and thrive. Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance has been established from representatives of the key statutory bodies that work with older people, along with a newly established Older People's network. This is a sub structure of Monaghan Community Forum which aims to bring the voice of the older person in Monaghan to the Age Friendly Alliance table. A detailed consultation process began in September 2011 and it is hoped to launch the Monaghan Age Friendly County Strategy in early 2012.

### **Implementing the Disability Act**

Making Monaghan Accessible continued to work on implementing the obligations under the Disability Act 2005. A number of key projects, that continue to improve accessibility for people with a disability in the county, were completed in 2011.

### **Accessible way-finding project**

The accessible way-finding signage project was launched on the streets of Monaghan town; this signage project, which has received national acclaim, was designed by the Disability Steering Committee and is the first of its kind in the republic of Ireland. The signs are located on monoliths in each of the key car parks in Monaghan town. They clearly outline the key services of the town in accessible formats, the monoliths are further supported by a series of finger posts throughout the town directing people to services.

### **Improvements to accessibility of Monaghan Leisure Complex**

A very successful programme of work took place in Monaghan Leisure Complex to improve accessibility for its users. The programme which included installation of accessible signage, audio listening devices, improvements to changing areas and improvement to access routes to and from the centre have created greater opportunities for people with a disability to access and enjoy the services on offer.

### **Monaghan Accessibility Walkabout**

As part of the accessibility improvement works a walkabout tour of the town took place in the late summer of 2011. The walkabout brought together Monaghan Town Council's engineering staff, members of the public and other community representatives. The group came together to walk through the town streets, highlighting the barriers that exist on the streets for people with a disability. Council staff on hand documented the barriers, as a result of the walkabout tour a programme of work was developed to rectify the issues identified.

### **Cultural Development Sub Group**

Monaghan CDB also has a cultural development remit. While individual organisations have been achieving great things, the focus of the CDB's cultural group has been to define what cultural development should mean for the CDB, and how it should seek to support the many cultural groups and activities already established in the county.

In the context of the work of the CDB, culture may be defined as “*A shared set of values*”. The cultural sub-group has identified that the cultural development of the county is important, in order to create a sense of belonging, this in turn promotes and strengthens the links which bind us together as a community. The promotion of a shared sense of community will contribute to the achievement of the following aims of the County Development Board:

- to address isolation, both physical and emotional, and its many negative effects, including: mental health difficulties, anti social behaviour, fear of crime
- to increase individual confidence, thus empowering individuals to advance their career and personal development goals
- to ensure that Monaghan is a nice place for everyone to live

Cultural development can be achieved by:

- preserving what is best in our community today
- taking the best of the constantly emerging new elements
- promoting these in the community to create and reinforce a sense of
- belonging

The Cultural Sub-Group is working on projects which will add value to the work of the various groups around the county. The unifying theme chosen is 'Our Shared Values'. The group is seeking to advance this topic through various creative projects, which will bear fruit in the coming years.

### **Tourism 2011**

The main focus of the Tourism Section in 2011 was the implementation of two major INTERREG IVA tourism infrastructural development projects in Co Monaghan. These were as follows:

#### **(1) Development of Lough Muckno**

Substantial funding was secured in 2010 under INTERREG IVA to develop Lough Muckno as a tourism destination. In 2011, extensive consultation was held with relevant landowners and local development and angling groups. The project was progressed through the Public Procurement and Planning processes in line with the funding requirements.

#### **(2) Development of Clones as tourism hub**

In May 2011, substantial funding to the value of €2.6m was awarded to Monaghan County Council and Fermanagh District Council to undertake enhanced amenity infrastructure in the Clones Erne East area.

The Clones elements of the project include the following:

- Development of an amenity park and streetscape enhancement at Cara Street
- Interpretation and enhancement works at heritage sites in the town
- Upgrading of catering facilities and landscaping works at the Canal Stores
- Angling infrastructure developments at selected lakes in the wider Clones area

A Steering Committee was established to assist in the implementation of the project and 3 meetings of the Committee were held in 2011. The project is currently beginning the Public Procurement phase.

In addition to the delivery of the above existing projects, the Tourism Section was involved in identifying funding opportunities for tourism development through the INTERREG IVA, Failte Ireland and Cavan Monaghan LEADER programmes. Applications were submitted under INTERREG IVA and Monaghan County Council is awaiting the outcome of the evaluation process.

### **National Programmes which are delivered through the Community & Enterprise Directorate**

Community and Enterprise has also been given responsibility for the delivery of a number of National Programmes. These include:

- the rolling out of the Disability Act 2005,
- implementing the Traveller Plan
- Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Develop an integration strategy for migrants
- Supporting the delivery of the Childcare Act through the work of Comhairle na nOg.
- Monaghan Age Friendly Initiative
- Monaghan a County of Sanctuary

### **Social Inclusion Unit**

The Social Inclusion Unit was established to assist the council to meet its obligations under the National Development Plan and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. In 2011 funding support from central government for staffing the Social Inclusion Unit was withdrawn and staff contracts were not renewed. The remit of the social inclusion unit will be maintained through the core functions of the C& E directorate.

### **Community Development Fund**

The Community Development Fund aims to promote, enhance and develop community development and social inclusion work throughout the county, through supporting the work of community and voluntary groups and organisations. It is open to any community and voluntary group in the county. The Community Development Fund is strategic in its focus to support local community development activity particularly since alternative sources for funding for communities are no longer available.

The annual Community Development fund was rolled out in early summer of 2011.

81 applications were received from a variety of community groups throughout the county. This represented 15 groups who had not previously been supported under the fund. A total of **€278,914** was requested through applications.

The fund was allocated across 3 distinct measures:

Measure 1: **Community Infrastructural supports:** Support small scale capital projects up to a maximum of €5,000

Measure 2: **Community Development Supports:** Support to community development projects & events up to a maximum of €1,000

Measure 3: **Community Capital supports:** Support to larger scale capital projects up to a maximum of €10,000

The largest financial demand continues to be within Measure 1: Community Infrastructural supports. This measure supports groups who are carrying out small scale capital projects within their communities. The average grant allocated to groups is approx €1,800.

Measure 2: Community Development supports are very popular and support local and community initiatives to a maximum of €1,000.

In total €98,350 was allocated to 26 different community groups in various geographical communities in the county. 2011 applications were also assessed in conjunction with LEADER supporting projects to secure larger grant aid for projects, using the Community Development Fund as match funding.

### **National Bike Week**

2011 was the second year that Monaghan County Council got actively involved in promoting National Bike Week (18-26 June). With the help of Monaghan Sports Partnership and a number of voluntary groups which had an interest in cycling, a programme of events was put together which offered something for everyone, from the super-fit competition rider to the smallest child. Fun and family were the focus of the week, with family events taking place in Ballybay, Castleblayney, Monaghan and Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre.

In addition to the public events, the Garda Bike Unit in Castleblayney delivered cycle training in all the primary schools in their district. St Tiarnach's Primary School in Clones once more led the way, with 242 children, accompanied by 45 parents and 18 staff cycling to school. St Marys NS Glaslough's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in a 4-village challenge, whereby they cycled from Glaslough to Tynan to Caledon to Middletown, thus covering three counties in one cycle!

We had a very special event in 2011, thanks to Emyvale Cycling Club, who hosted the National Elite Cycling Championships in north Co. Monaghan on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. The evening before the big race, they opened the track to all comers, enabling the ordinary cyclist to ride a circuit of the track. They were accompanied by some of the elite cyclists, who used the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the track for the next day's race. 36 local cyclists availed of the opportunity to cycle in the company of some of cycling's biggest names, many of whom were heading for the Tour de France the following week.

Monaghan County Council supported the events by organising joint promotion, providing road signs, handling the tendering requirements, reporting to funders etc, and organising deliveries of equipment and refreshments to each event.

### **Smarter Travel**

During 2011, the Office of Community & Enterprise assisted the Roads Section to avail of the opportunity to secure funding from the Dept of Transport under their Jobs Initiative Smarter Travel scheme. Almost €250,000 was brought into the county for a variety of transport-related initiatives, including the provision of bike shelters and racks, the removal of roadside obstacles and the construction of a new bus stop and set down area in Carrickmacross. The budget was co-ordinated by the Office of Community & Enterprise, who also co-ordinated the draw-down of the funding.

### **Community Smoke Alarm Scheme**

The Office of Community & Enterprise also facilitated the delivery of the Dept of Environment, Community & Local Govt's annual Community Smoke Alarm Scheme. 420 alarms were received, and distributed around the county via the Community Alert groups, the Community Gardai and the Community Forum. The alarms were targeted at 'vulnerable' households, which included older people, people living alone and people living in private rented accommodation

### **Cross Border Partnerships**

Monaghan County Council is committed to maintaining strong working relationships with our neighbouring Councils in Northern Ireland.

Through the Blackwater Regional Partnership, we are linked to Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council and Armagh City & District Council. Along with Clones Town Council, we are linked with Fermanagh District Council in the Clones Erne East Partnership, which has developed a new Strategy during 2011.

Monaghan County Council also participates in the East Border Region and ICBAN regional clusters of local authorities, and is an active participant in a number of regional projects which are being developed.

### **Pride of Place**

Pride of Place is an all Ireland competition organised by Co-Operation Ireland, and is open to Local Authorities north and south. Being nominated by the Council is recognition of their hard work, and says thank you to them for their commitment to making their communities better places to live.

The high standard of community and voluntary groups in Co Monaghan was once again to the fore in Gorey, Co Wexford in November, when two of the county's three entrants in this year's competition were awarded the runners-up spots in their respective categories. Glaslough received the 'first runner up' title and a cheque for €500 in their population category, while the efforts of the community of Inniskeen to preserve and promote Patrick Kavanagh Country were rewarded with the same prize in the 'Community Tourism Initiative' category.

This is Inniskeen's second time to be recognised by the Pride of Place awards, as they were runners up in their population category in 2010. Co. Monaghan's third entrant,

Clones, lost out to Ballymacarbry, Co Waterford, who were described as 'the best entrant we have ever had in the competition' in the small towns category. However, there were words of encouragement from the judges, who commented that the imminent completion of the Peace III funded sports facility and the re-development of the Ulster Canal will ensure that Clones are the town to watch in the near future of the competition.



### **Tidy Towns**

Monaghan County Council provides many supports to Tidy Towns groups and Residents Associations. Some, such as the Environmental & Recreational Improvement Fund, offer direct funding to groups; others are indirect, such as offering free spring bulbs to groups in the autumn and free trees during National Tree Week in March each year.

The Community & Enterprise section established a Network for Tidy Towns groups and Residents Associations in 2001, and it is now amongst the most successful and active networks in the county. There are 117 distinct groups registered with the Network, including 18 Tidy Towns groups and 46 Residents Associations. 35 local development groups are also members, covering in the main, areas which don't have a dedicated Tidy Towns committee.

Each year a meeting is held in March to plan National Spring Clean month, and discuss what supports the groups wish the Council to provide. In October, a debriefing meeting enables groups to discuss the marks they received in the National Tidy Towns competition and plan for training and other supports to assist them to improve their marks.

In a new initiative during 2010, the four Area Engineers met individually with 17 groups wishing to consult with them over various issues. The meetings also provided an opportunity to discuss landscaping and streetscaping projects of a larger scale, and identify projects which could be submitted for funding to Cavan Monaghan LEADER.

14 groups entered this year's National Tidy Towns competition. All groups improved on their previous marks, and all improved their 'wildlife and amenity' score. Greenan's Cross gained a massive 11 marks, earning them the 'Endeavour' award for 2011. Glaslough won the county award, and Carrickmacross won a third Bronze medal.

### **Joint Policing Committees**

There are six JPCs in the county – one in each local authority. The aim of the JPCs is to provide a platform through which the local authority, the community and the Gardai can discuss issues which affect the safety of the community.

Monaghan Town JPC's successful 2010 campaign, 'Don't Pour Your Dreams Away', which focuses on underage drinking, was rolled out to all secondary schools throughout the county. Banners and flyers were distributed to the schools in the week leading up to the Junior Cert results. Community development staff from the Office of Community & Enterprise, together with members of An Garda Síochána, delivered an awareness talk in 11 of the 12 schools, focusing on the legal and health consequences for young people of binge drinking.



The initiative was very well received by students and teachers alike, and the effectiveness of this approach was shown in an exceptionally low level of anti social activity on the night of the Junior Cert results.

Personal security was another big topic for the JPC's during 2011, with the Gardai appealing to the public to be vigilant against 'creeper' burglaries and thefts of machinery, which are both on the rise in the county.

## Comhairle na nÓg



Comhairle na nÓg is a shadow youth council, which aims to involve young people more in decision making. It operates as a sub-group of the County Development Board, and is supported by staff from the Office of Community & Enterprise. The 'Youth Leaders for Peace' project concluded in mid 2011, and a successor project focusing on inter-generational work was awarded funding by the Peace III Partnership. This programme will start in early 2012.

During 2011, the young people devised a 'Be Body Proud' campaign, which included the production of a DVD and t-shirts. The campaign worked closely with the schools, from which the Comhairle receive tremendous support in all their endeavours.



The election of a new Comhairle at the AGM in October commenced a new two-year term. The Comhairle have chosen 'the lack of opportunities for older young people' and 'positive mental health' as their focus issues for their term.

### **Community Forum**

Central to the role of the Community & Enterprise Section has been enabling and supporting the involvement of the Community and Voluntary sector in the decision-making structures of the county. The work of building Community Capacity will continue through supporting the work of the Community Forum and its 10 associated networks. Every opportunity will be sought to involve and work with the Forum in the delivery of various programmes and initiatives.

### **Monaghan Community Forum**

Monaghan Community Forum was set up under the Local Government Act 2001 to facilitate the community sector to participate in decision-making within the county and on a regional basis. There are 375 groups presently registered with Monaghan Community Forum. Most of these groups are affiliated to 11 thematic networks which have representation on 30 statutory boards within the county and region. In 2011 Monaghan Community Forum held a number of meetings particularly for Community Representatives. The Forum is dedicated to keeping the flow of community information moving to all its members. A number of new networks were established and revitalised as a result of a very dynamic AGM in November.

### **Active Citizenship**

In April and May 2011 a number of training and capacity building events were provided by the Forum to Community Groups. These events centred on motivation and leadership within the community. Two active citizenship events took place on 29<sup>th</sup> of September in Monaghan Shopping Centre and in the Square, Carrickmacross on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2011. These events provided an opportunity for groups to Showcase what they do and also encouraged volunteering in the community. The aim of these events was to encourage Social Inclusion and promote volunteerism.

### **Forum Communications Plan**

Along with the Monaghan Community Forum website, which was launched at the AGM in November 2010, the Forum also send out a weekly e-bulletin with information on community events, training and funding. This is sent out to all of our membership organisations every Tuesday. This bulletin is also available for download from our website - [www.monaghancommunityforum.ie](http://www.monaghancommunityforum.ie) In 2011, through the Peace III project Hands Together the Forum installed digital information screens in each of the counties 5 libraries. Community groups and agencies can contact the Forum to have community notices posted on these screens. These notices are updated once a week. Groups can also forward community DVDs to be edited and placed on the screens. The Forum Facebook page is also updated with community news on a weekly basis. A TÚS worker is currently working with the Forum and is keeping these systems regularly updated.



### **Peace III 'Hands Together' – Major Peace Project**

The 'Hands Together' Peace III Project ran from November 2009 to May 2011. This project brought over 700 individuals together to take part in peace activities and events under the theme of Arts and Heritage.

### **Monaghan Sports Partnership**

Monaghan Local Sports Partnership was established in September 2006 as a sub-structure of the County Development Board, to support, enhance and increase participation in sport and physical activity for all in the county. The work of the LSP is directed by the Irish Sports Council and governed on a day-to-day basis by a Board of members. The membership of Monaghan Sports Partnership board is made up from the Statutory, Community and Sporting sector. It meets approximately 6 to 8 times per year.

Monaghan Sports Partnership also facilitated a thirteen week student placement from Dundalk Institute of Technology. The Sports Partnership currently has a membership of over 200 sports clubs and organisations.

### **Functions of the Local Sport Partnerships**

The three main functions of the LSPs are: - Information, Education and Implementation:

### 1. Information

Information is disseminated through a weekly column in the local newspaper, a newsletter, dedicated website, facebook page e-mail contact list and meetings.

### 2. Education ó coach / education

A series of training courses is held locally for teachers, childcare providers, and sports club volunteers and general public in topics such as hydration and nutrition for sport, first aid, child protection, physical activity for children, walking for health.

### 3. Implementation ó delivery of programmes

A wide range of activity programmes are held throughout County Monaghan targeting specific population groups which have been identified as less participative in sport and physical activity than others. Examples include: females, older adults, youth, disability and ethnic minorities.

### **Sports Inclusion Programme (for people with a disability)**

The Sports Inclusion Programme is designed to create opportunities for people with a disability to engage with sports activities and to access sports club and facilities. The disability areas addressed included physical, intellectual/learning, sensory and mental health illnesses. The programme is delivered across Counties Monaghan and Cavan as a joint initiative. The programme was originally funded through Pobal and the dormant accounts fund, which expired in 2010. Both Sports Partnerships secured further funding from the Irish Sports Council for the continuation of activities.

The programme has had a significant impact on people's lives and their integration into mainstream activities. The following are examples of initiatives rolled out in County Monaghan during 2011. New activities were provided for people with learning / intellectual disability, physical disability, sensory disability and mental health illness in: Soccer Skills, Horse Riding, Yoga, GAA skills. Disability awareness training was also provided to Transition Year students.

### **Heritage**

The Heritage Officer has a wide remit, including the implementation of the County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan, maintaining the record of protected structures, combined with advising on planning applications and other matters which have implications for heritage conservation. Financial support and technical advice from The Heritage Council supports the position of Heritage Officer in the county.

Heritage is a wide concept, closely related to the notion of 'inheritance'. It not only encompasses anthropogenic creations, but also those resources formed long before the evolution of humans. In 1995, heritage was defined by Irish statute as 'landscape, wildlife habitats, flora and fauna, inland waterways, monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects and archives, architectural heritage, geology, heritage gardens and parks'. In reality however, it expands beyond this definition to also encompass cultural heritage, placenames, folklore, music and language.

### **County Monaghan Heritage Plan**

The second County Monaghan Heritage Plan was developed and submissions sought in 2011. The new plan will cover the years 2012-2017. Its vision for the future of heritage in County Monaghan is as follows: By conserving our heritage and creating

new heritage assets, through creative and quality architectural design, retaining and enhancing our wildlife habitats and conserving our cultural heritage, County Monaghan will continue to be a place where people will want to live and work. It will be a place that we can be proud of because we can see and appreciate its character and uniqueness. Monaghan will continue to inspire art and creativity. We will be rooted and secure as a community and understand and work within environmental limits.



A number of projects were undertaken in 2011 to implement actions from the Heritage Plan 2006-2011:

- Wetland surveys of sixty wetland sites including eight turloughs.
- Conservation of historic ironwork seminar, and the International Forge-In Artist Blacksmith Festival in conjunction with the Arts Office, which attracted thousands of people to Monaghan town.
- Castleblayney Historic Landscape Character Plan.
- Heritage Bus Tour of the Ballybay and Clones area.
- The Wild Things at School resource pack, developed in 2010 by the Heritage Officer comprising activity sheets and a DVD was launched in Gaelscoil Ultain and the County Library by author Eanna Ni Lamhna.



### **National Famine Commemoration**

The second National Famine Commemoration Event was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011, in Clones. The Heritage Office coordinated the event for the local authority, together with a steering committee, Clones Town Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The President, Mary McAleese officiated at the open air event in the Diamond, on the invitation of Minister Jimmy Deenihan. Afterwards they visited the County Library to view the famine exhibition which was coordinated jointly by the heritage office, library and museum. Representatives from over thirty countries attended the event. Two weeks of famine related events were organised by the local organising committee in the run up to the commemoration day.



### **Action for Biodiversity**

Funding was secured in 2010 for a three year biodiversity project, Action for Biodiversity under INTERREG IVA. This 100% funded project is a joint initiative between ten local authorities and EBR Ltd. Monaghan is one of the leads in the project and the Heritage Officer is the joint chair of the steering group. Our project officer, Carmel Brennan, was employed by Monaghan County Council in 2011 and the project formally commenced.

### **Heritage Week 2011**

Events were held around the county to celebrate Heritage Week at the end of August. It was a vibrant week and many hundreds of people attended events around Monaghan.

### **County Monaghan Biodiversity Action Plan**

A five year Biodiversity Action Plan for the county was adopted by Monaghan County Council in November 2009. Unfortunately, the Biodiversity Fund which came from the DEHLG was dropped in 2010 and no funding toward the LBAP was forthcoming in 2011. However, the Heritage Office has maintained a watching brief over the plan and other funding avenues.

### **County Monaghan Heritage Forum**

The Forum met five times in 2011. This multi-stakeholder body supports and advises on the implementation of the Monaghan Heritage Plan. Four locally elected representatives sit on the County Monaghan Heritage Forum, Cllr. Seamus Coyle, Cllr. Jackie Crowe, Cllr. Paudge Connolly and Cllr. Ciara McPhillips. The forum was centrally involved in the development of the new Heritage Plan.

### **Conservation of Protected Structures**

There are 648 structures on the Record of Protected Structures in County Monaghan. The Grant Scheme for the Conservation of Protected Structures, which was funded by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and administered by the local authority, was paused in 2011. A new scheme called Structures at Risk was operated in its place. The new scheme attracts less funding and final decisions are made by the Department.

Conservation works were undertaken to the windows of the Clones Market House in 2011. The sashes were renewed and repairs undertaken to timbers and glazing bars.

### **Planning applications**

The Heritage Officer made written submissions on approximately thirty planning applications / issues in 2011 with regard to heritage matters.

### **Monaghan Peace III Programme**

During 2011 The Monaghan Peace III, Phase II Action Plan was successfully approved by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) and was awarded funding of €3,687,206 for the implementation of the plan.

The programme focuses on Four Strategic Priorities.

- Supporting Communities to work together
- Investing in our Children and Young
- Embedding Peace building
- Support for actions that will contribute to peace building work on the ground

The priority focused on *‘Supporting Communities to work together’* will be achieved by providing a range of supports to: build the capacity of minority communities; to facilitate networking between groups; to equip groups with the necessary communication skills to enable them highlight the work they are doing; and to support older people explore their varied histories addressing the silence surrounding the conflict.

The priority *‘Investing in our Children and Young People’* will include support for actions that equip and empower the younger generation with the skills necessary to engage with young people from different backgrounds. It will also focus on building the capacity of parents, older people, youth workers, volunteers and educators to assist young people explore issues of diversity in a structured and constructive way.

The priority focused on *‘Embedding Peace Building’* makes specific provision for a Peace building mentoring programme implemented by the Peace Development

Officer and training for all Peace III staff and partnership members. It also seeks to continue to support and build the capacity of existing peace trainers and workers in the county through the establishment of the Monaghan peace building network. This group, together with the newly established peace building advisory group, will define what it is that constitutes peace building within the Monaghan context.

The priority '***Support for actions that will contribute to peace building work on the ground***' will be achieved through the implementation of small grants programmes and a resource model programme. The Resource model will offer a support programme for groups who want to engage in a more in-depth networking and peace building support programme. Groups who participate in these programmes will be able to avail of support up to €15,000.

In December 2011 the Phase II programme commenced, with 11 partner delivery actions being granted funding to undertake activities and programmes under Strategic Priority 1, 2 and 3. The call for small grant applications was launched in December 2011 with the aim that all small grant activity and programmes will commence in late March / early April.

Monaghan Phase 1 Action Plan officially completed on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011. In total 30 projects have been funded under Phase 1, this included 9 Partnership Delivery Grants 13 Small Grants, 8 Target Support Grants

The closing event for the Monaghan Peace III Programme Phase I Action Plan took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 in the Hillgrove Hotel. This closing event featured displays, performances and presentations from a range of groups who have taken part in Phase I. This event was a great success and showcased the diversity of peace and reconciliation work that has been undertaken throughout the county.

Examples of project activity:-

- Diversity Training Resources for Schools developed
- Peace Building Tool Kit developed.
- Hidden Heritage Exhibition
- Establishment of 5 Community Gardens
- Youth Café established
- Monaghan Song and Poetry Writers Group established.
- Best practice visits
- Comprehensive programme of Anti Sectarianism and Anti Racism Training was delivered throughout the county .
- Music Festival
- Training course for Peace and Reconciliation developed - Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Diversity Awareness and Peace Building.
- Intergenerational Programmes developed. 6 Intergenerational booklets produced
- A range of Cross Community /Cross Border activities

Work on the wrap up and closure of Phase I is expected to continue into the latter part of 2012.

## **Environmental Protection**

Environmental Protection is a topic that continues to hold a place centre-stage in the international arena. However, it is primarily by protecting the Environment at local level that we can hope to safeguard it for future generations.

The staff of Monaghan County Council's Environment Section is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the protection of the county's land, waters and air from pollutants that are harmful to humans, animal and plant life respectively. Responsibility for protecting the Environment rests with each individual living and working in the county. The Council's staff needs the support and co-operation of the wider community in order to discharge their duties.

The Council has a broad range of environmental functions including:

- Waste Management
- Litter Control
- Water Quality Protection and Improvement
- Environmental awareness
- Food Safety
- Dog Control

### **Waste Management**

Waste Management in the county is carried out in accordance with the North East Regional Waste Management Plan 2005-2010.

### **Landfill facility**

Monaghan County Council operates one landfill facility at Scotch Corner. This facility operates under waste licence W0020-02 granted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The 'polluter-pays' principle is applied to the operation of the Landfill facility. During 2011 the landfill levy increased from €30 to €50. The total volume of waste land filled in 2011 at the Scotch Corner landfill facility was 27,361 tonnes, which was lower than in previous years. The reduction in the volume of waste going to landfill can be attributed to a variety of factors including the economic downturn, increased environmental awareness, the opening of the Indaver thermal treatment plant outside Drogheda, as well as the need to move away from the practice of land filling.

### **Materials Recovery Facility & Civic Amenity Site**

This facility is being operated on behalf of the Council by McElvaney's Waste & Recycling. Again this facility is operated under waste licence W0020-02 granted by the Environmental Protection Agency. In 2011 a total of 8,251 tonnes of recyclable materials were processed at the facility.

### **Carrickmacross Recycling Centre**

The Recycling Centre in Carrickmacross was officially opened on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 by Minister of State, Fergus O'Dowd TD. The Recycling Centre operates under a Certificate of Registration issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. McElvaney's Waste and Recycling currently operate the facility on behalf of

Monaghan County Council. During 2011 a total of 763 tonnes of recyclable materials were accepted at the recycling centre

### **Bring Sites**

During 2011 a total of 1,046 tonnes of glass and 45 tonnes of aluminium cans were collected at the bring site network in the County. In addition, 45 tonnes of textiles were collected at the network. (Note: 1 tonne of glass equates to approx 3,500 bottles. 1 tonne of aluminium cans equates to approx 50,000 aluminium cans.)

A number of new bring bank facilities were developed in 2011 including additional facilities in Clones, Newbliss and Castleblayney. By the end of 2011 there were 28 council operated bring sites in the county.

### **Waste Facility Permits and Registrations**

Waste Facility Permits and certificates of registration are issued by the Council for a number of waste recovery activities listed in the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations, 2007. In 2011 a total of eleven waste facility permits and Certificates of registration were issued.

There are six Authorised Treatment Facilities for the recovery and dismantling of end of life vehicles within County Monaghan. A full list of authorised treatment facilities is available on Monaghan County Councils website. There is one compost facility within the county that composts brown bin wastes and organics waste to produce fertilizer. Shabra Recycling Limited recycles plastic bottles to produce plastic packaging. There are currently ten authorised sites located across the county which accept soil and stone waste for the purposes of agricultural improvement and land development. Authorised sites are subject to annual inspections by the council and must submit an Annual Environmental Report each year.

### **LAPN (Local Authority Prevention Network)**

The Environment Section continued to participate in the EPA-funded Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) programme in 2011. Projects completed during 2011 include:

- Participation in Taste of Monaghan Festival focusing on home composting and the promotion of the stopfoodwaste.ie national campaign.
- Production of a short awareness video on food waste
- Waste Prevention Summer Camps for children aged 7-12
- Focus on internal prevention activities such as paper wastage and energy savings measures
- Participation in European Week for Waste Reduction.



### **Litter Pollution**

A total of 62 on the spot Litter Fines were issued in 2011. The majority of them involved fly-tipping of household refuse and littering at Bottle Banks throughout the county. Monaghan Local Authorities are currently implementing the Litter Management Plan 2010 to 2012. This plan sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter as well as measures to raise public awareness.

### **Water Quality**

While the quality of Co Monaghan's rivers and lakes had deteriorated significantly since the 1970s, some improvements in water quality have been recorded in the last few years, particularly in rural areas. We need to focus efforts on achieving better protection for our waters in order to comply with new EU legislation. The EU Water Framework Directive requires member states to protect water of good status, and to restore waters that are of moderate, poor or bad status. (Further information is available on [www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie)).

Monaghan County Council has continued its programme of water quality monitoring, development control, catchment surveys, licensing and the investigation of water pollution complaints. Our surveys have recorded significant improvements in farmyard facilities in the county, and upgrading of farmyards was assisted by the Farm Waste Management Grant Scheme. Survey work on business premises commenced in 2008, with around 160 premises surveyed to date. It is planned to continue survey work and where necessary follow up inspections.

The Environment Section commenced a system of stream monitoring in 2008 called Small Stream Risk Score (SSRS). SSRS is a relatively new monitoring system based on biological indicators and will be used to identify 'hot spots' and to track water pollution sources. Council staff is also working towards raising general awareness on water pollution prevention among all sectors. Information leaflets and other useful water quality and water pollution information are now available on the environment section of the new council website. [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie)

Monaghan Co Council was involved in the development of the Northwest and the Neagh-Bann River Basin Management Plans ó for further information and the latest status of both plans see [www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie).

### **Complaints**

The Environment section investigates complaints covering the whole spectrum of our activities from illegal dumping of domestic refuse to water pollution, and dumping of hazardous wastes (such as by-products of illegal diesel laundering activities). In 2011, 520 complaints were investigated. The Council may serve a range of statutory and legal notices on landowners etc requiring them to carry out certain works etc and our investigations may result in cases being referred for prosecution. In 2011, 37 such notices were issued. However, in the majority of cases, individuals will respond positively when advised that their activities are likely to cause environmental pollution. Air and Noise Complaints are dealt with by the Council's Environmental Health Officers

### **Diesel Wash Dumping**

2011 saw a dramatic escalation in the instances of the illegal dumping of fuel laundering wastes also known as diesel wash. While there was only one incident during 2010 there were 37 such incidents in 2011. The cost of carrying out the diesel wash cleanups in 2011 was approximately €165,000.

### **Environmental Awareness**

In an effort to foster a spirit of co-operation between the Council and the community at large, the Council engages in a range of environmental awareness raising activities. Some of the highlights in 2011 were:

- During National Spring Clean month in April, and again during Autumn Clean up almost 50 community groups within the county availed of free skip hire to help with their local clean-ups. This was in addition to many other clean ups organised throughout the year.
- €43,000 was provided to local voluntary organisations under the 'Environmental Fund' for improving local communities. Grants were available for maintenance of



open spaces, tree/shrub/hedge & flower planting, litter management, painting etc.

- The Green Schools Programme continues to grow. At the end of 2011 72% of primary and 75% of post primary schools was registered with the programme, Eleven schools received their first flag during 2011.
- The environment section ran an advertising campaign on illegal dumping and litter in the local media during spring clean
- €22,000 was distributed in funding through the Local Agenda Environmental Partnership Fund
- Environmental Officer continued to develop linkages with the community and voluntary sector such as Tidy Town and Sporting organisations

### **Food Safety**

2011 was the first year of the Council's new five year contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). The Council signed the contract with the FSAI on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The contract is in force until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. It requires the Council to provide food safety control and support services to small food business operators in the County engaged in the slaughtering, processing and wholesaling of meat and meat products. The products range from fresh beef; lamb and poultry meat to cooked sliced ham and cooked sausages. These businesses supply the domestic market mainly but are now entitled to sell their products anywhere within the European Community.

The Council employs a County Veterinary Officer (CVO) and two temporary veterinary inspectors. The inspectors carry out ante and post mortem examinations on all livestock slaughtered in the four local abattoirs. The CVO carries out regular inspections of structural and operational hygiene standards in premises, and operates sampling and training programmes to assist owners and staff in attaining the required standards set out in national and EU legislation.

In 2011, 1,459 cattle and 2,881 sheep were slaughtered in local abattoirs in Monaghan.

### **Dog Control Service**

The council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. 4,923 dogs were licensed in the county in 2011 while 20 general dog licences were issued. The general dog licence entitles the holder to keep any number of dogs at a specific location. 724 dogs passed through the dog pound in 2011 6 with 118 having to be euthanised. 65 dogs were reclaimed by their owners and 539 were re-homed, with the much-appreciated assistance of the Carrickmacross Dog Shelter and the Monaghan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In 2011, 176 on-the-spot fines were issued to people for keeping a dog without a licence, 27 fines for not keeping a dog under control, and 38 fines for not ensuring that the dog wears a collar and/or tag with the owner's name and address on it. Three dog owners were successfully prosecuted in court, two for not licensing their dogs and one for not keeping their dog under effective control.

## Fire Service

### Number of calls

Monaghan Fire Authority dealt with 307 first callouts in the last year, with 83 (21%) requiring assistance. Chimney fires accounted for 55 (17 %) of these. The other main locations of calls were dwellings 42 (13 %), motor vehicles 32 (10 %), road traffic accidents 20 (6%) and false alarms 28 (8 %). There were no fatalities in fires in County Monaghan in 2011.

The number of calls dealt with at the individual fire stations together with a breakdown of the major sources of these calls was as follows:

Station	Calls	Chimney	Domestic Buildings	Vehicle Fires	RTA	False Alarms	Other
Ballybay	38(29)	10(1)	8(4)	3 (3)	3(2)	5(1)	15(12)
Carrickmacross	55(11)	8	10	10	3	6	21(3)
Castleblayney	62(17)	7	6	4	4	4	34(13)
Clones	34(7)	9	7	6	3	5	17 (1)
Monaghan	118(19)	21	11 (3)	9	7 (1)	8	43(5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>130</b>

Figures in brackets represent assisting calls

### Callout Statistics (Fire calls only)

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Average Time in Mins to Mobilise</b>	<b>% of calls in Attendance less than 10 mins</b>	<b>% of calls in Attendance &gt; 10 mins &amp; &lt; 20 mins</b>	<b>% of calls in Attendance &gt; 20 mins</b>
<b>Jan – March</b>	6m 09 secs	43.54 %	50.36 %	6.10 %
<b>Apr – June</b>	6m 11 secs	34.28%	54.93 %	10.80%
<b>July – Sept</b>	5m 54 secs	47.61%	35.47%	16.92%
<b>Oct – Dec</b>	6m 52 secs	41.00%	50.33 %	8.68 %
<b>Average 2011</b>	6m 19 secs	41.31%	47.89%	10.80 %

### Staffing

The arrival of Sharon Finnegan as Staff Officer in February restored the administrative staff compliment following the untimely passing of Mary Rudden.

### Fire appliances equipment

A new Water Tender was delivered to Castleblayney fire service in April 2011 by Brown Brothers, which has replaced the existing Water Tender. The water tender comes with a Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) to assist in dealing with petrochemicals and vehicular incidents.

A new fire jeep was also delivered to Ballybay Fire Station and is now used as a personnel carrier. The new jeep will allow the Ballybay brigade to utilise it as a

fending vehicle at all road traffic based incidents. In addition Personal Protective Equipment, Breathing Apparatus and Radio Equipment were purchased in 2011.

The new equipment purchased during the year included the following:

PPE:

- 20 Tunics and Leggings,
  - 5 Crowmwell F900,
  - 4 x NEO VP1-ET Blue Coverall
- BA equipment
  - 12 x FPS7000 Facemask
  - 30 No. BA cylinders
- Radio equipment
  - 15 Alerters and 3 Hand Portable.

### **Health & Safety**

The National Directorate of Fire and Emergency Management continued the issuance of training material for the roll out of Standard Operating Standards (SOGS) for the Fire Service. In total, 25 No. SOGs were delivered to all fire fighters in Monaghan during 2011. The information contained in each SOG forms the basis for complying with the statutory requirement for a risk assessment, as well as for training and preparing for specified operational incident types. The SOGs are intended to be a significant part of the "operational doctrine" for fire service operation. Monaghan Fire Authority's SOG committee has a role in to engage, adapt, oversee and implement the agreed SOG and initiate the roll-out of training for each of the SOGs.

The Incident Command System has provided a clear health & safety management structure to ensure the command, control, and coordination of all fire service response calls. A number of large scale exercises were carried out to ensure the continuous up-skilling in the Incident Command System and to improve pre fire planning for related incidents.

### **Major Emergency Management**

The North-East regional working group committee held a table-top exercise to test the response of all the Local coordination Centre (LCC) in the region last November which involved all three principle response agencies. The three sectors (HSE, the Local Authorities, and An Garda Síochána) and eight regional groups implement an annual work programme approved by the National Steering Group. Each Principal Response Agency has prepared individual Major Emergency Plans, which sets out that agency's response, as well as its contribution to the combined response of all agencies, to a major emergency.

### **New & Existing stations**

The New Monaghan Headquarters Fire Station was completed in November and became functional in December. The new Fire Station will provide accommodation for both the operational and office staff. A maintenance bay has also been constructed to provide facilities to service and maintain the fire service fleet.

Provision was made to facilitate a safe working environment in the following locations:

- The port-a-cabin in Castleblayney Fire Station to accommodate the need for a muster bay for fire-fighters;
- The new appliance bay in Ballybay Fire Station to accommodate additional storage facilities and new jeep;



### **Fire Prevention**

The activity in Fire Prevention included dealing with all licence applications for pubs, clubs, restaurants, dance halls, gaming and lottery establishments, and dangerous substances. The emphasis on promoting Fire Prevention continued in 2011 through the targeting of crèches, elderly groups, primary and secondary schools and housing estates.

Further progress was made in 2011 with regard to premises built or in use without Fire Safety Certificates. This resulted in an increase in retrospective applications. The revenue in 2010 from 64 fire certificate applications was €90,474.77

Seven applications were exempt from fees. Approx. 93% of Certificates were processed within 2 months well above the national average.

### **National Schools Programme**

The National Schools programme forms an important role in developing fundamental awareness and to promote the need for pre-fire planning in the home. All national schools were visited by firefighters. This programme is targeted at third class (8 to 9 year old children) and has received positive feedback from schools.

### **Training**

In addition to the annual training programme carried out at each drill night the following training was undertaken by fire personnel in 2011:

- 1 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Compartment Fire Behaviour Course

- 1 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Hazard Materials Course
- 1 No. fire-fighters successfully completed an Instructor Course
- 4 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a refresher Peer Support training course. This is to support our Critical Incident Stress Management policy.
- 1 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Pump operators course
- 1 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Fire Service Sub Officer Course
- 30 No. fire-fighter successfully completed Cardiac First Responder Course
- 16 No. fire-fighter successfully completed CAFS induction course
- 20 No. fire-fighters successfully completed a Road Traffic Incident Course in conjunction with NDEFM.
- 21 No. firefighters completing a 2 day Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course in Dundalk;
- 3 No. Firefighters completed an Emergency Advanced Driving Course.



### **Major Incidents**

There were a number of significantly large incidents during the year, most notably the gorse fires in May and the flooding in October both involved the deployment of all Fire Brigades from Monaghan. The fire service were involved in the protection of property and water rescue. The centre of Ballybay town had to be evacuated following erosion of a riverbank which undermined a gas installation. Ballybay Fire Service and Civil Defence played an important role in the evacuation and care of members of the public.

# **Building Control**

## **Commencement Notices**

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 167 Commencement Notices representing 182 notifications of building works as is required under the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 2009. The notified works included 69 new domestic residential units.

## **Disability Access Certificates:**

The income received by the Building Control Authority by way of Commencement Notice fees amounted to €5,232.00. The total number of DAC applications received in 2011 was 29. The income received by the Building Control Authority by way of Disability Access Certificate Fees amounted to €21,200.

## **Inspections**

The Building Control Authority carried out inspections on approximately 19.7% of all works of which it was notified.

## **Regulations**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, Part M 2010 of the Technical Guidance Documents will come into force. This will replace Part M 2000 and shall incorporate provisions to be made for people to access and use a building, its facilities and its environs, along with provision to be made for people to approach and access an extension to a building. Staff from Building Control section attended a 3-day training course on the content of Part M 2010.

## **Radon**

A radon seminar was held in September to inform members of the public, as well as local engineers and architectural consultants of the dangers and methods available to remedy or prevent the risk of radon gas penetrating buildings. The event had two prominent speakers, one from the Northern Ireland Building Control Authority providing a contrast between both jurisdictions and the second was the Chief Scientist from the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.

## **Building Projects**

The commencement of work on the New Education Campus took place in August. This multi-user Education Campus on the site of the former Military Barracks site in Monaghan will be the largest building project in County Monaghan and is planned for completion in mid 2013.

## Civil Defence Service.

**Civil Defence Mission.** *To support the emergency services and to provide community support by promoting, developing and maintaining Civil Defence as an effective volunteer based organisation”.*

Monaghan Civil Defence currently provides community support to some 90 + community events annually, as well as acting as a multi-skilled 2nd line service to the main emergency services of the Fire Service, Local Authority, An Garda Síochana, HSE., Monaghan. Civil Defence is currently proactive in the following area of community & emergency support;

- First Aid / Casualty
- Search and Rescue
- Auxiliary Fire Fighting
- Boating Techniques
- Radiation Monitoring
- Radio Communications
- Welfare Provision
- Blizzard Conditions
- Gorse Fires
- Flooding
- Traffic Control
- Crowd Control Stewarding



Major Emergency Planning training within the county on a shared basis with other relevant sectors of the Local Authority, Fire Service, An Garda Síochana, North Eastern Health Board, and other relevant voluntary agencies.



### Severe Weather Event October 2011

Monaghan Civil Defence were called out during the recent severe weather on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. CD volunteers assisted Fire Service & Local Authority Staff & other groups with numerous tasks.

- Welfare & First Aid assistance to residents evacuated from their homes because of flooding.
- Transport of local

authority housing staff.

- Rescue boat used to assist with transport of sandbags to residents in north Monaghan area.
- Rescue boat provided assistance to residents in Carrickmacross in removing silage bales from fields.

### **Regional & Local Training:**

Civil Defence members attended courses during 2011.

- Defensive Driving 4x4 Jeep Course.
- Advanced powerboat & diver coxswain course.
- Level 2 Powerboat training course.
- Boat Exercises.
- Regional Technical Rescue Training.
- Regional competition in Co. Cavan.
- Local casualty training exercises.



### **Regional Competition 2011**

Cavan Civil Defence hosted the Regional Civil Defence Competition in October 2011. Teams were tested in Foot drill, First Aid, Basic Rescue, Flood Defences & Water Pumping Exercise at various sites in Cavan. The competition reflected the role for Civil Defence in the Major Emergency Framework Document. Teams from Monaghan, Louth, Dublin & Roscommon were invited to participate in the Competition. Dublin Civil Defence won on the day.

## **Training**

Casualty Instructors have now completed EFR / Occupational First Aid (O.F.A.) Instructors & Cardiac First Response training courses.

Occupational First Aid courses were conducted in Monaghan, Carrickmacross, & Clones Centres for Civil Defence members & Local Authority staff.

Cardiac First Response / BLS Healthcare Providers Courses in the use of defibrillators were organised during the year for Civil Defence members, Fire Service Personnel, local community group and delivered by Civil Defence Instructors.

## **Emergency First Responder Course**

Three courses were held in Monaghan for Civil Defence members. In total 26 members successfully completed the course. Examinations were held in Monaghan in May.



Training for Technical Rescue took place at Regional & County centres during the year. Weekly training takes place at the Civil Defence centre in Clones each Saturday morning. Technical Rescue Instructor Training was held during 2011.

## **Weekly Training Classes**

Training continues each Tuesday / Thursday evenings in Monaghan Town. All new members are now attending CFR / OFA courses. Clones and Carrickmacross have also got Civil Defence training centres.

Civil Defence visited a number of primary & secondary schools to help promote the organisation and to make the public aware of Civil Defence's work in the community.

The Boat Unit continued to provide assistance to Monaghan County Council in the lake monitoring programme, water services, and also at numerous water based events where a rescue boat was required.



## **Recreation and Amenity**

### **Library Service**

In 2011 Monaghan County Library has continued to find ways to expand and develop the service, while dealing directly with more members of the public than any other service in the Council. The Library Service is administered from the library headquarters in Clones. Its services include:

- Five fully automated branches located in the principal towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay. The five branches provide a continually updated collection of popular fiction and non-fiction books, audio books, DVDs, CDs and magazines for lending.
- A mobile Library Service operating from 38 points around the county on a fortnightly basis.
- A Schools Library Service visiting 64 primary schools on a twice yearly basis.
- In conjunction with Fás and the VEC computer classes are provided for adults in the Monaghan, Castleblayney and Clones branches, either through branch Internet PCs or through the 16 new laptops added to the service in 2010.

### **Statistics**

2011 saw a marked improvement in usage statistics for the Library Service.

- Items borrowed increased by 11.1% from 186,088 in 2010 to 206,666 in 2011.
- Membership increased by 4.5% from 8,671 in 2010 to 9060 in 2011.
- Internet sessions increased by 0.1% from 33,822 in 2010 to 33,848 in 2011.

### **Carrickmacross Library**

In 2011 work continued on the construction of the Carrickmacross Branch Library, as part of the new Civic Centre in the town. The building was handed over to the County Council in November and the fit out of new library is scheduled for completion in March 2012. The new library will be five times the size of the current branch and will provide a state of the art, custom designed facility for the community.

### **Outreach**

In 2011 Monaghan County Library again managed to stage a surprisingly diverse and appealing range of Outreach events despite having no budget from which to fund it. This was achieved by concentrating on low cost or no cost events, as well as successfully networking with neighbouring Library Authorities when sourcing authors, storytellers etc. Events included;

- Children's Book Festival, Summer Reading Challenge, Bealtaine Festival, Heritage Week Events, Canal Capers Festival, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Clones Film Festival.
- **Classes.** Arts and Crafts, Millinery Workshops, Silver Surfers, Creative Writing, University of the Third Age, Adult Computer, English Language, Irish Language, Literacy, Driver Theory.
- Book Clubs, Knitting Club, Craft Afternoons, Railway Reminiscence Group, Film Club, Lecture Series, Exhibitions, Music Recitals.
- Parent and Toddler Group visits, School Class Visits, Author Talks, Storytelling Sessions, Nursing Home Visits.

### **Peace III Project**

In 2011 Monaghan County Library together with Monaghan County Museum completed the Peace III funded project entitled 'Hidden Heritage of County Monaghan'. The aims of the project were;

- To bring people together under a common theme 'heritage'.
- To form new social groups.
- To research and find out about their local area.
- For the group to exchange ideas and learning.
- Each group to take ownership of their learning/research.

The project worked with four community groups across the County as they researched their local heritage. Each group was given the opportunity to work together and learn a range of new skills including digital photography, archaeology, genealogy etc.

The project culminated in March 2011 with an exhibition highlighting the work achieved by all of the groups. Both Monaghan County Library and Monaghan County Museum intend to apply for funding under Phase II of Peace III in January 2012.

### **Local History**

In 2011 the following resources were added to the Local History collection;

- Death Notices & Obituaries in The Northern Standard 1907 ó 1912 (In house Publication)
- Cahane Register Indexed & Bound (In house Publication)
- Aghnamullen West School Roll Books Scanned, Copied & Rebound
- USA World War II Draft Register of County Monaghan Natives extracted from Ancestry.co.uk & printed & indexed (In house Publication)
- USA Naturalization Records 1794 ó 1995 of County Monaghan Natives extracted from Ancestry.co.uk ó printed & indexed (In house Publication)
- Purchased Church of Ireland & Presbyterian Records on CD Rom
- British Army Service & Pension Records 1914 ó 1920 of County Monaghan men (In house Publication)
- New York Passenger Lists 1820 ó 1957 of County Monaghan men ( In house Publication)
- Ontario, Canada Deaths 1869 ó 1936 Deaths of County Monaghan Natives (In house Publication)
- A selection of Carrickmacross Workhouse Minute Books repaired, scanned & rebound
- Bawn Handball Club 1931 -1932 Minutes Book scanned, reprinted and bound
- Castleblayney Indoor Relief Register copied & rebound
- 2010 Northern Standard on microfilm

### **Borrowbooks.ie**

Borrowbooks.ie, the online inter-library loan facility continues to prove popular with library customers. This service allows any member of the public to browse public library catalogues throughout the country. The user may order items from them and they will be delivered to their nearest local branch for collection, at no additional cost to the customer.

### **Wi-Fi Service**

Following a successful three month pilot scheme in the Monaghan and Clones branch libraries in 2010, the public WIFI service was formally established in both branches

and introduced in Castleblayney branch Library in December 2011. Demand for the service has grown steadily throughout the year with a total of 1,712 sessions booked. The WIFI service will be launched in the new Carrickmacross Library in March 2012.

## County Museum

### Exhibitions

The very popular exhibition; *‘Seen but not heard, feictear ach ní cloistear’* - A century of childhood in Ireland, which celebrates some of the many lifestyle changes experienced by successive generations of children growing up here over the course of the past one hundred years continued due to popular demand until March. The exhibition was organised by the Local Authority Museums Network (LAMN) which is comprised of the thirteen local authority museums in the Republic of Ireland. Monaghan County Museum staff was pivotal in bringing this exhibition to completion. As well as working on the research and design of the display the Curator acted as one of main administrators, collating all of the information collected by the thirteen museums. The series of educational workshops that were developed for the exhibition proved to be extremely popular with the visiting public. Over three thousand people visited the exhibition during its term in the museum.

The museum officially launched its audio visual exhibition on the Peace III project, in April to a packed house. The project is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development fund, through the Peace III Programme, and co-funded through Monaghan Peace III Partnership. The project, which was prepared in collaboration with the Monaghan Library Service focussed on bringing communities together through the study of their shared heritage. The four community groups set up by the project who participated in all of the events were Magheracloone, Tydavnet, Clones and Latton/Bawn. The participants completed short courses in genealogical research, creative writing, digital photography and archaeological excavation techniques with the overall aim of building better relations at a local level. A book detailing all of the research carried out by the group was also launched on the night.



The museum played host to the national travelling exhibition; *‘Signs of Life’* in December. The exhibition was organised by the Irish Deaf Society and Monaghan Deaf Group and it featured photographs of Irish celebrities from the worlds of art, music, media, sport, and more, signing a letter of the Irish Sign Language (ISL) alphabet. The series of twenty six visually beautiful photographs, taken by a Deaf

photographer, Johnny Corcoran, is the first of its kind in the world and helped to promote ISL to Monaghan in a new and exciting way. A series of interactive workshops were held for the ten day run of the exhibition, which attracted over six hundred students.

### **Education**

In connection with Heritage Week, the museum staff once again held a Heritage Day in the Monaghan Harps Sports Complex. The day attracted over one thousand visitors.

Other popular educational events that took place throughout the year included the series of workshops focussing on local history that have taken place in connection with the Hidden Heritage exhibition. To date over three thousand people have accessed these events both in the museum and at outreach venues.

### **Outreach**

Museum staff continued to hold workshops and exhibitions throughout the county as part of its programme of outreach events. As the cost of travel continues to be barrier for more outlying schools to access the museum's educational programme, the museum's education officer continues to deliver talks and interactive, fun workshops in schools and community centres all over County Monaghan.

Children from several primary schools in Monaghan were treated to guided walks in both Bragan Bog and Rossmore Forest Park during May and June this year. In Bragan Bog the children were taken on an adventurous trail through one of the most scenic parts of Monaghan. As well as learning about the flora and fauna of the area, the children found out about the clear waters that flow down the Bragan Mountains and even got to taste some! In Rossmore Forest Park the students learned about the wide variety of wildlife that call the forest park their home as well as the many different plants and trees that grow there.



A series of autumn lectures were organised in collaboration with the Library Service covering various topics such as 'Sporting Legends of Co Monaghan', 'The 1641 Rebellion', 'Revolution in Monaghan 1916 ó 1923', 'The Easter Rising of 1916' and 'The Famine in County Monaghan'. Once again these events were very well

received and it is planned to make these an annual feature of the museum's events programme.

### **Research**

The museum's remit as a centre for historical research continued to grow this year with more and more academics as well as interested members of the public contacting the museum's research officer for advice and help. As part of this growing service the museum is also working towards having more of its paper archive digitised to allow greater ease of access for researchers. The museum staff also worked with museums across the border, aiding them with research for exhibitions they are currently planning.

### **Collections Care**

Behind the scenes the museum staff are constantly working hard to ensure that every object in museum's collection is cared for properly as per the standards set down by

the Heritage  
Council's Museum  
Standards

Programme for  
Ireland. As the first  
local authority  
museum to receive  
full accreditation  
under the  
programme the  
museum continues to  
be seen nationally as  
a leading light in the  
field of collections  
care. In 2011 the  
museum staff were  
approached by the  
Heritage Council  
and asked to apply



for the process of retention. Through this programme the museum staff will be asked to display how they have maintained all thirty two standards of professional excellence as well as demonstrating the changes they have made to build on these standards. This will be another opportunity to demonstrate on a national stage the dedication to professional excellence that pervades all our work.

## Monaghan Arts Office

The Feature project produced by the Council in 2011 was **The International Artist Blacksmith's** event held on 22-26 June in Monaghan Town. It was the first time in 20 years that Ireland hosted this event. Over 150 blacksmiths from around the globe descended on Monaghan for the five days. They travelled from Russia, Chile, Japan, France, Germany, America, England, Scotland and of course Ireland. The culmination of the weeks creativity was a piece of sculpture called The ðHive of Knowledgeö which will be placed in site in Town. Over 8,000 people attended the event. It was quite a unique adventure in which the ancient art of The Blacksmith was brought into the modern era by these Artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the saying goes “Ni bheidh a leitheád ann arís”.

2011 was designated as Ireland's Year of Craft, this Artist Blacksmith event was recognised by The Crafts Council as one of the key national events of the year.



Following the emphasis set in the **Year of Craft**, we set up an **Arts Grant Scheme** specifically tasked to highlight this theme by calling on Artists and groups in County Monaghan to come together and explore/work and create a set of projects that would allow their work to be displayed in shop fronts during the Artist Blacksmiths event. Six projects were supported where we matched up Artists with county groups in Clones, Ballybay, Castleblayney and two in Monaghan

1. **Partnership Grants** These awards are given to Arts Organisations in County Monaghan who deliver Arts Projects and Programmes. A total of €65,000 was awarded in funding to those named below
  - The Garage Theatre, Monaghan Town
  - Clones Film Festival
  - The Flat Lake Festival, Scotshouse

- Féile Óriel, Monaghan Town
- Castleblayney Arts & Resource Centre (Iontas)
- Patrick Kavanagh Weekend, Inniskeen
- Scoil Cheoil na Botha, Scotstown
- Carrickmacross Festival
- Féile Patrick Byrne, Carrickmacross
- Castleblayney Drama Festival

We continued to support artists who received grants from both the Arts Council and Culture Ireland. It ranged from travel assistance to music symposium to book publishing projects and dance workshops. The Harvest Time Blues Festival in September was considered another good success with rave reviews from those who attended and magazines “*For value for money, about €75 for an advance weekend ticket, another quality line-up for next year should firmly establish this festival in the top echelon of European blues festivals*”. The Market House continued to be programmed with both music and exhibitions in the usual capacity as a venue



## **Monaghan Leisure Complex**

The Leisure complex is situated on the Clones Rd, Monaghan and is the largest health & fitness centre in the county. The facilities include a six lane, 25 meter pool, fully equipped gym, including a wide range of cardiovascular and resistance equipment as well as free weights and tennis courts. It is operated by under a licence agreement by Coral Leisure Ltd.

A Leisure Complex Committee consisting of members of Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town Council monitor the operation of the facility through meetings with the management company on a quarterly basis. This committee is advised by a Consultative User Group consisting of representatives of a wide variety of groups and clubs who use the complex.

Since the complex opened in 2006 it has become recognised as the training base for many sports clubs within the county including the Sliabh Beagh and Oriel swimming clubs.

The complex is an approved training centre to run Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS) courses, also the club received for the fourth year in a row ILAM 'White flag' status. The complex was the first sports facility in Monaghan to complete 'Disability Awareness Training'.

The facility caters for schools, clubs and special needs groups both north and south of the border. Other services available at the complex are Neuromuscular Physical Therapy, Tang Soo Doo (martial arts) and weight management

In late 2011, Grant funding was secured from the Dept of Transport, Tourism, and Sport to upgrade the heating and lighting systems using new 'green' technologies. A geothermal heating system was installed together with replacement energy-efficient lighting. Funding was also secured, through the Dept of the Environment, Community & Local Government for a range of measures needed to enhance accessibility at the Leisure Complex. These included automated doors, new signage, improvements to changing facilities and shower areas. Gym equipment accessible to all has also been installed. All of these improvements should serve to prolong the life of the centre and ensure that it caters to the needs of a broad spectrum of users.

## **Miscellaneous Services**

### **Human Resource Management**

Monaghan Local Authorities successfully completed Phase 1 of the roll out of the computerised HR, Payroll and Superannuation System in 2011. To date the following modules have been implemented:

- Core Personnel
- Core Time
- CSO Departmental Returns
- Core Payroll
- Core Superannuation
- Employee Self Service
- Recruitment

Phase Two, consisting of Training, PMDS and Health & Safety Modules is currently underway. To date the Training module has been implemented.

In 2011, the outdoor staffs of Monaghan, Castleblayney, Carrickmacross, and Clones Town Councils were redeployed to Monaghan County Council in a major restructuring exercise to help reduce costs and create efficiencies. The Local Action Plan provides for shared services and resources between town and county councils within the county.

#### **Recruitment**

Monaghan County Council employs approximately four hundred and four members of staff. The multi-functional nature of the organisation is reflected in its workforce which includes clerical/administrative, engineering, technical, craft workers, general operatives, librarians, fire-fighters etc. The objective of Human Resource Management is to attract the best people into the organisation and to assist them in developing their full potential to enable them contribute fully towards meeting the organisations goals and objectives and to facilitate their career progression.

In 2011, five members of staff were appointed, one member was promoted, three staff resigned and six staff retired

#### **Training & Development**

Monaghan County Council recognises that properly targeted training and development is necessary in helping to equip staff at all levels to carry out their work in an efficient and professional manner. Training needs are identified through our Performance Management and Development System. Emphasis is placed on linking training and development to the corporate objectives and Business Plans of each section. Monaghan County Council encourages and assists staff members who wish to undertake third level certificate, diploma and degree courses. Expenditure on training and development as a percentage of total payroll costs for 2011 was 4.99%.

#### **Work Life Balance Initiatives**

Staff availed of a number of work life balance schemes during the year

- 28 members of staff availed of the work sharing scheme
- 10 members of staff availed of the shorter working year scheme
- 31 members of staff availed of parental leave
- 11 members of staff availed of career breaks

## **Corporate Affairs**

Corporate Affairs provides support to senior management, the Mayor & elected members and organises council and committee meetings and associated activities. It is responsible for the preparation of the Corporate Plan, Annual Report, Customer Care Plan, the administration of the Higher Education Grants Scheme, compilation of the Register of Electors, Freedom of Information, and management of Corporate Property.

The section also co-ordinates the compilation of National Performance Service Indicators for the Monaghan Local Authorities and monitors the implementation of the provisions of the Official Languages Act 2003.

### **Higher Education Grants**

In accordance with the Local Authority Higher Education Grants Act 1968, 1978 and 1992, Monaghan County Council provides Higher Education Grants for eligible students attending approved courses at third level colleges. The Council adopts a scheme of grants each year with the approval of the Minister for Education.

324 new applications were received, of which 198 grants were awarded, 59 were referred to the VEC, 53 were deemed ineligible and 14 are waiting additional information. In addition, 386 grants were awarded to continuing students.

### **Register of Electors**

The Register of Electors is compiled annually so as to ensure that members of the public can exercise their democratic right to vote in any elections/referendum that arise during the year. In compiling the Register we liaise with the Councils Revenue Collectors who act as fieldworkers and undertake the necessary enquiries to ensure an accurate document is produced. Members of the public can check if they are registered at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

### **Twinning**

Monaghan County Council is officially twinned with the following areas ó

- Geel, Belgium (the parish of Tydavnet in North Monaghan is also twinned with this area)
- Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Peterboro, Canada
- Miramichi, Canada
- Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, Canada

In 2011, the Council visited Prince Edward Island in Canada. The Mayor, Cllr Seamus Coyle and Mr. Adge King, Director represented the Council on this occasion. Expenditure on twinning amounted to circa þ3,600 in 2011.

### **An Scéim Gaeilge**

Implementation of the Scéim Gaeilge was monitored on a regular basis during 2011. The Council continued to honour commitments given in the Scéim na Gaeilge 2008 ó 2011. The Coiste Gaeilge met on a number of occasions during the year. Thirty six scholarships were awarded to secondary school students to assist them attend the

Gaeltacht during 2011. Seachtain na Gaeilge 2011 was successful with many significant and worthwhile events organised.

## **Council Committees**

### **Corporate Policy Group:**

Cllr Seamus Coyle, Mayor  
Cllr Matt Carthy  
Cllr Brian McKenna  
Cllr Robbie Gallagher  
Cllr David Maxwell

### **Strategic Policy Committees**

#### **Housing Policy (10 Members)**

Cllr. Matt Carthy, (Chair)  
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr Heather Humphreys  
Cllr Aidan Murray  
Cllr Seamus Treanor

Cllr Teresa Carolan, Carrickmacross Town Council  
Kate Mullaney (Environment Sector)  
Tom Freeman (Community/Voluntary Sector)  
Paul McGinn (Community/Voluntary Sector)  
Siobhan McKenna (Community/Voluntary Sector)

#### **Planning & Development Policy (11 Members)**

Cllr David Maxwell, (Chair)  
Cllr Owen Bannigan  
Cllr Seamus Coyle  
Cllr Sean Conlon  
Cllr Pat Treanor  
Cllr Joe Brennan, Castleblayney Town Council  
Christopher McGreal (Business)  
Colm McBride (Local Development/Construction)  
Heinz Lorenz (Environment Sector)  
Eamon McNally (Community/Voluntary Sector)

#### **Infrastructure & Environmental Policy (13 Members)**

Cllr Brian McKenna (Chair)  
Cllr Noel Keelan  
Cllr Pdraig McNally  
Cllr Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr John O'Brien

Cllr Yvonne Newell, Clones Town Council  
Cllr Gerry Traynor (Ballybay Town Council)  
Kathleen Ward (Farming)  
Brian McDonald (NFGWS)  
Sonny McDermott (Community/Voluntary Sector)

Owen Finnegan (Environment Sector)  
Seamus Kelly (Trade Union)

**Community, Enterprise, Social & Culture (12 Members)**

Cllr Robbie Gallagher (Chair)  
Cllr Paudge Connolly  
Cllr Gary Carville  
Cllr Sheila McKenna  
Cllr Jackie Crowe  
Cllr Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha, Monaghan Town Council  
Packie Kelly (Community/Voluntary Sector)  
Ann Mullen (Community/Voluntary Sector)  
Loretta Patlabiene (Community/Voluntary Sector)  
Lorna Morgan (Cultural)  
Pat Joe Connolly (Cultural)  
Gavin Shipley (Environment Sector)

# **Finance**

## **Financial Management**

Although all modules of the Agresso Financial Management System are now in place there are ongoing enhancements to the system. New procedures for accounting for VAT are currently being implemented and the Planning Development Contribution module is being updated to take account of changes introduced during 2010. Other changes introduced during 2011 include a revised method of dealing with reverse charges VAT element of Construction Payments and a change to billing periods for water charges.

The Local Authority Costing System introduced in 2008 to Monaghan County Council and the four Town Councils aims to build on the financial management systems with a view to delivering enhanced management information, particularly in relation to unit costs. The Annual Financial Statements and Annual Budgets are now presented in the new format. The objective of the Costing System is to implement a costing model for all local authorities that :

- Standardises costing practice across local authorities
- Standardises the basis for apportionment of central management charges
- Identifies the full economic cost of providing defined services
- Identifies output measures for services, where appropriate, allowing comparison over time and between similar sized authorities.
- Implements a system that is manageable and provides relevant costing information.

Project work on the new Human Resources, Payroll and Superannuation system commenced during 2009 and was completed in 2010. During 2011 the payroll for the four Town Councils was amalgamated into the County Council's payroll thereby providing a more efficient and effective payroll function for the Monaghan Local Authorities.

## **Corporate Procurement**

Detailed procurement guidelines and procedures were revised and updated in September 2011 to provide staff with detail information on current best procurement practice and regulation. Procurement is a key value adding function in Monaghan Local Authorities and this procedure document is designed to provide all staff involved in the procurement process with a thorough understanding of public sector accountability, best methods and processes involved in acquiring goods and services.

## **Internal Audit**

The extensive nature of the Council's financial transactions requires that there be an ongoing review of the operations and records associated with these transactions to assure management that the Council's internal controls, procedures and accounting systems are operating as they should be. This function belongs in the area of Internal Audit. During the course of 2010 the Internal Auditor continued to implement the "Strategic Audit Plan" and conducted extensive audits of the Council's EU funded projects. The Council's Audit Committee continued to operate during 2011 and met on 5 occasions. The Audit Committee comprises of 2 Members of the Council and 3

external members. It is envisaged that the work of this committee will further enhance the efficient operation of the Council.

### **Prompt Payment Legislation**

Prompt Payment Legislation 1997 as amended by the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 provides that penalty interest will become payable if supplier payments for commercial transactions are not met within 30 days. During 2011 there were no payments made by the Council in accordance with the requirements of this legislation. Monaghan Local Authorities now complete a quarterly return on payment times for suppliers. The details of these returns are available on the Authorities web sites.

### **Revenue Collection**

The Council's Revenue Collectors are the primary means of regular contact with the Council's ratepayers and housing rent and annuity payees and in certain cases house loan payees. During 2011 the Council continued its focus on enhanced customer service and extended the use of Direct Debits, An Post Billpay and An Post Household Budget as additional payment methods. Also in 2011 the County Council introduced online payments for housing rents and water charges. Overall 2011 proved to be a challenging year regarding revenue collection especially the collection of commercial rates which suffered as a result of the current difficult financial climate.

## Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2011

Title No.	Location	Numbers attended
ICLRD Annual Conference: The Changing Business Community & Spatial Planning Landscape: <i>Doing More with</i>	Radisson Hotel, Ballincar, Sligo	6
AMAI: <i>The Case for Municipal Government</i>	Westlodge Hotel, Bantry Cork Sligo Park Hotel Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney	5
Colmcille Heritage Trust with the co-operation of Co Donegal V.E.C. <i>The Future of the Irish Educational System</i>	Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny	2
Celtic Conference: <i>The Future of Local Politics</i>	Celtic Ross Hotel, Cork	6
LAMA Conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Councillors Role in Changing Climate</i></li> <li>• <i>The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery</i></li> <li>• <i>Spring Seminar Economic Revival: The Role of Local Government</i></li> </ul>	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan Fairways Hotel Dundalk, Co Louth	7 7 6
William Carleton Summer School: <i>Should Historians Still Read Carleton ?</i>	Corick House Hotel, Clogher	4
Humbert Summer School: <i>Catholic Church Reform\ Can the EU Survive the Euro crisis</i>	Ballina/Killala. Co. Mayo	<b>6</b> <b>Course</b> <b>Cancelled</b>
T.G.R. Seminar: <i>Performance Management for Councillor</i>	Castlecourt Hotel Co Mayo	6
The 31 <sup>st</sup> Mac Gill Summer School: <i>Transforming Ireland 2011-2016: The First Hundred Days The Next Five Years</i>	Glenties Co. Donegal	7
Tipperary Peace Convention: <i>International Peace Conference</i>	Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary	7
17 <sup>th</sup> Byrne /Perry summer School: <i>Sport in Irish History &amp; Society</i>	Byrne /Perry Summer School Gorey Wexford	6
Carlow Tourism Conference: <i>A River Runs Through It- Exploiting heritage, adventure &amp; Tourism opportunities of Irelands Waterways.</i>	The Seven Oak Hotel, Carlow	7
E.S.B.; <i>Renewable Energy Summit</i>	Croke Park Conference Centre Dublin	2
Smart Marketing :	The Falls Hotel	6

<i>A guide to effective Public Relations</i>	Ennistymon, Co Clare.	
Association of County & City Councils: <i>Association of County &amp; City Councils Annual Conference</i>	Tullamore Court Hotel Tullamore	6
Ratto Hertiage Society: <i>20<sup>th</sup> Annual Kerry Environmental Conference &amp; Training Seminar</i>	The Meadowslands Hotel Oakpark, Tralee Co. Kerry	7
Office of the Mayor Drogheda Borough Council: <i>May Day Conference</i>	West Court Hotel Drogheda	6
R.J.K. Energy: <i>About Energy Symposium</i>	The Ramada Lough Allen Hotel Dumshanbo, Co Leitrim	4
Councillors Training Seminar: Irish Language Course For Councillors	Seaview Hotel Gweedore Co Donegal	6
Greystones Town Council: <i>Local Democracy- A vision for the further</i>	Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel Greystones, Co Wicklow	7+
Clare Tourist Council ó Clare County Council: Tourism ó <i>The Potential for economic growth</i>	The Falls Hotel Ennistymon, Co Clare.	7
TJK Conferences Ltd: <i>The Role of State Institutions &amp; Law Reform in Promoting Ireland 's Economic Future</i>	Thomond Park Stadium Limerick	7
Conference for Local Authority Elected Members: <i>The Current Challenges Facing Irish Local Authorities in Delivering Effective Customer Service with Ever – Decreasing Resources</i>	Theatre Royal Waterford City	6
The Inaugural Water Metering Summit: <i>Defining the National Strategy on Water Metering</i>	Croke Park Conference Centre Dublin	4
The Inaugural National Food & Agribusiness Conference 2011: <i>Putting Food and Agribusiness at the Centre of Ireland's Economic Recovery</i>	Croke Park Conference Centre Dublin	1
Housing Practitioners Conference 2011: <i>Social Housing Reform New Direction</i>	Mullingar Park Hotel Mullingar Co Westmeath	6
Peace III Conference: <i>Building Bridges</i>	City Hotel Derry	2
2011 Parnell Summer School: <i>Equality Then &amp; Now</i>	Avondale House & Conference Hall The Woodenbridge Hotel	7

## General Information

### Administrative Headquarters

Monaghan County Council,

County Offices,

The Glen,

Monaghan

Telephone: 047-30500

Fax: 047-82739      Email ó [info@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:info@monaghancoco.ie)

Office Hours ó Monday to Friday      9.15 am ó 1.00pm and 1.30pm ó 5.15 pm

Offices closed on Bank Holidays

Section		Tel. Number
Main Telephone Number		047-30500
County Manager's Secretary		047-30551
Director of Services		047-30546 / 30523
Personnel		047-30586/30591
Higher Education Grants		047-30546
Accounts		047-30589
Rates/Water		047-30590
Environment Section		047-30593 / 30517
Water Services		047-30504
Planning		047-30595/30532
Housing		047-30529
Housing Loans		047-30526
Housing Construction		047-30587
Roads		047-30597
Road Design		047-30596
Bypasses		047-30570
Community & Enterprise		047-73719
tOifigeach Gaeilge		047-30598
Address	Tel. Number	Office Hours (Monday to Friday)
Motor Tax Office Market Street, Monaghan	047 ó 81175	9.30 am ó 3.00 pm (open to public) 9.30am ó 4.45 pm (office hours) Office closed on Bank Holidays
Monaghan County Library The Diamond Clones	047 ó 51143	Individual office hours for each branch can be obtained from the County Library
Monaghan Arts Office, Hill Street, Monaghan Market House	047 - 71114 047 - 71113 (Fax) 047 ó 38158	9.15 a.m.ó 5.15 p.m.

# **Monaghan Town Council**



**Monaghan Town  
Council**

**Administrative Headquarters:** Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan

**Telephone Number:** 047 82600

**Fax Number:** 047 84549

**Email address:** [clerk@monaghantc.ie](mailto:clerk@monaghantc.ie)

**Web Site address:** [www.monaghantown.ie](http://www.monaghantown.ie)

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. David Maxwell (FG)

**Leas Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Paul McGeown (SF)

## **Members:**

Cllr. Mary Carroll (FG), Cllr. Seán Conlon (SF), Cllr. Robbie Gallagher (FF)

Cllr. Thomas Hagan (FG), Cllr. Donal Sherry (SF), Cllr. Seamus Treanor (NP),

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha (SF)

**Town Manager:** David Fallon

**Town Clerk:** Marie Deighan

**Revenue Collector:** Eilish Clarke

**Staff Officers:** Sinead McCann and Mary Hughes

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Miriam McMahon

**Clerical Officers:** Aisling Greenan, Edel Fitzsimons, Mary McCoy, Sinead Tibby-Tracey, Donna Toal, Janice Eardley and Katrina Coleman

**Town Engineer:** Gareth McMahon

**Assistant Engineer:** Jonathon Condell

**Treasurer:** Allied Irish Bank, The Diamond, Monaghan

**Budget 2011:** €6,345,768

**Annual Rate on Valuation:** 72.00

Monaghan Town Council held their Monthly Meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 5.00p.m. in the Town Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

### **Housing and Building:-**

Monaghan Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and letting of all Town Council dwellings. There are 353 rented dwellings and 3 dwellings on a tenant purchase. The average weekly rent is €50.

In 2011 Monaghan Town Council purchased one dwelling at Kilnacloy. Extensive works were carried out in 2011 in an effort to avoid freezing pipes in dwellings. This work included the insulating of pipes and tanks within the attics, the provision of frost stats within the attic space and where necessary the relaying of the mains water feed pipe into the houses to a suitable depth. One dwelling was sold under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2010.

Work continued to take place on the refurbishment of 64 dwellings in Mullaghmat Housing Estate under Phase 2 of the Remedial Works Scheme. Plans were put in place in 2011 to proceed with Phase 3 of the Scheme.

In March 2011 the Members of the Town Council adopted the 2011 Fixed Term Tenant Purchase Scheme for long standing tenants.

The Members adopted the Monaghan Local Authorities Allocations Scheme which determines the order of priorities to be accorded in the allocation of dwellings.

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Stock of Rented at 31.12.11</b>	<b>No of Tenant Purchases</b>	<b>Average Rent</b>	<b>Waiting List at 31.12.11</b>	<b>New Tenancies 2011</b>
Monaghan TC	353	3	50	246	29

### **Road Transport and Safety:-**

Funding in the sum of €750,000 was awarded by the Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly under the Gateways and Hubs ERDF Grant Scheme for the enhancement of The Diamond/Dublin Street/Old Cross Square areas of the town and the provision of playground facilities in various housing estates in the town. The allocation represents 60% of the cost of the proposed works. The environmental works carried out in 2011 to Dublin Street/The Diamond included a new pedestrianised public space facilitated by a reconfiguration of the road layout, relaying of footpaths and road surfaces and undergrounding of overhead cables. The works in Old Cross Square included the construction of a roundabout and the relocation of the Old Cross Square Monument in the area. Works will be completed by the end of June 2012.

The Council continued with its road and footpath improvements in 2011 with the assistance of the Road Grant from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The Members introduced a Long Term Parking Permit Scheme for those who wish to avail of it and who have a requirement to have their vehicles close to their premises.

The cost of a 5 day permit is €100 per month and a 6 day permit costs €120 per month.

#### **Water Services:-**

Statutory responsibility for the provision of water and sewerage services transferred to Monaghan County Council with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004. Monaghan Town Council maintains the Automated Public Convenience in the Courthouse Car Park.

#### **Development Management:-**

22 planning applications were received during the course of the year.

The Members of the Council adopted a Variation to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 (incorporating the Development Plan for Monaghan Town) to incorporate a Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) for the lands to the North East of Dublin Street, Rooskey, Monaghan.

The Members agreed to proceed with a development under Part V111 of the Planning and Development Regulations for permission to provide an extension and additional facilities within the existing Town Council Machinery Yard at Tirkeenan, Monaghan.

Monaghan Town Council disposed of the following 2 plots of ground in 2011:-  
0.2ha at Annahagh to Monaghan County Council for a Civic Defence Headquarters  
0.383ha at Tullyherim to Alan and Hilda Graham.

In accordance with Section 48(14)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2001 the following is an analysis of Monaghan Town Council's Capital Contributions for 2011:-

#### **Amount Accrued in 2011**

Community Recreation and Amenity Infrastructure	21,000
Footpaths and public lighting	3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,500</b>

#### **Amount Paid in 2011**

Car Parking	5,840
Community Recreation and amenity Infrastructure	5,090
Public lighting	3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,430</b>

#### **Environmental Services:-**

Monaghan Town Council continued to provide for street cleaning and the Litter Warden service throughout its area. 18 on-the-spot litter fines were issued in 2011.

Monaghan Town increased its marks in the National Tidy Towns Competition from 239 to 248. Monaghan Town Council allocated a grant of €15,000 to the Tidy Towns Committee in 2011 in respect of the works they carry out in the town. Monaghan Town Council were presented with an Award in recognition of the town achieving 'Litter Free Status' in the Irish Business Against Litter Anti-Litter League 2011.

**Recreation and Amenity:-**

Local Voluntary groups received a total of €15,000 to encourage and to aid them in the work which they carry out in their areas. Contributions were also made by the Council in 2011 to other local organisations ó St. Patricks Day Parade, Taste of Monaghan Festival, Christmas Festival, Harvest Time Blues Festival, Monaghan Sub Aqua Club, Féile Oriel Festival, Monaghan Immigrant Support Group, Monaghan Neighbourhood Project for the towns Halloween Festivities.

The International Blacksmiths Forge-In Festival took place in Monaghan town from the 24<sup>th</sup> ó 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011 which provided a huge tourist and economic boom for Monaghan town. The theme for the Forge-In was the òHive of Knowledgeö. The framework structure was forged by Mark Keeling in Cork and over the festival weekend the visiting Master Smiths along with their Irish counterparts hand forged a total of 15 panels to fill in the sculpture with their individual interpretation of knowledge and learning. The piece of sculpture will be placed to the left hand side of the Courthouse at Church Square.

Playparks were provided in 2011 at Cluain Lorcáin Housing Estate and Oriel Playground, Mullaghmat. These playpark facilities were partly funded by the BMW.

Funding in the sum of €11,010 was received for the purchase of outdoor gym equipment under the Local Authorities Sports Capital Allocations. The equipment has been installed at the Peters Lake area.

**Miscellaneous Services:-**

62% of the Rate Warrants were collected at the close of the financial year.

The Cathaoirleach and the Members of the Council laid a wreath at the Bombing Memorial in Church Square to commemorate those who died as a result of the Monaghan Bombing in 1974.

**Civic Receptions:-**

In February 2011 the Town Council hosted a Civic Reception for Chloe Cagney, Stacey Cagney, Edel McEnaney and Hayley McKenna and their Tutor, Kathleen Kavanagh on their success in the United Country Western Dance Council Competition in Nashville, Tennessee.

In June 2011 a Civic Reception was hosted for Gaelscoil Ultain to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the School in Monaghan Town.

A Civic Reception was held in November 2011 to honour Monaghan United Football Club on the occasion of their promotion to the Airtricity Premier League.

The Town Council hosted a Civic Reception in November 2011 in the Market House, Monaghan to mark the visit of the Ulster Connacht Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament Ireland (EYP) to Monaghan from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

**Expenses paid to Town Council Members in 2011**

Total paid to Members in respect of Travelling/Subsistence	þ6,888
Total paid to Members for attendance at Meetings of Council	þ17,613
Total paid in respect of Chairpersons Allowance	þ7,000
Total paid in respect of salary/remuneration	þ22,647
Total paid in respect of Conference Fees	þ2,570
Total paid in respect of Mobile Phone Allowance	þ505

### Seminars and Conference attended by Members in 2011.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland	Bantry, Cork	2
22 <sup>nd</sup> Colmcille Winter School	Letterkenny	2
LAMA Spring Seminar	Dundalk	1
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland	Trim	2
ICSH Biennial Social Housing Conference	Salthill	1
Federation for Victim Assistance	Tralee	1
Douglas Hyde Conference 2011 Nuclear Free Local Authorities All	Ballaghaderreen	1
Ireland Forum Seminar	Wexford	1
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Dungarvan	1

### MEMBERS EXPENSES 2011

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>Annual Meeting Allowance</b>	<b>Cathaoirleach's Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Representational Allowance</b>
Carroll	0	€2036	0	€2036.000	€4530
Conlon	€857	€2036	0	€2893.00	0
Gallagher	€1804	€2036	€3500	€7340.00	0
Hagan	€1171	€2036	0	€3207.00	€4530
Maxwell	€1559	€2036	€3500	€7095.00	0
McGeown	0	€1325	0	€1305.00	€4530
Sherry	€494	€2036	0	€2530.00	€4530
Treanor	0	€2036	0	€2036.00	0
Uí Mhurchada	€1,003	€2036	0	€3039.00	€4530
	€6888	€17,613	€7,000	€31,481	€22,650

## **Carrickmacross Town Council**



**Administrative Headquarters:** Town Clerk's Office,  
Civic Offices, Convent Lands, Carrickmacross.

**Telephone Numbers:** 042 9661236/9661618/9663662

**Fax Number:** 042 9662921

**Meara a Bhaile 2011/2012:** Cllr. Noel Keelan (SF)

**Members:**

Cllr. Teresa Carolan (FG), Cllr. Matt Carthy (SF), Cllr. Padraig McNally (FF)  
Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon (FG), Cllr. Mark Clarke (FG), Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon (FF)  
Cllr. Kristina Jankaitiene (GP), Cllr. Darcy Lonergan (GP) Co-Opted 14/2/2011

**Town Manager:** Mr. Paul Clifford

**Town Clerk:** Ms. Frances Matthews

**Staff Officer:** Ms. Amanda Murray

**Revenue Collector:** Ms. Angela Gallagher

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Ms. Amanda McCarville

**Clerical Officers:** Ms. Stephanie McEneaney, Ms. Niamh O'Reilly

**Town Engineer:** Mr. Alan Hall

**Assistant Engineer:** Mr. Joe Durnin

**Town Foreman:** Mr. Patsy McKenna

Budget 2011	€ 2,446,287
Budget 2010	€ 2,515,291

<b>General Annual Rate of Valuation 2011</b>	<b>65.55</b>
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Carrickmacross Town Council holds their monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 2:30p.m. Meetings are held in the Civic Offices, Convent Lands, Carrickmacross.

## **Housing and Building**

Carrickmacross Town Council, as a housing authority, provides social housing for 98 households and manages over 340 applications for social and affordable accommodation. In 2011 Carrickmacross Town Council did not receive Government funding for the provision of Local Authority Housing.

### **Retrofitting**

The Council spent €28,051.85 during 2011 upgrading central heating, rewiring and attic insulation in 6 houses to improve energy efficiency under the BER Scheme. €21,749.49 of this spend was funded by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government.

### **Planned Maintenance**

New attic infrared heating was installed in 17 houses. The council provided new fascia, soffit and guttering in 14 houses and new fencing was erected around 5 Council houses.

### **Allocations**

All allocations were made under the Scheme of Letting Priorities. The number of vacancies that arose in 2011 was 6. The council made 13 offers of tenancies to applicants waiting on the housing list.

### **Tenant Purchase Scheme for Long Standing Tenants 2011**

The council received 3 applications from tenants wishing to purchase their houses under the Tenant Purchase Scheme for longstanding Tenants 2011. One application did not proceed, one sale was completed in 2011 and the other sale will be completed in early 2012.

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Stock of Rented at 31.12.11</b>	<b>No of Tenant Purchases</b>	<b>Average Rent</b>	<b>Waiting List at 31.12.11</b>	<b>New Tenancies 2011</b>
Carrickmacross TC	98	1	53.00	340	6

## **Road Transportation & Safety**

Carrickmacross Town Council is responsible for the upkeep and improvement of urban roads in Carrickmacross. The Department of the Environment's allocation for road improvement works in 2011 remained at €195,000. The Council's roads programme for 2011 included restoration of the Industrial Link road, the IDA road, Chapel Lane, Chestnut Grove and the footpaths on Mullanarry road and Lower Main Street.

In 2011 Carrickmacross again received a bronze medal in the Tidy Towns Competition and was placed second in the County Awards. The Council made a provision of €7,000 for tidy town's projects in 2011.

The New Slí na Sláinte route was launched in March, 2011 and brochures were printed. Details of the route were submitted to the [www.carrickmacross.ie](http://www.carrickmacross.ie) and [www.irishheart.ie/slí](http://www.irishheart.ie/slí) web sites.

### **Water Supply & Sewerage**

The contract by P & S. Civil Works Ltd to construct new foul, combined and surface water sewers, the replacement of existing stone culverts and the refurbishment of existing sewers was substantially completed in 2011. The contract further provides for the construction of new pumping stations and rising mains in the town area and surrounding environs. Monaghan Co. Council commenced accepting applications for new connections to the public sewer at the end of 2011.

### **Development Incentives & Controls**

Carrickmacross Town Council received fifteen planning applications in 2011.

The process for the new Development Plan for the Town commenced in March, 2011 with a public meeting to discuss the Issue Paper. The Development Plan is a two year process and the new plan will have to comply with national and regional policies requiring a core strategy which involves an assessment of the currently zoned land.

### **Development Contributions**

In accordance with Section 48(14) (b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, under the Development Contributions Scheme, €5,970.00 was accrued in 2011, and a total of €15,735.00 was received by Carrickmacross Town Council in 2011, as follows:-

Car-Parking	€ 6,225.00
Community, recreation and amenity infrastructure and facilities,	€ 9,510.00

### **Community Grants**

Following the May monthly meeting the Council made financial contributions to the various community groups and voluntary organisations throughout the town. The Council increased its contribution in 2011 to the Chamber of Commerce for the promotion of the town to €17,000. In all over €76,000 was allocated by the Council during 2011 and the recipients were as follows:-

### **Community Groups**

- Carrickmacross Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
- Carrickmacross Community Allotments
- Carrickmacross CPR
- Carrickmacross Language School
- Carrickmacross Active Retirement
- 3d Monaghan Scout Group
- Carrickmacross Pioneers
- Carrickmacross Community Games
- Carrickmacross Variety Club
- Patrick Kavanagh Centre
- Carrickmacross Cruisers
- Carrickmacross Rockets

- Carrickmacross Tidy Towns annual contribution
- Carrickmacross Aces AC (2nd year of 5)
- Carrickmacross Youth Club
- Carrickmacross Snooker Club
- Carrick Rovers

### **Funding Allocated in Budget 2011 for Specific Projects/Groups**

- Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Christmas Lighting
- Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Promotion of Town
- Tourism Contribution
- St. Patrick's Day Parade/Band Performances
- Halloween Festival
- Music Festival
- Carrickmacross Twinning Association
- Tidy Towns Projects

### **Carrickmacross / Carhaix Town Twinning**

In 1993, Carrickmacross set up a twinning committee which resulted in the town twinning with Carhaix, Brittany, France. Over the years the bond has strengthened. In March, 2011 a group of adults from Carhaix, including Town Twinning President Marie Louise Huiban, visited Carrickmacross. The group participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade along side the local members of the Carrickmacross/Carhaix Town Twinning Association. In October 2011, the Carrick Rovers under 16 squad travelled to Carhaix for the third in a series of inter club games with Twin Town Club DC de Carhaix. The Group was accompanied by An Meara Bhaile Cllr. Noel Keelan, Carrick Rovers coaches, the President and members of the Twinning Association some parents of the players.

### **Recreation and Amenity**

Carrickmacross Town Council installed 3 items of outdoor fitness equipment adjacent the play-park in Cloughvalley in October, 2011. The Council were successful in



receiving some funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport for this project. Additional works to re-surface the area surrounding the equipment will take place in early 2012.

Carrickmacross Town Council's commitment to help service a loan for the balance of works on the current phase of

the Convent lands running track was allocated in the sum of €5,000 to Carrick Aces. 2011 was the second of a five year commitment by the Council towards the construction of the facility.

### **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

The 2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade was yet another success, owing to the numerous bands and organisations which took part. As normal, the day kicked off with the Flag Raising Ceremony at the Courthouse, and was accompanied by the music of the Steadfast Brass Band. At 3 O'clock, a colourful line up of over 50 entrants marched proudly from the Dundalk Road onto Main Street, where they were greeted by a huge crowd of spectators. Taking part were a



number of local and non-local bands, a number of community and business floats and marchers, as well as a wide collection of vintage tractors and machinery. Face painting and street entertainment brightened the day along with traditional music provided by the Carrickmacross branch of Comhaltas, prior to the parade. Prizes awarded on the day went to the Corduff Pipers for the 'Best Band', followed closely by runner up An Lochrainn Linn, along with the Friends and Family of the Mentally Handicapped winning the 'Best Float' and the Inniskeen Parade Committee scooping the runner up prize. It was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all!

The Council continues to support the local June Bank Holiday festival and Halloween Festival in October. Both festivals were again very successful in 2011.

### **Miscellaneous**

Cllr. Catherine Martin announced her intention to resign from Carrickmacross Town Council at the December monthly meeting and Cllr. Darcy Lonergan was co-opted from the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011.

### **Other Events**

Carrickmacross Town Council and Monaghan County Council moved to new civic offices at the Convent Lands on the 28th of November, 2011. The Library also moved in towards the end of January, 2012.



### **Carrickmacross Joint Policing Committee**

The membership of the committee consists of the Town Council members and officials, members of An Garda Síochána, members of the Oireachtas and community & voluntary sector representatives. The JPCs function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Carrickmacross Town Council's administrative area. The topics discussed in 2011 were as follows:-

3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2011      Presentation by Mr. Tim Murphy,  
Cavan/Monaghan Drugs Awareness Co-ordinator:  
Underage Drinking in Public Places:  
Details on Prescription Drugs

### **Seminars & Conferences attended by Carrickmacross Councillors in 2011**

<b><u>Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Conference</u></b>	<b><u>No. Attended</u></b>
AMAI	AMAI Spring Seminar	2
TRS Seminars	"Effective Time & Priority Management"	1
LAMA	"The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery"	3
Kerry Life Education	"Substance Misuse - A Health or Criminal Justice Issue?"	1
Clare Tourist Council	Clare Tourism Conference	3
NFLA	Nuclear Free Local Authority Briefing	1

### **Payments to Elected Members - Summary**

Total Paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence                      € 5,549.74

Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council                      € 18,154.33

Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance                                      € 3,500.00

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Travel &amp; Subsistence (Meetings, Conferences) Twinning Subsistence</b>	<b>Annual Allowance</b>	<b>Mayor's Allowance</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Representation al Allowance (Gross subject to PAYE)</b>
Darcy Lonergan	€ 259.32	€ 1,866.33	n/a	€ 2,125.65	€ 3,670.85
Teresa Carolan	€ 101.56	€ 2,036.00	n/a	€ 2,137.56	€ 4,181.00
Mark Clarke	€ 1,131.39	€ 2,036.00	n/a	€ 3,167.39	€ 4,181.00
Kristina Jankaitiene	€ 0.00	€ 2,036.00	n/a	€ 2,036.00	€ 4,181.00
Matt Carthy	€ 217.44	€ 2,036.00	n/a	€ 2,253.44	€ 4,181.00
Noel Keelan	€ 444.41	€ 2,036.00	€ 1,750.00	€ 4,230.41	€ 4,181.00
Padraig McNally	€ 1,555.23	€ 2,036.00	n/a	€ 3,591.23	€ 4,181.00
P.J. O'Hanlon	€ 564.69	€ 2,036.00	€ 1,750.00	€ 4,350.69	€ 4,181.00
Mary Kerr Conlon	€ 1,275.70	€ 2,036.00	n/a	€ 3,311.70	€ 4,181.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€ 5,549.74</b>	<b>€ 18,154.33</b>	<b>€ 3,500.00</b>	<b>€ 27,204.07</b>	<b>€ 37,118.85</b>

Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration                                      € 20,996.85

# **Castleblayney Town Council**



**Administrative Headquarters:** Town Hall, West Street, Castleblayney

**Telephone Number:** (042) 9740048/9740058

**Fax Number:** (042) 9749109

**E-mail address** [clerk@castleblaynevtc.ie](mailto:clerk@castleblaynevtc.ie)

**Web site Address** [www.monaghan.ie/castleblaynevtc](http://www.monaghan.ie/castleblaynevtc)

**Mayor 2011/2012:.** Cllr. James Cunningham (SF)

**Members:** Cllr. Aidan Campbell (FG) Cllr. Jackie Crowe (SF)

Joe Brennan (Ind) Cllr. Brendan Hughes (FF) Cllr. David Funcheon (FF)

Cllr. Gary Carville (FG) Cllr. Peter Grimes (SF)

Cllr. Sean Mc Cooley (FF)

**Town Manager:** David Fallon

**Town Engineer:** Declan Mc Kernan

**Town Clerk:** Jerome Savage

**Staff Officer:** Alison Mackle

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Ann Kellett.

**Clerical Officers:** Helen Martin, Mary Ward

**Revenue Collector:** Pamela Burke

**Town Foreman:** John Hennessy

**Treasurer:** A.I.B., Main Street, Castleblayney

**Commercial Valuation:** p 15,079

**Annual Rate in Valuation:** 56.00

Monthly meetings of the council have been held in the Castleblayney Enterprise Centre or in the Iontas Centre, at 7.00p.m on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

**Housing and Building:**

The Town Council housing stock on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 consists of 109 rented dwellings with significant refurbishment works carried out on 2 dwellings in Drumillard. Refurbishment works included insulation, kitchen improvements, separation of living room space from kitchen space, low level access showers as well as works to bring properties up to a high BER standard. In beech Drive 6 houses were improved under the DoE's BER, (Building Energy Rating scheme). Eight dwellings remain subject to the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

The purchase of one new house costing €110,000 was funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

**Road Transportation and Safety**

A total of €154,000 was spent on road improvement and maintenance in 2011. Compensation payments for minor areas subject to Compulsory Purchase Order for the new McGrath road, are yet to be agreed. Traffic control safety measures have been introduced at New Street near the school entrance and road base strengthening and re-surfacing took place in Muckno Street

The introduction of pay parking has been delayed indefinitely.

**Water Services**

The cost to the Town Council and payable to Monaghan Co Council in its capacity as a water authority, for water supply and waste water treatment for the towns domestic use, was €138,141 and €100,225, in respect of waste water treatment.

A plan for and execute an extension and improvement to the water treatment works at the rear of Muckno street to cope with extra capacity and to improve the quality of water output to the lake has been agreed with An Bord Pleanála.

**Development Management**

There were 4 planning applications lodged in 2011 compared with 8 in 2010, 13 in 2009 and 24 in 2008.

**Environmental Protection**

Castleblayney Town Council provides the street cleaning service throughout the town.

In 2011 the Council again supported the local Tidy Towns Committee in their efforts to clean up the town during Spring Clean month. The Tidy Towns Committee achieved 245 marks in 2011 (an increase of 4 marks over 2010). The council provided funding of €6,000 to the Tidy Town Committee.

Six on the spot litter fines were issued in 2011. The council continues to follow up on illegal dumping.

### **Recreation & Amenity**

The very successful Muckno Mania festival was funded to the tune of €6,000 by the council and other support provided to the organising committee.

The Council provided €10,000 to the chamber of commerce towards the May Day parade, €4,366 towards the towns Christmas lights, €2,750 to both the Iontas centre and Muckno Mania all significantly reduced since 2010.

Sums totalling €1,500 were distributed to 10 other local interest groups.

The towns parks cost almost €30,000 to maintain with the council investing in a new more efficient mini tractor. The new machine will also provide effective support for winter maintenance and salting.

### **Miscellaneous Services**

Following an agreement in 2003 where Castleblayney Town Council entered into a partnership with Newry & Mourne District Council, a Steering Committee was established comprising of elected representatives North and South, Support Agencies, Statutory Organisations, Community and Voluntary Sector. The main aim of the project was to implement a cross-border development plan which provided an important strategic focus for the cross border area of Castleblayney and South Armagh region. The project focussed on areas such as community development, festivals, angling and upgrading of Lough Ross and Lough Muckno.

The project in this phase has drawn to a close with well advanced funding plan for Muckno fishing facilities through Peace funding, to the tune of €500,000 and a site chosen for two new playgrounds with €120,000 funding, both through the Co Councils Community and enterprise section.

### **Other Events in 2011**

The Mayor of Marseillan Yves Michel and four of his fellow councillors visited the town in October and were received by the council in Castleblayney and by Newry City Council. Inland Fisheries dept treated the delegation to a half days fishing on Lough Muckno. Three local Councillors made a return visit to Marseillan in October.



**Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2011.**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Seminar\Conference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No.Attended</b>
February	AMAI	Bantry	2
April	Rattoo Heritage Society	Tralee	1
September	AMAI	Trim	2
September	IPB	Dublin	1

Total Paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	8,095.19
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	18,653.70
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	1,720.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	14,633.64

## ***Clones Town Council***



**Administrative Headquarters:** Monaghan Street, Clones.

**Telephone No.** 047 51018 / 51814

**Fax No.** 047 52006

**Website:** [www.clonestown.com](http://www.clonestown.com)

**E-mail:** [clerk@clonestc.ie](mailto:clerk@clonestc.ie)

**Cathaoirleach 2011/2012:** Cllr. Yvonne Newell (FG)

**Leas Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Peter McAleer (NP)

**Members:**

Cllr. Peter Mulligan (FG) Cllr. Pat Treanor (SF) Cllr. Aidan Sheerin (SF)  
Cllr. Anna Rooney (FF), Cllr. Niall Quigley (SF), Cllr. Ross Mealiff (NP)  
Cllr. Deirdre Kelly (FF)

**Director of Services:** Adge King

**Town Clerk:** Geraldine Killen

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Carmel Murphy

**Clerical Officer:** Eileen Fitzpatrick

**Town Engineer:** John McKernan

**Assistant Engineer:** Mark Hall

**Town Foreman:** Pat Brady

**Net Effective Valuation:** p7,407

**General Rate on Valuation:** 59.90

Monthly Council Meetings are held on the last Monday of each Month

### Housing and Building Programme

Clones Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and letting of all Town Council dwellings. The Council's housing stock consists of 91 rented houses and 7 houses on tenant purchase. In 2011, major refurbishment works were carried out to 4 dwellings to improve energy efficiency under the BER scheme. Works were also carried out to 2 dwellings under the Mobility Aids Scheme.

Housing	Stock of Rented at 31/12/11	No of Tenant Purchases	Average Rent	Waiting List at 31/12/11	New Tenancies 2011
Clones TC	91	7	47	80	5

### Road Transportation and Safety

The Council continued its policy in 2011 of upgrading roads, footpaths and public lighting in the town. These improvements were carried out with the assistance of a Block Grant totalling €139,000 from the National Roads Authority and a contribution of €10,500 from the Council's own resources.

Funding was secured for a major landscaping and drainage project for the Barry McGuigan Park and works are ongoing which will include new paved footpaths, public lighting, seating, and a new children's playground

With funding from the National Roads Authority, new signage was erected around the town and damaged signs replaced or removed

### Development Incentives and Control

6 Planning applications were received in year 2011. Planning Related Fees received amounted to €1,866

In accordance with Section 48(14)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, regarding the Development Contributions Scheme, the following is an analysis of Clones Town Council's Capital Contributions for 2011

Amount Accrued in 2011	
Footpaths & Public Lighting	€4,740
Recreation & Amenity	€4,353
	€9,093
Amount Received in 2011	
Footpaths & Public Lighting	Nil
Recreation & Amenity	€4,353
Car Parking	Nil

### **Environmental Protection**

Clones Town Council continued to provide street cleaning services 7 days a week and a part time Litter Warden service. The Council hire a road sweeper from Monaghan Town Council twice per month to assist with the sweeping in the Housing Estates and approach roads to the Town.

Clones Town Council in conjunction with St Tiernach's Primary School and the Tidy Towns Committee held a very successful Litter Pick Tea Party in June 2011. The Council also continued to provide support and assistance to the Tidy Towns and to Residents Groups in the town



Work continued in 2011 in dealing with derelict sites around the town. 15 owners have now carried out improvement works to their property

### **Recreation & Amenity**

#### **Contributions to Community Groups**

Clones Town Council contributed €2,000 to the Clones Tidy Town Committee to encourage and to aid them in the work which they carry out in the town. Financial contributions and assistance was also given by the Council in 2011 to other organisations ó St. Patrick's Day Parade, Canal Capers Festival, Irish Water Safety and Largy College (Gaeltacht Scholarship)

#### **National Famine Commemoration**

President Mary McAleese led the official representation at the National Famine Commemoration in Clones on 10th September 2011. The ceremony, which was attended by over 2,000 people marked the first time the National Commemoration has been held in Ulster.

At the close of the ceremony, President McAleese planted a rowan tree in the Diamond where she also unveiled a commemorative plaque, carved from two of the original sandstone sills salvaged from Clones Poor Law Union Workhouse Hospital.

### **Pride of Place**

Clones Town Council nominated Clones Community Forum in this competition, in recognition of their hard work and commitment to making their community a better place to live. Although not winners on this occasion, the Forum were commended by the judges on the vital contribution they make to the community and praised them for their hard work and dedication

### **Finance**

Clones Town Council complied with the material requirements of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Travel/Subsistence Meetings/</b>	<b>Annual Allowance</b>	<b>Mayors Allowance</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Representational Allowance Gross (subject to PAYE)</b>
Peter Mulligan	1115.05	1977.00	0	3092.05	4529.46
Ross Mealiff	1110.69	1977.00	0	3087.69	4529.46
Deirdre Kelly	0	1977.00	2000.00	3977.00	4529.46
Yvonne Newell	0	1977.00	2000.00	3977.00	4529.46
Aidan Sheerin	0	1977.00	0	1977.00	4529.46
Peter McAleer	0	1977.00	0	1977.00	4529.46
Pat Treanor - also Co Co	0	1977.00	0	1977.00	0
Anna Rooney	0	339.32	0	339.32	4529.46
Niall Quigley	0	1564.71	0	1564.71	4529.46
	<b>2225.74</b>	<b>15743.03</b>	<b>4000.00</b>	<b>21968.77</b>	<b>36235.68</b>

### **Payments to Elected Members**

Total paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence p2,225.74

Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council p15,743

Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance p4,000.00

Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration p33,448

### **Seminars and Conferences attended by Members in 2011**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>
AMAI Spring Seminar	Bantry, Co. Cork	2
AMAI Conference	Trim, Co. Meath	2

## **Ballybay Town Council**



**Administrative Headquarters:** c/o Community & Enterprise Office

Monaghan County Council, Glen Rd, Monaghan.

**Telephone Number:** 047 73720

**Fax Number:** 047 82739

**Email:** [mcguirk@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:mcguirk@monaghancoco.ie)

**Mayor:** Cllr Gene Duffy SF

**Deputy Mayor:** Cllr Elizabeth Duffy FG

**Members:**

Cllr. Paul Carragher FG, Cllr. Gene Duffy SF, Cllr. Elizabeth Duffy FG, Cllr. Michael Gilmour FG, Cllr. Therese Hamilton FF, Cllr. Mary McGinnity FG, Cllr Cathal O'Friel FF, Cllr. Michael Smyth FF, Cllr. Gerry Traynor FF

	<b>Town Manager:</b>	Mr John Murray
<b>Town Engineer:</b>	Mr Declan McKernan	
	<b>Town Clerk:</b>	Mrs Teresa McGuirk

Monthly Town Council meetings were held on the second Monday of each month (except August) in the Town Council Chamber @ 7pm.

### **Former Town Councillor elected to Dáil Éireann**

Former Town Councillor Mr Sean Conlan TD was elected to Dáil Éireann following the elections held in February 2011.

### **Two New members Co-Opted**

Cllr Elizabeth Duffy and Cllr Paul Carragher were co-opted onto the council at the April meeting of the Council.

### **Staff Acknowledged**

The members of the Council were unanimous in their praise of staff members for their dedication and works undertaken during the big freeze at the beginning of the year.

### **140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ballybay Town Council / Commissioners**

Ballybay Town Council held a number of events during the year to mark the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Council, former Town Commissioners. The first meeting of Ballybay Town Commissioners was held in January 1871.

The President of AMAI Cllr Philomena Roche and the Director of the AMAI Tom Ryan were in attendance at the first event held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in the Wetlands Centre. Certificates were issued to former members on the night in recognition of their services to the town.

### **Joint Policing Committee**

The Joint Policing Committee continued to meet during the year. Meeting were well attended. Sub Committees continued to work under the themes -Traffic + Speedingø -Underage Drinkingø and -Drugsø and dealt with all the issues arising under each themes and also other local policing issues as they arose.

### **Clones Road Junction works**

Work on the improvement of the Clones Road Junction including the demolition of the building on the junction known as McAvineyø and the realignment of the roadway continued throughout the year. Project is coming to a close.



### **Town Twinning - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visit from Osterhofen Gergweis**

Members and friends from our twin town of Osterhofen/Gergweis in Germany travelled to Ballybay in April 2011 as a return visit to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of

the twinning between the two towns. A framed photo of the Market House was presented to Burgermeisterin Liane Sedlmeier on behalf of Ballybay Town Council.

### **Seminars & Conferences Attended by Members in 2011**

AMAI Annual Spring Seminar ó Bantry - Cllr M Gilmour and Cllr G Traynor

AMAI Annual Conference - Trim ó Cllr M Gilmour and Cllr G Traynor

### **Members Expenses**

Total Paid to members in respect of travelling/subsistence	þ2,325.74
Total paid to members for attendance at meetings of Council	þ8,612.28
Total paid in respect of Chairperson's Allowance	þ280.00
Total paid to members in respect of salary/remuneration	þ28,493.36

<b>Ballybay</b>	<b>Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>Total Annual Allowance</b>	<b>Chair Allowance</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Representational Allowance (Gross – subject to PAYE)</b>
Carragher, Paul		þ743.14		þ743.14	þ1647.36
Duffy, Eugene		þ1,018.00	þ280.00	þ1,298.00	þ2,401.00
Duffy, Elizabeth		þ743.14		þ743.14	þ1647.36
Gilmour, Michael	þ1,217.06	þ1,018.00		þ2,235.06	þ2,401.00
Hamilton, Therese		þ1,018.00		þ1,018.00	þ2,401.00
McGinnity, Mary		þ1,018.00		þ1,018.00	þ2,401.00
O'Friel, Cathal		þ1,018.00		þ1,018.00	þ2,401.00
Smyth, Michael		þ1,018.00		þ1,018.00	þ2,401.00
Traynor, Gerard	þ1,108.68	þ1,018.00		þ2,126.68	þ2,401.00
	<b>€2,325.74</b>	<b>€8,612.28</b>	<b>€280.00</b>	<b>€11,218.02</b>	<b>€20,101.72</b>

# Financial Statement 2011

## Athchomairé ar Caiteachais, Ioncaim agus Fuilligh Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2011 accounted for a turnover of in excess of " 89 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of "25,674,176 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County. The major areas of activity were Housing Construction, Roads and Water Services.

### Capital Account

Activity by Programme Group	2011 Expenditure	2011 Income	2011 Net cost
Housing & Building	4,216,702	4,085,182	(131,520)
Roads Transportation & Safety	5,515,140	5,503,594	(11,546)
Water Services	8,234,023	8,504,813	270,790
Development Management	539,124	806,316	267,192
Environmental Services	2,547,725	2,628,738	81,013
Recreation & Amenity	401,554	289,647	(111,907)
Miscellaneous Services	4,219,908	2,375,114	(1,844,794)
<b>Total Expenditure / Income</b>	<b>25,674,176</b>	<b>24,193,404</b>	<b>(1,480,772)</b>
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1</b>	<b>4,306,126</b>	<b>694,415</b>	
Expenditure	24,172,092	25,674,176	
Income	19,344,909	24,193,404	
Transfers to Revenue	-	(72,569)	
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	1,215,472	1,237,775	
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31</b>	<b>694,415</b>	<b>378,849</b>	

### Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2011 Expenditure	2011 Income	2011 Net cost
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Housing & Building	6,445,129	5,660,285	(784,844)
Roads Transportation & Safety	19,352,889	15,036,594	(4,316,295)
Water Services	10,386,288	7,679,157	(2,707,131)
Development Management	6,261,237	3,117,912	(3,143,325)
Environmental Services	6,251,681	3,404,729	(2,846,952)
Recreation & Amenity	3,326,495	497,433	(2,829,062)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	5,758,800	5,384,956	(373,844)
Miscellaneous Services	5,618,496	2,830,610	(2,787,886)
<b>Total Expenditure / Income</b>	<b>63,401,015</b>	<b>43,611,676</b>	<b>(19,789,339)</b>

**Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund** **(19,789,339)**

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Rates	6,431,415
Local Government Fund	12,827,990
County Charge	2,096,565
Pension Related Deduction	1,026,861
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	2,593,492
Transfer to Reserves	(2,000,177)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January	(672,400)
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December</b>	<b>(79,085)</b>

## Appendix 1

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### MONAGHAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES Service Indicators

	2011
<b>H: Housing</b>	
<b>H.1 Housing Vacancies</b>	
H.1.(a) Total no of dwellings in local authority stock	1380
H.1.(b) Total number of dwellings excluding those subject to major refurbishment project	1356
H.1.(c) Overall % of dwellings that are empty (excluding major refurbishment)	0.16%
H.1.(d) % of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	
H.1.(e) % of empty dwellings available for letting	
<b>H.2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting</b>	24.21
<b>H.3 No of repairs completed as a % of the no. of valid repair requests recd</b>	86.25%
<b>H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of decision on applications for;</b>	
H.4.(a) The shared ownership housing scheme	
H.4.(b) Housing loans scheme	
H.4.(c) Local authority housing	
<b>H.5 Total number of traveller families accommodated as a % of the targets</b>	100%

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**Rev.1 House Rent**

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due 93.80%

**(b) Percentage of arrears:**

(b) (i) 4 - 6 weeks old 87%

(b) (ii) 6 - 12 weeks old 64.4%

(b) (iii) more than 12 weeks old 61.38%

**Rev.2 Housing Loans**

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due 81%

**(b) Percentage of arrears:**

(b) (i) As a % of one month old 10.09%

(b) (ii) As a % of 1 month but less than 2 months old 14.05%

(b) (iii) As a % over 3 months old 71.67%

**Rev.3 Commercial Rates**

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due 66.5%

**Rev.4 Refuse Charges**

(a) % of houses which are in arrears with refuse charges N/A

**Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges**

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due 75.07%

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## **R : Roads**

<b>R.1: Local + Regional roads surface improved and maintained (kms)</b>	92
<b>Local and Regional roads constructed under specific improvements grants scheme (kms)</b>	5

## **M: Motor Taxation**

### **M.1 Percentage of Motor tax transactions which are dealt with**

(i) Over the counter	85%
(ii) By the post	15%
(iii) Other ways e.g. on line, by telephone	0%

M.2. (a) No. of postal applicants dealt with same day	6932
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<b>M.2. (a) Overall % of postal applicants dealt with same day</b>	84%
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M.2. (b) No. of postal applicants dealt with on the third day or less	1259
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<b>M.2. (b) Overall % of postal applicants dealt with on the third day or less</b>	15%
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M.2. (c) No. of postal applicants dealt with on the fifth day or less	23
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<b>M.2. (c) Overall % of postal applicants dealt with on the fifth day or less</b>	0.28%
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M.2. (d) No. of postal applicants dealt with over five days	57
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M.2. (d) Overall % of postal applicants dealt with over five days	
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M.3 Average no. of public opening hours per week	26
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## **E: Environmental Services**

### **E.2 % of drinking water analyses results in compliance with statutory requirements**

E1: Unaccounted for water (UFW) as % of total volume of water supplied	27.93 %
E.2 (a) With regard to Public Schemes	97.8%
E.2 (b) With regard to Private Schemes (where appropriate)	98.0%

## **E: Waste Management**

<b>E.6: % of households provided with segregated waste collection</b>	99%
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### **E: 7 Litter**

No. of Full-time Litter wardens	1
No. of Part-time Litter wardens	8
No. of Litter wardens(both full+part-time) per 5000population	9
No. of on-the spot fines	93
No. of prosecutions taken due to non-pmt of on-the spot fines	2
No. of prosecutions secured	2
% of areas in county that are litter free	0
% of areas in county that are slightly polluted with litter	0
% of areas in county that are moderately polluted with litter	0
% of areas in county that are significantly polluted with litter	0

% of areas in county that are grossly polluted with litter	0
<b>Note figures entered at national level</b>	0
	0

#### **E.8 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement**

No. of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution

No. of complaints investigated

No. of complaints dismissed 520

No. of enforcement procedures taken 520

510

10

#### **E.12 Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns**

% of Primary schools in area participating in environmental campaigns 66.7%

% of Secondary schools in area participating in environmental campaigns 75%

### **F: Fire Service**

#### **F.1 Average. time in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in:**

F.1 (a) Full time stations 0

F.1 (b) Part time stations 6.31

#### **F.2 Percentage of attendances at Fire Incidents**

F.2 (a) First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes 41.61%

F.2 (b) First attendance is at scene within 20 minutes 47.76%

F.2 (c) First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes 10.62%

**F.2 Percentage of attendances at all other Emergency Incidents**

F.2 (a) First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	21.74%
F.2 (b) First attendance is at scene within 20 minutes	63.77%
F.2 (c) First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	14.49%

**F.5 Fire Prevention**

E.5 (a) Total no. of fire safety certificate applications received	68
E.5 (b) Total no. of fire safety certificate applications processed	69

2011

**P. Planning & Building Control**

**P.1 - Planning applications - see separate sheet**

**P.2 Planning Enforcement**

P.2 (a) (i) No. of cases subject to complaints 112

(ii) No. of cases dismissed 14

(iii) Total no. of cases subject of complaints that were resolved through negotiations 36

P.2 No of enforcement procedures;

(b) Taken via warning letters 77

(c) Taken via enforcement notices 42

(d) No. of prosecutions 17

**P.3 Public Opening Hours**

Average. no. opening hours per week 40

**P.4 Pre-planning consultation**

Number of preplanning consultation meetings held 802

Average. Length of time from request to actual formal meeting with planner 2

20%

**P.5 Bldgs inspected as a % of new buildings notified**

**P.6 Taking Estates in Charge**

A. No. of Resid. Estates where p.p. is required& request on hand	19
B. Number of estates taken in Charge in 2011	4
C. Number of dwellings in respect of B above	282
D. % of estates in Col (A) not completed in line with planning permission	200%
E. No. of estates in Col (D) where enforcement action taken or bond called in	1
F. No. of estates in Col (D) where works undertaken by LA to bring estate to standard	0

## P: Planning & Building Control

### P.1: Planning Applications- Decision Making – 2011

Category	Column A No. Of Applications decided	Column B No. of decisions in Col. A which were decided within 8 weeks	Column C No of decisions in Col. A which required the submission of further information	Column D No of decisions in Col. A where ext. of time was agreed to by applicant under S. 34(9) P & D act 2000	Column E Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an appl. where where further info. was sought	Column F % of grants	Column G % of refusals	Column H % of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	Column I % of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala
Individual Houses	158	70	86	2	73	88%	12%	100%	0%
Housing Devel.	5	4	1	0	82	80%	20%	0%	0%
<i>Other:</i>									
Not requiring EIA	233	147	85	1	75	97%	3%	79%	21%
<i>Other:</i>									
Requiring EIA	5	1	4	0	137	100%	0%	0%	0%

<b>C: Corporate Affairs</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>C.1 % of working days lost to sickness absence through</b>	
C.1 (a) % Certified leave	4.74%
C.1 (b) % Uncertified leave	0.33%
<b>C.2 Expenditure on Training + Development as a % of total payroll costs</b>	4.99%
<b>L: Library Services</b>	
<b>L.1 Public Opening Hours</b>	
(a) Average No. of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	36
(b) Average No. of opening hours per week for part-time libraries	20
<b>L.2 No. of visits to libraries per 1,000 population</b>	166443
<b>L.3 No. of items issued per head of population (county / city wide) for:</b>	
(a) Books	2.97
(b) Other items	0.45
<b>L.4 Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population</b>	33,848
<b>Recreational Services</b>	
<b>Rec 1: No. of children's playgrounds per 1,000 of population</b>	
(a) Directly provided by the local authority	31
(b) Facilitated by the local authority	3
<b>Rec 2: No of visitors</b>	64,894

**Community Participation & Co-operation - Your Local Authority**

**CP 1:    % of local schools involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle  
na n-Og scheme** 68.42%

**CP:2 No. Groups registered with Community & Voluntary forum** 374

