

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 2nd October, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr C. Bennett, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Directors of Services, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, A/Director of Service, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Notices of Urgent business:

The Cathaoirleach stated that she had received three notices of urgent business as follows:

(1) Notice in the names of the Sinn Fein Councillors:

That Monaghan County Council conveys its concern and empathy to the people of Catalonia regarding their recent and historical efforts in engaging through the democratic process in seeking independence for Catalonia. It further implores the Spanish Government to enter into meaningful engagement and negotiations with elected Catalanian officials and representatives.

In accordance with Standing Orders, Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Gilliland seconded that the decision to discuss the motions of urgent business, be taken in Committee. This was agreed.

A vote by show of hands on the proposal to take the Sinn Fein motion as urgent business resulted in 6 for, 6 against. The Cathaoirleach gave her casting vote in favour of the motion. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried 7 votes to 6.

Notices in the names of the Fianna Fail members:

(2) *That Monaghan County Council demands that the HSE Cavan & Monaghan Hospital Group reclassify their Haemochromatosis Service as an Outpatient Service as was the classification up to Saturday 30th September 2017 but as of Monday 2nd October 2017 it is being classified as a day service subject to the statutory day case charge of €80 or €800 in a rolling twelve month period, the Haemachromatosis Service, is a fifteen minute procedure, clearly an Out Patient Service.*

(3) *That Monaghan County Council demands that the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed TD and the Government extend and open up a period for slurry spreading, as the due date for close of slurry spreading is the 15th October. However, farmers in County Monaghan are unable to spread slurry at the moment or for the past two months, due to the heavy rainfall. Additional time, weather permitting, must be allowed to farmers or serious animal welfare and environmental issues will arise on farms.*

It was unanimously agreed that both motions (2) and (3) be taken as urgent business and that all three motions be discussed when the agenda business had been completed.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland it was agreed to revert back to public session.

Entente Florale competition:

The Cathaoirleach congratulated all involved with Glaslough's participation in the Entente Florale competition, particularly, Gareth Corrigan and the team of volunteers from Glaslough Tidy Towns Competition, Council staff, Donal McElwain, Carol Lambe and Denis Flannery. She was delighted to be present at the announcement of the results in Slovenia, when Glaslough was presented with the Gold medal award. She also congratulated the group on winning the county award in the National Tidy Towns Competition 2017.

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded that a Civic Reception be hosted by the Council in honour of Glaslough's achievement in winning the Entente Florale competition.

It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

1. Casual Vacancy:

(i) To consider the filling of the casual vacancy on Monaghan County Council arising from the resignation of former Councillor, Ciara McPhillips.

Cllr. Maxwell stated that he was delighted to propose the co-option of Eva Humphreys, Darnaroy, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan, to fill the vacancy on Monaghan County Council for the Ballybay-Clones electoral area. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Gilliland. The Council unanimously agreed that Eva Humphreys be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy on Monaghan County Council.

Cllr Maxwell then introduced Cllr Humphreys to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr Humphreys and wished her well for the remaining term of the current Council. All members present congratulated Cllr Humphreys on her co-option.

The Chief Executive, Mr. E. O'Sullivan also welcomed Cllr. Humphreys and wished her every success during her term on the Council.

Cllr. Humphreys thanked her proposer and seconder, the Cathaoirleach, elected members and the Chief Executive for their warm welcome. She said she was looking forward to working with them for the betterment of the county. She acknowledged the work done by her predecessor, Ciara McPhillips, and wished her every success in her future career.

(ii) To fill vacant positions on various Committees.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that Cllr Humphreys would be elected to fill the vacant positions on the following Committees:

- SPC for Transportation and Environment
- Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- Disability Steering Committee
- Clones Erne East Partnership
- County Monaghan Heritage Forum

2. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 4th September, 2017

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 4th September, 2017, be confirmed.

3. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from Minister Simon Harris, T.D. regarding hospital waiting lists
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government regarding increase in the Income eligibility for Social Housing Support.
- Letter from the office of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding funding for roads.
- Letter from the office of the Minister for Education and Skills regarding the school transport scheme.
- Email from John Halligan, Minister for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development regarding school transport.
- Press release on the 2017 LIS Scheme and announcing an allocation of €250,000 to Monaghan County Council.
- Email from Minister O'Regan's office regarding the letter of congratulations from the Council on his inclusion in the Government Cabinet of Premier Justin Trudeau.
- Resolution from Offaly County Council calling on the Government to undertake a complete review of how the Social Housing Programme is administered by the Department.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Email from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding 2018 Overdraft Approval.
- Letter from the office of the Minister of Health regarding emergency care for people who are closer to hospitals in NI.
- Circular Letter FPS01/2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to the publication of the Draft National Planning Framework Ireland 2014: Our Plan.

The Meetings Administrator read a letter from Bus Eireann which had been received by email on the 1st October in relation to the operation of the School Transport Scheme.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council keeps the very important issue of school transport on the Council agenda until such time as we receive a detailed response from Minister John Halligan T.D., the Minister with responsibility for school transport, and that we request a meeting with Minister Halligan to discuss the school Transport scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that we write to the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government requesting clarification as to exactly when the review of Social Housing Income Limits will commence and if local Councils will be allowed to make a submission.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Humphreys, it was agreed that the H.S.E brief members on the current situation on the Primary Care Centre, Oriel House and Blackwater House on the St Davnet's Campus.

4. To consider the following disposals under Section 183 of the LG Act 2001:

(i) Disposal of land at Tullynaskeagh East, Carrickmacross:

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was unanimously agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 1.96 hectares at Tullynaskeagh East, Carrickmacross in accordance with the terms of notice dated 11th September, 2017 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

(ii) Disposal of land at Killymarly, Monaghan:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was unanimously agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.0664 hectares at Killymarly, Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 18th September, 2017 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

5. Planning:

- (i) To consider proposed Variation No. 4 to Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 (incorporation of objectives for the regeneration and renewal of land and the active land management of vacant sites within the Settlement/Core Strategy of the County Development Plan)

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report that had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that the commencement of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 required all Planning Authorities to establish a Register of Vacant Sites and make provision for a vacant site levy. The Authority is also required to include an objective for the development and renewal of identified areas in need of residential or regeneration development as part of the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan. He then referred to the text to be inserted into Chapter 3 Settlement/Core Strategy of the Monaghan County Development Plans 2013-2019 for Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay.

During the consultation process, seven submissions were received and he outlined the response of the Planning Authority to each submission.

He stated that the proposed variation to the Development Plan would be in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the county and recommended that it be adopted by the members.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was unanimously agreed that the Council adopt the Variation No. 4 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 for Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay.

- (ii) To consider proposed Variation No. 5 to Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 (incorporation of Policy RHP14 - Unfinished Housing in Rural Areas Under Strong Urban Influence)

Mr. A. Hughes referred to the report that had been circulated with the agenda. He explained the background to the proposed Variation No. 5 to the County Development Plan. He stated that the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines were introduced in 2005 requiring all Planning Authorities to designate areas which were considered to be under development pressure due to their proximity to urban areas.

He stated that the proposed Variation provided for the inclusion of policy RHP14, the text of which had been included in the report circulated.

During the consultation process, seven submissions were received and he outlined the response of the Planning Authority to each submission.

He stated that the proposed variation to the Development Plan would be in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the county and recommended that it be adopted by the members.

He then responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was unanimously agreed that the Council adopt the Variation No. 5 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 (incorporating the Development Plans for the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay.

- (iii) To consider proposed Variation No. 6 to Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 - 2019 (incorporation of Objective MNO 4 to facilitate the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan)

Mr. A. Hughes referred to the report that had been circulated with the agenda. He explained the background to the proposed Variation No. 6 to the County Development Plan. The proposed variation includes a new objective within the Monaghan County Development Plan to ensure that all development proposals within the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan area have regard to the regeneration strategy and development objectives of the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan, which was circulated at the meeting.

Cllr Maxwell proposed that the matter be deferred for a period of one month to allow for an extended public consultation period, as some people had been unable to make a submission within the timeframe specified.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive explained that the process to vary the County Development Plan is a statutory process which is defined in legislation and the Council does not have the liberty of extending the process. He said that by adopting the proposed variation the Council is putting in place a degree of certainty for the re-development of Dublin Street, Monaghan

Town. To delay this proposal would counteract/undermine the decision of the Council. Two/three years work had gone into this and it was not possible to re-start the process. He urged developers to come and speak to the Councils Planners about their proposals.

Cllr Aughey proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded that the proposed Draft Variation (No. 6) in respect of the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan be adopted.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Aughey's proposal resulted in 16 for, Nil against and 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

National Planning Framework:

Mr. Hughes circulated copy of circular letter FPS 01/2017 from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government in relation to the publication of the Draft National Planning Framework (NPF) Ireland 2040: Our Plan. Submissions are invited from local authorities and the public in relation to the framework. The closing date for submissions is the 3rd November.

Mr. Hughes stated that the Planning Section will prepare a draft submission and will circulate a copy to the elected members. He also stated that officials would be available to meet with party groups, if required.

6. To consider re-establishing the Local Improvements Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Local Improvements Committee be re-established – membership to comprise the Cathaoirleach of the day, Cllrs J. Crowe, S. Coyle, A. Campbell and P. Connolly.

7. To fix date for Statutory meeting to consider the Budget for 2018.

It was agreed that the Statutory Budget meeting would be held on Thursday 23rd November, 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

8. To approve minutes and recommendations from CPG meeting held on 19th September, 2017

The members noted the minutes and recommendations from the CPG meeting held on 19th September 2017

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 19th September, 2017 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

9. To receive Management Report – September 2017

The members noted the Management Report for the month of September which had been circulated with the agenda. The Chief Executive responded to a number of queries from the members in relation to the report.

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

The members noted the report from Cllr Conlon in relation to his attendance at the 6th Annual Thomas Darcy McGee Summer School, Co. Louth.

11. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

Overdraft Accommodation:

Mr E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to overdraft accommodation in the amount of €10m for the year 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was unanimously agreed that the Council approve overdraft accommodation in the amount of €10 million for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 4th September, 2017.

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4th September 2017 were responded to by the relevant officials.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

The following proposals were agreed:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Mc Nally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands of the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten T.D, Ministers Heather Humphreys T.D, Regina Doherty T.D, Helen McEntee T.D and Damien English T.D, that EirGrid be directed to scrap all existing plans for the North – South 400 Kv Interconnector, as is now the status of the Grid Link and Grid West. We also request them to direct the commissioning immediately of the report, as adopted by Dail and Seanad Eireann, and direct EirGrid to engage in a meaning full way with communities to ensure public acceptance of any future proposals for the project.

The motion to be circulated to all named below and all Cavan/Monaghan & Health Oireachtas members and the C.M.A.P.E & NEPPC

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Mc Nally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council requests the joint Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to fully investigate EirGrid's financial expenditure for at least the past 16 years, the misuse of expenditure of electricity consumers money on lavish P.R campaigns, sponsorships, the failed North – South Interconnector application of 2010 and all EirGrid's expenditure as a state body.

This motion to be forwarded to all Cavan/Monaghan and Meath Oireachtas members, with a request that they actively pursue the above and reply on their actions and success's by the 1st Nov 2017.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council writes to An Taoiseach Mr Leo Varadkar T.D, Minister Denis Naughten T.D, and all the Fine Gael Oireachtas members for the Cavan/Monaghan & Meath Area, calling on them to intervene both individually and collectively, an direct EirGrid to underground the N.S Interconnector in order to avoid a confrontation with the Local Communities across Co Monaghan, Cavan & Meath given that undergrounding is the only acceptable methodology of delivering the N.S Interconnector to the Local Communities and the Campaigning Groups.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed

- 1. That this Council writes to the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) and to the Joint Committee on Communications Climate Action and Environment in order to investigate what monies has been expended by EirGrid to date on the North South Interconnector.*
- 2. That this Council writes to EirGrid in order to establish what monies have been spent to date on the N.S Interconnector.*

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council notes with deep concern, the no response from the Fine Gael Oireachtas members. That this Council interprets a no response as no interest on this issue, at Fine Gael Oireachtas member level, including Ministerial level.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

A copy of an email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding the Ulster Canal status was circulated at the meeting.

15. To receive update on Brexit.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that a delegation comprising the Cathaoirligh and Chief Executives of the eleven local authorities that comprise the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Corridor was travelling to Brussels on the 10th/11th October 2017. The purpose of the delegation was to lobby and advocate for the needs of the region in relation to the impact of Brexit. It was also proposed that the '*Brexit and the Border Corridor Report*' would be officially launched in Brussels. The visit was being organised by the East Border Region Committee. It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive would participate in the delegation.

16. Presentation from SIPTU re Big Start Childcare Campaign

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Teresa Thompson, Lorraine Linton, Tiny's Day Nursery Alice Forde, Latton Childcare and Denise McCormilla, Border Counties Childcare Network.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the delegation from the SIPTU Big start Childcare Campaign and invited them to address the meeting.

The delegation explained that the campaign was launched by SIPTU in March of last year on behalf of Early Years educators. The Early Years Sector is in crisis, parents are paying too

much for childcare, workers are paid too little to make ends meet and providers are struggling to break even. The campaign is bringing together workers, providers and parents to demand adequate investment in the Early Years sector to deliver quality and affordable childcare with decent pay for highly qualified early year's professionals. It is getting more and more difficult to retain staff within the sector due to current pay levels.

Following the presentation the delegation responded to queries/comments from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the delegation for a very informative presentation and wished them every success with their campaign

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that we seek a meeting with Oireachtas members for Cavan/Monaghan to express to them the need for their support to lobby government in relation to putting in place proper adequate resources to properly fund childcare provision in this state.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that we forward this document "2018 Budget recommendations" to Minister for Finance requesting that the recommendations within the document are addressed as a matter of urgency.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council fully supports and endorses the SIPTU Big Start Campaign objectives of adequate investment in the early years sector to deliver quality and affordable childcare with decent pay for highly qualified early years professionals, to secure quality early years care and education services for children 6 months – 5 years that are accessible, affordable and support parents/families to promote children's health, well being, learning and development in line with national quality standards.

It was agreed that the resolution would be circulated to all local authorities and the Oireachtas members for Cavan/Monaghan.

17. Questions:

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

1. Will Monaghan County Council give a full report on the delivery of the National Broadband Plan to County Monaghan and the indications that with current resources it will be quarter 3 of 2025 before delivery to County Monaghan?

Reply: The Government's objective is to ensure that all premises in Ireland can access high speed broadband. This is being met through a combination of commercial investment by telecoms operators and a State intervention in those areas which are not commercially viable.

The Government's National Broadband Plan (NBP) aims to ensure high speed broadband access (minimum 30 megabits per second) to all premises in Ireland, regardless of location. The NBP has been a catalyst in encouraging investment by the telecoms sector so that to date approximately 1.5m or 65% of the 2.3m premises in Ireland can get high speed broadband of a minimum of 30 Megabits per second and this footprint is expanding.

In April the Minister for Communications Climate Action and the Environment published an updated High Speed Broadband Map which is available at: <http://www.broadband.gov.ie/>

This map shows the areas targeted by commercial operators to provide high speed broadband services by end of 2018 and the areas that will be included in the State Intervention Area. The Map is searchable by eircode or by zooming in to a particular area.

- The BLUE areas on the Map represent those areas where commercial telecommunications providers are either currently delivering, or have indicated plans to deliver high speed broadband services,

- The AMBER areas on the Map represent the areas that will require State Intervention and are the subject of a procurement process.

Eir 300k Rollout

The revised Broadband Map also shows the areas which are due to be completed by Eir as part of their rollout of high speed broadband to 300,000 homes by the end of 2018.

With regard to the Eir fibre rollout, details of the premises included in that rollout are a matter for the operator and the government has no input in the process. Details of progress in relation to the Eir fibre rollout in Co. Monaghan can be accessed at <http://fibrerollout.ie/eircode-lookup/>. This map is being updated on a quarterly basis and any premises which have recently been upgraded by Eir are changed from Light Blue to Blue on the map.

NBP Contract

The Department is currently in a formal procurement process to select a company or companies who will roll-out a new high speed broadband network within the State intervention area.

For the purposes of the NBP, the state has been divided into a Northern and Southern Region with Monaghan in the Northern Area. The procurement process is now at an advanced stage, with "Detailed Solutions" due to be submitted by bidders in late September. In recent days, Siro have indicated that they will be taking no further part in this bidding process. The next stage of the procurement process is Final Tenders.

The NBP is expected to be completed by the end of 2022 to all premises and homes. To date, there has been no revision of the completion date. In that context, it is expected that successful bidders must be in a position to demonstrate that they have or can put in place sufficient resources to ensure that their deployment meets the agreed timescales. To improve both mobile and broadband services in rural Ireland in advance of the rollout of the high speed broadband network to be built in the State intervention area, the Minister for Communications Climate Action and the Environment established a Taskforce to identify immediate solutions to mobile phone and broadband coverage deficits and investigate how better services could be provided to consumers. These solutions aim to enhance the existing services prior to the full build and rollout of the network planned under the National Broadband Plan State intervention.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

2. In view of the additional funding which has been received by Monaghan County Council to upgrade public lighting what areas are earmarked for a lighting upgrade?

Reply: National Primary & National Secondary Roads – National Energy Reduction Retrofit funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland

**1 No scheme received lighting upgrade funding from TII in 2016
Annahagh Roundabout (Monaghan Bypass) – completed Nov 2016**

**4 No NP schemes have received lighting upgrade funding from TII in 2017. These are:
Tullyvin Roundabout – completed Aug 2017
Dublin Road Roundabout N2, Monaghan – to be completed before end 2017
Lislanly Roundabout N2 – to be completed before end 2017
Broomfield N2 - to be completed before end 2017**

Monaghan MD has out the following lighting works at the following locations in 2017.

Location	No. of lights	Source of Funding
Tydavnet Community Centre	1	Public Lighting (New)
Clontibret Hall	4	CLÁR Scheme
Dawson Street	7	Town & Village Scheme
Derrynagrew	3	Public Lighting (New)

Ballybay/Clones MD

Village	Location	Lighting Costs	Works Description Bases (no.) Ducting (m)		Estimated Civil Costs	Estimated Total Cost	Status
Killeevan	Clones Road Extn	€21,000.00	14	500	€0.00	€35,700.00	Completed in 2017 - Clar
Scotstown	Roslea Road - Ferns to village	€6,051.64	6		€3,593.41	€9,645.05	Completed in 2017 - T&V
Rockcorry	Monaghan Road	€10,805.44	4		€0.00	€10,805.44	Completed 2017 T&V
Rockcorry	R188 Cootehill Road	€8,212.01	7		€6,201.64	€14,413.65	Completed 2017- T&V
Scotshouse	L2242 Scotshouse	€5,542.02	4		€0.00	€5,542.02	Completed 2017 - Clar

Castleblayney/ Carrickmacross MD

Main Street Castleblayney - To take down overhead cables and install new lighting columns from the roundabout to the traffic lights in Castleblayney Main Street

- 12 No DW Windsor 8m Decorative Columns with 12 No DW Windsor LED Lanterns with 35 lux Photocell Controls

Main Street Carrickmacross - We have 38 no. new lights to be erected and we have changed the lighting network to LED lighting at Lisdoonan village.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

3. That in view of the impact that a Telesis machine for engraving a person's Eircode on to their property e.g. mobile phone, laptop, bicycle, lawnmower, farm machinery etc, and the fact that these markings have been proven to have a deterrent effect on criminals would Monaghan County Council consider purchasing a Telesis machine and making it available to communities on an ongoing basis?

Reply: As part of their crime prevention programme, Gardai in Carrickmacross launched a Property Marking Programme in June 2017, in conjunction with the local Neighbourhood Watch groups. This Property Marking Programme allows An Garda Síochána to detect, identify and return stolen property or lost property to its rightful owner. This programme involves marking property with an Eircode number as this is an easily identifiable code unique to each home or business premises.

The question of the acquisition and management of such a facility is one that could be considered by the Joint Policing Committee.

4. In view of the fact that in Ireland approximately 13 people die every day from cardiac arrest and the overwhelming majority of those who die are busy going about their daily lives out and about in their communities
 - (a) To ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to making defibrillators available to communities and training people in their use?
 - (b) What plans are there to make defibrillators available in our towns and villages across the county for use by members of the public in the event of an emergency?

Reply (a+b): Monaghan County Council is aware of the importance of the issue raised by Cllr Connolly. Development of a network of Community First Responder groups, to provide full county coverage, is a stated objective in the LCDC's Local Community Plan. The key resource necessary to achieving this is trained volunteers. Access to a defibrillator is redundant if nobody locally is trained to use it.

Having consulted with emergency response professionals, MCC has decided to prioritise the allocation of resources to the supporting of the volunteers who wish to provide emergency response services in their area. The Community First Responder initiative enables members of a community to train up so that they can provide a quick response service to distress calls in their community, and administer first aid until the Ambulance Service can attend the scene. First Responder crews are equipped with a defibrillator as part of their kit bag.

Monaghan County Council recently worked with the active Community First Responder groups in the county to put together a successful funding application to CLAR. This will result in €67,710 being spent on life-saving training equipment, to be at the disposal of these groups. A stock of additional kit has been provided for in the initiative, so that new First Responder groups setting up around the county can be kitted out as they come online.

This method of covering the county is more responsive than having hundreds of defibrillators mounted to walls in static locations around the county, hoping they are located close to where they might one day be needed. As many areas of the county do not yet have a First Responder group and still are reliant on static defibrillators, some of the funding has been set aside to purchase 20 outdoor, heated, alarmed cabinets, to move existing indoor defibrillator cabinets to where they can be accessed 24/7. The Community Section has been advertising since early summer in local media and through the PPN for any community which needs to move its defibrillator to an outdoor location to make contact with Carol Lambe.

There will be a small number of defibrillators purchased under the above scheme. These will be distributed to the active First Responder groups. Having consulted with emergency response professionals, MCC has decided that defibrillators will not be made available to areas where there is no active committee who can maintain the equipment, and use it in the event of an emergency, as this is not in line with best practice.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

5. That in relation to the high volume of accidents in the recent past on the N2 to ask Monaghan County Council for an update into proposed road safety improvement measures along the route of the N2 in Co Monaghan?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received approval from the TII to reactivate the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme and to develop a major road improvement scheme on the N2 from Ardee to Castleblayney. The initial steering group meetings for both schemes are scheduled to take place in mid October at which the development of the projects will be discussed between the TII and Monaghan County Council.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

6. Has Monaghan County Council's executive received any updated information regarding the National Broadband Plan in this county and when it is envisaged that Co. Monaghan will have full coverage?

Reply: When the NBP contract is awarded, it is anticipated that work will commence in all counties covered within the intervention area. The NBP is expected to be completed by the end of 2022 to all premises and homes. To date, there has been no revision of the completion date.

7. Does the executive envisage any additional funding from the Department of Transport, for roads in Co. Monaghan, before the end of this year?

Reply: Monaghan County Council does not expect to receive any additional roads funding from the Department of Transport in 2017.

8. Will the housing section consider purchasing emergency dwelling/units to deal with homeless cases in the County?

Reply: Monaghan County Council provides support and assistance, including the provision of

accommodation, to address the needs of persons who present to us and are deemed as homeless. The Council have, and will continue to purchase housing in the County to meet the needs of all those households on the waiting list and consideration in the allocation of units includes persons presenting as homeless.

Clr C. Carthy asked:

9. How many fines for litter (including dog fouling) have been issued by the Council since the start of 2017 and how does this figure compare to the 2016 & 2015 figures?

Reply:

Litter Fines Issued	2015	2016	2017 (20/9/17)
No. Issued	108	166	141
Dog Foul Related	1	2	0

Note: Prosecution for dog foul related offences is difficult. The complainant must be available to attend court, identify the dog owner and describe/identify the dog. Environmental services continue to optimise the use of social media, billboard awareness signs and dog fouling signs to raise public awareness on the issue

10. (a) Will the housing section confirm how many vacant properties it currently has in its own stock in the county with a breakdown for each Municipal District?

Reply: The number of vacant housing units is 17 and are located as follows:

MD	No Of Vacancies	Status
Monaghan MD	3	Relet Works 3
Cbly-Cmx MD	11	Relet Works 2 – Accepted 8 – Offered 1
BBay-Clones MD	3	Relet Works 1 – Accepted 2

As denoted above – 10 vacancies have been offered and accepted by housing applicants and tenancy signings will occur imminently. An additional 1 vacancy has been offered to applicants and a reply is pending. The remaining 6 vacancies are undergoing re-letting works. There are 5 void units in Castleblayney which are currently undergoing essential remedial works and will be returned to immediate use upon completion of those works.

- (b) Has the housing section been successful in their application for extra funding to deal with the issue of private vacant units in Co. Monaghan?

Reply: Planning Circular PL7/2017 “Vacant Homes Action Plans” dated 25 August 2017 sets out the new requirement for Vacant Homes Action Plans which are to be developed by each County Council by the end of 2017. To increase resources to deal with this new requirement it was decided in September 2017 to submit applications for funding and Department sanction to recruit additional staff to undertake the role of Vacant Homes Officer plus one supporting technical staff member and one supporting administrative staff member to assist in the assessment of vacant homes in County Monaghan and to develop a County Action Plan for vacant homes. It is hoped that responses to the

applications for funding and Department sanction to recruit additional staff will be forthcoming in October 2017.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

11. Is there any further update from the Department in relation to the relaxing of the local needs (locals only) policy rule given the last correspondence was received from the Department in May of this year on this issue; what is the position of other Councils in relation to the European Court of Justice ruling on this policy?

Reply: The Council has received no further update from the Department in respect of local housing needs policy and will continue to apply the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines pending the receipt of contrary guidance.

12. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the Dundalk to Cavan regional road (R178) given this roadway is a very important economic link and given its poor condition in particular the stretch from Carrickmacross to Shercock town?

Reply: The Preliminary report is complete however there is no funding to progress the project any further.

13. Given this Council's new zero tolerance policy approach for those who don't cut and maintain their hedges along public roadways in the interest of road safety, what actions are open to this Council to enforce this policy for the small numbers for landowners that won't comply with Hedge Cutting Notices etc; in that past 2 years what action has this Council taken against those who have not complied with hedge cutting notices?

Reply: Where a danger is posed to road users due to overgrown hedges or overhanging branches on a public road, staff in the Municipal Districts will notify the landowner either verbally or by letter. In general this results in a positive response. If this is not successful it will be followed up with a Notice under the Roads Act 1993 and in severe cases can result in prosecution. A number of notices issued in the past two years were acted upon with no further action required.

A notice was placed in the Northern Standard advising the public of the timeframe for hedgecutting on Thursday 14 September 2017.

14. Given that it will take a number of years to design, bring to tender stage and construct a dual carriageway from Ardee to Castleblayney, what plans have this Council, in conjunction with the TII, to improve road safety in the interim including the upgrading and improvement of a number of dangerous junctions on this roadway including the Tullyvaragh junction?

Reply: The junction improvements works identified by the consultants in their safety review report are currently being progressed with works on the Northern and Southern junctions on the Carrickmacross bypass to be completed by mid October. A detailed design for the proposed works at Tullyvaragh junction has been completed which will require land acquisition from an adjoining landowner.

15. What actions, if any, can this Council take in conjunction with the Broadband providers to deliver and improve this critical service to parts of this county that have poor Broadband or none at all, given that business in particular are suffering from not having an adequate service?

Reply: Monaghan County Council already works with all commercial telecoms operators and service providers where they are engaged in infrastructural projects as part of the process of rolling out high speed broadband, in order to ensure that all of these projects are in compliance with all Planning and Roads guidelines.

The need to prioritise Monaghan in any rollout of high speed broadband has been emphasised repeatedly in meetings with the operators and with the Department. Monaghan County Council appointed John McArdle as Broadband Officer for the county in November 2016. The broadband officer acts as a point of contact to engage with all telecoms operators and to assist with any issues that may arise in the course of the NBP rollout.

In relation to the eir fibre rollout, details of the routes and premises included in that rollout are a matter for the operator. Neither the Government nor Monaghan Council County has any input in this process.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

16. Can Monaghan County Council investigate implementing a text system for reporting dangerous or illegal parking in disabled parking spaces, loading bays or blocking entrances/exits?

Reply: We have investigated implementing a text system for reporting parking offences. In order to operate the system the following is required:

- Purchase an SMS keyword, for example REPORT
- Assign free text number, for example 57112
- Erect Signs at selected Parking Bays. Each sign to have details of how citizens can report a parking offence at that location, for example "Report Misuse Text REPORT DIAMOND to 51772"
- Set up email alerts on Traffic Wardens Smartphone
- Run public awareness campaign(s)

The system is simple and inexpensive to implement. Citizens simply text "REPORT <LOCATION>" to the free text number. Traffic Wardens receive the alert and the nearest to the vicinity can investigate.

However before such a system could be implemented there are some decisions to be made such as how the system would operate outside working hours and how to deal with or prevent malicious and nuisance texts.

18. **Notices of Motion:**

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

1. *That Monaghan County Council demands an immediate meeting with the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D. to discuss and have addressed the funding and service discrimination against County Monaghan by the H.S.E. in vital areas of service delivery to the people of County Monaghan i.e., disabilities, Older People, Primary Care and Short Term/Transitional Beds.*

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded, and it was agreed:

2. *That this Council requests our Chief Executive Eamonn O'Sullivan to initiate a consultation campaign with the Chief Executives of Fingal, Meath, Louth and Donegal Councils, with a view to having the N2 upgraded to motorway status from Ashbourne to Donegal. All T.D.s and Councillors from these Councils to be briefed and requested to use their good offices to support this campaign.*

Cllr. C. Carthy proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded, and it was agreed:

3. *That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD, to instruct the HSE to reimburse the drug Vimizim to patients in this state already in receipt of the drug; we also request that all those suffering from the condition Morquio be given the opportunity to access this drug through the HSE.*

Cllr. S. Conlon proposed

4. *As with any contract entered into between Monaghan County Council and a service provider, in this case private landlords providing housing for Council housing applicants through the HAP Scheme, that this Council initiates an accountability mechanism to ensure agreed terms of contract are adhered to by all parties concerned.*

The Chief Executive suggested that this motion be referred to the Housing SPC for further consideration.

Cllr Conlon agreed to defer his motion until such time as the Housing SPC had considered it.

It was agreed that motions 17(5) and (6) would be taken together.

Cllr McKenna proposed, Cllr Connolly seconded,

5. *That the Chief Executive Officer will within two months report to the Council on the range of services, facilities and amenities which effect the day-to-day living of people with disabilities, for their consideration, setting out:*

(a) the current situation in relation to matters which the Council has direct responsibility for,

(b) an estimation of the areas and the extent of unmet need relating to same,

(c) the areas where engagement of this Council with other public bodies would improve participation for people with disabilities and the names of those public bodies, and

(d) the measures taken and planned by this Council to ensure the participation and engagement by people with disabilities and their representatives in local decision making structures and mechanisms,

with a view to budgeting and planning for 2018 and beyond for the Council to advance implementation of the UN CRPD.'

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded

6. *In relation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and recognising that people with disabilities encounter*

- *severe economic pressures*
- *serious lack of appropriate housing*
- *lack of accessible readily available public transport*
-
- *have difficulty finding and retaining employment*

calls on Monaghan County Council to report to this Council within 2 months, for their consideration setting out

- *the current situation in relation to matters which the Council has direct responsibility for*
- *an estimation of the areas and the extent of unmet need relating to same*
- *the areas where engagement of Monaghan County Council with other public bodies would improve participation for people with disabilities and the names of those public bodies*
- *the measures taken and planned by this Council to ensure the participation and engagement by people with disabilities and their representatives in local decision making structures and mechanisms*

with a view to budgeting and planning for 2018 and beyond for the Council to advance implementation of the UN CRPD

The Cathaoirleach put both motions to the meeting and they were agreed.

Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr McNally seconded

7. *That Monaghan County Council seek a meeting with the Minister for Justice, Charles Flanagan T.D. in relation to additional Garda resources for County Monaghan.*

Cllr Maxwell proposed that the Garda Commissioner would be included in the motion - Cllr O'Hanlon agreed with the proposal.

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

19. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

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

- Marcella Carey, Council employee on the death of her father-in-law Seamus Carey RIP
- Damien Douglas, Council employee, on the death of his uncle Jimmy Sherry
- The wife and family of the late Jim Joe Boylan, Dernagad, Scotstown a former member of the outdoor staff of the Council.

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

- Thomas McKenna Castleblayney and Tanagh Outdoor Educational Centre on coming second in the European Centre
- Latton Ladies GFC on winning the Monaghan Intermediate Football Championship 2017
- Doohamlet GFC on winning the Maguire International Minor Football Championship Division 3 Title 2017
- Currin Sons of St. Patrick on winning the Universal Graphics Junior Football Championship 2017
- Latton O’Rahilly GFC on winning the U-21 Monaghan Division 2 Title 2017
- Carrickmacross Emmets GFC U-16 Team on winning the Division 1 League Final.
- Monaghan Phoenix Club and Leslie Crawford on the successful staging of the Annual Back to Back Marathon Festival.
- Truagh Gaels U-12 Boys Team on winning both the U-12 Division and U-12 Division 6 titles in two consecutive weeks.

20. Conferences/Training

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG Autumn Seminar	Brexit	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo	12 th & 13 th October 2017	Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. E. Humphreys Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. P. McNally
Celtic Conferences	What does a Hard Brexit mean for Ireland	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Cork	20 th – 22 nd October 2017	Cllr. P. McNally
AILG	National Public Library Strategy 2018-2022 A briefing for elected members	Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	21 st October 2017	Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. E. Humphreys Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. McNally Cllr PJ. O’Hanlon Cllr. P. Connolly

AILG Training	Wellbeing for Councillors	Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork	23 rd September 2017	Cllr. P. McNally
LAMA	Waste Management – Better Energy	Hotel Manila, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	29 th & 30 th September 2017	Cllr. S. Coyle

Urgent Business:

(1) Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded:

That Monaghan County Council conveys its concern and empathy to the people of Catalonia regarding their recent and historical efforts in engaging through the democratic process in seeking independence for Catalonia. It further implores the Spanish Government to enter into meaningful engagement and negotiations with elected Catalan officials and representatives.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Conlon’s motion resulted in 13 for 1 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded, and it was agreed:

- (2) *That Monaghan County Council demands that the HSE Cavan & Monaghan Hospital Group reclassify their Haemochromatosis Service as an Outpatient Service as was the classification up to Saturday 30th September 2017 but as of Monday 2nd October 2017 it is being classified as a day service subject to the statutory day case charge of €80 or €800 in a rolling twelve month period, the Haemachromatosis Service, is a fifteen minute procedure, clearly an Out Patient Service.*

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr O’Hanlon seconded, and it was agreed:

- (3) *That Monaghan County Council demands that the Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed TD and the Government extend and open up a period for slurry spreading, as the due date for close of slurry spreading is the 15th October. However, farmers in County Monaghan are unable to spread slurry at the moment or for the past two months, due to the heavy rainfall. Additional time, weather permitting, must be allowed to farmers or serious animal welfare and environmental issues will arise on farms.*

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
