

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 4 September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr C. Bennett, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, B. 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, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. L. Nulty, Executive Planner, Ms. D. Kierans, Assistant Planner, Mr. L. MacCinna and Mr. P. McGuinness Senior Executive Engineers, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllr S. Coyle.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from TII regarding funding for upgrade of the N2, extending from North of Ardee to the South of the Castleblayney Bypass.
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding meeting to discuss ways of extending zones lands in Monaghan.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding the appointment of Oireachtas members from the Border Counties to the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on the National Planning Framework.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding public lighting.
- Letter from Denise O'Leary, Executive Officer, Department of Social Protection regarding Community Employment.
- Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding Council resolution re Brexit.
- Letter from Simon Harris, Minister for Health regarding GPs in Monaghan.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding the increase in the income limits for Social Housing in County Monaghan.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health regarding emergency care for people living in border areas.
- Resolution from Limerick City and County Council calling on the GAA to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games fixtures.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from Department of Rural and Community Development regarding Local Improvement Scheme 2017.
- Letter from TISPOL - European Traffic Police Network regarding 'European Day Without A Road Death'.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council makes direct contact with the Minister for Health/Dept of Health regarding emergency care for people who are closer to hospitals in Northern Ireland than emergency hospital services in Cavan General or Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitals.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that this Council seeks clarification regarding the status of the provision of hot meal services to rural community centres on a weekly /bi weekly occasion through the HSE kitchen at St. Davnet's. This service creates an essential out reach opportunity for our rural senior citizens in a communal social gathering.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council supports the resolution from Limerick City and County Council calling on the Gaelic Athletic Association to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic games fixtures. Instead RTE, TV3 or TG4 should be allowed to also screen these fixtures. Denying households who do not subscribe to SKY TV the right to view our national games is a travesty.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O' Hanlon seconded by Cllr P. Mc Nally it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister for Transport Shane Ross TD in relation to road funding in Co Monaghan. 90% of people employed in our County (Monaghan) are from small, medium enterprises, Approx. 40% of agricultural produce on a national basis is exported to the U.K. Between 60%-70% is exported from County Monaghan. Our road funding from 2011 is down approx 40%. Based on the above stats., we need additional funding with the challenge of Brexit coming at us.*

**Meeting with Department Planning officials:**

Regarding the letter dated 18 August from the Assistant Secretary of the Planning, Housing Market Policy & Land Management Division, it was agreed that the Council would accept the offer of a meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 pm in the Custom House. It was agreed that the Council would be represented by the following members:

Cllr Cathy Bennett, Cathaoirleach	Cllr A. Campbell
Cllr P. McNally,	Cllr P. Connolly.
Cllr B. McKenna	

It was agreed that an official from the Planning Department would also attend.

### **Urgent Business:**

Notice in the name of Cllr N. Keelan on behalf of the Sinn Fein members

Monaghan County Council calls on the Government, in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders, to re-assess current legislation regarding school transport with a view to ensuring that the maximum level of primary and secondary students are facilitated.

In accordance with Standing Order 14.2, it was unanimously agreed that this item be taken as Urgent Business and discussed at the end of the meeting.

### **3. Local Property Tax – to consider the local adjustment factor for 2018**

The members considered Circular Fin 04/2016, together with report prepared by Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance. The report explained that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. Any decision by a local authority to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax must be taken by 30th September. In determining the rate of LPT a local authority must take account of its financial position and have regard to a number of factors -

- The local authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which LPT is to apply.
- The financial position of the local authority.
- Feedback from any consultation held.
- The financial effect of any variation to the rate of LPT.

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

*That Monaghan County Council reduces the rate of local property tax for 2018 by (half the allowable reduction) 7.5%.*

A lengthy discussion took place during which a number of members voiced their support for or opposition to the motion and the reason for that decision.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for, 8 against and 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

### **4. Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000**

- (i) To consider granting permission for the upgrading of existing rear access road with new junction onto Cortolvin Road at Mullaghmatt, Monaghan and other associated works, as per Planning application Ref: 17/8007.

Mr. Lorcan MacCinna, Senior Executive Engineer Housing referred to the report circulated with the agenda and gave an overview of the work that the Council would be undertaking at this location.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for site development works at Mullaghmart Housing Estate/Cortolvin Road, Monaghan (Ref 17/8007) to comply with the report from the Senior Planner, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

**5. Review of Monaghan County Development Plan – Direction regarding the preparation of the Draft Plan**

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner and Ms. L. Nulty, Executive Planner gave a presentation to the members during which they outlined –

- The purpose of the presentation – consideration of the Chief Executive’s report prepared in respect of pre-draft public consultation process on the County Development Plan.
- The Development Plan process – the various stages of the process
- The legislative context – Section 4(d) and 4(f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended
- The importance of members and officials observing the Code of Conduct when making and adopting the Development Plan
- The Chief Executive’s report, which had been circulated to members on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. The purpose of the report is to present the outcomes of the initial public consultation phase carried out prior to the preparation of the Draft Development Plan for consideration by the members. The report included a breakdown of submissions received during the pre-draft consultation process and details of the issues raised in the submissions. It also included the Chief Executive’s opinion on the issues raised and his recommendation

Direction was sought from the members regarding the preparation of the draft development plan in accordance with section 11(4)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. During a lengthy discussion that followed the presentation the following proposals were put forward by the members:

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council takes on board the Belgian ruling in relation to local needs for housing and release the “local needs” stipulation in planning.*

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded

That Monaghan County Council abandon the need for legal agreement i.e. putting a lean on their neighbour’s deeds in relation to sight lines.

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs Connolly and S. Treanor Total 2

**Against:** Cllrs Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McKenna, McNally, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor. Total 13

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council highlight in its Development Plan that development charges and rates are the cheapest in the 26 Counties and that this is featured in our new plan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that we look seriously at reducing the sight distance requirements in relation to planning applications on Regional, Local Primary, Local Secondary & Tertiary roads in County Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that an Action Plan is required for Muckno Street, Castleblayney. It was included in previous County Development Plan and then removed. Propose that it should be included as an objective in the new County Development Plan; this should be done with cross community engagement.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that a particular plan be incorporated for Muckno and Hope Castle in conjunction with the CHL Plan which is currently being planned. This would be included in the new plan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that we need a policy to review how we encourage the delivery of our back-lands in our towns similar to the regeneration one we have for Dublin Street, Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed in relation to transport we need to look at the deficits in our county and region and we need to progress the LUTS Plan in Monaghan Town and ensure that those policies are brought forward in this plan and extend the LUTS Plan throughout the county.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland seconded by Cllr Campbell it was agreed that Monaghan County Council review, for the purpose of the new Development Plan, the current system being used by our Planning section by requesting Planning applicants to register a burden on a neighbouring deed to obtain Planning Permission for both housing and agricultural/commercial business in rural Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council/Planning Office identifies small plots of suitable lands in the Village/Settlement areas across the County for the provision of much needed housing, industry and Civic use.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that this Council, as a policy, will seek to improve many of the road junctions on our local roads in particular.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor that Monaghan County Council include the Sliabh Beagh consultancy plan in the County Development Plan.*

It was unanimously agreed that these motions be considered as direction in respect of the content of the draft plan.

## **6. To fill vacancy on the Joint Policing Committee (Cllr McPhillips vacancy)**

*On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland it was agreed that Cllr Maxwell be appointed to the Joint Policing Committee to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of former Councillor, Ciara McPhillips.*

**7. To approve minutes and recommendations from CPG meeting held on 23 August, 2017**

The members noted the minutes and recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 23 August, 2017.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 23 August, 2017 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**8. To receive Management Report – March 2017**

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

**9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Conlon, Connolly and P. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- ALLG Training - Rating Powers Reform & Revaluations, Bundoran, Co. Donegal
- ALLG Training – Rural Renewal Schemes – Westport, Co. Mayo.

**10. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.**

Mr E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive briefed the members of the Council 'in Committee' on two separate matters of Council business.

**11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were responded to by the relevant officials.

**12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.**

It was agreed to write again to the Fine Gael Oireachtas members seeking a response to a motion passed at the July Council meeting seeking clarity on their positions in relation to the undergrounding of the NS Interconnector.

The members noted that the High Court case taken by the North East Pylon Pressure Group had been unsuccessful.

**13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.**

There was no new information available on this project.

**14. To receive update on Brexit.**

There was no new information on this item.

**15. To receive presentation from TUSLA – Child and Family Agency (Mr. Gerard Lowry, Area Manager)**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Gerard Lowry, Area Manager TUSLA and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr. Lowry explained that the purpose of TUSLA was set up under the 1995 Act to promote the welfare of children not receiving adequate care and attention. It also promotes positive and enduring change in the lives of children and families. He circulated details of the TUSLA Cavan and Monaghan Organisation Structure and outlined the various sections within that structure, together with contact details for the services provided. There are currently 75 staff employed across the two counties. He stated that in 2016 there were approximately 1,000 referrals, with 200 of these going for further assessment.

Mr. Lowry then responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Lowry for his presentation.

**16. Questions:**

**Clr S. Coyle asked:**

1. Can Monaghan County Council give an update on the time scale for the proposed flood management works following the O.P.W. Consultation on the National CFRAM Programme in Ballybay town, its surrounding area and the other proposed works in County Monaghan?

**Reply:- The final Flood Risk Management Plans are currently being reviewed by the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform and will then go forward for Ministerial Approval. It is anticipated that Ministerial Approval will be given in October 2017.**

2. Will Monaghan County Council outline in detail:

- (a) Current Housing waiting lists for each Town/Village/Settlement in County Monaghan?

**Reply:- The number of housing applicants per area is itemised below. The figures below refer to applicants' areas of first preference only and do not refer to areas of 2nd and 3rd preference. The figures below also includes 60 applications that are currently undergoing assessment and have not yet been included on the housing list:**

<b>Annyalla</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Knockatallon</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Ballinode</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Latton</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Ballybay</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>Magheracloone</b>	<b>1</b>

Bawn	1	Monaghan	392
Carrickmacross	252	Newbliss	9
Carrickroe	1	Oram	6
Castleblayney	183	Rockcorry	4
Clones	87	Scotshouse	7
Clontibret	1	Scotstown	10
Doohamlet	5	Smithboro	9
Emyvale	33	Threemilehouse	2
Glaslough	11	Tyholland	3
Inniskeen	10		

- (b) The number of social housing units constructed/purchased by this Council since 1st January 2017?

**Reply:-** In 2017 Monaghan County Council has successfully purchased 24 private properties and taken ownership of 16 turnkey properties to date in 2017. A further 23 turnkey properties is projected to be provided by Quarter 1 2018. It is envisaged that the construction of 8 houses at Bree, Castleblayney will commence in Q1 of 2018.

- (c) The area of land in the possession of the Council in each Town/Village/Settlement currently for the construction of Social Housing?

**Reply:-** Monaghan County Council has a small/limited area of land available for social housing in County Monaghan located at Bree, Castleblayney and Latlorcan, Monaghan.

Monaghan County Council has been actively pursuing purchases of significant parcels of land for the building of housing schemes but has so far been unsuccessful in 2017. As an alternative measure the Council has taken the step of encouraging the development of social housing on privately owned land by way of “turnkey developments” (pre-construction acquisitions) resulting in contracts being signed for the acquisition of 39 social houses to be built on private land, 12 have been completed & occupied to date and it is envisaged all will be occupied in Q1 of 2018. In May 2017, Monaghan County Council re-advertised in the Northern Standard and on [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie) for the purchase of houses and/or land for social housing purposes in County Monaghan and the response to the advertisements was satisfactory. Advertising in this manner allows the Council to target the purchase of individual houses that are available on the open market throughout County Monaghan.

In addition to the advert referred to above Monaghan County Council is actively sourcing social housing via Approved Housing Bodies, Buy & Renewal Scheme & Repair & Leasing Scheme, details of all schemes can be viewed on the Monaghan County Council website [www.monaghan.ie/housing](http://www.monaghan.ie/housing)

- (d) The number of Social Housing Units in the possession of the Council currently unoccupied?

**Reply:-** The number of casual vacancies currently undergoing re-letting works is 17 of which,



**4 have been offered to and accepted by housing applicants with tenancy agreement pending.**

**2 have been designated for 2 applicants with specific housing requirements**

**Remaining 11 will be offered to applicants prior to completion of current re-letting works**

**In addition there are 4 long term vacant units in Castleblayney which are currently undergoing substantial re-letting works and will be returned to use in 2018.**

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

3. (a) How many houses does this Council expect to allocate in the area of Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD in 2018 and where are these becoming available?

**Reply:- Monaghan County Council hopes to be in a position to allocate approximately 100 houses in the Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District in 2018 as follows:**

<b>Oliver Plunkett Park Voids</b>	<b>4 (long term vacant social houses returned to use)</b>
<b>Casual Vacancies</b>	<b>20 (vacant houses arising at various locations in the MD)</b>
<b>Newly acquired houses</b>	<b>20 (houses purchased at various locations in the MD)</b>
<b>Lough na Glack CALF</b>	<b>11 (houses provided in conjunction with an AHB)</b>
<b>Magheross CALF</b>	<b>33 (houses provided in conjunction with an AHB)</b>
<b>Carrickmacross Part V</b>	<b>9 (social houses built within a private housing estate)</b>
<b>Castleblayney Turnkey</b>	<b>4 (subject to Planning and Department approval)</b>

- (b) How do these compare with the figures agreed with the Department last year under the Housing Action Plan?

**Reply:- The target agreed under the Housing Action Plan approximates to 50 social houses per year for County Monaghan. The target includes the "Long Term Derelict Voids Programme", "Returning Vacant Social Housing to Productive Use", House Purchases, Part V and New Builds. Monaghan County Council's Housing Section avails of every funding opportunity that becomes available and exceeds the targets with the cooperation and agreement of the Department.**

4. (a) What is the up to date position with the TII regarding a design for the upgrade of the N2 between Ardee and Castleblayney?

**Reply:- Monaghan County Council, Louth County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) met to discuss the appropriate response to the detailed safety review of the existing N2 which was recently undertaken by Monaghan County Council. All parties agreed that the improvement of a 36km section of the existing N2 from North of Ardee to the South of the Castleblayney Bypass be progressed as a major road project. It was also agreed that Monaghan County Council would be the lead Authority subject to approval of a section 85 agreement between both Local Authorities.**

**This allows Monaghan County Council and Louth County Council, with the support of TII, to commence the establishment of a project team and the procurement of**

**Technical Advisors to bring the scheme from inception to the preparation of CPO/ EIS and Business Case in order to seek approval from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport to proceed with making a planning application. The conclusion of this work will allow for project requirements to be established and identify the financial commitment required to develop this major project.**

- (b) When is the earliest we can expect to have a preliminary design as to allow the public see at first hand?

**Reply:- It is anticipated that a scheme of this size could take up to two years to develop to preliminary Design stage.**

5. (a) Is this Council concerned at the recent announcement by Irish Water that County Monaghan will receive less funding over the next few years?

**Reply:- Irish Water plan to invest almost €2.1bn between 2017 and 2021 on schemes to improve water quality, secure water supply, reduce water leakage and improve the wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure. The utility reports that it spent €860 million on water and wastewater projects between 2014 and 2016. Future capital investment by the utility is targeted at addressing water and wastewater infrastructure deficiencies in line with the short and medium priorities identified in the 'Water Services Strategic Plan'. While investment in our county is always welcomed, the number of priority projects identified in the latest Irish Water Capital Investment Plan is limited, primarily because, our water and wastewater infrastructure performs well in comparison to similar infrastructure in other parts of the country.**

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

6. Owing to the renewed focus on vacant properties by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, has the executive assigned responsibility to a 'Vacant housing officer'?

- (a) Will extra funding be allocated by the department for the a new member of staff or,  
(b) Will this work be added to an existing member of the housing section's staff?

**Reply: On the basis of Circular letter PL7/2017 dated 25 August, 2017 that issued from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government the Council is conducting an initial overview of the level of vacant homes in the county. As a consequence of the overview, the Council will consider the staffing structure.**

7. What is the current annual target for Co. Monaghan to purchase/build new houses for the social housing stock?

- (a) Are we above or below that target each year?

**Reply:-The target agreed under the Housing Action Plan approximates to 50 social houses per year for County Monaghan. The target includes the "Long Term Derelict Voids Programme", "Returning Vacant Social Housing to Productive Use", House Purchases, Part V and New Builds. Monaghan County Council's Housing Section avails of every funding opportunity that becomes available and exceeds the annual targets with the cooperation and agreement of the Department. In 2016 Monaghan County**

Council received €6million in funding for social housing, which was €1.25million more than the share of the National funding that would normally be expected for County Monaghan. In 2017 Monaghan County Council will receive more than €12million in funding for social housing, which is more than double the amount that would be expected for a County the size of Monaghan. If funding continues to be provided at this level Monaghan County Council will potentially be in a position to make between 75 to 100 social houses available each year for the duration of the Rebuilding Programme.

(b) What is the breakdown of extra units being added to the stock each year since 2014?

**Reply:- The number of additional units added to housing stock per year is as follows:**

**2014 – 5 units**

**2015 - 22 units**

**2016 – 25 units**

**2017 – 37 units to date with an additional 24 house purchases currently being processed. An additional 23 turnkey units to be provided by Q1 of 2018.**

8. Has the executive received any update from the HSE in relation to the management of the Group Home for persons with physical and sensory difficulties in Carrickmacross and when is it envisaged that the premises will be opened and in use?

**Reply from H.S.E:- The running of this development will be contingent on funding availability at the time of completion. It is envisaged that this home shall be run by an external service provider.**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

9. What actions, if any, is Monaghan County Council taking in relation to the increasing prevalence of Japanese knotweed and given how destructive this weed can be to the environment & to buildings including dwellings?

**Reply:- The TII cater for the National Road Network in the treatment of this invasive species and Westmeath County Council is the lead Authority in this regard. Where Japanese knotweed is evident on the non national network, Monaghan County Council is killing the species by spraying method.**

10. How many individuals/families have applied for the new tenant purchase scheme; how many applicants have been successful to-date. What is the breakdown in terms of the discounts available to purchase a home?

**Reply:- To date we have received 61 applications for the Tenant Purchase Scheme. Of those applications, 11 have been refused while 21 have been requested to provide further information which is currently awaited or being assessed. 20 applicants have had letters of offer and a further 9 are at valuation stage.**

**Of the 11 refusals – the applicants were either under the €15,000 income limit or have no income from employment with the sole source of income being from the Department of Social Protection.**

**The Tenants Incremental Purchase Scheme provides discounts against the market value of a dwelling house. The discount is based on the gross annual income of the applicant as follows:**

<b>Gross Annual Income</b>	<b>Discount</b>
Between €15,000 and €20,000	60%
Between € 20,001 and € 29,999	50%
€ 30,000 or more	40%

11. How many individuals/families are currently on Monaghan County Council's Housing Waiting List; has the Council an estimate of how many vacant properties suitable for homes are in the county?

**Reply:- The number of applicants currently on the housing list is 1039. Of this number 543 applicants are in receipt of social housing support in the form of either RAS, HAP, Voluntary or Council Housing. The figure for applicants not in receipt of some form of social housing support is 496 (net housing need figure).**

**Figures for the year 2016 from the Central Statistics Office show the number of vacant housing units in County Monaghan to be 3,126.**

12. How much land (land banks) has Monaghan County Council in its ownership available for public house building, industry or civic use; what is the breakdown per area?

**Reply:- Among the limited land holdings in the Council's ownership are O'Neill's Farm, Monaghan; Latlorcan, Monaghan; Convent Lands, Carrickmacross and lands at Lough Muckno, Castleblayney. The Council is currently developing a Property Interest Register (PIR) in accordance with the National Property Register Programme. The full breakdown will be available when the P.I.R. is completed.**

13. Is there any further update from the Department in relation to the relaxing of the Local Needs (locals only) policy rule?

**Reply:- The Planning Authority has received no further update on this matter from the Department since the issue of Circular letter PL 2/2017 on 31 May 2017.**

**Cllr S. Conlon asked:**

14. Regarding St Davnet's Catholic Church and Church of Ireland Church and their status as Structures of Regional Importance, what amount of funding has been allocated in the last five years through Monaghan County Council to aid in their structural integrity and preservation? Was the allocation granted for specific works or building? What agency / institution was the funding allocated? What funding streams are available through MCC to ensure these Churches are protected from deterioration?

**Reply:- Monaghan County Council is responsible for the management of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF), both of which**

are funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Catholic Church within the grounds of St Davnets Hospital was awarded € 10,000 under the BHIS 2017, and the Church of Ireland was awarded €30,000 under the SRF 2017, for repairs and maintenance. No other applications were received in respect of these structures thorough built heritage funding schemes during the previous five years, and the amounts outlined above represent the total awards during this period.

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

15. Can the Council outline the progress and / or completion of projects under CLÁR funding for both 2016 and 2017?

**Reply: A report on Rural Grant Schemes is set out below.**

<b>REDZ - 2016</b>		<b>Grant Aid received</b>	<b>% of Project now completed</b>
<b>Town and Village 2016- List of projects funded</b>		<b>Grant Aid received</b>	<b>% of Project now completed</b>
New footpath + Landscaping	Scotstown	<b>€42,250</b>	100%
New footpath	Rockcorry	<b>€42,250</b>	100%
Road Safety measures	Glaslough	<b>€26,500</b>	95%
Main St Lighting	Castleblayney	<b>€38,750</b>	50%
Dawson St Refurbishment	Monaghan	<b>€100,000</b>	95%
Provision of parking area and paving	Inniskeen	<b>€20,250</b>	100%
Refurbishment of Main St	Carrickmacross	<b>€67,750</b>	50%
Additional Car park in Town Park/ refurbishment of Mart Entrance	Ballybay	<b>€42,250</b>	100%
<b>Total</b>		<b>€380,000</b>	
<b>CLÁR 2016 - Measure 1 (CLÁR Safety package for Schools/Community Facilities)</b>		<b>Grant Aid received</b>	<b>% of Project now completed</b>
Road marking on approach roads to the school	St. Patrick's NS, Clara, Emyvale,	<b>€2,000</b>	100%
Road marking & ramps on approach roads to the school	Deravoy NS, Emyvale	<b>€6,000</b>	100%
Erection of speed safety signs	Tydavnet NS, Tydavnet	<b>€14,000</b>	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	Knockconan NS, Emyvale	<b>€2,000</b>	100%
Erection of speed safety signs at the Oakland Community Centre	Glaslough	<b>€7,000</b>	100%
The provision of public lighting to the Community Hall.	Clontibret Community Hall	<b>€25,000</b>	100%
Purchase of 2 sets of speed safety signs and Road marking on approach roads	Lisdoonan National School, Carrickmacross	<b>€8,000</b>	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	Scoil Phadraig, Corduff Carrickmacross	<b>€1,000</b>	100%

Road marking on approach roads to the school	Scoil Ath Na Bh-Fearcon, Aghnafarcon, Castleblayney	€1,000	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	Scoil Naisiunta Cholmcille, Blackstaff, Carrickmacross	€1,000	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	Scoil Naomh Padraig, Oram, Castleblayney	€1,000	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	Scoil Maisiunta Blaithin Iosa, Magheracloone, Carrickmacross	€1,000	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	St. Patrick's National School, Broomfield, Castleblayney	€1,000	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	Naomh Micheal, Donaghmoyne, Carrickmacross	€1,000	100%
Road marking on approach roads to the school	Scoil Naomh Deagha, Inniskeen	€1,000	100%
Erection of a pedestrian crossing at the school	Lisdoonan National School, Carrickmacross,	€22,000	100%
Erection of a pedestrian crossing at the school	Scoil Phadraig NS, Corduff, C'macross	€22,000	100%
Erection of safety lights	Newbliss National School, Newbliss	€30,000	100%
Provision of a carpark at the school	Magherarney National School, Smithborough	€30,000	80% to be completed by 31.08.17
Erection of speed safety signs	Knockatallon Village, Knockatallon	€7,000	100%
Erection of a new pedestrian crossing in the village	Scotshouse Village, Clones	€22,000	100%
		€205,000.00	
<b>CLÁR 2016 - Measure 2 (Outdoor Play Facilities Enhancement Scheme/Support for the development of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA))</b>		<b>Grant Aid received</b>	<b>% of Project now completed</b>
Purchase of specific equipment for disabled users	Town Park, Ballybay	€9,600.00	100%
Playground equipment for the village park.	Scotshouse Village, Clones	€29,040.00	100%
Upgrading trails and footpaths	Billy Fox Memorial Park, Bawn	€8,000.00	100%
Upgrade playground	Ardbannagher Playground, Glaslough	€40,000.00	100%
		€86,640.00	
<b>CLÁR 2016 - Measure 3 ( Local Access Roads )</b>		<b>Grant Aid received</b>	<b>% of Project now completed</b>
Improve access to the Penal Cross.	Bragan Mountain / Sliabh Beagh	€4,800.00	100%
Improve access to the Mass Rock.	Bragan Mountain / Sliabh Beagh	€9,600.00	100%

Improve access to the amenity area at Emy Lake.	Emyvale	<b>€20,000.00</b>	100%
Provision of a Car park at Clontibret Church of Ireland/'Battle of Clontibret' Site.	Clontibret	<b>€30,400.00</b>	100%
<b>Total</b>		<b>€64,800.00</b>	

16. Can the Council outline the progress and / or completion of projects under the Town and Village Renewal programme for 2016 and when does the Council expect to hear of funding approval for projects for 2017?

**Reply:- Allocations to the 2017 Clar scheme were recently announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The promoters of all projects successful in being allocated funding under this scheme have been contacted and their agreement to the terms and conditions attaching to the funding is being sought. In relation to the Town & Village programme for 2017, Monaghan County Council has not been given an indicative timeframe as to when the outcome of the Department's deliberations will be announced.**

17. What is Council policy with regard to dog fouling in amenity areas such as pathways and playgrounds and does the council have a plan to get tough on the issue particularly considering the health risks for children?

**Reply:- An on the spot fine (€150) can be issued to the owners of such dogs. However, fines can only be issued in instances where the dogs are actually caught in the act of fouling. Monaghan County Council is continually trying to increase awareness in this area and many public areas now have signs informing dog owners that they may be liable for an on-the spot fine. A number of awareness campaigns on social media on the issue have been conducted. Dispensers for dog bags have been erected throughout the County, in such areas as Monaghan Greenway and Lisanisk Lake. In addition, the litter warden and dog warden have conducted a number of joint patrols on amenity areas such as parks and playgrounds to enforce the relevant legislation.**

#### **17. Notices of Motion:**

Consideration of notices of motion 17 (1) – 17 (5) were deferred to the October Council meeting.

#### **18. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.**

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

- The family of the late Tommy Crudden, Killyneil, Monaghan.
- Patsy Treanor, a former member of Monaghan County Council on the death of his wife Margaret, RIP
- John Murray and Carmel O'Hare, Council staff on the death of their mother, Ann Murray, RIP.

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

- Conor Duffy and his Coach Francis Boylan on his recent success in the All Ireland Athletic final 5K race.
- Niamh Malone and coach Brian Peppard on her recent success in the national final of the 400m hurdles.
- The Arts Office and all those associated with the successful staging of the Harvest Time Blues Festival, an iconic annual event that commentators and publications herald as one of the top 10 Blues Festivals held throughout Europe.
- Seamus O'Regan, MP for Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada on his recent inclusion to the Government Cabinet of Premier Justin Trudeau, as Minister for Veterans Affairs. The Council commends his efforts at enhancing Irish-Canadian relations through his roles as Chairman of the Canada-Ireland Inter Parliamentary Group.
- Carrickmacross Arts Festival Committee for the success of the Arts Festival – a very successful exhibition of all aspects of Arts and Culture in the county.

## 19. Conferences/Training

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed*

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
The Centre for Cross Border Studies	Towards a New Common Chapter	NICVA, Belfast	11th September 2017	Cllr. P. Treanor
LAMA	Waste Management – Better Energy	Hotel Manila, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. A. Campbell
AILG Training	Wellbeing for Councillors	Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr J. Crowe
AILG Training	Wellbeing for Councillors	Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork,	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017	Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. Connolly
AILG Autumn Seminar	Brexit	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo	11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. D Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. A. Campbell



**Urgent Business:**

**(i) Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr. P. Treanor seconded**

Monaghan County Council calls on Government, in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders to re-assess current legislation regarding school transport with a view to ensuring that the maximum level of primary and secondary students are facilitated.

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed.

It was agreed that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Education, Department of Education, Bus Eireann and all local authorities.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **Cathaoirleach**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Meetings Administrator**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_