

## Municipal District of Monaghan.

### **Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Monaghan held in the Boardroom, Mtek 1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at 3.00pm.**

Cllr. Robbie Gallagher presided.

**Present:** Cllrs. David Maxwell, Paudge Connolly, Sean Conlon, Brian McKenna and Seamus Treanor.

**In Attendance:** Mr Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Mr. Dermot Deeney, District Engineer, Ms. Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Ms Bernie McMahan, Staff Officer, Mr Fintan McPhillips, Economic & Community Development, Mr Alan Barr, RPS Environmental Consultant, Mr Aidan Harney, OPW, Mr Pdraig Maguire, A/ Senior Executive Planner.

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed the Chief Executive, Eamon Sullivan and the Economic & Community Officer, Mr Fintan McPhillips and all to the meeting. The Chief Executive thanked the Cathaoirleach and stated that he looked forward to working with the members and the MD staff. At the outset, Cllr Maxwell requested an urgent discussion on the issue of anti-social behaviour in the town and it was agreed that the issue would be discussed at the end of the meeting. Mr McPhillips was invited to give a presentation on the LECP to the members.

#### **1. Presentation and approval of Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan:**

Mr McPhillips gave a brief outline to the members on work to date, goals, actions and the timescale of the plan. Cllr Gallagher thanked him and a question and answer session followed. On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr Connolly, all members approved the LECP.

#### **2. Confirmation of Minutes:**

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna seconded by Cllr. Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 be confirmed.

#### **3. Presentation on CFRAM's Options Report:**

Cllr. Gallagher welcomed Mr Barr, RPS and Mr Harney OPW to the meeting and invited them to give a presentation on the CFRAM's Options Report to the members.

Mr Barr gave an overview of the Consultation today in the Four Seasons Hotel and both consultants answered questions from members. They informed the members that potential solutions to flooding problems in Monaghan town will cost in the region of €13.5 million to implement. They advised that a further report will be available later in the summer and additional information is available on [www.cfram.ie/newsletterno.6](http://www.cfram.ie/newsletterno.6)

Cllr. Gallagher also thanked Mr Maguire for his work on the project to date.

#### **4. Matters arising:**

Cllr Conlon referred to correspondence received from David Lane, Bus Eireann, informing the members that the NTA will fund the installation of a Real Time Information Display, and other works associated with accessibility to include new customer facilities at Monaghan Bus Station.

All members agreed that the meeting with NTA at their Dublin offices was a useful and positive exercise and their persistent lobbying has paid off. Cllr Maxwell suggested we ask Mr Lane if the NTA are providing a night time customer area and, if not, will Bus Eireann be providing this facility. Cllr Maxwell asked had the severe ramp at Clontibret been investigated to which Mr Deeney responded that this ramp has been removed.

Cllr McKenna requested that the minutes of the Town Team meetings be circulated to the members. He asked that the landowner at Quiglough be contacted again to cut the hedges.

Cllr Connolly stated that the bottle bank at Sam's Diner was greatly missed and asked had another location been sought. Mr McElwain responded that he will discuss with Environment Section.

Mr McElwain advised the members that tenders are being sought for the next phase of the Land Use and Transport study (LUTS) which will develop a transport model for Monaghan Town area.

Cllr Treanor welcomed the response from Irish Water and Cllr Gallagher agreed that the sewerage system in Monaghan must be addressed when the new Government is in place.

## **5. Report from Co-ordinator:**

The Report was circulated to the members and Mr McElwain outlined the program and the events ahead.

Cllr McKenna thanked the HSE for showing the new facilities at St Marys and the visit to St Davnet's grounds. All members agreed that the tour was informative and received a positive message that their door is always open. Cllr McKenna added that there are no buildings suitable at St Davnets for a nursing home and that there is a section of ground for new build if funding became available.

A lengthy discussion took place on St Davnet's complex.

Cllr McKenna requested a list of works for flooded areas. In relation to Shaw's Corner, Cllr McKenna suggested that we request the Gardai to monitor the speed of traffic coming from the Aughnacloy direction.

Mr McElwain answered questions in relation to the road surface on the Broad Road, the speed of traffic on the North Road and the provision of a Disabled Bay in Emyvale village,

Cllr Gallagher complimented the staff on their work on the Labour Activation Scheme.

Mr McElwain reminded members that the next meeting of St Patrick's Day committee will be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, in the Market House at 6pm.

Cllr Conlon circulated a brief description on Canada Day and outlined to members the proposed festivities for Canada Day which is proposed to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. He asked members for their support and is liaising with Ms Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer and the MD Office regarding funding. Cllr Maxwell suggested that the members have a meal with the Ambassador of Miramichi and Prince Edward Island. Cllr Conlon agreed to discuss the application with Carmel Murphy of the MD office.

Cllr Gallagher suggested that the 200 year anniversary of Charles Gavin Duffy should be marked in an appropriate fashion, and also his daughter, Louise who was involved in the 1916 Rising, he asked the MD to contact Ms Carmel Thornton of the 1916 Steering Group in relation to this.

## **6. Questions:**

Cllr. Sean Conlon asked:

1. Following the recent refusal by the County Council Centenary Committee to support the staging of the highly anticipated 'Macalla 1916' performances by the 60 member Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Folk Orchestra at the Garage Theatre next month, that in the absence of an appeal process, can Council Executive assist with providing alternative sources to ensure this Centenary event proceeds as scheduled?

**Response: Any request for funding not provided for specifically in the Annual Budget should be made to the County Council Corporate Policy Group.**

2. Will Council Executive please outline what steps have been taken and progress made on securing the long sought after walking / cycling greenway alongside the Monaghan by-pass?

**Response: MCC is participating in a cross-border project which hopefully will see the existing Greenway extended. IF the project comes off, we hope to include a spur line along the by-pass to accommodate the people who are risking their lives by walking the by-pass presently. Please ask them to stop. It's not safe. We will not know the outcome of our project's funding application until OCTOBER. We are reliant on this funding coming through to progress our plans. If the funding comes through, we expect to have the pathway constructed by mid 2020.**

Cllr Robbie Gallagher asked:

1. Can the council provide an update on the ongoing discussions between the council and Coillte in relation to the council taking over the grounds of Rossmore Park, when will the negotiations be completed and what services can the public expect to see there?

**Response: Discussions are ongoing regarding the memorandum of understanding in which both Coillte and Monaghan County Council will work together for the betterment of Rossmore Park. It is anticipated that this agreement will be in place in the very near future. The initial plan is to put additional resources into the upkeep of the existing park. A committee will be set up to plan the future of the park.**

2. Can the council examine the possibility of resurfacing the dangerous surface at Old Park Court housing estate on Clones Road, Monaghan?

**Response: The LT55163 road through the estate has been inspected and pothole repairs will be carried out. Long term patching repairs will be carried out as part of the next patching contract.**

3. Has the council agreed a site with Monaghan Tidy Towns for the 1916 commemorative garden?

**Response: A number of sites were discussed with Tidy towns, it is proposed to meet with Tidy Towns this week to finalise the site which best suits the funding available and nature of the project.**

4. What progress has been made with regard to the development of a Youth Café in Monaghan Town?

**Response: Monaghan County Council in conjunction with the various agencies of Monaghan Youth Network have engaged the services of MCA Consulting to conduct a feasibility study which will look at the development of a Cross Border Regional Youth Facility. The aim of the study is to investigate options for developing a purpose built youth centre which could meet the needs of young people in the Region. The process will require significant consultation with young people, stakeholders, community and voluntary groups and statutory agencies. The study is expected to be completed in March.**

## 7. Motions:

**Notice submitted by Cllr. Gallagher:**

“That the council would request that all political parties and candidates ensure that when election posters are being removed after elections that cable ties and or other fixings would also be completely and promptly removed to facilitate the community groups and Tidy Towns groups working in our towns and villages”

Cllr Gallagher outlined the motion and wished all candidates well and encouraged all people to cast their vote. On the proposal of Cllr. Gallagher, seconded by Cllr. Connolly, the motion was unanimously carried.

**Notice submitted by Cllr Connolly:**

“In view of the fact that safety measures recently completed at Shaw's corner in Emyvale village which were designed to prevent traffic mounting the footpath and the fact that on January 16th a car mounted the footpath and struck a wall that Monaghan Municipal District calls on TII to review and undertake the necessary measures to further improve the safety of pedestrians, residents and motorists at this blackspot”

Cllr Connolly outlined the motion and a brief discussion took place to explore the possibilities to improve road safety at Shaw's corner.

All members agreed that we write to the TII, that in order to improve road safety at Shaw's Corner in Emyvale, that a “Next Generation Traffic Lights System” be installed at the North entrance to the village.

**8. Correspondence:**

Notification on Public Consultation Day for Flood Risk Management Options, Monaghan.  
Letter from Teach na nDaoine requesting an opportunity to present their project ‘Operation Eco Park’. On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed.

Letter from the Margaret Skinnider Appreciation Society dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Mr McElwain advised that he had since received a phone call stating that they may not want to proceed with naming the roundabout and would prefer a plaque. The Society will be contacted in relation to this matter.

Email from Adult Literacy Board requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to the members. Mr McElwain responded that the board are now giving presentation to the LCDC.  
Letter from Irish Water dated 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 regarding the main sewerage system in Monaghan Town.

A motion from the MD of Ballybay-Clones in relation to the provision of respite beds in County Monaghan. A response to issue advising that there will be 26 beds in place in Castleblayney and Monaghan.

Letter from the Department of Justice and Equality dated 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 acknowledging receipt of our correspondence and their referral of it to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for their attention.

Letter from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources dated 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 acknowledging correspondence in relation to waste water and sewerage systems and their referral of it to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Letter from the Office of Social Protection dated 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 acknowledging receipt of correspondence in relation to State Pensions.

Letter from Department of Social Protection dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 regarding State Pension.

Email from David Lane, Bus Eireann, detailing an update on progress of proposed works at Monaghan Bus Station.

Email from Mr McElwain to the members dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 in relation to location of the Garden of Remembrance.

Email from Mr McElwain to the members in relation to proposed monument to Don Juan Mac Kenna.

**Anti-Social Behaviour:**

Cllr Maxwell stated that people are scared to walk the streets at night, particularly Dublin Street, at the weekends for fear of being attacked. Cllr Maxwell proposed, seconded by Cllr Treanor, that we invite the Gardai to our next meeting to clarify the situation regarding policing our town at the weekends. Cllr Treanor requested that due to acts of vandalism, could gates be placed on the Dublin Street alleyway and be closed between 8pm and 6am. Alternative actions should be explored first. Cllr McKenna stated that we should talk to Gardai before it gets out of control. Cllr Gallagher stated that one could not overplay the importance of having Gardai on the streets and the need for Gardai back on the streets to act as a deterrent.

Cllr Connolly suggested that we should write to the incoming Government to seek funding for CCTV in the town.

Meeting concluded.

Dated this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**