

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 Building, Knockaconny on Tuesday, 14th March, 2017 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell presided.

Present: Cllrs. Sean Conlon, Raymond Aughey, Brian McKenna, Seamus Treanor and Paudge Connolly.

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Municipal District Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Connolly, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 20th February, 2017 be confirmed.

2. Matters arising:

Mr McElwain advised the members that the LUTS model is being re-run to consider additional areas and a report is expected back in April. Cllr Aughey agreed to bring his motion forward to the April meeting.

3. Presentation by Town Team Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain advised that Mr Connolly will have an update for our April meeting.

4. Report from MD Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report which was circulated to the members.

Cllr Maxwell advised that the consultants completing the Master plan for Rossmore Forest Park will come back first to Coillte for their input, then the MD for their input and back to the Stakeholder's Committee, hope to have Draft Plan by the end of April and launch by end of May.

Cllr Aughey advised the members that the recommendations on the Revised Speed limits was out to consultation any further issues in relation to speed limits should be brought forward now.

Cllr Conlon queried the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan to which Mr McElwain responded that this was the Backlands between the Shopping centre and Dublin Street. Cllr Conlon asked was there any progress on co-ordination of works on Dawson Street to which Mr Deeney responded that water works will be on the road and MD works are on footpath and any overlap will be coordinated.

Cllr Treanor requested that landscaping be carried out at Corlat and Drumhirk as the area was unsightly approaching the town. He added the good news that the Council have

succeeded in purchasing land and a number of unfinished houses at Latlurcan Glen. Cllr Conlon stated that he has been pursuing this issue from October 2011 and the provision of houses at Latlurcan Glen and Cootehill Road is welcomed to meet the ever-lengthening Housing Waiting List.

Cllr Aughey advised that the Crocus Run is at 1pm on St Patrick's Day and the Worshipful Mayor of Douglas will open the run.

Cllr Treanor requested a sign for Westenra Terrace.

Cllr Maxwell wished Glaslough all the best in the Entente Florale Competition.

5. Questions and Answers:

Cllr Connolly asked:

1. In relation to the 4.5KM Greenway in Monaghan town and view of the fact that during rain showers and for a period of time after large puddles form and in some places right across the walkway will Monaghan Municipal consider making run off channels to alleviate this problem?

Response: Maintenance works on the Greenway is ongoing and channel outlets will be made where necessary to alleviate drainage problems.

2. In relation to the new pedestrian traffic lights at Beech Hill College will Monaghan MD consider yellow junction box markings on the town side of the lights opposite the Armagh Rd/Cathedral exodus to facilitate traffic turning towards Monaghan town?

Response: The Monaghan MD will investigate the current road markings and layout at this junction and will consider if additional yellow box markings can be added.

3. In relation to Cnoc Na Greine Tydavnet and in view of the response which I received in Feb ie "As none of the dwellings within this development are occupied it is not classed as an unfinished estate (development)" I would like to clarify that houses 1 to 6 are occupied and houses 7 to 12 are unoccupied and unfinished for over 10 years.

A What is the current status of this development?

B What is the current planning status of this development?

C Clarification regarding the "In the event of funding becoming available from the Dept then Monaghan Co Co will endeavour to allocate such funding to this site? Does this imply that the council own this development?"

D In view of the acute shortage of housing in this area what steps can this council take to ensure that these houses are finished and made fit for occupation?

E In 2014 Monaghan Co Co requested the release of the security bond of €30,000 ...What response was received to this request?

Response:

A The status of this development (overall) is that house numbers 1-6 are occupied, and houses 7-12 are unoccupied and the site area associated with houses 7-12 remains unfinished.

Services are in place to serve house numbers 1-6 inclusive.

The developer undertook works in 2015 & 2016 to complete the footpath along the road frontage and provided a fence to prevent pedestrian access to the unfinished area of the site.

B Planning permission as relates to the entirety of the site has now lapsed.

C This does not imply that the Council owns the site. The reference to funding becoming available refers to any funding initiatives which the Department may launch during 2017 to facilitate completion works to residential estates which are already occupied. In 2016, this funding initiative was provided under the 'National Taking in Charge Initiative'. To date, the Council is not aware of any such funding being made for 2017.

D The Council can only respond to purchase dwellings where owners/developers express an interest and willingness to enter negotiations with the Council.

In this particular case, despite a public notice being placed in 2016 seeking expressions of interest from developers/owners of dwellings within the County, no reply was received in respect of this site.

E No reply was received in respect of the 'bond claim' as lodged. The Council are proceeding with legal action to pursue recovery of this financial bond.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed by all members to arrange a meeting with Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner and Ronan Woods, Executive Planner to answer questions on both Cnoc Na Greine and Carrickroe Housing Developments. Also to invite a representative of the Community to the meeting.

Cllr Aughey asked:

1. What was the cost of power-hosing the footpaths in Monaghan Town last year. This was much complimented by residents and businesses. Can the job be repeated in 2017 in advance of Tidy Towns judging?

Response: It cost €11,267 to power hose the footpaths in Monaghan Town in 2016. The job is included in the Schedule of Works 2017 in advance of Tidy Town judging.

2. Tipperary County Council will be introducing a litter sweeper device to automate the removal of litter from road verges in 2017. Can the MD investigate and assess the possible use of the funnel & sweeper device which is attached to a truck, currently used by many local authorities across the country. The device is operated from within the truck using a joystick and it also has a camera that will provide information on the type and source of litter disposed of on our roads.

Response: The device referenced is newly invented by staff of Tipperary County Council in association with Gleeson Engineering Ltd. and went into service in January 2017.

It appears to be an impressive innovation and I have contacted Tipperary County Council staff for information.

- **The sweeper truck is presently a 5 week trail in each of their municipal districts.**
- **The cost of fitting out a truck is approx €12,000 that includes all of the fittings and labour.**
- **It is not the finished product as yet and there will be some modifications to make after the trials are finished.**
- **Tipperary will update us on how the trials are going.**

The Monaghan County Council machinery yard engineer will maintain contact with Tipperary County Council staff and assess the effectiveness of the device for use in Monaghan at a later date.

3. Can the council provide an update on proposed new future road network around Monaghan town?

Response: Future road networks around Monaghan Town are being assessed as part of the Land Use and Transport Study (LUTS). The LUTS model is being re run to consider additional areas and a report is expected back start of April.

4. What plans are being put in place across the MD for the National Spring Clean this year?

Response: Spring Clean is a Nationwide anti litter initiative that is held during the month of April. As in previous years, Monaghan County Council will be encouraging local groups to participate by organising a "Spring Clean" in their area. Monaghan County Council will support these groups by providing resources such as litter collection, litter pickers and bags. If any group wishes to participate they should contact Monaghan County Council's environment section on 042 9661240.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1. Following on from the failed Aldi planning application and with the increasing deterioration of surface and inadequate drainage in the Municipal car park located at the traffic lights referred to as McNally's car park, what measures are being considered to reduce potential of flooding and damage to vehicles?

Response: The Monaghan MD carried out the following works in Quarter 4 of 2016 in an effort to reduce the potential of flooding in what is referred to as McNally's car park:-

- a) **The culvert and pipes which runs underneath this Car park was inspected using trained divers fitted with CCTV equipment to examine the condition of same.**
- b) **Complete jetting and CCTV survey of the culvert from the Glen Rd to the Castle Rd was carried out on foot of the inspection works. Removal and disposal of a build up of silt and debris took place and taken off site.**
- c) **Dredging and de-silting works were carried out on Shambles River at the rear of the Credit Union building for 200m and removed off site.**
- d) **Works were also carried out on the Ulster Canal with 2Nr pipes jetted and CCTV work also carried out to in an effort to prevent an overspill from the Canal into the carpark.**
- e) **A new concrete weir, headwalls ,and wing walls were constructed along with a trash screen installed to prevent debris entering existing pipework on Ulster Canal.**

These works should help reduce the potential of flooding and Monaghan Municipal District will endeavour to ensure all pipework etc. is maintained and operational. Patching of potholes was also carried out in the carpark last week.

Cllr Conlon stated that McNally's Car Park had a very uneven surface causing flooding and cars damaged as a result. He complimented the drainage and jetting works done to date but surface works are required urgently. Mr Murray responded that this car park will be included in discussions on the Car Parking Strategy.

2. In a measure towards assisting the efforts of Tidy Towns and litter pick campaigns, will Executive liaise with Courts Services and relevant agencies requesting 'community service' hours are allocated towards litter retrieval?

Response: The Executive met with Ms Irene Gilmore, Senior Probation Officer in January this year and was advised that allocation of community Service is no problem. Monaghan Tidy Towns has benefitted from the assistance of community services through the Courts Service for some ten years or more. The Probation Officer supervisor is most accommodating in targeting areas in need of clean ups and available on Wednesdays and Thursdays every week. The contact number for Monaghan Tidy Towns was given to the Probation Officer in relation to allocating suitable work.

8. Presentation on Sir Charles Gavin Duffy:

Emer Brennan gave a presentation on Sir Charles Gavin Duffy . A discussion took place and the members thanked Emer for the presentation.

9. Correspondence:

Letter dated 1 March 2017 from Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport acknowledging receipt of letter regarding Bus Eireann Expressway Service.

Letter dated 24 February 2017 from Office of the Minister for Social Protection acknowledging receipt of letter regarding FIS payments to strike workers at Tesco.

Letter dated 28 February 2017 from Department of social Protection regarding FIS Payment to Tesco workers.

Letter dated 6 March 2017 from NTA regarding real time passenger information.

Letter dated 7 March 2017 from Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre thanking MD for lovely letter in relation to the Cara National Awards

Letter and email dated 8 March 2017 from TII in relation to traffic calming measures at Emyvale.

10. Sympathy:

Sympathy was extended to Cllr Treanor on the death of his sister-in-law, Marie O Neill.

Sympathy was extended to Brendan Landers and family on the death of his wife, Nancy Landers

Other business:

Cllr Maxwell expressed his regret at a recent fire to a long established business in the town and wished the McAdam family all the best and hoped they will be up and running as soon as possible. He commended all the fire-fighters from the County and surrounding counties who attended the scene.

Cllr Aughey asked could a grid be inspected at Ballyalbany Bridge to which Mr Deeney responded that it will be inspected.

Cllr McKenna asked that a price be sought for pay parking machines with sticky back tickets so that existing machines may be replaced with these when the need arose.

Next meeting arranged for Tuesday, 11th April at 9.15am in sub-committee, followed by normal meeting.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 14th Day of March, 2017

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator