

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 Building, Knockaconny on Monday 20th February, 2017 at 3.00pm.

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. Housing: Nuala Woods, SEO, Lorcán MacCinna, EE, Brendan Murphy, Senior Exec Tech., Ciaran Trant, Liaison Officer, Housing Agency: Peter Hesse, Leading Consultant from Housing Agency. Muriel Kerr from McMahon & Associates, Consulting Civil & Structural Engineers.

1. Update on Mullaghmat Remedial Scheme:

Mr MacCinna introduced the representatives, Peter Hesse, Leading Consultant from Housing Agency, and Muriel Kerr, McMahon & Associates and Housing Staff team present. A Progress Report was circulated to the members and Mr Hesse gave a presentation followed by a questions and answers session. Cllr Maxwell stated that this was great news, that this final phase will take in all the works and complete the development to a standard that the people of Mullaghmat deserve, by the end of 2018 hopefully. He thanked the staff in Housing and the Consultants for the presentation. All members concurred with his sentiments.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 16th January, 2017 be confirmed.

3. Matters arising:

Cllr Maxwell advised that Mr Flynn, Senior Engineer from Water Services attended the sub-committee meeting earlier to inform the meeting that Irish Water will give a presentation on the Monaghan Town Mains Rehabilitation to the members on Friday 24th February, and will report on the issue at our next meeting.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report which was circulated to the members. Cllr Connolly stated that the Rossmore Park Public Consultation Day was a great success with plenty of ideas/projects suggested. Cllr Maxwell commended the organisers on the Irish Rugby Team visit to Rafeenan, Ballinode which was great for the town. He thanked the Town Team and the staff of the Municipal District for their help. Also, the Public Consultation Day was a terrific success and the Consultants were impressed with the great interest of the people of Monaghan. He added that there will be another Public Day in the Park, the Draft will come to the Municipal District and it will probably be May when the Plan is ready for adoption.

Cllr Treanor advised that grounds adjacent to Old Cross Square are being used for the display and sale of vehicles.

5. Questions and Motions

Cllr Aughey asked:

1. Can the council deal with the poor visibility of the traffic island at the junction between the North Road and Rowan Tree Road {at the Railway Station}

Response: There is already a public light in the vicinity referred to and there are no plans to make any changes to the lighting at the North Road / Rowantree Road junction at this time. We will investigate the installation of high-reflective tape or equivalent along the kerbline to improve visibility of the traffic Island.

2. Regarding bin collectors - now that pay by weight is being introduced can we get the companies bringing back the bags for waste for our pensioners?

Response: An agreement with the Irish Waste Management Association and the Government made in July 2016 means that pay by weight is not currently in operation. In relation to bags, from 1 July, 2016 household kerbside waste is only collected in approved receptacles which are designed for reuse, with the exception of the collection of such waste in specific areas designated by a local authority as being only suitable for the collection of such waste in non-reusable receptacles such as bags,(S.I. No. 24/2016 - Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) Regulations 2016)Furthermore it is a requirement of the County of Monaghan Bye-laws for the collection, storage and presentation of waste and certain related waste management matters, 2008 ,that waste be placed within a vermin proof container (section 5.1.(a))

3. What assistance can the MD provide to Glaslough Tidy Towns to help with their participation representing Ireland in Entente Floral?

Response: The Community, Environment, Planning, Heritage and Tourism sections of the Council, along with Monaghan Municipal District will be working with the community of Glaslough to prepare for adjudication, which will take place in July. The Department are providing funding of €7,500, to which the County Council will need to add additional funding if required. The committee are to draw up an estimate of the costs required.

4. Can the council investigate what traffic calming measures can be installed at Oriel Park where the road from Carrickroe passes through to Emyvale Main Street?

Response: There are already ramps on the road referred to and the council can investigate if there is a need to upgrade them.

Cllr Connolly asked:

In relation to Unfinished Developments at Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet, Carrickroe and Latlurcan Glen (a) What is the timescale for completion of these developments? (b) What action will the MD take if this timescale is not complied with?

Response: Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet

As none of the dwellings within this development are occupied, it is not classified as an 'unfinished estate'. The site has been fenced-off by the developer to prevent pedestrian access. There has been no progress by the developer and as there is no bond fund in place the Council has no funds available to carry out further remedial works.

In the event that further funding becomes available from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government then Monaghan County Council will endeavour to allocate such funding to this site.

Carrickroe:

Monaghan County Council has previously undertaken works in respect of Carrickroe to include fencing off the unfinished area of the site and laying of wearing course to the public road. As there is no developer in place and no bond, there are no funds available to complete the development by Monaghan County Council.

In the event that further funding becomes available from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government then Monaghan County Council will endeavour to allocate such funding to this site.

Latlorcan Glen:

Works have previously been overseen by the Council to complete the estate roads, repair entrance walls and railings and fence off the undeveloped portion of lands. The Council is satisfied that the development has been completed in accordance with approved details and there are no further outstanding works to be carried out.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1. For the purpose of providing outcomes and comparative analysis data of the 2016 town pedestrian / footfall counters, that this Council seeks a presentation from the Town Team.

Response: Trevor Connolly, Town Centre Co-ordinator, will present the most up to date Footfall report at the March Meeting.

Cllr McKenna asked:

1. Over the past two years I have, on behalf of residents and road users in the Glennan area of Glaslough, raised the issue of the continued and ongoing polluting of the public road with cattle manure. Residents and road users vehicles are subjected to dirtying of their vehicles.

- What steps have the Council taken to address this matter;
- Were notices issued under the appropriate Roads Act;
- Were they complied with, as residents are of the view, they were not;
- What steps are this Council going to take to resolve this issue?

Response:

The council has written to the landowner on a number of occasions informing him of his duties under section 13 of the Roads Act 1993. Engineers from the Municipal District have carried out inspections at various times on the road.

- **Yes, a Section 76 notice was issued**
- **At the time yes.**
- **A Warning Letter was issued under Section 13 of the Road Traffic Act 1993, to the landowner on 14th February 2017 requesting him to clean and wash the road immediately and daily thereafter. Monitor on a regular basis, impose cost of cleaning the road by MCC on the offender and if the problem persists will follow through to prosecution.**

2. Over twelve months ago I submitted a question requesting that landowners along the R186 from Drumreaske to Connolly's bridge be required to trim roadside hedges. To-date not so much as a blade of grass has been cut. How many notices were issued by this Municipal District; was there any response by the landowners concerned; how many, if any, enforcement notices were issued by the Municipal District; were any legal proceedings brought against any of these landowners? As we approach the deadline where landowners cannot cut hedges, what steps will this Municipal District take to ensure that the laws in relation to hedgecutting/trimming are complied with?

Response: The M.D. staff met with the landowner at Drumreaske in March 2016 and all dangerous trees along his boundary on the R186 were identified. These trees were all duly removed in April 2016. The M.D. has recently contacted the landowner in relation to the hedges and has been assured they will be trimmed before the deadline.

No enforcement notices were issued by the Municipal District and no legal proceedings were brought against any of these landowners as works were completed.

Under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, where offenders do not comply with a request or notice to cut or trim hedges or trees along a public road, they will be prosecuted and face a fine of up to €5,000 or 6 months imprisonment or both.

Motions:

Cllr Aughey proposed the following motions:

“That this council introduce a bylaw putting a weight restriction on vehicles travelling through the town centre except for vehicles making deliveries in the interest of pedestrian safety and public amenity”

Cllr Aughey gave a brief outline of his motion. Cllr Maxwell informed the members that it is proposed to meet the LUTS in the coming week to discuss issues including HGV’s operating in the town centre and possible solutions, and asked Cllr Aughey to defer the motion to the Agenda of the March Meeting.

2. “That the council assist in the promotion of the Sir Charles Gavan Duffy 201st celebrations” {Monaghan Tidy Towns subcommittee can make a short presentation on this}

Cllr Aughey outlined his proposal. A discussion took place on the motion and all agreed to invite the Tidy Towns to make a presentation at the March Meeting.

6. Urgent Business:

Cllr Conlon outlined his motion as follows:

“ In support of the welfare of striking workers at the Monaghan branch of Tesco, and stores similarly engaged in industrial action, that on their behalf we seek confirmation from the Department of Social Protection, that affected part time staff will not lose out on their Family Income Supplement payment”

A discussion took place on the motion, seconded by Cllr Connolly, and supported by all members.

Cllr Treanor requested that best wishes be conveyed for a speedy recovery to Eileen Evans, c/o St. Davnet’s Hospital, Monaghan.

7. Correspondence:

Letter from The Worshipful the Mayor of Douglas, Mr Councillor John Skinner, J.P accepting our kind invitation to attend the 2017 St Patrick ’s Day Parade.

Letter dated 16th February, 2017 from the Minister for Finance Mr Michael Noonan in relation to lowering corporation tax rate.

Correspondence dated 14th February from NTA in relation to Bus Eireann's Expressway services. Cllr Conlon requested that a letter be issued as soon as possible to Anne Graham, Chief Executive of NTA, referring to our meeting with them last year.

Letter dated 16th January 2017 from Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, in relation to N2 junction at Moyles.

Letter dated 1st February, 2017 from Senator Robbie Gallagher congratulating the MD and its Councillors on appointing a Retail Manager and Town Team in Monaghan.

Letter from Conor Maguire, Monaghan Motor club seeking permission for the sole use of the Courthouse Car Park for the Monaghan Stages Rally on the 23rd April. All members supported and agreed map submitted.

Letter dated 22nd December, 2016 from Heather Humphreys TD regarding the N2 Junction at Moyles.

Invitation to all members to Lithuanian Day on 11th March, 2017 in the Four Seasons Hotel.

8. Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Owen McGinnity, Mullaghmore, Tyholland on winning the All-Ireland Junior Handball 40x20.

9. Sympathy

Sympathy was extended to the family of Frank McCourt, Annyalla.

Other business:

Cllr Connolly referred to a Disabled access facility in the New Terrace area of the town which he said is being blocked on a regular basis by vehicles. Mr McElwain responded that traffic management was a Garda issue.

The meeting concluded.

Dated this 20th Day of February, 2017

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator