

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 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, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. McKernan, Head of Roads, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Humphreys and A. King, Director of Service

At the outset the Cathaoirleach announced to members that she had just received notice of the sad death earlier that morning of Council employee, Katrina Coleman Ó Roideáin. She extended her sympathy to the husband Séan, daughter Aoife and sons Tiarnan and Fiachra and also to her sister Frances Matthews who is also a Council employee. A number of members joined in the expression of sympathy and expressed their shock at the sad news of Katrina’s passing.

The Chief Executive joined in the expression of sympathy to Katrina’s family on behalf of the Management Team and Staff. He said that her untimely loss would be deeply felt by the staff of the Council.

A minutes silence was held following which the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a period of five minutes as a mark of respect to the late Katrina.

**Urgent Business:**

On resumption, the Cathaoirleach informed the members that she had received two notices of urgent business as follows:

**(a) Notice in the names of the Sinn Fein members:**

In view of the commencement on the 21<sup>st</sup> May of the works on the realignment of the N2 from Corracrin to Emyvale village and the inevitable delay of traffic during the eighteen months of construction works, that this Council call on the National Ambulance Service/HSE, during the construction phase to locate an ambulance 24/7 at the Health Centre at Emyvale Enterprise Centre to ensure immediate access in terms of emergencies in the North Monaghan Area.

**(b) Notice in the name of Cllr P. Connolly**

To ensure that an ambulance is provided 24/7 at the Health Centre at Emyvale Enterprise Centre thus ensuring a rapid response to a call for an ambulance in the event of an emergency for the duration of these road works on the N2.

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell, it was agreed to discuss, In Committee, whether or not to take the two motions of urgent business.*

Following a short consideration of the matter, it was unanimously agreed to discuss the urgent business motions at the end of the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed to revert to public session.*

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

*On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell seconded by Cllr J. Crowe, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, be confirmed.*

## **2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed regarding the fodder situation.
- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed to Minister Heather Humphreys regarding the fodder situation.
- Letter from Senator Joe O'Reilly regarding the fodder situation.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Shane Ross regarding roads funding.
- Letter from the Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation, Ms Heather Humphreys regarding regional and local roads in the County.
- Letter from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy regarding property owners redress scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed regarding the fodder situation.
- Letter from the Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation, Ms Heather Humphreys regarding the fodder situation.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed regarding the fodder situation.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development regarding roads funding.
- Letter from the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe, T.D, regarding the Disabled Drivers and Disable Passengers (Tax Concessions) Scheme.
- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D regarding the fodder crisis.
- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D regarding the Roadworks Programme 2018.
- Email from the Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation, Ms. Heather Humphreys regarding North South Interconnector.
- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D regarding the fodder crisis.
- ICBAN Update report March 2018.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council regarding protest against the Department's dictatorial actions, per the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies, in designating large areas of our County as SACs, NHAs, etc.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding Community Employment Schemes.
- Resolution from Carlow County Council regarding payment of €200/hd for suckler cows.

- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the HSE to review the decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients in chronic pain.
- Northern & Western Regional Assembly Local Authority briefing report.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Email from the Roads Division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the improvement & maintenance of regional and local roads.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe, T.D, regarding review for a primary medical certificate.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe, T.D, regarding Redress Scheme for Housing.
- Letter from John Kearney, Chief Executive of CMETB confirming the delivery of a presentation on apprenticeships and career traineeships at the July Council meeting.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Denis Naughten, TD. regarding littering in Co. Monaghan.
- Information circular - Keep up the good work: LGiU Ireland's One-Year Survey.

#### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Donegal County Council calling on the Government to review the way Community Employment Schemes are being negatively affected by changes introduced over the last few years.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that this Council re-issue correspondence to Minister Simon Harris TD as per my unanimously agreed motion February monthly meeting seeking the introduction of a statutory "duty of candour" for the purpose of enforcing a policy of agreed disclosure within the Health Service.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD the immediate payment to cash crisis farmers, throughout the county of all outstanding farm payments i.e. GLAS, TAMS, Sheep payments etc due to the atrocious weather conditions of the past nine months.*

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

- (i) To consider Demolition of the existing Blackwater Bridge and construction of a replacement permanent road bridge in the same location on the N2 over the River Blackwater and all associated works as per planning application 18/8001

The members considered the report from the Senior Planner recommending the granting of permission for this development.

*Cllr Paudge Connolly proposed, Cllr Seamus Treanor seconded*

*That Monaghan County Council revisit the submission/observation submitted by Alan Clarke & Associates on behalf of St. Macartan's College in relation to safety issues in particular for pedestrians at No. 5 and that Monaghan County Council reconsider its decision to remove*

*the temporary bridge structure thus providing for a safer outcome for both road users those accessing both school and commercial sites.*

Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer stated the temporary bridge is a temporary solution while works on ongoing at this location. It is not a permanent solution and cannot remain in place. He stated that there had been lengthy discussions with the statutory bodies and TII in relation to this matter. The School had been advised that it is a temporary bridge only.

The Chief Executive stated that the matter must be dealt with today – Cllr Connolly’s motion must be either voted upon or withdrawn. To re-visit the submission as requested by Cllr Connolly would require the planning application to be re-advertised which would delay the project for a few months. The permanent structure is the only solution and the temporary structure will be removed after construction of the new bridge over the Blackwater River.

Cllr Connolly then agreed to withdraw his motion.

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for the demolition of the existing Blackwater Bridge and the construction of a replacement permanent road bridge in the same location on the N2 over the River Blackwater and all associated works as per planning application 18/8001, 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).*

The members then wished John McKernan good luck and success in his new position as Senior Engineer with Cavan County Council.

#### **4. To receive report on Unfinished Housing Developments**

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner gave a detailed presentation to the members on the current status of unfinished housing developments in the county. He stated that significant progress has been made by the Council in reducing total UHD’s from 38no. in 2010 to 5no. in 2018. He outlined the current status of the five UHD’s as follows:

- **Forest Walk, Monaghan Town:** *Planning application lodged under 17/529 seeking to retain and complete existing development. Currently waiting the submission of additional information. Section 11 Measures notice issued. Period for compliance expired 27 April 2018*
- **Drummond Ross, Carrickmacross Town:** *Contracts have been signed between developer (East Coast Estates) and Tuatha Housing Body on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The scheme will provide for completion of the existing development via provision of 33 apartments and ancillary site works. Due for completion by mid 2019.*
- **Bothar Na Mullen, Scotstown:** *Site has been acquired by the Planning Authority via CPO in 2017. Surveys and design options ongoing at present to determine re-development/completion works for the site.*
- **Corr na Ghlass, Ballybay:** *Part of site has been acquired by the Council; discussions are ongoing with adjoining land-owners and potential developer(s) to determine project completion works required. A public realm plan incorporating the site is due to be launched in April 2018 by the Council.*

- **Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet:** *Bond funds received in October 2017 (€30,400) following a 5-year long delay in obtaining bond funds/settlement from the bank. Since receipt of bond funds, discussions have been held with representatives of the owner to determine appropriate expenditure of available funds. To ensure best use of bond funds available, it is considered that bond funds would best be used in conjunction with a site remediation plan. It is anticipated that a tender process will be engaged for site completion works during 2018 and available bond funds spent on-site thereafter.*

Following his presentation Mr. Hughes responded to queries from the members. In response to queries from Cllr Connolly regarding Chapel Court Carrickroe, Mr. Hughes stated that this development was not defined by the Department as an UHD. The Council has tried to engage with the developer on a number of occasions but has been unable to contact him.

The members complimented the Planning Section for their progress to date on UHD's and noted the report circulated.

**5. To consider the revision of the County Monaghan Development Contribution Scheme 2013 – 2019**

Mr. Toirleach Gourley, Senior Executive Planner referred to the Draft Scheme which has been prepared by the Council under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). He stated that the current Development Contribution Scheme 2013-2019 made provision for an interim review and this process comprises that interim review. The review indentified clarifications and corrections to anomalies arising during the application of the scheme over the last four years. For example, concrete areas/aprons for agricultural purposes are proposed to be excluded from development contributions calculations. No changes have been made to the scheme in relation to the amount of development contributions to be charged. Two additional projects (the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and the Clones Post Office Community Arts Building) have been included to be funded in lieu of projects that have already been fully funded since 2013. The revised scheme had been placed on public display and no submissions had been received from the public.

*On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed that the revised County Monaghan Development Contribution Scheme 2013 – 2019 be adopted.*

**6. To note the Annual Financial Statement and approve over expenditures for the financial year 2017**

The members noted the Annual Financial Statement for 2017 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance responded to queries from the members.

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed to note the Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2017) and to approve over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:*

**Over Expenditure**

Division	Expenditure	Income	Net Position
	(Over)/Under	Over/(Under)	
	Estimates	Estimates	
	2017	2017	2017
	€	€	€
A Housing and Building	-319,582	222,345	-97,237
B Roads Transportation & Safety	-1,738,416	1,444,240	-294,176
C Water Services	-397,951	692,856	294,905
D Development Management	-538,752	678,458	139,706
E Environmental Services	-619,031	577,616	-41,415
F Recreation & Amenity	-238,360	270,789	32,429
H Miscellaneous Services	-545,953	284,117	-261,836

**Transfer to Capital Account**

	Transfer	Budget	Difference
	Amount	Provision	
Machinery Account Surplus	353,727	0	-353,727
Municipal District Allocations (unspent)	412,155	450,000	37,845
Loan Repayment Reserve	490,971	490,971	0

**Provisions for Transfer to Capital (included in Budget 2017)**

Disability Initiatives	10,000	10,000	0
Co. Development Fund	75,000	75,000	0
Local Elections	30,000	30,000	0
Members Gratuity Scheme	100,000	100,000	0
Fire Service Gratuities	100,000	100,000	0
Libraries - Provision for Capital Balances	40,000	40,000	0
Flexi Time System	15,000	15,000	0
Computing - Provision for Capital Balance	100,000	100,000	0
Traffic Management	40,000	40,000	0
Industrial and Economic Development	150,000	150,000	0
	<b>1,916,852</b>	<b>1,600,971</b>	<b>-315,882</b>

**7. To confirm date for Annual Meeting of Monaghan County Council**

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 commencing at 10.00 am

**8. To receive Report on Broadband**

John McArdle, Broadband Officer, gave an update on the progress of the National Broadband Plan, the progress of Eir's 300k rollout and the Wifi4EU scheme.

He outlined the timescales in relation to the National Broadband Plan. The procurement process is continuing with a single bidder, with an expectation that this will be completed by September 2018. If this happens, the start of the actual rollout should commence at the beginning of 2019. Eir's rollout is continuing and is expected to be fully completed by mid-2019. This is a commercial rollout and the Council has no influence over what premises are passed during this scheme. To date 145,000 premises and homes have been passed nationally. In Monaghan, 3,015 premises have been completed with 1,625 premises remaining of the 4,640 total.

Mr McArdle stated that the first application for funding under the Wifi4EU scheme would take place on 15 May and that there would be up to five calls for funding under the scheme in the coming years. Each local authority can get up to four successful applications, valued at €15,000 each and equivalent matching funding would be available through DRCD.

Following his presentation, Mr. McArdle responded to queries from the members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked him for the presentation.

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon seconded by Cllr Pat Treanor it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister for Communications Denis Naughten TD in relation to broadband being supplied from Northern Ireland suppliers.*

**9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meetings held on 17/04/2018 and 26/04/2018**

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon seconded by Cllr R. Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17 April 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council re-issues correspondence to Fáilte Ireland as follows - Regarding Section 4.7 of the draft Development Plan and reference to County Monaghan's inclusion to Fáilte Ireland's branding within Ireland's Ancient East and following Minister Heather Humphreys assertion during Dáil debate on February 7th that her Department will encourage "active promotion of the Lakelands region" that this Council seeks clarification from Fáilte Ireland as to what branding applies to County Monaghan?*

Cllr Conlon advised the members that the Canada Day celebrations would take place this year on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. He informed the Council that the Organising Committee proposed to officially launch the celebrations on the morning of the June Council meeting. Air Canada had again come on board and were sponsoring two return air fares to Canada would be up for raffle.

**Hope Castle Options Appraisal Report:**

In response to queries in relation to the current status of the report that had been commissioned on Lough Muckno, the Chief Executive cautioned the members against rushing into any new arrangement/proposals for Lough Muckno estate. He advised that the Council should get expert advice on how to proceed in order to get a very strong, sustainable and marketable project which will benefit both Castleblayney and County Monaghan. The CPG accepted the recommendation to seek expertise to obtain Expressions

of Interest. He asked the members to allow time to get such advice and stated that he would keep the Muckno Committee and the CPG fully informed.

*On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed to publish the Hope Castle Options Appraisal Report.*

Following a query from Cllr McElvaney regarding the current status of a tender for road pavement overlay it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor to discuss this matter 'in Committee'. Following discussion of the matter it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna to return to public session.

*(ii) On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr B. McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 26 April 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

During a discussion on the submission of selected projects for CLÁR funding, a period of disorder occurred during which the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for five minutes until order had been restored.

On resumption, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services explained that the Council had been advised by the Department of Community and Rural Development to prioritise the applications that had been received under the CLAR Scheme. A scoring scheme had been developed based on a number of elements ie – had funding been granted/refused last year; was planning permission required for the project; was it aligned with the actions in the LECP. All applications received had passed – none failed.

#### **10. To fill vacancy on the Speed Limits Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was agreed that Cllr David Maxwell be elected to fill the vacancy on the Speed Limits Committee.*

#### **11. To receive the Management Report – April 2018**

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

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Keelan, McKenna & McNally in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- Lama Spring Training Seminar, Co Donegal
- AILG Annual Conference, Co Waterford
- AILG Training, Carlow Town
- AILG Training, Virginia, Co Cavan



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

The Chief Executive informed the members of the following matters:

**PEI** – The Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive would visit Prince Edward Island from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May to partake in the Annual Settlers Day Celebrations in Fort Augustus.

**Economic Development**

The Chief Executive congratulated Combi-Lift on the recent official opening and on the announcement on an additional 200 jobs over the next three years. He also congratulated Entekra on its announcement of 100 new jobs in Monaghan. He complimented McAree Engineering in Ballinode on its €3m development and 30 new jobs. He highlighted the fact that Monaghan is clearly on the map as a location for doing business.

He thanked Dympna Condra, Tourism Marketing Officer for organising the promotional campaign around the Combi Lift opening. He informed the members that the Council had placed content in the Belfast Telegraph, the Sunday Business Post and the Irish Times promoting the county as a place to do business and had received positive feedback from local businesses.

Cathaoirleach Cathy Bennett joined in the sentiments expressed by the Chief Executive and also welcomed the new jobs and developments in the county.

**14. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

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

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

- 1. That this Council expresses its deep disappointment that An Taoiseach and the Leader of the Fine Gael Party Mr Leo Varadkar TD refuses to meet the members of this Council on this very important issue for the people of Co. Monaghan.*
- 2. That this Council renew its request to meet with An Taoiseach.*
- 3. That this Council requests our local Minister Heather Humphreys TD would facilitate this meeting.*
- 4. That the local Fine Gael Councillors use their influences to facilitate a meeting with An Taoiseach and the Fine Gael leader.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan seconded by Cllr P. Treanor seconded it was agreed that in light of recent high court rulings in Belfast (whereby a Senior Civil servant did not have the legal power to approve/sign on a planning decision), that this Council writes to Minister Denis Naughten TD requesting that all procurement and tender processes be withdrawn in relation to Pylons, until such time as the legal process and other challenges are concluded.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan seconded by Cllr P. Treanor seconded it was agreed that members of this Council together with two/three members of the Monaghan Anti Pylon Group would be facilitated by the Planning Office Senior Staff in the coming days in order to give clarity in relation to the planning conditions laid down by An Bord Pleanála and how they may be implemented etc.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland seconded by Cllrs Maxwell and Campbell it was agreed that this County Council writes to Eirgrid to consider their position and urge them to stop the procurement process and to withdraw the tender process for the North South Interconnector in Northern Ireland, as a result of a high Court ruling on a similar strategic development today, that a Senior Civil servant did not have the legal power to grant such a permission.*

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

The members noted the letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. regarding the Ulster Canal.

**17. To receive presentation from Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) Cross Border Health and Social Care**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Bernie McCrory Chief Officer and Edel O'Doherty Deputy Chief Officer CAWT and invited them to address the members.

Ms. McCrory and Ms O'Doherty proceeded to give their presentation to the members during which they explained that they work with a number of Health Partners in the North of Ireland and the Health Service Executive to enable health services to be more accessible within border areas; attract EU funding to support the development of additional services based on local need and also to pioneer new ways of delivering services. CAWT had made five successful project applications to EU Interreg VA totalling €30 million and they hope to deliver these by June 2022. They then gave information on the projects which they are currently involved in and how these will benefit communities on both sides of the border.

Following their presentation they responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked them both for a very informative presentation and wished them every success with their projects.

**18. Questions:**

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

**1. What plans have Monaghan County Council to ensure that a dedicated archives building and service is provided within the county?**

**Reply:** Currently Monaghan County Council archives are stored in the following locations, Carrickmacross Civic Centre, Clones Library and Monaghan County Library. There are no specific plans for the provision of a dedicated archives building. Services pertaining to archives are currently being provided by Library and museum staff.

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

- 2. Have Monaghan County Council any plans to ensure that Deravoy NS, Community Centre and adjacent houses are connected to the sewage treatment plant that has already been put in place in Deravoy by Monaghan County Council?**

*Reply:* Monaghan County Council has no plans to connect Deravoy NS, Community Centre and adjacent houses to the public sewer - applications for waste water connections can be made by the applicants directly to Irish Water at <https://www.water.ie/connections/>

**Cllr P. McNally asked:**

- 3. In light of the crisis situation facing our County roads, has Monaghan County Council's Executive followed up our submission to the Department by speaking with Senior Officials with a view to securing urgent funding and have we spoken to our local Minister Heather Humphreys regarding this problem?**

*Reply:* The Department of Tourism Transport and Sport (DTAAS) has advised that all monies have been allocated to Local Authorities through the main Restorative Maintenance and Road improvement grants in 2018. A copy of the submission was also sent to Minister Humphreys.

- 4. In light of recent findings which stated that Monaghan County Council had the worst regional roads in Ireland, how does this Council intend funding urgently needed improvements to these roads across the County.**

*Reply:* Monaghan County Council will continue to seek additional funding to address the issue.

- 5. What is this Council's Executive's understand as to the status of the East/West Sligo to Dundalk road presently?**

*Reply:* There is currently no funding available for the progression of the route beyond the preliminary design stage which was completed in 2015. DTTAS has recently issued circular RW 06/2018 to Local Authorities in relation to the Management and Appraisal of Regional and Local Road Strategic and Specific Road Improvement projects which outlines the process involved in the development of such schemes. Monaghan County Council intends to draft a submission in accordance with the guidelines seeking the reactivation of the portion of the East/West route through County Monaghan.

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

- 6. Can Monaghan County Council's Housing Section confirm how many applicants (families and individuals) are currently on the waiting list for social housing with a breakdown of each Municipal District and town?**

*Reply:* The number of applicants on the housing list is 1133 comprising the following categories:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Number</b>
HAP Applicants	434
RAS Applicants	91
Council Transfers	72
Co-Op Voluntary	14
Net Need	522

The number of applicants per Municipal District is as follows:

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Town/Village</b>	<b>Number of Applicants</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	Annyalla	12	
	Ballinode	10	
	Carrickroe	1	
	Clontibret	1	
	Emyvale	30	
	Glaslough	10	
	Monaghan	392	
	Tyholland	4	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>460</b>
<b>Ballybay /Clones</b>	Ballybay	60	
	Bawn	01	
	Clones	93	
	Doohamlet	05	
	Knockatallon	03	
	Newbliss	08	
	Rockcorry	05	
	Scotshouse	07	
	Scotstown	11	
	Smithboro	10	
	Threemilehouse	05	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>208</b>
<b>CMX/CBY</b>	Carrickmacross	264	
	Castleblayney	184	
	Inniskeen	10	
	Magheracloone	01	
	Oram	06	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>465</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1133</b>

\*figures based on first preference area of choice per applicant

**Clr C. Carthy asked:**

7. Has there been a response from Respond Housing Association yet to confirm when snag works will be completed on the Carrickmacross Group Home and, if so, will the executive request a further update from the HSE on when the facility will be officially opened?

**Reply:** Respond! has advised that a contractor will commence the additional works specified by the HSE on 28<sup>th</sup> May and that those works are anticipated to be completed by mid-June. The HSE advised that the running of this development will be contingent on funding availability at the time of completion.

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

**8. Can the Housing section confirm how many HAP tenants are currently being catered for by Monaghan County Council and, of these, how many are also on the Housing Transfer List?**

**Reply:** There are currently 461 households in receipt of housing support through the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme. Of this number, 434 have opted to be included on the housing transfer list and have been included on the housing list accordingly.

**9. When is it envisaged MCC will receive further funding for Energy saving measures on its housing stock (e.g. units currently listed as needing an insulation upgrade, replacement windows/doors etc)?**

**Reply:** By the end of 2016 Monaghan County Council had successfully completed all Phase 1 Energy Efficiency upgrade work. This was achieved within a shorter timeframe than many other Local Authorities. Phase 1 Energy Efficiency upgrade work was focussed on building fabric upgrades including pumped cavity wall insulation, attic insulation and pipe lagging.

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government has acknowledged that Monaghan County Council is seeking funding for Phase 2 Energy Efficiency upgrade work, having completed all of its Phase 1 units and has provided the following statement recently in response to a query submitted by Monaghan County Council: *“While the main focus of the available funding for the Energy Efficiency Programme will be on the completion of the remaining Phase 1 works in 2018, the Department is also aiming to formally roll out Phase 2. The Department will shortly be asking local authorities to submit details of their work proposals and related funding requirements for the Programme in 2018. Individual allocations will be determined following the assessment of local authority returns”*.

Monaghan County Council is actively pursuing funding under the Energy Efficiency Programme to upgrade older social houses that require more significant and costly Energy Efficiency upgrade work such as external cavity wall insulation.

**10. When does the Executive envisage all the roads currently on the list for patching will be dealt with considering that some of these have been highlighted to the council for a number of months?**

**Reply:** Each of the Municipal District areas has a programme of works which is carried out on a rotational basis in order to carry out patching works in all districts.

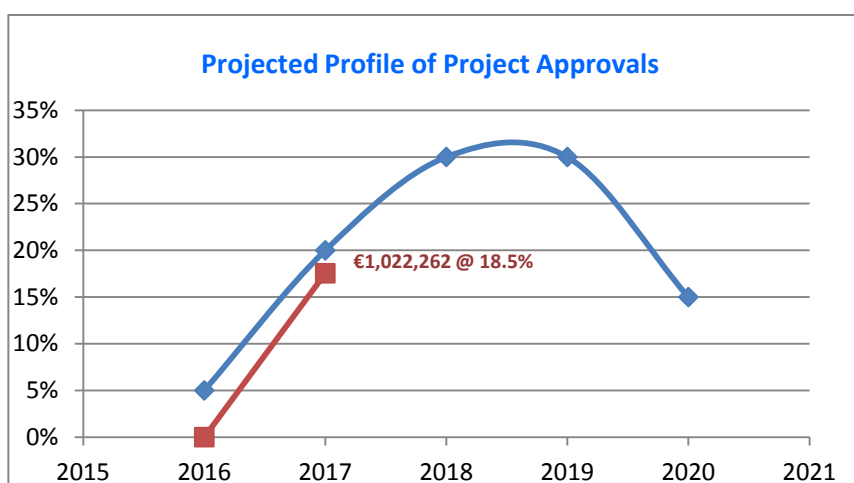
Cllr S. Conlon asked:

**11. What amount of the €6.9m allocated for the 2014-2020 Leader programme has been drawn down to date by eligible recipients and groups throughout County Monaghan?**

**Reply:** The Local Action Group (LAG) in the delivery the LEADER programme in County Monaghan is the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The LAG is made up by a Partnership of the LCDC, Monaghan County Council, as the Financial Partner and Monaghan Integrated Development CLG (MID) as the Implementing Partner.

MID in its role as LEADER Implementing Partner keeps the LAG informed of general progress on Calls, Local Development Strategy (LDS) Actions (i.e. numbers of EOIs, Applications) at monthly LAG meetings. Monaghan County Council as Financial Partner provides upfront funding to the Implementing Partner and approved projects also provides financial data on Monthly Administration claims for approval to LAG meetings. Currently 20 Projects have reached Stage 15 – ‘Final Project Approved’ with “Committed Funds” to date at **€1,022,262.22**.

The amount of project Claims expenditure paid out to date is **€145,291.90**. This represents 18% of the project budget (i.e., excluding administration costs) committed for the LAG and is broadly in line with the projected profile of project approvals. The programme was launched in County Monaghan in September 2016.



Cllr N. Keelan asked:

**12. What is the up to date position in relation to the taking in charge by Monaghan County Council of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff, Carrickmacross ?**

**Reply:** In respect of the estate, Sliabh Dubh at Corduff, an application to take it in charge has been received. However considerable completion works remain outstanding.

**13. In welcoming the re-introduction of the local Lane Improvement Scheme in 2017, how many lanes were on the list at that time; how many lanes have been removed from the scheme / list to date; in the public interest will the Council outline briefly the main criteria for inclusion on this scheme as there seems to be some confusion about same?**

**Reply:** At the end of 2016, 203 applicants were on the list. 21 Lanes were completed in 2017. 72 lanes were ineligible or have withdrawn from the scheme.

Eligibility: Lanes which provide access to parcels of land of which at least two are owned, occupied or leased by different persons engaged in separate agricultural activities. Roads serving only houses or buildings occupied or used by persons not engaged in agriculture are not eligible. The scheme rules for the current scheme are unchanged, and have been circulated to all members previously and have been explained in detail to applicants.

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

- 14. In relation to those families wishing to build a home in rural areas across County Monaghan, is there any further update from the department in relation to the relaxing of the Local Needs Rule (locals only policy rule) in light of the European Court Ruling of 2013, which seems to suggest that this policy is illegal?**

**Reply:** Planning section has received no further update on this matter from the Department.

- 15. Given the increasing number of our citizens purchasing electric vehicles and given that car manufacturers are rapidly moving away from the petrol/diesel combusting engine, what plans have this Council to roll out a scheme of charging points across the county in conjunction with other stakeholders?**

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council works closely with SEAI in relation to electric vehicles and sees the roll out of EV charging points as a key factor in the successful roll out of electric vehicles. At present electric charging points have been provided at strategic locations in the county by ESB Networks who have responsibility for the roll out of charging points in public spaces. The Council includes the requirement for EV charging points to be provided in the design of any of our new building facilities.

- 16. Given the quite significant numbers of local people on the housing waiting list in Inniskeen area, what plans have Monaghan County Council to build a small housing development of social / affordable homes in the village to cater for this growing need; will this Council examine the possibility of purchasing a small land bank for this propose; will this Council also consider purchasing extra housing units that come to the market?**

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council has provided 90 houses in Inniskeen, which is the vast majority of the houses in the village. At present Monaghan County Council owns 24 houses in Inniskeen and has purchased houses when necessary to provide for the relatively modest housing need in Inniskeen. There are no plans to purchase land in Inniskeen village to provide additional social housing.

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

- 17. In the interests of Road Safety can Monaghan County Council investigate the appointment of Monaghan County Council Junior Road Safety Officers as part of a road safety programme in partnership with the Road Safety Authority and the Primary Schools Network throughout the county in line with other Local Authorities,**

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council will investigate the operation of a Group Warden Service (Junior School Warden). The Roads Safety Committee will liaise with An Garda Síochána, schools and parents to assess the potential of the scheme.

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

**18. Can Monaghan County Council investigate the implementation of a Tourism Promotion Team with a remit of local, national and international approach to liaise with all work and efforts of the Council across all sections?**

**Reply:** The Tourism Unit is responsible for tourism promotion at local, regional and national levels and liaises with Tourism Ireland in terms of international promotion. This promotional activity involves the following: Printed brochures (and in PDF format for Online); Social media posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, Advertisements, advertorials and editorials, featured articles in national and international press and short videos (e.g. My Monaghan videos). The summer campaign for 2018 is currently being worked on. The unit liaises with other sections e.g. MDs, Community/Economic Development etc and reports to the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support.

**19. Can Monaghan County Council outline its current policy and actions with regard to tackling illegal dumping across the county?**

**Reply:** Illegal dumping and littering are covered in a number of policy documents including: County Monaghan Litter Management Plan which is currently being reviewed, Monaghan County Council Environmental Enforcement Policy, Connaught Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan and Recommended Criteria for Environmental Inspections Plan 2018.

With regard for action, all complaints received are investigated by Environmental Patrol Warden or Environmental Technicians. If evidence found, on the spot fines are issued. If on public lands waste is removed by Environmental Patrol Warden or referred to Municipal Districts, depending on volume. Over the next number of months Environmental Services will be focusing on delivering on the funding received from the anti dumping initiative 2018, which includes CCTV project and removal of waste from a number of little blackspots as well as participating in a regional awareness campaign on illegal dumping.

**18. Notices of Motion:**

**Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr H. McElvaney seconded, and it was resolved**

1. *That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health Simon Harris TD to request the HSE to review their decision to restrict the use of Versatis pain relief patches to patients in chronic pain outside those post herpetic neuralgia and to revert to the pre December status while the review is being undertaken.*

**Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded, and it was resolved,**

2. *Following the commitment delivered at the October 2106 County Council meeting by Minister for Housing Deputy Damien English TD that his Department would provide*



*direct interventions that will assist Local Authorities seeking to acquire state owned lands for the purpose of providing Housing, that this Council requests of Minister English such an intervention for the purpose of expediting Monaghan County Council's acquisition of land from the extensive holding of HSE lands at St. Davnets at Rooskey, Monaghan Town.*

*That we also correspond with the Health Service Executive's Corporate Estates Office seeking their cooperation in addressing the urgent need of this Council in providing social and affordable housing on these under-utilised state lands.*

3. Following a short discussion it was agreed that motion 18 (3) from the Sinn Fein members in relation to the current situation in Palestine be deferred to the June Council meeting for consideration.

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

It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the following:

- Fergal Sheerin, Council employee and the Sheerin Family on the death of Jimmy Sheerin, RIP.
- The McBride Family Oram, country music colleagues, friends and fans on the death of Big Tom McBride, RIP deeply rooted, proud and friend of Oram, Castleblayney and Co. Monaghan.
- The family of the late Mary Murphy, Castleblayney.
- Joe Sheridan and family on the death of his wife Anna RIP
- Geraldine Killen, Council employee on the death of her sister Irene Hynes, RIP
- Tom and Carmel Thornton and the Thornton family on the death of Mary Ward RIP

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

- Hannah Mooney, Carrickatee on her selection as the 2018 Monaghan Rose
- CombiLift and Martin McVicar on the occasion of the official opening of their new facility, their additional jobs announcement and their hosting of large numbers of overseas clients into Monaghan.
- Entekra Ltd – timber frame specialists on their recent job announcement and commitment towards focusing their US based operations from their base in Monaghan.
- Leslie Crawford on completing his 200<sup>th</sup> marathon recently at the Belfast Marathon
- Largy College Young Social Innovators 2017/18 on their project 'Dare to break the Silence' which received an advocate award at the national competition.
- Sliabh Beagh Swimming Club and Head Coach Eamon O'Hara on the success of the club at the recent Ulster Championships winning over 30 medals.

## **20. Conferences/Training**

There were no conferences/training events listed for consideration by the members.

**Urgent Business:**

*(a) Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Connolly seconded*

*In view of the commencement on the 21<sup>st</sup> May of the works on the realignment of the N2 from Corracrin to Emyvale village and the inevitable delay of traffic during the eighteen months of construction works, that this Council call on the National ambulance Service/HSE, during the construction phase to locate an ambulance 24/7 at the Health Centre at Emyvale Enterprise Centre to ensure immediate access in terms of emergencies in the North Monaghan Area.*

*(b) Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded*

*To ensure that an ambulance is provided 24/7 at the health centre at Emyvale Enterprise Centre thus ensuring a rapid response to a call for an ambulance in the event of an emergency for the duration of these road works on the N2.*

Following a short discussion on the motions as proposed, the Cathaoirleach put them to the members and they were agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_