

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 10.00 a.m.**

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

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Humphreys Keelan, Maxwell, McElvaney, McKenna, McNally, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford and Mr. A. King, Director 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. Darina Kierans and Ms. L. Nulty, Executive Planners, Mr. J. McKernan, A/Senior Engineer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**1. Consideration of Draft County Monaghan Development Plan 2019-2025**

Mr. A. Hughes Senior Planner, introduced the Draft County Monaghan Development Plan 2019 – 2025. He acknowledged the time spent by the members on the preparation of the draft Plan – 18 workshops had been held in total. These workshops had identified issues and the members and officials had worked together to try and find solutions.

He asked members to put any proposals they might have in writing and reminded them that any proposals made must include a justification for the proposal.

Mr. Hughes then reminded members of obligations under the Lobbying Act .

He referred to the National Planning Framework (NPF) and advised that while the Draft Development Plan was prepared prior to the release of the NPF, he was confident that the Plan aligns to the NPF.

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner then gave a detailed presentation to the members during which he outlined the content of each section in detail.

A number of members referred to the Flemish decree and enquired if it would be implemented in this county

Mr. Hughes stated that he could not give a legal opinion on this complex matter. He explained that the Local Needs Policy is the same as was applied in the previous Development Plan, except where the strong/weak rural areas had been amalgamated. He said that he would expect the Department to advise the Council during the consultation process if it is applying the policy correctly.

*On the proposal of Cllr Brian McKenna seconded by Cllr Noel Keelan it was agreed that we write to the Department requesting directions from them in relation to the Flemish decree and its impact on our local needs strategy also indicating that we need that direction in advance of adoption of the new County Development Plan.*

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney proposed, Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded

*That six acres be recognised in the Strong Urban Influence area as a holding.*

**Reason:** County Monaghan is recognised as an intensive agriculture county - poultry, mushrooms, and pigs and therefore the area should be reduced

A vote by show of hands resulted in 3 for, 13 against. The motion was declared defeated.

*On the proposal of Cllr. Pat Treanor seconded by Cllr. Brian McKenna it was agreed that we promote an increase in number of apprenticeships available to students in County Monaghan.*

**Reason:** To try and influence more students to remain in the county.

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney proposed, Cllr. Sean Gilliland seconded

*That this draft plan includes a commitment to provide industrial serviced sites in Ballybay and Clones.*

**Reason:** So that we can attract local jobs to these towns.

An amendment to Cllr McElvaney's proposal

Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr. Raymond Aughey seconded

*That the extension of serviced industrial of sites be extended from Ballybay and Clones area to the whole county.*

The amendment was accepted by Cllr McElvaney and put to the meeting and agreed. The substantive motion was then agreed.

*On the proposal of Cllr. Pat Treanor seconded by Cllr. Hugh McElvaney it was agreed that we include a paragraph on the re-opening of the Ulster Canal. (Under Section 7.18)*

**Reason:** To acknowledge the importance of this infrastructure in the County.

*On the proposal of Cllr. Pat Treanor seconded by Cllr. Hugh McElvaney it was agreed that we identify the high level of broadband in our five towns and the lack of internet connection in parts of rural County Monaghan. (Under Section 7.19)*

**Reason:** To attract I.C.T Businesses to Monaghan.

Cllr. Sean Conlon proposed Cllr. Colm Carthy seconded

*Regarding Section 4.7 of the draft Development Plan and reference to County Monaghan's inclusion to Fáilte Ireland's branding within Irelands Ancient East and following Minister Heather Humphreys assertion during Dáil debate on February 7<sup>th</sup> 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?*

A lengthy discussion then took place on the issue of legal agreements for sight distances/visibility splays to which a number of members contributed. Some members expressed the view that it was unfair that some planning applicants have to obtain legal agreements for visibility splays in order to get planning permission. Some members also commented that this was not uniform policy across all local authorities. It was suggested that contact should be made with IFA legal people to develop a wording that will be acceptable

Reference was made to requests by EirGrid for planning permission for access routes and if that body would be refused permission if the required sight distances were not in place.

Responding to the debate Mr. Hughes stated that the policy is in place to protect applicants for planning permission who have to obtain consent from landowners in order to secure necessary sight distances. He explained that IFA had been consulted on previous occasions and no solution had been forthcoming. The requirement for the agreement is necessary primarily to protect the house builder. He referred to page 314 of the draft Plan which offered a relaxation for class 2 and 3 local roads and for other roads on the basis of justification from a competent expert.

Regarding the EirGrid permission he stated that An Bord Pleanala is not bound by the Development Plan – they have the power to set aside the Plan.

The Chief Executive cautioned against discussing this matter in a public forum which might leave the members/Council open to a possible legal challenge.

Cllr. Paudge Connolly proposed Cllr. Hugh McElvaney seconded

*That Monaghan County Council withdraw the need for legal agreement for vision splays in the proposed Development Plan 2019-2025 in view of the fact that it creates extreme difficulties for people living in rural areas in terms of building houses or farm development.*

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

<b>For:</b>	Cllrs P. Connolly, H. McElvaney and S. Treanor.	Total 3
<b>Against</b>	Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Coyle, Crowe, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McKenna, McNally, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor.	Total 14

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

Cllr. Sean Gilliland proposed, Cllr. Aidan Campbell seconded

*That this Council, before the final adoption of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 explores all aspects legal and lawful of the implementation and enforcing of visibility splays, bearing in mind that where a visibility splays is not forth coming by a third party that the applicant will be refused planning permission and if they can explore other less onerous avenues of safety and sight distances.*

**Reason:** to avoid the friction between planning applicants and third parties (neighbours); to assist rural populations in achieving planning permissions and in light that there 12 other Councils who do not implement this condition.

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 be placed on public display for a minimum period of 10 weeks and that submissions be invited from the public.*

### **Storm Emma**

The Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the citizens of the county extended thanks to all Council staff, An Garda Siochana, the Health Services Executive and the Emergency Co-ordination Unit for the excellent response provided across the county over the duration of Storm Emma. She also praised the actions of local farmers who assisted with the snow clearing operations and local shop owners that remained open for supplies. She thanked the local media for getting important information out to the public.

Mr. J. McKernan, Senior Engineer gave a report to the members on the snow clearing and gritting operations undertaken during the storm. He pointed out that 1100 tonnes of salt had been spread between Thursday and Sunday representing 100 runs by the gritting crews. He also thanked all staff involved in the operations.

The Chief Executive also thanked all staff and the emergency services for their hard work and assistance throughout the period of the storm. He also complimented the local media for their coverage and updates.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, be confirmed.*

## **3. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from the Minister of Department of Rural & Community Development, Mr Michael Ring regarding Rural & Community development Programmes 2018.
- Letter from Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport regarding Community Involvement Schemes.
- Letter from the HSE regarding births that lead to premature death or catastrophic injuries due to hospital negligence
- Letter from the Office of Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government regarding HAP.
- Letter of acknowledgment from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D regarding Greenhouse Gases.
- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D, regarding the Down Syndrome Centre North East.
- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D, regarding the Councils resolution calling for a policy of open disclosure within the Health Service.

- Letter from the HSE regarding a meeting with the Ambulance Service in Monaghan.
- Letter of acknowledgment from the Director regarding the National Ambulance Service.
- Email from Mr. Joe O'Reilly T.D regarding unfinished estates and unfinished housing developments.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Mental Health & Older People, Mr. Jim Daly, T.D. regarding Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from the Office of Mr. Brendan Smyth, T.D regarding the East West Route.
- Email from Niamh Smyth, T.D regarding roads funding for Cavan/Monaghan.
- Resolution from Kilkenny County Council regarding occupational first aid training to be provided to all teachers and SNAs in both primary and secondary schools.
- Resolution from Leitrim County Council regarding Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Office of Department of Rural and Community Development regarding the Local Improvement Scheme 2018.
- Email from An Garda Síochána regarding meeting with Assistant Commissioner O'Brien.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding Minister Jim Daly's visit to Monaghan General Hospital.

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

*On the proposal of Cllr. O'Hanlon seconded by Cllr. Pdraig McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seeks additional funding for the Roads Network – (our regional roads are the worst in Ireland). We need this investment for the economic development of our county - this letter to be sent to Minister Ross, Minister Humphreys, Minister Ring.*

*On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan seconded by Cllr. Bennett it was agreed that this Council invites Mr John McArdle in to the next meeting in order to give a presentation on Broadband and phone coverage etc.*

*On the proposal of Cllr. Campbell seconded by Cllr. Sean Gilliland, it was agreed that the Roads Section examines the Community Involvement Scheme with a view to explore and look for some of this allocation.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from Kilkenny County Council calling for the introduction of a compulsory training programme of occupational first aid training for all teachers and SNAs that are physically capable to provide CPR in both primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council adopts the resolution from Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister of State for Disabilities and the Minister for Finance to amend the medical criteria for entry to the drivers and passengers Disabilities Tax Relief Scheme to include those without the use of one hand or arm.*

*It was agreed that Cllrs Aughey, McKenna, Maxwell and Connolly would accompany the Cathaoirleach to the meeting with Minister Jim Daly, TD in relation to Monaghan Hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm.*

The members noted the allocation of €250,000 for the Local Improvements Scheme for 2018. It was agreed that a meeting of the LIS Committee would be held as soon as possible to discuss the criteria for the scheme.

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

- (i) To consider granting permission to renovate and restore the former Clones Post Office to include change of use from a former Post Office to artist's studios and workspace and associated signage (17/8012)

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

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for the renovation and restoration of the former Clones Post Office (Ref 17/8012) 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).*

- (ii) To consider granting Permission to construct a fire station (including a training tower) and ancillary accommodation and site works. The site works include a new entrance from the R183, all service connections and boundary treatments (17/8013) at Drumillard Little, Castleblayney.

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

*On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for the construction of a fire station (including a training tower) and ancillary accommodation and site works 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. To consider proposed Variation No. 7 of the County Development Plan 'Glaslough Village Architectural Conservation Area' Executive Report**

The members noted the Report in respect of the proposed Variation No 7 to the County Development Plan. It is proposed to designate Glaslough village as an Architectural Conservation Area, to protect the special character and interest of Glaslough Village ACA and to set out conservation and planning policies to protect its special character which will guide future development. A total of seven submissions were received during the consultation period and the report gave a summary of the issues raised and the response of the Planning Authority to these issues.

The Report recommended that the proposed Variation No. 7 be adopted.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the proposed Variation No 7 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 (incorporating the*

*development plans for Monaghan, Castleblayney, Carrickmacross, Clones and Ballybay) – Glaslough Village Architectural Conservation Area, be adopted.*

**6. To receive Derelict Sites Report**

**Ms. M. Cullinan, Executive Planner referred to the report circulated with the agenda. She gave a detailed presentation to the members during which she outlined the progress to date on the acquisition of derelict sites across the three Municipal District areas in the county.**

**Following the presentation, Ms. Cullinan responded to queries from the elected members.**

**It was agreed that the report on Derelict Sites be noted.**

**7. To adopt the Monaghan County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2018**

Mr. A. King, Director of Corporate Services outlined the main points of the Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2018.

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2018, in accordance with the Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.*

**8. Diospoireacht as Gaeilge.**

Mar Chathaoirleach ar Choiste Gaeilge na Comhairle, mhínigh an Comh. P. Treanor an t-eolas seo a leanas do na baill. Luaigh sé gur socraíodh an plé seo chun teacht le seoladh Seachtain na Gaeilge ón 1 go 17 Márta. Thug sé cuntas ar roinnt imeachtaí a eagraíodh don tréimhse úd. Leag sé béim ar an bhfíric gur ceapadh an bhliain 2018 mar 'Bhliain na Gaeilge' agus d'iarr sé go scrúdódh an Chomhairle ceist oifigeach Gaeilge lánaimseartha a fhostú. Dúirt an Comh. Treanor freisin gur i gContae Mhuineacháin atá an líon is mó daoine óga ag freastal ar scoileanna lánGhaeilge, lasmuigh de na cathracha móra.

Ina theannta san mhínigh sé an Scéim Scoláireachtaí Gaeilge don bhliain 2018. Mar a tharla go dtí seo, bronnfar 36 scoláireacht i bpáirt ar dhaltá meánscoile sa chontae ionas gur féidir leo freastal ar Choláiste Gaeltachta. Bronnfar na scoláireachtaí orthusan ar éirigh leo ar 17 Bealtaine in Amharclann an Gharáiste, Muineachán.

Cllr P. Treanor, as Chair of the Council's Coiste Gaeilge introduced this item to the members. He stated that the discussion was scheduled to coincide with the launch of Seachtain na Gaeilge which runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March. He outlined a number of events that were scheduled to take place during that period. He highlighted the fact that 2018 had been designated 'Bliain na Gaeilge' and he asked that the Council would examine the possibility of having a full time Irish language officer. Cllr Treanor also stated that outside of the major cities, that County Monaghan has the greatest number of young people completing their education through Irish.

He also outlined the Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme for 2017. As in previous years, 36 part-scholarships will be awarded to secondary school students in the county to enable them to attend a Gaeltacht College. The presentation of the scholarships to the successful students will take place on 17 May in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan.

**9. To nominate one elected member to the Monaghan LCDC Health & Well Being Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that Cllr S. Conlon be nominated to the Monaghan LCDC Health and Well-being Committee.*

**10. To receive Annual Report on the Activities of the Joint Policing Committee for 2017.**

*On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council note the Annual Report on the Activities of the Joint Policing Committee for 2017.*

**11. To approve the nomination of Mr. Francis McDonald to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the nomination of Mr. Francis McDonald to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.*

**12. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20/02/2018**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20 February, 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**Miramichi Invitation:**

*It was agreed that the Council accept the invitation from the Mayor of Miramichi to attend the annual festival and that it be represented by the Cathaoirleach/Leas Chathaoirleach of the day, two Councillors and an official.*

**13. To receive Management Report – February 2018**

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



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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Carthy, Coyle, Keelan and B. McKenna in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG Training (Module 1) Councillors and Journalists, Virginia, Co. Cavan
- Nursing Homes Support Scheme, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
- AILG Training, Councillors and Journalists, Carlow.
- LCDC Induction Training, Limerick.

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

There was no business submitted by the Chief Executive under this item.

**16. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

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

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

- 1. That Monaghan County Council supports the Monaghan Anti Pylon Committee (MAPC) in their call for the (IFA) to make a clear and unambiguous statement in relation to the 1985 Code of practice between the IFA & ESB - indicating that this code of practice does not apply to EirGrid either directly or by association.*
- 2. Letter to be sent to Dublin HQ.*
- 3. Letter to Monaghan IFA.*

*It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would make contact with the President of County Monaghan IFA to see if a meeting could be arranged for the following night prior to the IFA AGM, to discuss this proposal. It was agreed that Cllrs Gilliland, Coyle, P. Treanor and P. Connolly would form the delegation to meet with the IFA President.*

*Cllr. Coyle proposed, Cllr. McNally seconded that Monaghan County Council commit that under no circumstances should any access routes be approved without the expressed knowledge and permission of the landowners for access routes for the construction by Eirgrid of the North – South Interconnection across County Monaghan.*

*Mr. E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive referred to the valid planning permission for the North South Interconnector granted by An Bord Pleanala. The Council’s job is to ensure that the conditions of the permission are adhered to. He stated that Cllr Coyle’s motion may be passed by the members, however he pointed out that the planning permission had already come through a Judicial Review. As a Planning Authority we have to ensure that the conditions of the planning permission are enforced.*

*Following a discussion on the matter, Cllr Coyle agreed to withdraw the motion.*

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

There was no new information on this item.

**19. Questions:**

**CLlr P. McNally asked:**

1. What land has this County Council remaining on the Convent Lands, Carrickmacross and any other land that was acquired in the immediate area?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has referred this question to the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District.**

2. What is the normal process for a road to be upgraded from a local primary to a regional road i.e. the road from Carrickmacross to Drumcondrath, Co. Meath?

**Reply: This designation is done by Ministerial Order. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport would require a detailed submission justifying the upgrade of the category of the road which would state the importance to the regional economy or its significance as a tourist route. All submissions would need to take into consideration the proximity of the route to the nearest regional road and any other geographical issues.**

3. (a) Has this Council got a policy to deal with problem Tenants where obvious issues exist and are verified by other residents and state bodies?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has a policy in relation to Anti Social Behaviour adopted in 2005. Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 requires Local Authorities to have an Anti Social Behaviour Strategy.**

**The current strategy was adopted by resolution of Monaghan County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010. (This document is on MCC website)**

**This Strategy is presently being updated to take into account changes in Housing law, particularly Part 2 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.**

**The current tenancy agreement (Updated March 2017) also outlines methods of dealing with problem tenants.**

- (b) Can this policy be circulated to the Council members?

**Reply: All of the above documents can be circulated to Council members.**

4. Has this Council made any progress in purchasing Industrial land as agreed by the members in each of our towns across the County?

**Reply: The Council has not yet purchased additional Industrial Lands.**

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

5. To ask Monaghan County Council for a progress report in relation to the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway project from Smithboro to Middletown?

**Reply:** Preliminary design works have commenced on the INTERREG VA funded Phase 2 Ulster Canal Greenway. Environmental studies took place along the route in summer 2017 to identify any environmental constraints that need to be taken into account during the design process. Some site clearance has taken place to clear overgrown sections of the canal towpath. A Technical Scoping Study is underway to identify all technical constraints that will need to be considered in the design. A design consultant is to be appointed by summer 2018. A preferred route will then be identified and the designers will develop the design and apply for planning permission for the route in 2019. Construction is scheduled to commence in early 2020 with the Greenway due to open in 2021.

6. In view of the fact that a drainage grant of €267,000 is being provided to Monaghan County Council specifically for drainage works what projects have been submitted to the Department for completion in 2018?

**Reply:** A proportional allocation will be provided to each District Engineer for projects within that area.

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

7. When is it envisaged that work will commence on the construction of the Magheross unfinished development in Carrickmacross?

**Reply:** The Council has met with the new owners of this site and understands that works will commence on the site within the next six months

8. How many 'small claims' have been made against Monaghan County Council relating to road conditions in the last 12 months?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council has received 51 small claims in the last 12 months (1<sup>st</sup> March 2017-28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018)

9. Will the housing section confirm how many vacant properties it currently has in the entire county (with a breakdown for each Municipal District) and an indication as to when these will be given to people on the Housing Waiting/Transfer List?

**Reply:** The number of casual vacancies currently under re-letting works at 26/02/18 is 23 and the breakdown per MD area is as follows:

MD	No. Vacancies	Offered awaiting reply	Offered and Accepted	Re-let works ongoing
Monaghan	6	0	3	3
Bbay-Clones	9	0	3	6
Cby – Cmx	8	3	3	2

In addition to the above vacancies, longer term re-letting works are required to one property in the Cbly-Cmx MD area. Housing vacancies are offered for allocation prior to completion of re-letting works so that tenancies can commence without delay upon completion of the re-letting works. It is anticipated that all of the casual vacancies referred to above will be tenanted by the end of March.

**ClIr N. Keelan asked:**

10. Will the Chief Executive outline what actions he has taken to date or hopes to take in relation to the crisis situation regarding the poor and unacceptable condition of many of our local county roads, including regional routes, such as the Carrickmacross to Culloville Road and Carrickmacross to Shercock regional road R179?

**Reply: A detailed submission is being prepared for the Department to seek additional funding for regional and local road networks.**

11. (a) How many claims have been made to Monaghan County Council for damage caused to motor vehicles in the last six months as a result of roads being in a poor state of repair?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has received 40 small claims in the last 6 months (1<sup>st</sup> September 2017-28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018)**

- (b) What has been the outcome of these claims, specifically, can you indicate what money has been paid out to claimants?

**Reply: The query was forwarded to Irish Public Bodies for an up-to-date figure and we are awaiting a response.**

12. In relation to the national development plan recently launched, are there any new infrastructural announcements for County Monaghan? If so,

- (a) What are they and what impact can be anticipated for the county?  
(b) Does this new plan contain any new developments for those wishing to build a home in the country side?

**Reply: The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework (NPF) and will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.**

**In the section of the document titled "Investing in the Border Region", it states "The National Development Plan represents a particular step change for the northern part of the island of Ireland, including the border counties and the North-West. The National Development Plan provides for investment to support the ambition for development of the border region, including the N2/A5 road, serving Meath, Monaghan and Donegal.... the next phase of the restoration of the Ulster Canal in Co. Monaghan"**

**The plan encompassing all aspects of government activity and priorities in education, enterprise and industry, infrastructure, environment and climate change, health, defence, culture, heritage and arts. There is no reference to the**

development of one-off houses in rural areas in the document. The plan does however detail a Rural Regeneration and Development Fund of €1billion to promote rural renewal.

The plan may be viewed at <http://www.per.gov.ie/en/national-development-plan-2017-2028/>

13. In order to cater for current and future housing needs and indeed the provision of industrial serviced sites, what action has this Council taken in recent years to purchase land banks across the county including, but not limited to Carrickmacross town?

**Reply:** Each year Monaghan County Council advertises for suitable land for housing and at present is in the process of dealing with and acquiring properties and sites under derelict sites legislation. Monaghan County Council has received preliminary funding approval in the amount of €3.7million for the provision of 21 new homes on six derelict sites acquired in Clones.

Monaghan County Council examines potential sites arising and has made offers for suitable land and is exploring various possibilities for the provision of housing and for industry and employment creation.

14. What is the up to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney route to dual carriageway status?

**Reply:** Tender documents for the appointment of Consultants are drafted and it is intended to publish the tender this month, with appointment of consultants expected by Q2 2018.

**Cllr A. Campbell asked:**

15. With the recent announcement of the Anti-Dumping initiative with €2 million funding for the country to combat and crackdown on the scourge of illegal dumping across the country for the purchase of covert surveillance and smart technology including drones and CCTV camera's to help detect, catch and prosecute those who are committing environmental and economic treason by continuing to litter our countryside.

- (a) What has Monaghan County Council applied for under this Scheme?  
(b) What areas of the county will be targeted by this new Scheme?

**Reply:** The deadline for submission of a funding applications to the Anti Dumping initiative was extended until Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The following projects were included in the Monaghan County Council application.

1. After successful clean up under Horse Shoe Bridge further clean up works along Monaghan Greenway.
2. Two derelict sites in Clones and Castleblayney.
3. Continuation of roadside CCTV monitoring for illegal dumping and promotion of same on Social media
4. Covert CCTV monitoring on a number of sites in County.

16. With the ongoing work in upgrading some exchanges to increase broadband coverage in rural areas?

- (a) What is the timescales for the completions of the Oram exchange and what improvements will this make?

**Reply:** The upgrade work for Oram exchange has been completed by Eir under the 300k rollout, giving an additional 125 premises access to high speed broadband from Eir. Eir have begun to contact customers in relation to this.

- (b) With the demand for broadband particularly in and around the Industrial area where the Food Park in Lough Egish is. When will the Tullynahinera exchange be complete?

**Reply:** Work on the upgrade of Tullynahinera exchange is scheduled for the end of 2018. There is normally a delay between work being completed and phone operators starting to offer new services to customers. I expect that premises will only be in a position to take advantage of any improvements at the start of 2019.

**ClIr R. Aughey asked:**

18. Can Monaghan County Council clarify:

- (a) How many Home Adaptation Grants were applied for in 2016/2017?

**Reply:** The number of Home Adaption Grants applied for in 2017 was 255.

- (b) How many Home Adaptation Grants were successful in 2016/2017?

**Reply:** The number of Home Adaptation Grants that were successful in 2017 was 236 at a cost of € 1,828,360. The number of Grants approved during 2016 was 162 at a cost of €1,192,350.

- (c) How long on average based on 2016/2017 figures Home Adaptation Grants took to complete from start to finish?

**Reply:** The average time frame for completion of Home Grants is largely dependent on time taken by applicants to complete adaptation works.

- (d) How many Home Adaptation Grants are expected in 2018?

**Reply:** Housing Section anticipates a similar number of applications in 2018 as received during 2017. However, it should be noted that approx seventy percent of grants that were approved during 2017 were completed by the applicants between September and December 2017. If this trend re-occurs in 2018, a substantial number of approved applications may not be completed and drawn down by December 2018.

19. In the interests of the environment can Monaghan County Council investigate the feasibility of implementing a tree planting scheme for all births, deaths and marriages in County Monaghan similar to the scheme undertaken by Derry City and Strabane District Council this year?

**Reply:** There are currently no plans and no provision within Council resources to implement such a scheme as the one referred.

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

20. Can Monaghan County Council clarify and detail how they intend to handle the launch/ publicity around the Map Alerter service to maximise its potential and overall benefit to the community?

**Reply:** Since its launch in January 2017 the Map Alerter service has been promoted via Social Media, Monaghan.ie website, and public meetings and events including the June PPN Plenary Meeting, the St. Patrick's Day Parades and the Taste of Monaghan Festival. Map Alerter Information Flyers and Registration forms have also been designed and distributed to all Customer Service Desks including Municipal District Offices, Branch Libraries, Motor Taxation Office, Planning and Finance Offices. Staff from several departments across the organisation have been trained on the system and on how to issue notifications/alerts.

Met Eireann weather warnings and incidents logged on a Monaghan County Council developed Road Incident App are automatically updated to Map Alerter. In addition, notifications / alerts issued on Map Alerter are automatically posted to Social Media and News Events on Monaghan.ie website enabling efficient single instance data entry and message standardisation across multiple communication channels.

Monaghan County Council will continue to publicise the Map Alerter Service throughout 2018 via the following channels:

- Monthly posts on Social Media
- Allocate a more prominent location(s) on Monaghan.ie website
- Advertise in The Northern Standard
- Advertise in Parish Bulletins
- Fliers/Registration Forms – Distribute to local businesses and work places
- Public Meetings and Events

Following a very timely promotion of Map Alerter on Facebook and as a result of the recent severe weather event the number of subscribers has increased from 916 on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to 2045 on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

21. Can Monaghan County Council outline:
- (a) The number of expressions of interest so far in the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans in County Monaghan?

**Reply:** The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme commenced in February 2018 and a national help desk is in operation to cater for customer enquiries and expressions of interest.

- (b) The number of applications so far in the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans in County Monaghan?

**Reply:** Housing Section has not received any applications to date in respect of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme. The number of home loan applications received during 2017 was 19.

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

22. In the interests of the environment can Monaghan County Council investigate the feasibility of implementing a partnership to promote the work of the County Monaghan Tidy Towns network and seek to include Monaghan GAA similar to the scheme undertaken by Kildare County Council this year?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council supports the Tidy Towns groups and Residents Associations through a range of initiatives, including Network meetings, training events, one-on-one mentoring to new groups, and funding through the Community & Environment Fund each year. The workplan for the Network is set by the groups, and responds to the needs identified by the groups. The Council will bring Cllr Aughey's suggestion to the next Network meeting for their consideration.

**18. Notices of Motion:**

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded

*That this Council recognises the crisis facing suckler farmers and calls on the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed, TD to immediately put in place support measures that will help to save the sector. This sector accounts for thousands of jobs all across the county in the food industry.*

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

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

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to Ms. Alison Mackle, Council employee on the death of her mother, Pauline RIP.

**20. Conferences/Training**

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
LAMA	'The New National Planning Framework'	The Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Cllr. Colm Carthy Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Cathy Bennett Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Seamus Coyle Cllr. Pdraig McNally



				Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Sean Gilliland Cllr. Aidan Campbell Cllr. Paudge Connolly
<b>AILG</b>	Annual Training Conference 2018	Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Cllr. Colm Carthy Cllr. Sean Conlon Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Pat Treanor Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Jackie Crowe Cllr. Seamus Coyle Cllr. Pdraig McNally Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Sean Gilliland Cllr. Paudge Connolly

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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

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