

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 3rd September, 2018 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr D. Maxwell, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. A. King, Director of Service, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, A/Director of Service, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. F. McEntee and Mr. C. Flynn, Senior Engineers, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Maxwell welcomed all present back after the summer break.

He proposed a vote of sympathy with the husband and family of Eileen McKenna, a former employee at Monaghan County Museum. Cllr B. McKenna seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. A minute's silence was observed and the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect to the late Eileen.

The meeting resumed after the short break.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd July, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 2nd July 2018 be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Shane Ross, T.D, regarding Additional funding for the road network.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills Mr. Richard Burton, T.D, regarding SNA's.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, T.D, regarding payment to small farmers.
- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D, regarding Brexit.
- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D, regarding the European Court of Human Rights ruling on the Hooded Men.
- Letter from An Garda Síochána regarding high visibility present on the N2.
- Letter from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding request for additional roads funding
- Letter from The Office of Public Works regarding funding for the flood relief schemes at Ballybay, Inniskeen and Monaghan Town.

- Email from Irish Water regarding hard water in Co Monaghan
- Thank you letter from Monaghan Town Country Music Festival committee.
- Thank you letter from Glaslough Tidy Towns regarding Making Waves festival.
- Resolution from Wexford County Council regarding the future of local government, that will examine powers, autonomy and funding.
- Resolution from Limerick City & County Council regarding employees who have a recognised degree would be legally entitled to be paid a liveable wage.
- Resolution from Longford County Council regarding payment of €50,000 be made to women and families affected by the cervical cancer misdiagnosis.
- Resolution from Limerick City & County Council regarding government grants, social welfare payments and all other state supports be categorised as non-means tested Universal payments for people with disabilities
- Resolution from Donegal County Council calling on the Minister for Education to address the discrepancies which exist in the rates of pay and benefits paid to ancillary staff in schools.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding the bundling of public contracts.
- Resolution from Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD regarding hardship funding to assist farmers given the severe shortage of fodder.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Email from the Department of Housing regarding Electoral Area Boundary Commission report.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding Post Offices.
- Resolution from Waterford County Council regarding the abolishment of the ‘Loco Parentis’ clause in homecare nursing contracts for sick children.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that Monaghan County Council write to the Minister for Finance to commence a grant scheme that will be used solely by County Councils to address hardness levels in water supplies.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD to refuse to sign the orders to give effect to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No 1 Report which clearly discriminates and creates an imbalance in representation of the Ballybay-Clones Local Electoral area, which will leave the local electoral area with only 5 members out of an 18 member Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD to afford Co. Monaghan an official visit to review road issues and discuss funding allocations into the future.

On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council urges the Government to implement the will of the Dáil and publish a road map for improving regional and local networks.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that in view of the alarming increase in the incidence of TB outbreaks in Monaghan in 2018 of 13% of herds in the county which is twice the national average with 990 reactors identified to the end of July this year.

Monaghan County Council invite the Department of Agriculture disease eradication division to make a presentation to the October meeting of the County Council.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council re-issue our motion on Brexit passed by the Council to the Taoiseach, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Justice, as follows:

The discussion on Brexit has refocused on the issue of partition and a possible scenario with one part of Ireland being in the E.U. and another part outside the E.U. This would be an intolerable situation for the people of County Monaghan and of Ireland. That Monaghan County Council writes to the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney TD and Minister for Justice Charles Flanagan TD proposing that; (a) the Irish government insists on a special status for the North of Ireland within the E.U., throughout the negotiations with all stakeholders, (b) the Irish government leads a debate on the peaceful reunification of Ireland, (c) analyses and promotes the benefits of a united Ireland, and (d) appoints a Ministry for reunification.

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

- (i) To consider Part VIII proposal to raise the existing road level of local roads LP3720-0 & LP4410-0, (Annadrumman & Toome) over a length of 1 kilometre, to mitigate the flooding issue in the area (18/8006)

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner in relation to planning permission for the raising of the existing road level of local roads LP3720-0 & LP4410-0, (Annadrumman & Toome) over a length of 1 kilometre, to mitigate the flooding issue in the area.

On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Crowe, and it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the raising of the road level of local roads LPP3720-0 and LP4410-0 (Annadrumman & Toome) (Ref 18/8006) to comply with report from the Senior Planner and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2000.

- (ii) To consider Part VIII proposal to renovate & restore the former Courthouse and Council offices in Newbliss for use as Artist studios and residential accommodation (18/8007)

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner in relation to permission for the renovations of the former Courthouse and Council offices in Newbliss for use as artist studios and residential accommodation.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Gilliland, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, and it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the renovation and restoration of the former Courthouse and Council offices in Newbliss, (Ref 18/8007) to comply with report from the Senior Planner and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2000.

4. To consider deleting the premises known as An Bonnan Buí, Fermanagh St., Clones from the Record of Protected Structures

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner recommending that the premises known as An Bonnan Buí, Fermanagh Street, Clones be deleted from the Record of Protected Structures. Following a period of public consultation, no submissions had been received in relation to the proposal. The property has now been acquired by Monaghan County Council through the Derelict Sites process.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council approves the deletion of the premises known as An Bonnan Buí, Fermanagh Street, Clones from the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

5. To consider taking in charge part of Drumbear Wood Estate, Monaghan Town

The members noted the report from the Director of Planning which had been circulated with the agenda. The report recommended that the Council take the roads, footpaths, public lighting, water and sewerage services for the development consisting of 12 houses permitted under P.A. Ref 15/9010 at Drumbear Wood Estate, Monaghan Town.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Connolly seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council take in charge the development consisting of 12 houses permitted under P.A. 15/9010 at Drumbear Wood Estate, Monaghan Town, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

6. Local Property Tax – to consider the local adjustment factor for 2019

The members considered the report prepared by Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance. The report explained that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. Any decision by a local authority to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax must be taken by 30th September. In determining the rate of LPT a local authority must take account of its financial position and have regard to a number of factors -

- The local authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which LPT is to apply.
- The financial position of the local authority.
- Feedback from any consultation held.
- The financial effect of any variation to the rate of LPT.

He recommended that the discretionary element be left as is to allow for the M.D. allocation and to provide for borrowing for economic development.

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

That Monaghan County Council reduces the rate of local property tax for 2019 by 7.5%.

A lengthy discussion took place during which a number of members voiced their support for or opposition to the motion and the reason for that decision.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for, 11 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

7. Sliabh Beagh Masterplan

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Kevin McNally, Ballybay-Clones M.D. Co-ordinator. Mr. McNally gave the members a presentation on the background to the preparation and the objectives contained in the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan. He stated that the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan was jointly commissioned by Monaghan County Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in 2017 to establish a strategic vision for the future of this important rural area. The plan was researched and written by Landscape Architects, The Paul Hogarth Company, working in close consultation with local residents, community organisations and elected members of both Councils.

The report summarises the findings of the research process and sets out aims, objectives and a series of projects for the future of the region. It seeks to set in place a road map for regeneration, helping the area to fulfil its potential as a visitor destination, while contributing to its needs for continued environmental protection, cultural interpretation and economic development. It concludes with an action plan of 10 proposed projects for delivery over the short, medium and long term by a range of stakeholders.

The members complimented all involved in the preparation of the Plan and looked forward to it being implemented.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney seconded by Cllrs Bennett and Gilliland it was agreed that the Council adopt the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council send a copy of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan to An Taoiseach and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Northern Ireland Department as an example of the good work that's going on in the Border Region.

8. Presidential Election 2018 – nominations

The members noted that the Council had been contacted by nine persons indicating that they were intending to seek the support of the local authority in their bid to obtain a nomination to contest the forthcoming Presidential Election on 26th October, 2018.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Council would be held on Monday 10th September, 2018 commencing at 10.00 a.m. to afford potential candidates the opportunity to make a presentation to the elected members. Each candidate would be allocated 10 minutes for the presentation followed by a further period of 5 minutes for questions and answers. All candidates who had made contact with the Council to be contacted in this regard.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that this Council corresponds with the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs seeking an update

on the Government decision dated March 7th 2017 that as per decision states, “approves in principle the holding of a Referendum to amend the Constitution to extend the franchise at Presidential elections to include Irish citizens resident outside the state, including citizens resident in Northern Ireland”.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 10 August 2018

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council approve the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 10 August 2018 and the recommendations contained therein.

Cllr B. McKenna stated that he wished to raise the matter of the MRF at Scotch Corner with the Chief Executive. At this point and before any further discussion took place, Cllr McElvaney declared a conflict of interest and withdrew from the meeting. The Chief Executive responded to the query from Cllr McKenna and comments from some other members.

Cllr McElvaney returned to the meeting when the discussion had ended.

10. To receive the Management Report – July/August 2018

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

11. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events

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

- AILG – Single Public Water Utility, Donegal
- AIG – Cllrs and Community Safety

12. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

Monaghan Irish Golf Classic:

The Chief Executive informed the members that he had consulted with the CPG members in relation to proposed sponsorship by Monaghan County Council of the Monaghan Irish Golf Classic in the amount of €10,000. Concra Wood Golf Club had been selected by the European Challenge Tour to host the golf classic from 4th to 7th October 2018. It was a great opportunity to showcase the county to a world wide audience. He stated that County Monaghan has a very good golf package to offer the golfing visitor, with five courses all within a half hours drive of each other and the county needs to maximise economic benefit from this revenue stream. All golf clubs in the county will benefit from the promotion of the event. He understood that all guest accommodation is booked out for the event. The members agreed with this proposal.

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd July, 2018.

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd July were responded to by the relevant officials.

14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Business Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Employment and Social Protection Regina Doherty TD, Minister of State Damien English TD and Helen McEntee TD, that when Minister Denis Naughten TD, Minister for Communications Climate Action and Environment brings the long awaited studies to Cabinet, that they demand Government to direct Eirgrid to scrap the current proposals for the over grounding of the North South Interconnector, as it will never gain public acceptance and is a scandalous waste of public money.

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

- 1. That Monaghan County Council calls on Government, and Minister Denis Naughten TD and Eirgrid to carry out a full review of the feasibility of the North South Interconnector using over grounding proposed technology.*
- 2. That this Council writes to all the Oireachtas members representing the area affected by the proposed North South Interconnector, requesting their support for the motion, and requesting they keep this Council informed of what action and progress is being made in relation to same.*

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

- 1. That this Council notes with deep concern the close monitoring by Eirgrid of all media including the close monitoring of all elected representatives.*
- 2. That this Council writes to all the Oireachtas members representing the area affected by the proposed North South Interconnector requesting they make a statement on this issue and correspond back on some.*
- 3. That we also write to Minister Denis Naughten TD seeking his views on this issue.*

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council writes to the Public Accounts Committee of the Dáil, requesting they call Eirgrid before the Committee as soon as possible to seek from Eirgrid as to what money has been spent to date on this project.

15. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Dawn Livingstone CEO and Joe Gillespie Northern Regional Manager, Waterways Ireland and invited them to address the meeting.

Ms Livingstone outlined the background to the project and stated that the last estimate for the entire Ulster Canal was circa €202 million. The project would extend from Lough Erne to Lough Neagh involved 93 kilometres and 36 locks, covering counties Fermanagh, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh and Tyrone. The extension from Lough Erne to Clones was estimated to cost €46m while the annual operation cost was estimated at €300k. Planning permission for this section had

been obtained in 2013 and had been extended up to 2023, so the project was ready to go. She stated that Waterways Ireland are actively working on an application for funding under the Rural Regeneration Scheme and this was due to be submitted before the end of September.

Mr. Gillespie updated the members in relation to the Greenway project. The Greenway through Monaghan town was phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 would be a 22 kilometre cross border project from Smithboro in County Monaghan to Portadown in County Armagh following the towpath of the disused Ulster Canal where possible.

Both Ms. Livingstone and Mr. Gillespie then responded to questions from the elected members.

The Chief Executive thanked them both for the presentation and assured them of the Council's support and cooperation for the delivery of the project.

The Cathaoirleach also thanked them for the presentation and looked forward to the opening of the entire Canal in the future.

16. Questions:

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

1. To ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to proposed works which are due to be completed at Annyalla NS under the Low Cost Road Safety Scheme?

Reply: The works are due to start in early October and will take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

2. In view of the increased volume of traffic, much of it by motorists who are unfamiliar with the route, what plans do Monaghan County Council to improve vision and safety at Falkland Bridge?

Reply: This section of road has been reviewed by the Roads Office. Hedge cutting to commence September to improve on existing advance signage visibly. Road lining improvements are being considered by the Roads Office presently.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

3. Can Monaghan County Council please advise home owners and businesses of the Government's future plans for a necessary broadband plan roll out? Presently there is no broadband in certain locations in Monaghan and this is preventing the progression of our county, both in relation to business and education.

Reply: A premises' connection to high speed broadband depends on its status on the NBP High Speed Broadband Map, available at www.broadband.gov.ie. The Map is colour coded and searchable by address/eircode:

- The AMBER areas represent the target areas for the proposed State led Intervention under the NBP and are the subject of an ongoing procurement process.

- The BLUE represent those areas where commercial providers are either currently delivering or have plans to deliver high speed broadband services.
- The LIGHT BLUE areas represent Eir's commercial rural deployment plans to rollout high speed broadband to 300,000 premises as part of a Commitment Agreement signed between the Department and Eir in April 2017.

The procurement process to appoint a company for the NBP State led Intervention is now in its closing stages with a final tender expected shortly. Once a contract is signed deployment will begin and rollout schedules will be available. By 2020 90% of premises in Ireland will have access to high speed broadband. If premises in BLUE areas can't get a high speed broadband connection, despite trying with all providers in their area, the owners should contact broadband@dcca.gov.ie. Data for Q2 2018 submitted by Eir to the Department indicates that the company has passed some 175,000 premises nationwide as part of its ongoing deployment. Further details on Eir's rollout are available at www.fiberrollout.ie

Citizens in AMBER areas should try other options, such as a fixed wireless, mobile broadband or satellite service available in the local area while awaiting deployment of the State intervention network.

4. Can Monaghan County Council please give me an update on their plans for the derelict site on the Bog road into Scotstown?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is committed to resolving the issue of derelict sites and is availing of funding opportunities where possible under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme. A 1.45 hectare derelict site with four long term unfinished derelict properties was acquired at "Bothar Na Mullen" Scotstown under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 by Monaghan County Council.

Monaghan County Council sought approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for funding to complete the four unfinished properties and develop the rest of the site for social housing. Monaghan County Council has been granted conditional Stage 1 Funding Approval to procure consultants to develop the concept design that currently consists of 31 new houses (including the four unfinished properties) at an estimated cost of over €5 million. Developing the proposal in conjunction with the consultants will further inform the feasibility of the scheme to move towards submitting a more detailed Stage 2 Funding Application seeking approval to proceed to with a Part 8 Planning submission. The proposed scheme is still in its infancy but has thus far received a positive response from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government.

5. In relation to the ongoing situation of hard water in Scotstown, Ballinode and Smithboro, can I please have an up-to-date report on what Monaghan County Council has done to address this issue?

Reply: Irish Water are responsible for all public water services, including the supply of drinking water and the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. Irish Water have stated their position clearly, to this Council on numerous occasions. Eamonn Gallen, MD, Irish Water also addressed Cllr. Bennett's query directly at an elected members briefing in Bundoran.

Irish Water will not fund the treatment of hard water in Scotstown, Ballinode and Smithboro.

Irish Water have issued the following advice note in relation to hardness in water supplies. Irish Water is committed to delivering safe and secure drinking water supplies for our customers. This involves complying with all applicable legal and statutory requirements related to drinking water and in particular the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 122 of 2014)(the Drinking Water Regulations). Hardness is determined by the level of naturally occurring calcium and magnesium compounds in solution in local water sources. Source waters with a high calcium and magnesium content are considered to be hard, and those waters with a low content are considered to be soft. Depending on the local geology the hardness of the water supply scheme will vary. Such water is perfectly safe to drink but, when boiled, results in scale deposition on pipes and appliances.

Irish Water is required by Regulations to provide safe drinking water to meet the regulatory standards. On that basis, it is funded to provide and operate water treatment systems to satisfy those standards. We face significant challenges in order to meet these standards across the country and that has to be our priority in allocating funding.

There is no reference to hardness in either the Drinking Water Directive or Drinking Water Regulations. However, the impact of hardness in drinking water is considered in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines for drinking water quality, 4th ed, 2011. The WHO Guidelines state that hardness in drinking water is not of health concern at the levels found in drinking water but acknowledges that it may affect acceptability to consumers.

On the basis of the above, it is Irish Water policy not to install systems to artificially soften water as part of the general water treatment process. The installation of water softening devices by the consumer, to treat that portion of the supply used by hot water appliances, is technically feasible and widely applied to improve the efficiency and life of domestic appliances. Such devices are available for domestic use in Ireland.

There is some literature that suggests hard water may be beneficial to health but this is unproven. WHO states: "Although there is some evidence from epidemiological studies for a protective effect of magnesium or hardness on cardiovascular mortality, the evidence is being debated and does not prove causality. Therefore, all one can say is that it is not a health issue for which Irish Water can currently expend money to treat.

From Water Services Strategic Plan 'While treatment to reduce hardness in water supply is not currently a priority, it may be considered in severe cases by the CER when priority compliance issues have been addressed'.

6. In relation to dereliction in Ballybay, can Monaghan County Council please give me an up-to date report on measures that have been implemented to address this issue?

Reply: The Ballybay 'Improvement Works to Historic Buildings' programme, implemented under REDZ 2015, resulted in the enhancement of terraces on Main Street and Lower Main Street (15 properties) through the painting of front facades and maintenance of rainwater goods. The Ballybay Public Realm and Economic Plan which is currently being prepared, will consider other measures to address vacancy and dereliction in the town.

In addition, the Council has acquired 3No properties under the derelict sites legislation. The property acquired on Church Street is currently for sale on the open market, while the

future use of the properties on Main Street is being considered under the Public Realm & Economic Plan.

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

7. Can Monaghan County Council take in charge the lights on the public road at Lios A Ghoirtín, Clones?

Reply: The lights along the public road were constructed as part of the Lios A Ghoirtin housing development. This development has not been completed in accordance with the related planning permission and no application for its taking in charge has been received. The lights remain in the ownership of the developer as does the responsibility for their maintenance. The Planning Section has formally claimed the associated bond in order that the development can now be completed. There are consequently no immediate plans for the transfer of these assets to the Council

8. Residents in Newbliss have complained of a foul odour from their public water supply. Has the reason/cause of this been established? Many are still buying water. What will M.C.C./Irish Water do to re-establish confidence in the supply?

Reply: Monaghan County Council await a written response from Irish Water's Local Representative Support Desk.

9. Can Monaghan County Council establish from Oaklee Housing when their 6 houses at Eanaigh Ealta, Clones, will be offered to tenants?

Reply:

- **Additional Works were identified**
- **Specialist Contractor required and appointed**
- **Works have commenced**
- **Expected completion 4 – 6 weeks (aiming for 4 weeks) – from today 28th August**

10. What is the current update of the fibre-to-the-home broadband rollout to the 4K+ households/premises in County Monaghan? How many of the premises 'passed' have taken a connection? Have other Telecommunication Providers access to this infrastructure?

Reply: Eir have completed deployment to a total of 175,000 premises nationwide as part of its rollout. Some 3,200 of these premises are in Monaghan. Approximately 1,400 premises in Monaghan remain to be connected, for a total of some 4,600 in the county. In Monaghan, a total of 3,210 premises or 71 % of 300k committed premises have been passed by end July 2018.

There is no specific take-up figures for Monaghan in isolation. However based on current take-up rates over 600 premises in County Monaghan have a Eir 300k FTTH connection. It is anticipated that these figures will grow as users come out of existing contracts and can then avail of new offerings for high speed broadband.

6 Telecommunication providers are actively selling to consumers including Eir.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

- 11.** When is the MCC Traffic Calming Policy expected to be presented to the members for ratification?

Reply: The draft has been reviewed by the Road Section and the MD's. Final draft scheduled for submission to the 18th September CPG meeting. It's anticipated that the policy will then be presented to members in October.

- 12.** When is work expected to begin on the Magheross/Drummond Ross unfinished housing estate in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Tuath Housing Association has informed Monaghan County Council that they have received correspondence from the Developer stating their intention to be on site in mid-September 2018.

- 13.** What is the up-to-date position on the Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties in Carrickmacross; can the executive request an update from Respond! And the HSE?

Reply: Monaghan County Council requested updates from the HSE and Respond! Housing Association.

Respond! Housing Association has confirmed that additional works requested by the HSE have now been completed with the exception of minor snags which will be attended to by mid-September 2018. The HSE was informed of this on 29 August 2018. An update from the HSE is awaited.

- 14.** Will the executive confirm if further rebates from IPB will be allocated to Municipal Districts into the future as they were this year?

Reply: This was a once off allocation to the Municipal Districts from a redistribution of funds from IPB. This allocation will not be repeated in future years.

- 15.** What feedback, and results, were garnered from recent expressions of interest for lands and buildings for social housing sought by MCC (public advertisements)?

Reply: The process of acquiring property is commercially sensitive so detailed information cannot be provided in response to this question however the following information can be shared. In response to the expression of interest advertisements for properties suitable for social housing purposes Monaghan County Council has received a reasonable number of enquiries from property owners interested in selling their houses. In 2018 approximately 40 individual houses have been considered of which 8 purchases are proceeding and additional house purchases will be pursued before year end.

Several landowners and Developers have expressed an interest in selling land and/or completed houses to Monaghan County Council under turnkey proposals. Each proposal is considered on its own merits and assessed. Monaghan County Council expects to receive further proposals from interested Developers in the coming months and, subject to Department funding, hopes to proceed with further new build projects if suitable and feasible.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

- 16.** How many houses are in the ownership of Monaghan County Council and currently rented to qualifying tenants across the county; approximately how many houses are owned by Housing Associations such as Respond, Tuath, North East Housing etc. across the county and are currently housing those who previously were on the local authority housing waiting list?

Reply: Monaghan County Councils Housing Stock 1577, (17 Latlorcan Close which are not complete and 12 Maple Grove which are not complete and 5 Gortakeegan). Currently occupied 1516.

264 belong to the various Housing Associations along with 14 group homes. Monaghan County Council have nomination rights for Housing Associations.

- 17.** How many homes does the Council intend to build or buy in the coming years across the county; how many homes can the Council expect the Housing Associations operating in the county to be in a position to offer to those who are currently on council housing waiting list in the coming years?

Reply: Monaghan County Council continues to make excellent progress under the Rebuilding Ireland Social Housing Programme using Repair & Leasing, Buy & Renew, new build construction, renewing derelict properties, single acquisitions, long term leasing and Part V's to help deliver national targets.

Monaghan County Council intends to provide 93 homes in 2019, 40 homes in 2020 and 19 homes in 2021 subject to funding. Please note these figures exclude voids and vacant properties returned to use.

Monaghan County Council expects the Housing Associations to be in a position to offer 51 homes in 2019, 50 homes in 2020 and 62 homes in 2021 subject to funding.

Monaghan County Council will continue to seek additional funding for Social Housing at every opportunity that arises and proactively pursue opportunities for additional social housing provision in areas of Housing Need throughout County Monaghan.

- 18.** Will the Council look at the possibility of building, buying or working with the Housing Associations operating in the county in relation Inniskeen village in order to cater for the housing needs of those living in the Inniskeen area; will the Council agree there is a need for the provision of a small number of family homes in this area?

Reply: There are currently 26 Housing Applicants on Monaghan County Council's housing waiting list who have expressed a preference to live in Inniskeen: 14 of the applicants are people in need of one-bedroom accommodation; 9 are in need of 2-bedroom accommodation; 2 are in need of 3-bedroom accommodation and one family is in need of 5-bedroom accommodation.

Monaghan County Council has provided 90 houses in Inniskeen to date, 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. Monaghan County Council has considered and will continue to consider opportunities for increasing social housing in Inniskeen.

19. 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 policy (locals only policy rule) in light of the European Court ruling dating back to 2013 which seems to suggest that this policy is illegal; If the answer is no, and given the unacceptable delay and the anger of the elected members at the lack of response to date, will our senior planning officials make direct contact on this matter which affects so many of our citizens across the county?

Reply: The Planning Section has received no updates on this matter. Members of the Section have previously engaged directly with officials from the Department and expressed the Elected Members concerns

20. What is the up to-date position in relation to the upgrading and proposed improvement works to be carried out at the very dangerous Tullvaragh junction on the N2 and also what plans, if any, are in place to improve the dangerous junction north of the Tullvaragh junction at Drumharriff given the number of serious accidents at this location?

**Reply: Land agreement discussions continue and await valuation / legal agreement conclusion. Expected to finalise in 2019.
Drumhariff traffic count survey conducted. Findings been analysed.**

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

21. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the economic utilisation of the gas emissions from the landfills at Scotch Corner?

Reply: A procurement competition for the economic exploitation of landfill gas at Scotch Corner Landfill site was published in July 2017. Following a competitive dialogue process, one admissible tender was received in December 2017. The submission was evaluated as not being economically viable, and the competition was closed without award in February 2018. As the landfill ceased accepting biodegradable waste in 2016 and is now in the restoration and aftercare phase, the production of landfill gas is declining rapidly, as is the economic viability of using the gas.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

22. Can Monaghan County Council outline in detail the -
- (a) Costs per kilometre of resurfacing/restoration of National Roads
Regional Road
Local Roads.
- For the past 5 years i.e. 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014.
- (b) The kilometres completed in each of the 5 years.
- (c) The kilometre distance and cost per kilometre of surface dressing for each of the above 5 years.

| Resurfacing/Restoration | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Estimated 2018 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| National Roads | | | | | |
| Average cost per km * | ** | €133,317 | €111,446 | €99,843 | €201,473 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| KMs completed | ** | 6.3 | 1 | 9.5 | 10 |
| Regional Roads *** | | | | | |
| Average cost per km | €118,020 | €114,780 | €96,480 | €117,720 | €178,860 |
| KMs completed | 3.4 | 9.4 | 10 | 6.5 | 4.4 |
| Local Roads **** | | | | | |
| Average cost per km | €102,720 | €103,480 | €79,240 | €97,560 | €118,800 |
| KMs completed | 44.5 | 47 | 37 | 37 | 30 |
| Surface Dressing (RM) | | | | | |
| Regional Roads | | | | | |
| Average cost per km | €31,140 | €33,000 | €33,180 | €26,280 | €33,000 |
| KMs completed | 5.5 | 6.5 | 5 | 12 | 15 |
| Local Roads | | | | | |
| Average cost per km | €14,400 | €18,000 | €17,840 | €15,600 | €18,000 |
| KMs completed | 50 | 54.5 | 48 | 46 | 51.5 |

* Assumes HRA on National Road 7.5 m. excludes drainage structural works barrier etc.

** No pavements schemes in 2014 for National Roads.

*** Assumes Regional Roads 6 meters wide and 1 km in length with wearing course.

**** Assumes Local Roads 4 meters wide and 1km in length. (Includes surface dressing)

23. (a) Can Monaghan County Council outline the number of staff appointed/recruited to permanent/temporary employment over the past 5 years i.e. 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and to the particular section of County Council work.

Reply:

| Staff Appointed/Recruited | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 to date |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Permanent | | | | | |
| (a) Indoor | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| (b) Outdoor | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 2. Temporary | | | | | |
| (a) Indoor | | 4 | 10 | 13 | 9 |
| (b) Outdoor | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| 3. Retained Firefighters | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 10 | 14 | 30 | 29 | 31 |

Over this period, 2014 up to 31st August 2018, **92** employees left the organisation through either retirement or resignation.

- (b) Also for each of the above categories of employment the numbers of applicants.

Reply: As the information above is not readily available and would take a considerable time to gather, information on the lowest and highest number of applicants over the period is being provided. The number of applicants ranged from 4 to 240 over the period.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

24. (a) Can Monaghan County Council clarify how many litter complaints have been received to date in 2018?

Reply: 228 litter complaints received to date in 2018

- (b) How many litter fines it has issued to date in 2018?

Reply: 41 litter fines have been issued to date in 2018

- (c) How many litter fines it has collected to date in 2018?

Reply: 40 litter fines have been paid to date in 2018: (21 of these fines were issued in 2017)

25. (a) Can Monaghan County Council clarify how many dog fouling fines have been issued to date in 2018?
(b) How many dog fouling fines have been collected to date in 2018?

Reply: No Dog Fouling Fines have been issued or have been collected to date in 2018.

26. Can Monaghan County Council investigate the feasibility of implementing "Make Way Day" to help support people with disabilities?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will be supporting national 'Make Way Day' 2018 on Wednesday September 26th. The 'Make Way Day' campaign is being organised by the Disability Federation of Ireland, Irish Wheelchair Association, Fighting Blindness, Enable Ireland, Arthritis Ireland, Multiple Sclerosis Ireland and many others. 'Make Way Day' aims to raise awareness of the obstacles people with disabilities face in our public spaces. Obstacles created by badly parked cars, bicycles, sandwich boards and overgrown hedges can make it harder for some people to get around in public areas. Taking place during Monaghan's annual Social Inclusion week – September 22nd -29th 'Make Way Day' will encourage everyone to be more mindful of our friends, colleagues and neighbours when we are out and about in public and not to create difficulties for anyone not just on this day but every day. We will also be encouraging members of the public to highlight any obstacles of barriers they come across.

Further details of #Makewayday2018 will be circulated nearer the date.

27. Can Monaghan County Council investigate the feasibility of implementing a pilot Voluntary Housing Scheme allowing people availing of local authority housing to seek more suitable accommodation, if the accommodation exceeds their needs?

Reply: Where local authority tenants are living in houses that are oversized for their existing household size they are able to apply to the local authority for a transfer from that property to a smaller property that may be more suitable to their needs.

17. Notices of Motion:

Cllr S. Treanor proposed, Cllr Connolly seconded

1. *That we write to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding overgrown trees in towns and villages especially at private residences, which are causing major problems including disputes among neighbours.*

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

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded

2. *This Council:*

(1) Is deeply concerned of the imminent threat of closure of up to 390 Post Offices throughout the country and the threat to the long-term future of the remaining 690 Post Offices.

(2) Believes the decision as to whether a community has a Post Office or not, should not hinge on a Postmaster wishing to retire.

(3) Recognises there is an alternative and superior solution to the Post Office issue available to An Post and to Government in the form of the Kiwi (Post) Bank model that was established in New Zealand in 2002, and now has 20% of the banking market and 25% of all banking customers in New Zealand. It has been described as a phenomenal success having made over \$7m profit in its third year of operation and nowadays posts annual profits of circa \$100m.

(4) Supports the Dáil Private Members Motion of 16th Nov 2016 -

The Dáil Motion of the 16th November, 2016, passed by the Dáil - 158 Votes (no amendments)

“Calls on the Government to:

- implement a new community banking service operated by An Post to be made available in all post offices throughout the country; this post community bank could be based on either the New Zealand Kiwi Bank model or the German Sparkassen model, both of which have been found to be valid models;”

Therefore, this Council calls on Government to:

1. *Enact ‘Private Members Dáil Motion of the 16th November, 2016.’*
2. *Postpone the closure of Post Offices while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the*

During the course of a debate on Cllr McKenna’s motion, Cllr Connolly proposed the following addendum –

That Monaghan County Council calls on An Post to decouple the position of Postmaster from post office thus ensuring that post offices remain in a community when a post master/mistress decides to retire.

Cllr McKenna accepted the addendum.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and it was agreed by the members.

Cllr McKenna requested that the adopted motion be circulated to all local authorities.

Cllrs Gilliland proposed, Cllr Campbell seconded

3. *As a result of Brexit, and the UK departing from the EU in March 2019, and the future safe guarding of the people, the communities and businesses of the Border Region - that Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Justice Mr Charlie Flanagan TD to provide an additional helicopter to the Garda Air Support unit of An Garda Siochana with the sole purpose of patrolling and assisting in the policing the Border Region and to provide a refuelling base in the Border region to facilitate the helicopter and other supporting helicopters from the Air Support Unit based in Dublin.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for, nil against, 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr McNally seconded

4. *That Monaghan County Council requests an immediate meeting with the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton T.D. and the Minister with responsibility for School Transport, Junior Minister, John Halligan T.D., to demand the serious anomalies in the roll out of the School Bus Transport system across County Monaghan and Rural Ireland arising from the commitment in the 2016 Programme for Government to review Concessionary Travel for pupils, with the subsequent report published by government, resulting in Department guidelines for smaller buses, which is now causing problems be addressed immediately. Severe hardship, inconvenience and suffering is being caused for many families in County Monaghan and there are timetabling issues for schools.*

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

Cllr Coyle requested that the motion be circulated to all local authorities.

18. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

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

- The Gunn family, Fermanagh Street, Clones on the death of Michael Gunn, RIP, a former member of Clones Town Council.

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

- Monaghan GAA on winning the Ulster U-17 Championship and to the Monaghan Senior Team on an excellent season and the pride and joy they brought to the Monaghan people all over the world was enormous.
- Christopher Rice on being awarded The Translink Young Volunteer for the month of June 2018 for his coaching work with Latton GAA club.
- Eoghan McGinnity, Monaghan Handball Club on winning the U17 World Handball title.
- Mannan Castle Golf Club on celebrating 25 years of the establishment of the Club.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council afford Eoghan McGinnity a Civic Reception in recognition of his amazing achievement. It was further agreed that Sean Callan and his handball partner Kyle Jordan be also included in the Civic Reception for winning the U13 Doubles competition.

19. Conferences/Training

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

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme | Venue | Dates | Members Selected |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| AILG | "The new ePlanning (on-line planning applications) & The National Building Management Project - A briefing for Elected Members" | Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Donegal | 11 th September 2018 | Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. McNally |
| AILG | As above | Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Cork | 15 th September, 2018 | Cllr. P. Connolly |
| LAMA | Tourism—Its Economic Benefits & The Role of Local Authorities | The River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry | 28 th & 29 th September 2018 | Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. S. Gilliland Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. P. McNally |
| Celtic Conferences | EU Cohesion Policy | The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork | 5 th , 6 th & 7 th October 2018 | Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. P. Connolly |

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
