

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 1st October, 2018 at 10.30 a.m.

Chair: Cllr D. Maxwell, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, 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, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach thanked the members for agreeing to the later start of 10.30 a.m. which facilitated himself and other members attending the Launch of the World War 1 exhibition in the Johnston and Madden Hall in Monaghan Town.

Votes of sympathy

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy with the following:

Paddy McMahan, Council employee on the recent death of his brother Seamus RIP and his sister Anna McElroy, RIP.

Teresa McGuirk, Council employee on the death of her brother Johnny McKenna, RIP

Lorcan MacCinna, Council employee on the death of his uncle, Sean Holland RIP.

Cllr Padraig McNally on the death of his aunt Kathleen Murray, RIP

As a mark of respect the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period.

Subsidence incident at Magheraclone

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of Suspension of Standing Orders in the names of Cllr P. McNally and Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, as follows:

To request the Chief Executive, Mr. Eamonn O’Sullivan, make a public statement and take questions from the members regarding the Gyproc situation at Magheraclone, Carrickmacross which is causing untold hardship on the local community specifically local businesses, Magheraclone GFC, Magheraclone Community Centre and all the Committees and organisations therein and local residents who are very concerned for their own safety and that of their properties.

The Cathaoirleach ruled that it was not necessary to suspend Standing Order and that he would allow a discussion on this important matter.

At this point the Chief Executive then read a statement to the meeting, as follows:

“Monaghan County Council continues with, the support of An Garda Siochana along with experts from the Exploration and Mining Division of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deal with the issues arising from the serious incident which occurred in the early hours of Monday 24th September at Drumgossat, Magheraclone, Co. Monaghan

Consultant Mining engineers and geologists engaged by Gyproc Ireland continue to carry out detailed technical assessments and monitoring of ground activity at the site of the incident.

A Preliminary Assessment Report prepared by the company states that no further geological movement has been detected on the site. Further detailed geological assessment is necessary to ascertain the conditions for a number of household dwellings and also the regional road R179 Kingscourt to Carrickmacross and the L4900 Drumgossat road. Gyproc's team are working to provide this detailed information as soon as possible.

The Carrickmacross/Kingscourt Road (R179) will remain closed from Drumgossat Crossroads to O'Rourke's Filling Station at Drummond. In addition, the LP4900 to Drumgossat will also remain closed to traffic. Traffic between Carrickmacross and Kingscourt is being diverted via Shercock. The road closures are projected to remain in effect until mid-October. The closures, in the interests of public safety, are a necessary precaution until the detailed technical assessments are finalised.

Doran Motors and Treacy's Hotel are fully accessible from Carrickmacross using the R179 regional road. O'Rourke's filling station, Ciaran McConnon Motors and Cabra Castle Hotel are accessible from Kingscourt using the R179 or local diversionary routes.

The area in the vicinity of the Clubhouse remains closed to the public. Monaghan County Council reiterates that the site is unsafe and advises all members of the public to avoid the area and to observe the detours in place.

I wish to thank our colleagues in An Garda Siochana, Monaghan County Council staff, DCCAE and EPA who are continuing to liaise and work closely with Gyproc over the coming days while the necessary technical reports are finalised."

A lengthy discussion then took place during which the Chief Executive and Mr. P. Clifford responded to queries from the elected members.

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded – regarding Gyproc ground collapse - In the possible event of the R179 Carrickmacross to Kingscourt Regional Road and also the local road in to Drumgossatt (LP4900) school not being reopened in the coming weeks, that this Council examines the possibility of engineering solutions in order to have these very important roadways reopened.

The Chief Executive stated that the Council needs to get the results of the technical assessments being undertaken and have them independently verified before any decision can be made in relation to the re-opening of the R179 and the LP4900.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Keelan's motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 3rd September, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 3rd September 2018 be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of Special Council meeting held on 10th September, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on the 10th September 2018 be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding Garda Resources for Cavan/Monaghan Garda Division.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, regarding Brexit.
- Letter from An Post regarding the closure of Post Offices.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding Roads funding.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding Developer provided Infrastructure (DPI).
- Email from Niamh Smyth, T.D. regarding Fodder Crisis.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding Post Offices.
- Resolution from Wexford County Council calling on the Government to establish an independent convention on the future of local government.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr Eoghan Murphy regarding the Local Electoral Area Boundary No 1 Report.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Mr. Shane Ross, T.D, regarding Roads in Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding Brexit and its impact on Co. Monaghan.
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding Adjustments to Elected Members Representational Payment.
- Letter from the Department of Health, regarding the upgrade of Monaghan Hospital to a Level 3 Hospital.
- Response from Irish Water regarding question from Cllr P. Treanor in relation to foul odour from the public water supply in Newbliss Village.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy TD and the Government for the immediate publication of the report on the National Taking in Charge Initiative (NTICI) and that funding be immediately provided for application by Local Authorities to address problems with DPI estates and assist home owners and residents in such estates.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that in view of the fact that the Post Office in Clontibret is due for closure that Monaghan County Council requests a meeting with the Independent Review Body, who has been appointed by An Post to review the An Post decision to close the Post Office in Clontibret.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the management of Cavan/Monaghan General Hospital asking them to examine that treatment for allergic reactions is provided on Monaghan General Hospital site.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that we write again to the Minister for Health requesting a reform to the issues raised by notice of motion at our January meeting and also raised at the meeting use held in the Council offices back in July.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to Irish Water and asks them to review and improve their protocol followed, when complaints are made. There needs to be a more robust investigation process in place and better communication with residents in the future. Their response in relation to complaints made by residents in Newbliss was totally inadequate.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council adopts the motion from Sligo County Council calling on the Government to intervene now to prevent An Post using a very restrictive anti-rural definition of a 'settlement' taken from the Central Statistics Office 2017 Census report as part of the criteria for establishing a post office in an area.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that given that the Government is currently in the process of preparing the 2019 Budget, this Council calls on our local Minister, Heather Humphreys TD and the Government to allocate increased funding for our Regional and County Road networks, given the poor state of many of these very important roadways.

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

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, informed the members that the Council had been allocated over €3.7m in funding to combat dereliction in Clones town. The long-term derelict properties on Fermanagh Street and Analore Street will be demolished and 15 new social housing units will be constructed. The Planning Authority had assessed five Part VIII applications as part of the Clones Town Renewal Scheme. Details of the applications are set out below and he recommended that the members proceed with the proposed development subject to the conditions attached.

- (i) To consider approval of the proposed demolition of existing properties and construction of a three storey development containing 3no. 2 bed residential units and all ancillary works at the building known as Davey's, and adjoining property to south east, Lower Fermanagh Street, Clones. (Planning Ref. 18/8008)

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner in relation to this development.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the proposed demolition of existing properties and construction of a three storey development containing 3no. 2 bed residential units and all ancillary works at the building known as Davey's, and adjoining property to south east, Lower Fermanagh Street, Clones (Planning Ref. 18/8008) 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 approval of the proposed demolition of existing properties, comprising of a residential unit and a partially constructed mixed use, retail and residential unit at No.2a and No.3 Analore Street Clones, and the construction of 2no. 3 bedroom, three storey townhouses and all ancillary works. (Planning Ref. 18/8009)

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner in relation to this development.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the proposed demolition of existing properties, comprising of a residential unit and a partially constructed mixed use, retail and residential unit at No.2a and No.3 Analore Street Clones, and the construction of 2no. 3 bedroom, three storey townhouses and all ancillary works (Ref. 18/8009) to comply with report from the Senior Planner and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2000.

- (iii) To consider approval of the proposed demolition of existing property and construction of a three storey development containing 3 no 2 bed and 1 no 1 bed residential units and all ancillary works at Analore St. Clones. (Planning Ref. 18/8010)

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner in relation to this development.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the proposed demolition of existing property and construction of a three storey development containing 3 no 2 bed and 1 no 1 bed residential units and all ancillary works at Analore St. Clones. (Planning Ref. 18/8010) to comply with report from the Senior Planner and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2000.

- (iv) To consider approval of the proposed demolition of existing three storey property and construction of a three storey development containing 3no. 2 bed residential units and all ancillary works at Fermanagh St., Clones. (Planning Ref. 18/8011)

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner in relation to this development.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the proposed demolition of existing three storey property and construction of a three storey development containing 3no. 2 bed residential units and all ancillary works at Fermanagh St., Clones. (Planning Ref. 18/8011) to comply with report from the Senior Planner and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2000.

- (v) To consider approval of the proposed demolition of existing three storey, street front properties and 2no. units to the rear and construction of a three storey development containing 2no. 1 bed and 1no. 2 bed residential units at No's 82 & 83 Fermanagh St., Clones. (Planning Ref. 18/8012)

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner in relation this development.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the granting of permission for the demolition of existing three storey, street front properties and 2no. units to the rear and construction of a three storey development

containing 2no. 1 bed and 1no. 2 bed residential units at No's 82 & 83 Fermanagh St., Clones. (Planning Ref. 18/8012) to comply with report from the Senior Planner and in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2000.

The Chief Executive complimented the Planning, Housing and Municipal District staff involved in bringing the Clones Renewal project to fruition. He said it was hoped to proceed to tender stage by Christmas 2018.

- 4. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1/1/2019 - 31/12/2019.**

Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to overdraft accommodation in the amount of €10m for the year 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council approve of Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019.

- 5. To fix date for Statutory meeting to consider the Budget for 2019.**

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed on a vote by show of hands (10 for) that the Statutory Budget meeting be held on Tuesday 20th November, 2018 at 2pm.

- 6. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 18 September 2018**

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that the Council approve the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 18 September 2018 and the recommendations contained therein.

Local Improvements Scheme:

The members noted the Guidance document which had been circulated with the agenda. The document had been discussed at SPC and CPG levels and had been recommended to the Council for approval. It was noted that the Council intends to continue to clear the current backlog list with LIS grants as they are made available in the coming years. Clearing the backlog may take a minimum of 3-4 years, depending of the level of grant funding that the Council receives. No new applications will be dealt with until the backlog list has been dealt with.

If the new scheme is adopted by the Council, it will be advertised later that with applications being invited from members of the public up to and including the 31 December, 2018.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Draft Local Improvements Scheme for County Monaghan be adopted.

Civic Reception – Glaslough Tidy Towns Committee

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Glaslough Tidy Towns Committee on winning the title of Ireland's Tidiest Village 2018. He informed the members he was proposing that the Council would host a Civic Reception to acknowledge their achievement of the Glaslough Committee. He suggested that Council staff would liaise with the Committee in relation to a suitable date for the Civic Reception. This was agreed by the members.

The Chief Executive joined in the congratulations to Glaslough and noted that they were only one point away from winning the overall title.

7. Local Enterprise Office - To receive Presentation on Brexit Business Supports:

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. John McEntegart, Chief Executive, Monaghan Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr. McEntegart thanked the members for the invitation to address them. He stated that Brexit was top of Ireland's Enterprise agenda and described Brexit as the most significant economic challenge of the past 40 years. It poses a huge challenge for Irish companies – the UK is the largest market for indigenous business, accounting for €7.5 bn or 37% of indigenous exports and 15% of all exports. Brexit has implications for all sectors, particularly the food related businesses and he encourages all SME's to prepare for Brexit and mobile now. He outlined nine areas of exposure which included such matters as the slowdown in the UK market, currency, competition, transport and logistics, regulations and standards, customs tariffs and taxation and the movement of people.

He recommended that businesses would use the *Brexit Scorecard* tool to help them assess their exposure to Brexit. The free online tool is available at www.prepareforbrexit.com. He then outlined a number of supports that are available to help SME's prepare for Brexit.

Following his presentation Mr. McEntegart responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McEntegart for his presentation.

8. To receive the Management Report – September 2018:

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

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council would receive a presentation at the November meeting from the Director/officials of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly in relation to the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events :

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

- AILG – The new ePlanning & The National Building Management Project - Co Leitrim
- Darcy Magee International Forum 2018 - Canada and Ireland - exploring new beginnings in uncertain times - Co. Louth

10. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive reported to the members, as follows:

Tidy Towns – 19 Towns and Villages across the county participated in the Tidy Towns Competition in 2018. He congratulated all of them on the excellent work being undertaken and stated that the marks reflect the progress being made.

Big Tom Statue unveiling – He commended the work undertaken by Council/MD Staff in relation to this event which was a great success and will put Monaghan on the map resulting in economic benefits to Castleblayney town in the future.

Monaghan Irish Golf Challenge – This golfing event, which the Council has contributed sponsorship to will take place the following weekend (4/6 October). The event, being hosted by Concra Wood Golf & Country Club, will showcase Monaghan to the world. He stated that he had emailed a copy of the features published in the national newspapers in relation to the event. He confirmed that all members are invited to attend the event.

Monaghan Dublin Business Event – The Cathaoirleach stated that himself and the Chief Executive had attended this event in Dublin the previous week, at which Mr. P. Clifford had delivered an impressive presentation to the business community present at the meeting. The message to the public is that Monaghan is open for business and anyone interested should come and talk to the Council/Monaghan LEO.

Market House Clones – The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the official opening of the refurbished Market House in Clones which will be the new headquarters for the Ballybay - Clones Municipal District, will take place on Friday 5th October at 2.30 p.m. All members of the Council are invited to attend the event.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 3rd September, 2018.

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 3rd September were responded to by the relevant officials.

12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that this Council notes its deep concern that Minister Dennis Naughten has commissioned a report in relation to the all Island energy market including the North South Interconnector on the front of a hard Brexit

without (as I understand it) the inputs or knowledge of our Oireachtas members or the public. That this Council calls on the Minister to make a statement on this issue and revert to this Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that this Council that this Council notes the call from Minister Heather Humphreys TD for no further works to be carried out on the North South Interconnectors until a full feasibility study on the need for the project to process. That this Council writes to the Minister seeking an update on her efforts on this issue.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that this Council notes with deep concern the unacceptable delay in relation the publication of the two outstanding reports with Minister Naughten promised to publish many months ago. That this Council writes to the Minister requesting that he publishes these reports forthwith and also if he could explain the delay in the publication.

13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

Mr. P. Clifford confirmed that Waterways Ireland had lodged an application for funding to the Rural Regeneration Scheme 2018 in respect of the Ulster Canal project

14. To receive presentation from Mr. Thomas McTague, Regional Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector regarding T.B.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Thomas McTague, RSSVI and Mr. Peter Monahan, Supt. Veterinary Inspector Cavan/Monaghan to the meeting. He invited them to address the members.

Mr. McTague thanked the members for the opportunity to address them and proceeded to deliver his presentation. He explained that there are 4,260 bovine herds in Co Monaghan, comprising 1167 beef herds, 651 dairy, 1894 suckler and 554 other herds. Each herd is tested a minimum of once per year. When a herd tests positive, restrictions are put in place; all movement is locked down, except to slaughter. Reactors are removed, on average within 22 days of a positive TB result. He said that 7.05% of herds tested in Co. Monaghan up to September 25 had proven positive – the figure had almost doubled from 2017. TB was now present in 47 district electoral divisions (DED's) in the county with North Monaghan being a particular area of concern for the Department. 21 DED's were considered high risk and there had been a targeted increase in testing in these areas which include special programmes along the border with Northern Ireland. Additional staff and a detailed control plan had been put in place to deal with the increased incidents of TB in the county.

Mr. Peter Monahan Supt. Veterinary Inspector stated that the Department had regular meetings with their counterparts in Northern Ireland where there was a very high incidence of TB. He said it was one of the most difficult diseases to deal with and noted that TB was an extremely resistant bug and conditions on Irish farms were ideal for TB to persist in.

Following the presentation both officials responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McTague and Mr. Monaghan for a very information presentation and they withdrew from the meeting.

15. Questions:

Cllr B. McKenna asked:

1. Following a number of complaints I have received concerning the over speeding of traffic through Clontibret village and the potential risk of a serious accident, will this Council consider the Installation of “driver feedback signs” which are very effective at locations where they have been deployed.

Reply: A traffic survey will be established on the 28/09/18 at the Church around the filling station and will run for two weeks. Suitable traffic calming conditions will then be determined once the survey analysis concludes.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

2. Would this Council consider introducing a grant scheme on the addition of a water-softening systems to residents in hard water areas in this County?

Reply: There are no grants or funding available from central Government to install softening units, or purchase of new appliances under the Rural water program for residents in hard water areas.

Irish Water commented as follows;

“There is no legislative requirement to remove hardness from drinking water. As a regulated utility we aren’t in a position to offer grants as all expenditure must be approved through the Commission for Regulation of Utilities. “

3. Can this Council again contact the owners of the Magheross/Drummond Ross unfinished housing estate in Carrickmacross to encourage the commencement of work to complete the development as soon as possible; can this Council also confirm the housing make-up of the development (i.e. how many 2, 3 and 4 bed units)?

Reply: Tuath Housing Association has been negotiating with the new owners of the Magheross/Drummond Ross unfinished housing estate to encourage the commencement of works to complete this development. This development changed ownership recently which has delayed negotiations.

The proposed 33 unit development will consist of:

- 14 two bedroom homes,
- 7 three bedroom homes
- 12 four bedroom homes.

Monaghan County Council will continue to support Tuath Housing Association in its efforts to bring this unfinished housing development into use.

4. Since the introduction of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan in February, how many applications have been made to this Council and, at present, how many have been successful?

Reply: 13 applications have been received to date. 4 have been successful and 2 are currently being assessed. The remaining 7 applicants were unsuccessful.

Clr R. Aughey asked:

5. Can Monaghan County Council consider the installation of water refilling stations to encourage the use of refillable containers and to cut down on the use of plastic in the County?

Reply: Monaghan County Council's Environmental Services are pleased to advise that two such bottle filling stations have been installed in the County in August 2018. In co-operation with Monaghan Tidy Towns and Glaslough Tidy Towns bottle filling stations have been located at Monaghan Branch Library and at Oakland Recreation Centre for the public to use. Environmental Services received funding from the EPA through the Local Authority Waste Prevention Programme for the purchase of these bottle filling stations.

6. Can Monaghan County Council

- (a) Ensure more regular emptying of recycling bins and bottle banks in the County as they often appear to be full and this encourages people to leave bottles and other materials beside them.

- (b) Liaise with operators regarding the presentation of clothes recycling banks, some of which are in an unsightly condition.

Reply: Monaghan County Council recently entered into a new contract with Glassco Recycling for the collection of glass and cans from the bring site network in the county. Throughout the contract Monaghan County will be striving to continually improve the service through improved monitoring and collections and by increasing capacity at certain sites.

In relation to the textile recycling banks, Environmental Services will carry out a condition survey of any textile banks located on Monaghan County Council owned bring centres. It should be noted though that any textile banks located on private lands are not in the control of Monaghan County Council and as such require no waste authorisations from Monaghan County Council.

7. Can Monaghan County Council liaise with Monaghan Local Enterprise Office, Enterprise Ireland, Monaghan Institute and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of a Digital Media Corridor between Monaghan Town and Carrickmacross to contribute to the economic life of the county?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will liaise other stakeholders in the region to develop the digital and creative sector in the region. Applications for funding for initiatives in this area have been submitted to the Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund in 2018.

8. For 2019 Can Monaghan County Council participate in European Mobility Week and World Clean Up Day and investigate launching a programme of events for both.

Reply: EUROPEANMOBILITYWEEK has sought to improve public health and quality of life through promoting clean mobility and sustainable urban transport. The Access officer can investigate the theme for 2019 and consult with the relevant departments of Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Public Participation network with a view to developing a programme for European Mobility week 2019.

Supports for World Clean Up day will be included in Environmental Services operational plan for 2019.

ClIr N. Keelan asked:

9. What is the up to-date position in relation to the taking in charge of steadfast industrial estate in Carrickmacross and also Sliabh Dubh housing estate in Corduff?

Reply:

Steadfast Industrial Estate

This application is undergoing technical assessments by the various sections of the Council as well as Irish Water, and its processing will be expedited as quickly as possible.

Sliabh Dubh Corduff

This development has undergone a technical assessment by the various sections in the Council and significant defects have been identified. The developer is no longer in place and cannot be pursued to carry out the necessary remedial works. The related performance bond of €20,000 has been drawn down and has been largely expended on the works relating to the waste water treatment plant. It is estimated that completion of the development to taking in charge standard would cost in excess of €50,000.

10. How many properties has this Council acquired in recent times under the compulsory purchase order (CPO) or by agreement with out using this process in relation to vacant property in order to bring them back in residential use, where are these properties located and what are the Council future plans using this process?

Reply: The Council has compulsorily acquired 23 properties since 2016 under the Derelict Sites Act and Planning Act (Endangerment legislation). A further 3 properties have been acquired by agreement in Clones town. The Council intend to continue to use the powers available to it in a targeted manner to address matters relating to dereliction, urban regeneration and social housing needs. A breakdown of the numbers and location of the properties is detailed in the table below.

Town	Sites acquired (No.)
Monaghan	7
Carrickmacross	1
Castleblayney	2
Clones	12*
Ballybay	3
Scotstown	1
Total	26

**3 of which have been acquired by agreement*

11. What is the up to-date position in relation to the provision of a 60km speed limit adjacent to the bus stop on the access ramp to the N2 in Carrickmacross given the ongoing and obvious safety concerns at this location?

Reply: Regarding the South Slip Road at Carrickmacross, the existing speed limit by the bus stop is 100 km/h. A traffic survey was conducted in this area by MCC in August and

findings determined make a case for a 80km/h speed limit. A follow up meeting on the County's speed limits is scheduled with the TII for November 2018.

12. How much in annual rent is this Council paying out for office space and other property, where are these properties located , is this Council locked into an upwardly only rent clause, what efforts is the Council making to insure that this practice becomes a thing of the past given the poor return for the taxpayer in terms for rent been paid out etc.?

Reply: For the year 2017 the annual rental cost was approximately €360,000, and it is anticipated that this will remain the same for 2018. However, Glen HQ offices are now at capacity and pending any new appointments further office space may be required to cater for space for new staff recruitment. In 2017/ 2018 Corporate Assets reconfigured the Glen HQ to provide new office space for 11 staff, all of which are now on site.

Monaghan County Council are currently renting space as follows:

- **MTEK 2 – one floor for Roads and Environment**
- **MTEK 2 – one small office for Water staff**
- **MTEK 1 – LEO office**
- **MTEK 1 – Unit 4 – for overflow and contract staff**
- **Motor Tax Office**
- **Tommy Martins Storage units**
- **Museum Warehouse, Clontibret**
- **Office space for Library in Iontas Centre**

Rent is reviewed every 2-3 years and reductions sought where possible.

Staff from Ballybay-Clones MD have recently relocated to the newly refurbished Market House in Clones. Monaghan Town Hall refurbishment (formerly Monaghan Town Council) is shortly moving to construction phase and will accommodate over 20 staff when completed.

13. What is the up to date situation with regard to the tendering process for the roll out of the National Broadband Plan given the collapse of the process earlier in the year?
Reply: On 18 September 2018, the consortium led by Enet submitted its final tender for the National broadband plan. This brings to an end the period of consultation & submission of tender.

This tender will now be evaluated by DCCAE and if accepted, will be brought to government for approval. Final approval could proceed before the end of 2018.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

14. In Relation to the Hope Castle, Annex, Ski Club and the estate in Castleblayney. After the findings of the recent report carried out by CHL on the future on the Estate.
- (a) What plans has Monaghan County Council to advertise for expressions of interest in these buildings and in what form will this take place?
- (b) What is the next stage in relation to Hope Castle, Annex and the grounds including the lake?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has made an application for significant funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to advance to develop an overall masterplan for Lough Muckno Park (including the Market House) which will provide a Strategic Vision for Development up to 2029.

15. What is the estimated build time for the new houses in Bree, Castleblayney which have commenced recently?

Reply: Response: Monaghan County Council continues to make excellent progress under the Rebuilding Ireland Social Housing Programme.

Monaghan County Council secured funding in June 2018 for the construction of 8 homes at Bree, in Castleblayney. In early July 2018 Monaghan County Council appointed Doohamlet Construction to embark on the construction of the 8 new homes. These comprise of four single-storey 2-bedroom terraced homes and four 2-storey 2-bedroom terraced homes. Additional works will include open space landscaping, basketball court, new access road, pedestrian access, drainage, street lighting and siteworks. The finished homes will be completed to a high quality standard with a Building Energy Rating of A3. The construction works are scheduled to last 10 months, with completion due in Quarter 2 of 2019.

16. RE Broadband connection under the Eir 300K fibre rollout.

- (a) When will the Dundalk road out of Castleblayney N53 out to and including Annadrummond area be now connected up to the fibre rollout as promised?

Reply: The physical installation is due to be completed by the end of September. Following this installation, all telecommunications providers are informed that the service will soon be available. So there is normally a notification period of 6-8 weeks before broadband providers begin to make this available to customers.

- (b) In regard to the roll out of the Eir 300k fibre how many homes are envisaged to be able to connect to this upgrade in the Castleblayney Carrickmacross MD?

Reply: At the end of Q2, 2018, Open Eir had passed 175K of the 300K premises. In total 3,710 premises have been passed in Co. Monaghan, and further work is continuing in many areas of Monaghan to deliver FTTH (fibre to the home) to an additional 1,553 premises by Summer 2019. The total number of premises passed from the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD area are as follows:

Monaghan- 3,710 total

Carrickmacross- 960 premises

Castleblayney- 350 premises

Oram- 120 premises

Inniskeen- 270 premises

17. Regarding the upgrade to the Castleblayney Waste water treatment plan and the new access road, how long will this work take to be complete?

Reply: The latest construction programme indicates that works will be complete by mid-March 2019.

18. When will the work commence on the Kinnegan Junction on the N2 to make it safer?

Reply: Works will commence towards the end of the N2 resurfacing programme which is ongoing presently. Its scheduled that the works will be completed during December 2018.

16. Notices of Motion:

CLlr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded

- 1. In view the recent increase from €5 to €6 for the purchase of a ticket in the twice weekly National Lotto draw that Monaghan County Council calls on Premier Lotteries Ireland to reduce the minimum purchase from 2 lines to 1 line per draw, thereby reducing the minimum cost of purchase from €6 to €3.*

Following a debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for, 1 against and 5 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded

- 2. That Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D. and the government to have all payments due to farmers under the various schemes i.e. A.N.C., B.P.S, GLAS, Sheep Welfare, Knowledge Transfer, Organic Payments, BDGP etc, expediated and in all circumstances to have these payments with ALL FARMERS by their due dates, due to the serious cash flow crisis on farms, as a result of the combination of weather (inclement & drought) and market prices, any delays, administrative or, bureaucratic would have a serious detrimental effect on farm families, suppliers, contractors etc and will be a breach of the Farmers Charter of Rights, at a very difficult and challenging time for the agricultural sector.*

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

Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Campbell seconded

- 3. That this Council write to the Minister for Finance and Minister for Transport requesting that in this year's Budget the Government would look at reducing the excise and other taxes on non-alcoholic beers and wines to incentivise consumers to use same in the fight against drink driving and road safety.*

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

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded

- 4. Further to our previous motion from Monaghan County Council, and in response to the motion passed in the Dáil on the 12th June 2018, we now demand that the current Minister for Justice, Charles Flanagan TD, initiates a Public Inquiry into the death of Shane O'Farrell*

(2nd August 2011) and requests that he carries out the wishes of the majority of the Dáil and Monaghan County Council in starting the process immediately.

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr Crowe seconded

5. *That Monaghan County Council calls on Government to examine the feasibility of making it compulsory for every home/dwelling owner in the state to have house insurance.*

Following a discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members. A vote by show of hands resulted in 5 for, 6 against and 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

17. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

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

- James Meegan and family, Inniskeen on the tragic death of his wife Eileen RIP

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

- Clontibret GFC U-17 football team on winning the Division 3 football title.
- Gaeil Triucha CLG on winning the U-15 Division 3 football title.
- Latton GFC on winning the U-17 Division 1 football championship
- Emyvale GFC on winning the Universal Graphics Junior Football championship

18. Conferences/Training

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon 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. PJ O’Hanlon
LAMA	Tourism—Its Economic Benefits & The Role of Local Authorities	The River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry	28 th & 29 th September 2018	Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. P. Connolly

AILG	“Local Authority Finance & Budgeting, Budget Preparation and key decisions for the Elected Members in the Budget Process & A Briefing on the Elected Members Gratuity Scheme”	Sligo Park Hotel Sligo	13 th October 2018	Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. P. Treanor
AILG	Autumn Seminar	The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	25 th & 26 th October 2018	Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Bennett Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. A. Campbell
Kerry County Council	Let’s Talk Tourism	Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	9 th November 2018	Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon Cllr. P. McNally

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
