

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 5th November, 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr D. Maxwell, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. A. King, Deputy Chief Executive, 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. N O’Connor, A.O., Ms. M. Kelly, Environmental Awareness Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Mr. E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive.

Vote of Sympathy – Seymour Crawford RIP:

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr D. Maxwell proposed a vote of sympathy with the family of the late Seymour Crawford, former TD and member of Monaghan County Council. He paid tribute to the late Seymour describing him as big in stature and big in heart, a very genuine person, a great mentor whose advice to him had been invaluable. A number of members joined in the tributes and expressed their memories of Seymour. Mr. King joined in the expression of sympathy on behalf of the staff.

A minute’s silence was observed by all present following which the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

Resignation of Cllr Eva Humphreys:

The Cathaoirleach referred to the letter from Cllr Eva Humphreys, informing the Chief Executive and members of the Council of her decision to resign from the membership of the Council due to work commitments. Ms. Humphreys thanked the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and staff, her Fine Gael colleagues for their support to her during her term in office. The Cathaoirleach wished Ms. Humphreys every success in her future career. A number of members joined in wishing her the very best of luck, as did the Deputy Chief Executive on behalf of the staff.

Urgent business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of Cllrs Aughey, Coyle, McNally and O’Hanlon, as follows:

That Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton TD, the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD and the government to immediately expedite the delivery of the National Broadband Plan to the promised 542,000 premises across rural Ireland with in excess of 50% of all premises in County Monaghan without broadband services and totally condemns the government’s failure over the past 14 months to deal with the procurement process difficulties, which saw all but one bidder withdraw from the process.

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed to go 'In Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motion submitted as urgent business.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 4 for, 10 against – the Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Gilliland, seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 1st October, 2018

Cllr Carthy requested that the minutes be amended to include the following sentence after notice of motion 16(4) –

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

The amendment was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 1st October 2018, as amended, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- 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 Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D, regarding Post Offices
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the Council's request for an additional helicopter for the Garda Air Support unit.
- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris T.D, regarding Monaghan Hospital
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding Taking In Charge.
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding Hardness Levels in Public Water supplies.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Finance in response to the Council's resolutions requesting the introduction of a grant scheme for local authorities to address hardness levels in public water supplies.
- Letter from the National Lottery regarding resolution from Monaghan County Council seeking a reduction in the cost of lottery tickets.
- Letter from the Northern & Western Regional Assembly regarding Galway European Capital of Culture 2020.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding Outdoor Educational Centres.
- Letter from Councillor Eva Humphreys announcing her resignation from the membership of the Council with effect from 26th October 2018.

The following additional correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, T.D regarding Farmers Payments.
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government informing the members of a proposed review of the elected members role and remuneration and inviting submissions from the members. The Cathaoirleach encouraged all members to make a submission to the process.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded, that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to park the current GSOC investigation into the death of Shane O'Farrell and instead immediately initiate a public inquiry. This Council notes the response from the Minister's Department as being the same response we received prior to the Dáil motion we referred to and ask that the will of this Council, and indeed the majority of the Dáil, be respected. We also highlight the report "The Future of Policing in Ireland" and refer the Minister to the part of the report which questions the independence of GSOC.

Cllr McNally proposed, Cllr Connolly seconded that the last sentence of the motion be removed for the present. This was accepted by the proposer and seconder of the original motion.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the amended motion carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council support the resolution from Clare County Council calling on the Minister for Education and Skills to recognise the important role that outdoor educational centres play in the education and development of our youth by funding all staff salaries of outdoor educational centres directly from department funds.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that the resolution from the NWRA expressing support for the Galway 2020 Project be noted.

3. To consider Section 183 Notices

- (i) Disposal of Land at 58 Killyconnigan, Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.0196 hectares at 58 Killyconnigan, Monaghan in accordance with the terms of Section 183 notice dated 17 October 2018 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

- (ii) Disposal of Land at Teehill, Clonkeen and Clonmore, Clones, Co. Monaghan

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of a disused pipeline located on the R212 Monaghan to Scotstown Road in the

townlands of Teehill, Clonkeen and Clonmore, in accordance with the terms of Section 183 notice dated 17 October 2018 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider a material contravention to The County Development Plan 2013-2019

The members considered the report from the Senior Planner recommending that planning permission is granted, in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to construct a communal facility building which contains 2No. independent living units of accommodation and all related site works at Drumillard Little, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan (Ref 18/320)

Mr. A. Hughes Senior Planner outlined the background to the application for a material contravention of the County Development Plan. He stated that part of the site which the application covered was zoned recreation and amenity. He confirmed that there was no impact on recreational use and the application for the permission was compatible with adjoining uses.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve a Material Contravention to the County Monaghan Development Plan 2013-2019 to grant planning permission, subject to the conditions specified, for the construction of a communal facility building which contains 2No. independent living units of accommodation and all related site works at Drumillard Little, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan (Ref: 18/320).

5. To consider Draft Litter Management Plan 2018-2020

Ms. Moira Kelly, Environmental Education Officer gave a presentation to the members on the draft Litter Management Plan 2018-2020. She explained that Section 10 of the Litter Act 1997 requires local authorities to make a Litter Management Plan and to review it every three years. The Council's first plan was adopted in 2000 with the most recent one being adopted in 2014. Ms Kelly outlined the aims and objectives of the plan to the members. The plan is divided into eight sections and had been presented to the SPC and the CPG for consideration. She highlighted the fact that in 2017 the Council had spent €885,000 on litter related activities throughout the county.

Following her presentation Ms. Kelly responded to queries from the elected members. Members expressed their disappointment at the amount of money that was being spent by the Council despite the fact that numerous educational awareness campaigns were being delivered in the schools over the past number of years. Members advocated the use of CCTV to detect offenders and stated that there should be zero tolerance towards anyone found guilty of littering. Penalty points should be added to licences of anyone found littering from vehicles. The Council should also focus on households without a refuse collection service in place to establish where their waste is going. There also needs to be a focus on late night littering in towns and villages in the county.

During the course of the debate, the following proposals were dealt with:

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that Monaghan County Council writes to the Department of the Communications, Climate Action and the Environment requesting that the current on the spot fines for littering of €150 be increased to €500.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Bennett's proposal resulted in 14 for 1 against. The Cathairleach declared the proposal carried.

Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr McNally seconded, that in the event of a Hard Brexit what plans has the government – relation to additional resources i.e. Gardai and custom officials along the border. The proposal to be issued An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr O'Hanlon's proposal resulted in 12 for 0 against, 2 abstentions. The Cathairleach declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Draft Litter Management Plan 2018 – 2020 be adopted.

6. To consider Draft Traffic Calming Policy

Mr. Peadar McGuinness, Senior Executive Engineer Roads outlined the draft Traffic Calming Policy to the members. He stated that there has been an increasing demand for traffic calming measures to be introduced in new and existing housing estates, access roads and distributor roads in towns and villages in the county. This policy intends to address the concerns which the public and the elected representatives have regarding the negative impact of excessive or inappropriate traffic speed on public roads. He recommended that the draft Traffic Calming Policy, which had been considered by the Environment and Transport SPC, be adopted by the Council.

Mr. McGuinness responded to queries from the members in relation to the policy and stated that if adopted, the policy document can be reviewed after a period of one year.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the word 'only' in the second paragraph of 5.2 be deleted.

The amended sentence will read 'Ramps should be chosen if no other suitable measure can be utilised'.

Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded that the amended draft Traffic Calming Policy be adopted.

A vote by show of hands on the proposal resulted in 12 for, 2 against and 1 abstention. The Cathairleach declared the proposal carried.

7. To fix date for meeting to discuss the Draft County Development Plan 2018

It was agreed that a Special meeting of the Council, to consider the Manager's Report on the submissions received under the Draft County Development Plan 2018-2025, would be held on Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 12 noon.

Draft Development Plan: Cllr Maxwell reminded the members that a further meeting with Planning officials to discuss matters relating to the Draft County Development Plan would be held

on 8th November at 10.00 a.m. in the Conference Room, Glen HQ. The Party Whips and one other member were invited to attend this meeting.

8. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16 October 2018

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council approve the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16 October 2018 and the recommendations contained therein.

Civic Reception - Glaslough Tidy Towns – The Cathaoirleach requested that all members would attend the Civic Reception on 9th November in honour of Glaslough Tidy Towns winning a Gold medal and the title of Ireland's Tidiest Village 2018.

Project Children – The Cathaoirleach asked all members to attend the Council's hosting of the *Project Children Documentary, How to Diffuse a Bomb*, in the Garage Theatre on 14th and 15th November 2018.

Budget 2019 - Cllr Maxwell informed the members that the CPG had finalised the draft Budget for 2019 earlier that day. He requested that if any member required clarification on any aspect of the draft budget that they would contact the Head of Finance/Financial Management Accountant in advance of the Statutory Budget meeting on 20th November.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that in relation to the former Town Council building currently being renovated to accommodate the Planning Section, that the Executive give positive consideration to providing office accommodation for Monaghan Town Co-Ordinator, Trevor Connolly. Members of the Monaghan Municipal District are unanimous in the view that this post requires a town centre location.

9. To receive the Management Report – October 2018:

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

10. 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

11. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

There was no business submitted under this item.

12. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan informed the members that the preferred tender for the design of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and Clontibret to the Border projects had been selected. Confirmation letters had issued to the preferred tenderer and the stand-still period had ended. The Preferred Tenderer is Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd and the authorisation to award the contract had been requested from TII. A pre contract meeting with Jacobs Engineering would be held before the end of the month. She noted that the CPG and Council had requested to meet the company and this would be arranged in due course.

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 1st October, 2018.

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 1st October were responded to by the relevant officials.

14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council seeks an urgent meeting with the new Minister for Communications, Climate, Action and Environment Richard Bruton TD in order to discuss all aspects of the interconnector, including the clear reality that this project will not be processed unless the undergrounding option is used.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council writes to Minister Heather Humphreys TD seeking an update on her efforts and call for a feasibility study to be carried out on this project, and also her call for no further work to be carried out until this study is completed.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council requests the Communications, Climate, Action and Environment Committee of the Dáil, to investigate all aspects of the proposed North South Interconnector including costs and public money spent to date, etc.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council demands of the Minister for Communication Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton TD, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, local Minister Heather Humphreys TD, Regina Doherty TD, Helen McEntee TD, Damien English TD and all Fine Gael elected representatives that Eirgrid be directed to immediately suspend all works on the North-South 400kw interconnector in view of the resignation of Denis Naughten TD; the clearly inappropriate relationships and communications between Eirgrid, the Minister and the Department. That the Government immediately formulate a fully independent international commission of inquiry to examine all of Eirgrids work on the North South Interconnector over the last 12 years and carries out a truly independent assessment of undergrounding versus overgrounding taking into account impacts on property valuations agriculture, tourism, landscape, health, heritage etc.

15. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

There was no discussion on this item.

16. To receive presentation from Mr. David Minton, CE, North West Regional Assembly regarding the Draft RSES.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. David Minton, Chief Executive, NWRA and Denis Kelly Asst. Director/Senior Planner to the meeting. He invited them to address the members.

During his presentation, Mr. Minton stated that the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) has a leadership role to play in identifying regional policies and coordinating initiatives that support the delivery and implementation of national planning policy. The National Planning Framework (NPF) will guide, at a high-level, strategic planning and development for the country over the next 20 years, so that as the population grows, that growth is sustainable (in economic, social and environmental terms). The NPF with the National Development Plan will also set the context for each of Ireland's three Regional Assemblies to develop their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies taking account of and co-ordinating local authority County and City Development Plans in a manner that will ensure national, regional and local plans align.

Mr. Minton referred to the Draft **Regional Social and Economic Strategy (RSES)** for the Northern and Western Regional which had now been prepared. He stated that the objective of the Draft RSES is to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040 and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term planning and economic framework which shall be consistent with the NPF and the economic policies or objectives of the Government.

The Draft RSES is set out in 7 main sections as follows:

- People and Places
- Vibrant Place (Economy and Employment)
- Natural Place (Environment)
- Connected Place (Transport & Digital Infrastructure)
- Inclusive Place – Quality of life
- Infrastructure – Enabling Our Region
- All Island Perspective

He also outlined the provisions in the Draft RSES for infrastructural projects relevant to County Monaghan.

Following the presentation Mr. Minton responded to queries from the elected members. He also stated that written submissions or observations with respect to the Draft RSES should be submitted to the NWRA either online or in hard copy before 8th February, 2019.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Minton for a very informative presentation and both he and Mr. Kelly withdrew from the meeting.

15. Questions:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council confirm the up-to-date position & the expected opening date for the Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties in Carrickmacross?

Reply: With Monaghan County Council’s support the Carrickmacross Group Home was successfully completed by Respond! Housing Association in July 2018. The HSE confirmed in October 2018 that the Carrickmacross Group Home is in the HSE’s 2019 funding estimates for Cavan /Monaghan Disability services. The HSE procurement process for the service required for the Group Home shall now commence and the HSE envisages Quarter 2 of 2019 as the move in date.

Extract from HSE response to recent Monaghan County Council correspondence: *“The HSE has a budget and has to stay within this funding. This project is important to the community and the ongoing pressure from Cavan Monaghan Disability Services to secure the funding has led to the funding in 2019 estimates and an opening date of 2nd quarter 2019. The HSE is pleased to see this project finally reaching completion and acknowledges that it has taken a long period of time”.*

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

2. Since receiving increased funding to deal with Vacant Housing, can the Housing Section confirm what has taken place since (where has funding been used, has there been a dedicated member of staff to deal with vacant housing etc)?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has been dealing with vacant housing in County Monaghan by various means including; Buy & Renew, Repair & Leasing and acquisition of vacant properties. Monaghan County Council has also acquired derelict vacant properties and sites though both negotiation and Compulsory Purchase when necessary. Monaghan County Council staff have been working on the various schemes and managing the various demands of dealing with vacant housing. The workload associated with dealing with vacant housing is significant and ongoing and is not assigned to one individual or section as it is dealt with by every means available to Monaghan County Council. The process of recruiting additional staff to deal with this significant workload is ongoing and will help Monaghan County Council to continue and build on the success to date in dealing with vacant properties, securing funding for projects dealing with vacant and derelict houses and other properties and bringing further vacant houses into productive use.

3. What is the current number of applicants on the Monaghan County Council Housing List (with a break-down of those on HAP and RAS also)? Can you give an MD break-down also?

Reply: There are 1254 applications awaiting housing allocation on Monaghan County Council social housing waiting list as at 20/10/2018. Assessment reports are pending at this date for an additional 36 applications, which will result in a total of 1290 applicants on the social housing list.

The 1254 applications are categorised as follows:

Municipal District	
Carrickmacross/Castleblayney	507
Clones/Ballybay	209
Monaghan	538

Applicant Category	Number
Applicants on HAP Scheme	490
Applicants on RAS Scheme	95
Tenant applications for Transfer	86
Applicants in Voluntary Community Housing	13
All other applicants – Net Housing Need	570

Cllr C. Carthy asked (contd):

4. Can Monaghan County Council confirm if works, due to have started at this stage, will commence on the Drummond Ross/Magheross unfinished Housing Development in the near future?

Reply: In response to enquiries in October 2018 Monaghan County Council has been advised that the Development Company that owns the Unfinished Housing Development at Magheross, East Coast Estates Limited, has signed an agreement to transfer ownership of the company and associated site to a company called Connect with Care Limited. The company that has acquired the East Coast Estates Limited and the site has stated that it is committed to proceeding with the completion of the Unfinished Housing Development within a relatively short time frame.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

5. Can Monaghan County Council please give me an update on the new housing development planned for “Bothar Na Mullen” on the Smithboro road from Scotstown? Can I also please have a breakdown of the proposed plan and a timeline for the continuous progress of this development?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received Stage 1 Funding Approval from The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to procure a project Design Team to prepare a preliminary design and compile a Stage 2 Funding Approval submission. Currently design consultants are carrying out Flood Risk Assessment and Surveys which will inform any scheme design going forward which is an essential study prior to continuing through the Stage 2 process.

Monaghan County Council are continuing to progress through the Department for Housing Planning and Local Government’s designated 59 weeks Social Housing approval process. It is predicted that the project will go through the design and planning stages in 2019 and procurement and construction stages will follow in late 2019 through 2020.

6. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with an account of recent applications submitted under the Town and Village renewal. I do understand that not all projects were funded. Is there a rationale provided from the Government’s Department as to why some projects were chosen and not others?

Reply: Monaghan County Council submitted 11 applications for funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018. 9 applications secured funding while 2 applications were unsuccessful.

The following projects have secured funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018:

- Ballybay – Public Realm works – Ballybay/Clones MD – Grant of €100,000 approved
- Clones – Development of serviced industrial sites in Clones – Ballybay/Clones MD – Grant of €100,000 approved
- Scotshouse – Build new Community Park in Village Centre – Ballybay/Clones MD – Grant of €72,000 approved
- Latton – Public Realm works – Ballybay/Clones MD – Grant of €66,500 approved
- Inniskeen – Branded signage for new Kavanagh Trail – Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD – Grant of €75,000 approved
- Carrickmacross – Further phased development of Market Houses and Workhouse - Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD – Grant of €200,000 approved
- Castleblayney – Plinth for statue, development of multi-use public realm space - Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD – Grant of €100,000 approved
- Emyvale – Upgrade playground/outdoor gym – Monaghan MD – Grant of €75,000 approved
- Glaslough – Village Enhancements – Monaghan MD – Grant of €80,000 approved

The two unsuccessful applications were for:

- Monaghan Town – Streetscape enhancement works, promotion of town as a food destination & report outlining the future requirement for development floor space capacity in Monaghan Town.
- Scotstown – Upgrade and enhance Hollywood Park

No indication was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development as to why projects were unsuccessful, except to state that the number of projects approved is limited by the availability of funding. Monaghan County Council received approval for funding of €868,500 out of a national total of €21,320,121.

CLlr C. Bennett asked (contd):

7. Can Monaghan County Council please provide evidence that they are seeking to improve the water hardness levels in Scotstown, Ballinode and Smithboro?

Reply: As previously outlined to CLlr Bennett Irish Water will not be carrying out any works in relation to water hardness. Irish Water is a regulated utility and there is no legislative requirement on Irish Water to remove hardness from drinking water.

There are good reasons why we don't chemically soften hard water:

- There are no health risks involved in drinking and using hard water
- Softening water removes beneficial minerals from hard water
- There is no legislative requirement to remove hardness from drinking water
- Depending on the technology used, artificially softened water may not be suitable for everyone to drink, e.g. increased Sodium levels caused by salt softening may not be suitable for infants or at-risk groups
- Hard water can create an internal protective film on lead pipes or fittings. This can prevent metals such as lead leaching into your drinking water supply. To find out

more about the dangers of lead in drinking water visit [our dedicated information section](#)

Further information is available at <https://www.water.ie/water-supply/supply-issues/water-hardness/>

Cllr C. Bennett asked (contd):

8. Can Monaghan County Council please investigate the possibility of additional safety measures at Brennan's Cross, Scotstown? Road traffic accidents continue to occur at this very dangerous junction. As this junction is in 2 Municipal districts, both MD's should work collaboratively to improve safety immediately.

Reply: The Roads Design Section of Monaghan County Council will review this location in the coming weeks to determine what suitable safety measures are required to address the issue.

9. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with information in relation to hedge cutting? Is the land owner solely responsible for his own lands and does Monaghan County Council maintain all junction in support of safety measures?

Reply: The Roads Act 1993 (Section 70) places a statutory obligation on all landowners/occupiers of land or structures to ensure that roadside structures, trees, shrubs or other vegetation do not present a danger to those using and working on public roads. The MDs carry out localised hedge and verge cutting at certain locations to maintain visibility and safety.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

10. How many local authority houses are expected to be handed over to Monaghan County Council including voluntary house agency dwellings in 2019, 2020, & 2021 and where are these located?

Reply: Subject to Central Government Capital Funding it is currently predicted that more than 450 social houses will be provided by Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies from 2018 to 2021 inclusive.

Monaghan County Council has frontloaded its social housing delivery programme to take advantage of the Capital Funding currently available and predicted to be available in 2019 and 2020. It is anticipated that an average of more than 140 houses will be delivered each year. Additional opportunities are currently being explored towards enhancing and augmenting the delivery programme to increase the potential for each year up to and including 2021. The following table shows the potential programme for delivery of social housing in County Monaghan and locations of some of the schemes.

Year	Number of Homes	Location	Description
2018	17	Smithborough	MonCoCo Turnkey Construction
	6	Clones	Oaklee Construction at Liseggerton
	4	Carrickmacross	MonCoCo Repair & Leasing
	38	Carrickmacross	NEHA Construction / Long Term Leasing

	4	Carrickmacross	MonCoCo Part V Construction
	25	Various locations	Single house purchases and Buy & Renew
subtotal	94		
2019	18	Monaghan Town	MonCoCo Mullaghmatt Rem Works Scheme
	4	Castleblayney	MonCoCo Turnkey Construction
	8	Castleblayney	MonCoCo Construction at Bree
	43	Monaghan Town	MonCoCo Construction at Latlorcan
	8	Carrickmacross	MonCoCo Part V Construction
	33	Carrickmacross	Tuath Turnkey Construction at Magheross
	24	Carrickmacross	NEHA Construction / Long Term Leasing
	10	Various locations	Single purchases Part V Buy&Renew Rep&Lease
subtotal	148		
2020	2	Castleblayney	CCA Construction at Drumillard
	38	Castleblayney	Tuath Turnkey Construction at Bree
	50	Carrickmacross	Respond! Turnkey Construction Kingscourt Rd.
	16	Clones	Oaklee Housing Construction at Liseggerton
	21	Clones	Clones Renewal:- Fermanagh St. & Analore St.
	19	Various locations	Single purchases Part V Buy&Renew Rep&Lease
subtotal	146		
2021	16	Various locations	MonCoCo sheltered housing
	31	Scotstown	MonCoCo unfinished housing development acquired
	19	Various locations	Single purchases Part V Buy&Renew Rep&Lease
subtotal	66		The number of homes to be delivered in 2020 and 2021 will hopefully increase to a level greater than the preceding years (subject to funding).
Total	454		

CLlr P. McNally asked:

- Following this summer's drought, are there any schemes public or private in need of investment to ensure a proper water supply going forward?

Reply: An update confirming Monaghan water supplies proved to be robust against the drought conditions of June and July this year. Schemes were monitored during this time but no supply came under pressure such that restrictions were required. Prior to Irish

Water Monaghan advanced a water conservation programme which Irish Water continues to fund. This has led to Monaghan having the lowest leakage level in the Country which is of great benefit in drought periods.

Cllr P. McNally asked:

12. How many kilometres of road are there in Monaghan in the most need of repair and what is the estimated cost of bringing these up to standard?

Reply: Roads that require repair in the "Category 1 to 5" total 566km, with an estimated cost of €60 million to bring up to a "Category 10" standard.

13. Has this Council any plans in place to realign Essexford bridge on the Carrickmacross / Dundalk?

Reply: No plans presently to realign the Essexford Bridge on the Carrickmacross/Dundalk route.

As a point of note, a DDTAS steering group meeting on the R179 routing between Louth, Monaghan was conducted on the 29th August.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

14. Can Monaghan County Council liaise with the Department of Housing to investigate the implementation of IWIL's (Improvement Works in Lieu of Social Housing) to help alleviate the pressure on Housing within the County?

Reply: The Improvement Works in Lieu of Local Authority Housing Scheme was first announced in 1991. The scheme was intended to enable housing authorities to repair, improve or extend privately owned houses occupied or intended to be occupied by an approved housing applicant as an alternative to the provision of local authority housing. The scheme was introduced because some of the need for local authority housing which was established by the Assessment of Housing Needs could be met by the improvement or extension of the applicant's existing dwelling as opposed to providing a local authority house.

The administration of the scheme, including the assessment of applications, is a matter for the local authority. The scheme is financed by the Department of the Environment and Local Government through the local authority and one of the conditions of the scheme is that the housing authority must ensure that in all cases value for money is obtained for the funds used. Housing authorities are responsible for the carrying out of inspections, the preparation of necessary documentation, the supervision of work and certification and making of payments. Whilst Monaghan County Council has received applications for Improvement Works in Lieu of Local Authority Housing the various applications were determined not to represent value for money or the anticipated works to bring the housing units up to standard exceeded the financial cost limits of the scheme.

15. Can the Council liaise with those responsible for emptying bottle banks and other recycling facilities to ensure more frequent emptying of same and the avoidance of litter build up in the vicinity of these facilities?

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.

Cllr R. Aughey asked (contd):

16. Does Monaghan County Council have a specific Digital Strategy for the county?

Reply: Not at present. All Local Authorities are being supported at present by DRCD (Dept. Rural & Community Development) to develop a Digital Strategy on behalf of the County. A Digital Readiness Assessment was completed in Summer 2018 by Indecon who are operating as consultants for the Digital Strategy.

Further meetings are planned with Indecon in relation to the development of the Digital Strategy within the next few weeks. I would expect that consultations with our own stakeholders will take place early in 2019, with the intention of producing a digital strategy in the first half of 2019.

17. Has Monaghan County Council investigated the installation of LED Bulbs for street lights to save money in the long term and to protect the environment?

Reply: Monaghan County Council, along with all Public Bodies, is mandated to reduce its energy consumption and/or improve its energy efficiency, a requirement that stems from the EU Energy Efficiency Directive and is reinforced by Ireland's National Energy Efficiency Energy Strategy, which sets a 33% reduction target by 2020, based on a 2009 baseline.

Electrical energy consumption makes up a very significant portion of our annual energy consumption along with thermal fuel and transport fuel. In order to reduce our electrical energy consumption we have implemented a program of LED retrofits of existing sodium lights. This has been under way since 2015 and to date approximately 1500 (25%) of our lights have been retrofitted.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

18. In relation to Inniskeen village, what further progress, if any, has been made by this council with the provision of social and affordable housing for the 28 families and individuals wishing to remain in the Inniskeen area; what is the up-to-date position in relation to the approved housing body and a developer that the council has been in contact with regarding the potential of providing a number of social and affordable homes in the village?

Reply: In the first half of 2018 an Approved Housing Body and a Developer expressed an interest in developing houses in Inniskeen village. Having looked at the cost of property in Inniskeen from a rental and acquisition perspective it was found that it is not economically viable at this time to proceed with a Capital Advance Leasing Facility proposal for Inniskeen.

From an affordability perspective the cost of purchasing a 3-bedroom house in Inniskeen at present is circa €150,000 which is less than the current cost of constructing a new 3-bedroom house.

Monaghan County Council will continue to provide social housing in Inniskeen through casual vacancies that arise from time to time in existing social housing stock and acquisition of suitable properties.

Cllr N. Keelan asked (contd):

19. In relation to the scourge of illegal dumping across the county including the ongoing problem of dumping along the approach road to Mannan Castle Golf Club and Donaghmoyne village, how successful has this Council been in bringing people before the courts on the spot fines etc?

Reply: In 2017 Environmental Services issued 176 on the spot litter fines and brought 5 cases to the District Court. As of September 2018, 59 on the spot litter fines have been issued., with six files for being referred to Solicitors for prosecution.

20. In relation to road safety, what is the up to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney route; what is the up-to-date position in relation to the upgrading of the Tullyvaragh junction on the N2; what is the up to-date position in relation to the possible upgrading of the junction at Drumharriff north of Tullyvaragh junction on the N2?

Reply:

- **N2 Ardee to Castleblayney is at design award stage with a Letter of Intent issued to the design consultant late October 2018.**
- **Tullyvaragh Junction is now at the detailed design stage and is scheduled for a construction tender publication in Q1 2019.**
- **Drumharriff junction based on the recent survey, its concluded that traffic movements fall below the TII threshold for junction upgrade appraisal progression.**

21. In relation to this Council's enforcement of the governments Local Needs Policy for those wishing to build a home in their local area, is it expected that this policy will be relaxed prior to the County Development Plan process concluding in March 2019?

Reply: The Department has advised the Council in correspondence circulated to Councillors at the recent Development Plan meetings, that it *'has been engaging with the European Commission on the matter with a view to issuing revisions to the 2005 Rural Housing Guidelines by the end of the year'*.

22. In the interest of road safety and in relation to this Council's policy of zero tolerance for those land owners who consistently refuse to cut and trim road side hedges, what action has this Council taken against this very small minority of individuals in recent times; have any of these individuals been fined or taken to court?

Reply:

In 2017

- **Cmx / Cby MD issued 47 x1st reminders and 15 x2nd reminder to landowners.**
- **Ballybay Clones Md – 3 letters were issued.**
- **Monaghan MD - 32 letters issued – 5 referred to Roads Section for issue of 14-day notices.**

In 2018

- **Cmx / Cby MD issued 7 x1st reminders and 2x 2nd reminders to landowners.**
- **Ballybay Clones MD – 8 letters issued**
- **Monaghan MD - 32 letters issued.**

- **Roads Section – Pursued one landowner through the legal process. 5 x 14-day notices issued by Roads Section to date.**

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

23. For the purpose of attracting maximum grant aid from the Department of Housing through their Serviced Site Fund that is aimed at supporting local authorities in bringing forward lands for more affordable housing, have the Planning and Housing Sections created a 'Masterplan' for the Latlorcan lands that will include such serviced sites for individual private purchase and development? Have the Housing Section been engaging with the Department in an effort at securing Serviced Site funding at Latlorcan and other Council owned sites around the county?

Reply: The "Masterplan" for the Latlorcan lands has been developed in draft form with the inclusion of potential serviced sites in anticipation of the Serviced Site Fund announced by Central Government in October 2018. The Serviced Site Fund is focused on land in the ownership of Local Authorities which can potentially be used to provide Affordable Housing. The Circular APH 02/2018 from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government explains that the Serviced Site Fund is to be made available to provide "key facilitating infrastructure, on local authority sites, to support the provision of affordable homes to purchase or rent". To clarify; the scheme is not aimed at providing individual serviced sites for sale, it is aimed at facilitating the construction of affordable housing in areas where the acquisition cost of housing is very high. The circular explains that in order to justify the provision of Affordable Purchase Scheme dwellings, the realizable market price of a house less total costs should be positive and at least 10% of the estimated realizable market price. For example, if the cost of construction of a 3-bedroom house is €190,000 and the estimated realizable market price is €200,000 the difference is €10,000 which is less than 10% of €200,000. This simple calculation shows that the Serviced Site Fund would not be available in this particular case.

Initial analysis indicates that the Serviced Site Fund as designed would not be applicable in County Monaghan. Monaghan County Council has contacted the Department regarding this and has been advised that a workshop on affordable housing and financial and economic assessments will be held in November 2018.

16. Notices of Motion:

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded

1. *In light of the collapse of part of the old gypsum mines in Magheraclone in late September, Monaghan County Council calls:*

- *For the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment to immediately establish an independent investigation into the cause(s) of the mine collapse and to put in place measures that will prevent something like this happening in the future*
- *For the Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development to immediately set up a review of all old mines in Magheraclone in order to establish the exact layout and extent of them, including their access tunnels*

We also call on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- *To evaluate the ground water in the area in and around the mines to determine if the underground water supply is safe for those who well their water*
- *To determine if the storage of water in underground mines is a safe practice or harmful to the ground water supply*

Following the proposer and seconder addressing the members, Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services circulated an update to the members on the current situation regarding the subsidence incident at Magheracloone. Mr. Clifford stated that the Council's responsibilities were public safety and road management – the management of the mine was the responsibility of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. There was an ongoing investigation into the subsidence incident and that was the responsibility of the Department.

Following further discussion to which a number of members contributed, the Cathaoirleach put the proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for, 7 against. The Cathaoirleach gave his casting vote against the motion. The motion was declared lost.

Cllr Bennett, proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded:

2. *That this Council noting the recent Cervical Check Scandal, calls upon the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach to acknowledge, support and respond in detail to the demands of the Standing4Women* campaign. These include:*

Legislation and policy on mandatory open disclosure independent of the patient safety bill, Provision of a start and end date and full disclosure on the 1800 smears yet to be audited, and a breakdown of the new packages being negotiated with laboratories carrying out smear slide analysis including mandatory site audits.

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

17. Votes of sympathy/congratulations.

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

- Dermot McBride and the McBride family Oram on the passing of his partner Rita Bogdanova.

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

- Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney and Musical Director Cara Murray on winning the All-Ireland final of Showchoir Ireland in Dublin for the second year in a row.
- Karl O'Connell, Tyholland GFC, Rory Beggan Scotstown GFC and Conor McManus Clontibret O'Neills GFC on being awarded GAA Football All Stars for 2018.
- Truwood Ltd on winning the NQA Industry Standard Award ISO Quality Award – the 1st company in all of Ireland to achieve certification in ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001.

- Darren McKenna, Derrygasson, Emyvale on winning the 2018 NDC and Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards.
- Scotstown GFC on winning the 2018 Monaghan Senior Football Championship.
- Doohamlet GFC on winning the 2018 Monaghan Intermediate Football Championship.
- Emyvale GFC on winning the 2018 Monaghan Junior Football Championship.
- Cremartin GFC on winning the 2018 Monaghan Junior Football League title – Dr. Ward Cup.

18. Conferences/Training

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Crowe 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	“GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation and The Elected Member”	Springfield Hotel, Leixlip, Co. Kildare	17 th Nov.	Cllr. S. Conlon
AILG	“GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation and The Elected Member”	Hotel Kilmore, Cavan	22 nd Nov.	Cllr. P. Connolly Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. C. Carthy Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. P. McNally Cllr. S. Coyle Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon
ICBAN	‘Future of Cross-Border Cooperation’	Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan	30 th Nov.	Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. N. Keelan Cllr. J. Crowe
Celtic Conferences	‘Approaches in Contemporary River Management’	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	7 th – 9 th Dec.	Cllr. A. Campbell Cllr. D. Maxwell Cllr. S. Gilliland
LCDC	LCDC Meeting	Tullamore, Co. Offaly	13 th Sep.	Cllr. D. Maxwell

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
