

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan, on Monday 1st April, 2019 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, R. Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. A. King, Mr. P. Clifford Director of Service, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. Frank McEntee, Senior Engineer, Roads, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy with Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services and his family on the recent death of his father Eamon RIP. All members associated themselves with the vote of sympathy as did the Chief Executive on behalf of the management and staff.

Cathal thanked all present for the expression of sympathy.

The sympathy of the Council was also extended to the following –

Bernie O'Flaherty, former Council employee on the death of her sister Mary, RIP
Aileen Owens and the Gavin family on the death of Maura Gavin RIP, wife of former County Manager Joe Gavin.

Following a minute's silence, the Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

On resumption, the Cathaoirleach welcomed the students from Beech Hill College's transition year Politics class and their teachers to the meeting as observers.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that two notices of urgent business had been submitted, as follows:

(i) Notice in the names of the Sinn Fein members

Monaghan County Council calls on the HSE to immediately reverse their decision to implement a €4 daily charge to those with a bus pass using collection services to, and from, day care services.

- *We highlight our concern that the most vulnerable people in our society will be hit with this expense;*
- *That those attending day care services for 5 days a week will be expected to pay almost 10% of their income in transport (approx. €1000 per annum);*
- *Families with more than one member using these services will be hit with multiple charges.*

This Council wishes to express our disappointment at the HSE for the lack of proper consultation prior to this implementation.'

- (ii) Notice in the name of Cllr P. Connolly:

That in view of the decision by the HSE to introduce a €4 per day charge on service users attending Community Day Care Centres and Intellectual Disability Care Centres, despite the fact that these service users hold free travel passes, that Monaghan County Council calls on the HSE to immediately reverse this decision which is due to come into effect on Monday 01/04/2019.

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

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take both motions of urgent business together at the end of the meeting, as they related to the same matter.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 4th March, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 4th March 2019, 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 electronic tagging devices.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding additional Garda Resources in the Cavan/Monaghan Division.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding settling insurance claims.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Joe McHugh, T.D, regarding the provision of Speech Therapy in Primary and Post Primary Schools for children with special needs.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding supports for Beef farmers.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding Broadband telecommunications infrastructure for County Monaghan.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Food, Agriculture and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, T.D, regarding a resolution for Beef Farmers.
- Letter from Mr. Phil Hogan, European Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding support measures for Beef Farmers in regard to BREXIT.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Disabilities, Mr. Finian McGrath, T.D. regarding Respite services in Annalee View, Co. Cavan.
- Resolution from Waterford City and County Council regarding the National Children's Hospital.

- Resolution from Cork County Council regarding the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development (Amendment) (Climate Emergency Measures) Bill.
- Resolution from Carlow County Council regarding eligibility, based on income, for Social Housing.

The following additional correspondence was also circulated:

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Disabilities, Mr. Finian McGrath, T.D. regarding Speech & Language therapy services for children with special needs.
- Notice of Motion from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District regarding Disabled/Wheelchair car parking spaces.
- Notice of Motion from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District regarding the National Broadband plan.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council regarding free legal aid for repeat offenders.
- Resolution from Westmeath County Council regarding Insurance costs.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding the provision of high speed broadband in County Monaghan.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the Council support motion from Carlow Co. Council to have Band 3 removed from Housing Regulations -(Re: Income Limits for assessing eligibility for social housing).

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Department of Agriculture to ensure that Single Farm Payment applications can be made manually while there is no facility for farmers without broadband to make applications.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that we invite Mr. John McArdle the County Broadband Officer to give a presentation to the June meeting of the Council, in order to update the members and general public in relation to any progress being made in the delivery of Broadband, WiFi facilities, and mobile coverage throughout the county, and in particular rural areas.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council write to Minister Bruton requesting a meeting in relation to broadband for Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council supports the Beef Plan Movement Campaign and writes to the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed, asking him to intervene, to bring the necessary changes, to ensure sustainable income for beef farmers.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Westmeath County Council calling on the Government to establish a distinct Insurance Fraud Unit within An Garda Siochana, establish an Interim Judicial Council which will address excessive awards made in our courts and insist on greater transparency in relation to claims and premiums from Irish insurers.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Tipperary County Council calling on the Minister for Justice to introduce a cap on the number of times that a repeat offender can avail of free legal aid.

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded, that the Council adopt the motion from Waterford City & County Council calling on the Government to immediately abandon any decision to proceed to Phase 2 development of the National Children's Hospital. This pending a new full site and project review by an international independent group of healthcare experts chosen from a panel politically approved by a cross party committee.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 3 for, 11 against and 4 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council adopt the resolution from Ballybay-Clones MD calling for a review/audit of all disabled/wheelchair car parking spaces across the Municipal District ie their location/suitability to ensure that they are respect of the dignity, conducive to independent living of the user, as currently a number across the MD exit on traffic zones, i.e. public streets/roads onto raised footpaths are located at bottom of sharp inclines/hills not located close to the vicinity of essential services for persons with a disability i.e Doctors Surgeries/Pharmacies etc and above all this Municipal District urge all persons to be respectful of the needs of persons with a disability and never to impede a disabled car parking space.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council adopt the resolution from Ballybay-Clones MD requesting the Minister for Communications, Richard Bruton TD, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister Heather Humphreys TD and the government to ensure the immediate roll out of the National Broadband Plan as it is now 7 years from the launch of the plan by the government and expresses its concern at the recent comments of An Taoiseach, that the plan may cost many multiples of its original price of €500 million thus placing the viability of the plan as originally announced in question with Rural Ireland and particularly County Monaghan being treated as second class citizens by the current Government.

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

The members noted the reports from the Senior Planner which had been circulated for both proposed developments.

(i) To consider Part VIII development of Men's Shed at Former Machinery Yard, Carrickmacross (18/8001)

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for the development of a men's shed at the former Machinery Yard at Carrickmacross (Ref 18/8001), to comply with the report from the Senior Planner, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).

- (ii) **To consider Part VIII development of paths, public lighting, seating, children's natural play area, wooden gazebo structure/teen hangout area and outdoor performance area/amphitheatre structure at Ballybay Town Park (18/8002)**

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for the development paths, public lighting, seating, children's natural play area, wooden gazebo structure/teen hangout area and outdoor performance area/amphitheatre structure at Ballybay Town Park (18/8002), to comply with the report from the Senior Planner, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).

4. To consider Taking in Charge the following estates:

The members noted the reports from the Senior Planner which had been circulated in relation to the proposed taking in charge of the following estates - Ferndale Heights, Emyvale; Manor Crest, Monaghan; Meadow View, Ballybay and Ros Cluain, Carrickmacross. The reports recommended that the estates be taken in charge.

- (i) *On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the taking in charge of Ferndale Heights, Emyvale in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.*
- (ii) *On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the taking in charge of Manor Crest, Monaghan in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.*
- (iii) *On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the taking in charge of Meadow View, Ballybay in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.*
- (iv) *On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the taking in charge of Ros Cluain, Carrickmacross in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.*

5. To consider the LCDC Annual Report for 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approve the Annual Report of the Local Community Development Committee for 2018.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members of the Council who sat on the LCDC, the Board members and the Council staff that supported the committee over the past five years.

6. To consider the Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2018

The members consider the Monaghan County Council draft Annual Report for 2018 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Draft Annual Report 2018 as presented.

7. To adopt the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) National Roads Draft Bye-Laws (No.1) 2019

Mr. F. McEntee, A/Director of Services gave a presentation to the members of the proposed changes to the speed limits on the N54; N12; N53 and N2 national routes and outlined in detail the exact areas affected on each route. He stated that the Council had complied fully with the statutory process which required notifying the Garda Commissioner, undertaking a public consultation process which ended on 24th March 2019; consideration by the Speed Limits Committee; acceptance by An Garda Siochana and the consent of TII being received on 28th March. If adopted by the Council members, the proposed changes to the speed limits with take effect from 1st September, 2019.

Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr S Treanor seconded that temporary signage be put in place for a period of 2 months before the change of speed is implemented into law.

The Chief Executive stated that the Council would use local media and social media to publicise the change in speed limits over the next few months. He further stated that if temporary signage were to be put in place, the cost would have to be funded from the local roads budget.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr O'Hanlon's proposal resulted in 4 for, 8 against and 6 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) National Roads Draft Bye-Laws (No.1) 2019 as presented..

8. To consider Community & Environment Grant Scheme 2019

The members noted the report outlining details of the proposed allocations under the Community and Environment Grant Scheme for 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the allocations recommended under the Community and Environment Grant Scheme 2019, be approved.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 26th March, 2019 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 26th March 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

10. To receive the Management Report – March 2019:

The members noted the Management Report for the month of March which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chief Executive responded to queries from the elected members.

Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded, that we in Monaghan County Council write to the Department of Housing and ask that the deposit required to secure “The Rebuilding Home Loan” be reduced to the previous deposit amount of 2%.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, nil against and 4 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded, that this Council calls on the Valuation Office that there is no rate increase on town centre businesses of any kind, due to on-line business and of town shopping developments.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 13 for, nil against and 3 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

The Chief Executive stated that anyone aggrieved by the valuation notified to them should attend the walk in clinic to discuss the revised valuation with officials from the Valuation Office. They have a legal right to appeal and should exercise that right.

Cllr O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded, that businesses adjacent to the Market House, Castleblayney have their rates suspended whilst the works at the Market House continue.

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For:	Cllrs Aughey, Coyle, Crowe, Keelan, McElvaney and O’Hanlon	Total 6
Against:	Cllrs Carthy, Conlon, Maxwell, McKenna and P. Treanor.	Total 5
Abstentions:	Cllrs Bennett, Campbell, Gilliland, S. Treanor and Truell	Total 5

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

The Chief Executive stated that legally this cannot be done – it would require a change in primary legislation. The rating system is undergoing a statutory process at the moment. The budget for 2019 was adopted based on the rates income for 2019.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. Conlon and Coyle in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG – Elected Members Training, Co Roscommon.
- AILG – Annual Training Conference, Co Longford

12. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

New York visit: The Chief Executive informed the members that the Cathaoirleach and himself had visited New York for the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, at the invitation of the Monaghan Association based there. Whilst there, they had met with officials from the New York offices of Tourism Ireland, Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. The had highlighted the fact that Monaghan is a place to do business and is very open to and will facilitate foreign investment in the county.

Castleblayney Market House: The Chief Executive referred to the update on the current situation in relation to the Market House, which had been circulated at the meeting. The report outlined that following the collapse of an internal load bearing wall in January 2019, the building was declared a public safety risk and a safety cordon was erected immediately to prevent access to the building and safeguard the public. The Council proposes to remove the unstable roof structure and clear out the debris from the internal walls under the direction of a Conservation Architect. Once the risk of further collapse has been removed it is proposed to complete the survey and assessment on the building. No decision in relation to the future of the Market House can be made until a full structural survey and assessment of the building is completed. The Council is in the process of procuring specialist contractors to complete these works which are planned to commence in late April.

On the proposal of Cllr Crowe, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that this Council, in consultation with the Department and local stakeholders, seek funding to bring the Market House, Castleblayney back into use. We request that the Council Executive investigate any avenues to provide funding for this project, including, if necessary, a loan to match fund any allocation.

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 4th March, 2019

Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 4th March 2019 were responded to by the relevant officials.

14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

The members noted the following correspondence which had been circulated:

- *Letter of acknowledgement from the Office of An Taoiseach regarding the Council's request that funding for the N/S Interconnector be stopped until the planning application in the North is fully resolved.*

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllrs Campbell and Truell it was agreed that in light of the new proposed project of the gas-fired Power Station at Belfast Harbour Estate, Northern Ireland with a capacity of producing over 80% of N. Ireland's electricity at peak times that this Council writes to the Minister for Climate Action and Change Richard Bruton to conduct a review as to the current need for the proposed North South Interconnector and the amount of money spent to deal with the resistance against the Eirgrid Project in its current format by landowners and communities.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe, it was agreed that this Council notes its deep anger and disappointment that despite numerous requests for meeting with Minister Bruton no such meeting has taken place to date.

That this Council notes its deep anger and disappointment that local Minister Heather Humphreys, TD and the Fine Gael Party have not been able to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton, TD or An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar.

15. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Mr. F. McEntee, Senior Engineer, Roads stated that there was no further information available since the last meeting. A pre consultation, in committee, briefing would be held for Councillors on Monday 10th June, 2019.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

Cllr P. Treanor requested that the Council officials would keep in contact with Waterways Ireland regarding the development of the marina in Clones.

17. Questions:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. What is the current up-to-date position on the Magheross Unfinished estate in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Tuath Housing's proposal to complete a significant portion of the unfinished development at Magheross on the Ardee Road in Carrickmacross to provide 33 social houses has not yet commenced.

Tuath Housing has advised that some technical and legal documentation required to facilitate commencement was to be finalised in February 2019 however there was a delay with the documentation required. A recent full-page newspaper article in the Northern Standard newspaper suggested that commencement was imminent. Tuath Housing has advised that funding approval is in place for the project and hopes to see commencement on site in a short number of weeks.

At present, the proposal is still supported by Monaghan County Council and the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government.

2. When is it expected the Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties will be opened in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has been advised by the HSE that the “procurement process for the external service provider” that is required for the running of the Group Home is in progress. The closing date for tenders for the “external service provider” is the end of March 2019. After the closing date tenders will be assessed and notices will be issued to the successful and unsuccessful firms. Following the required 14-day standstill period the successful firm will be appointed and they will commence their setup process which may involve recruitment. Dependent on tenders received the HSE expects the Group Home to be opened in Quarter 2 of 2019.

3. What is the current situation with the proposed new Primary Care Centre in Carrickmacross?

Reply: Notification of Intention to grant planning permission for a new Primary Care Centre in Carrickmacross was issued on 28th March 2019.

4. With the increase in funding to Monaghan County Council’s Housing Section last year to deal with Vacant housing, what works have been carried out since and has the review of vacant housing concluded?

Reply: The desktop review of Vacant Housing in County Monaghan by Monaghan County Council is ongoing and has revealed the following:

CSO Census 2016 Data: 3,126 vacant residential properties in County Monaghan (242 are holiday homes). This would equate to a vacancy rate of 12 % for County Monaghan consistent with the national average also 12%.

An Post/Eircode data shows: 1,292 vacant residential properties in County Monaghan.

There is a very significant discrepancy between the CSO statistics and An Post/Eircode data. Monaghan County Council has been working on verification of the data and will continue this work on the ground over the coming months in 2019. Of 203 vacant houses inspected over the last 26 months 90 have been purchased or in the process of being purchased by Monaghan County Council. In cases where property owners are not in a position to sell they have been provided with information regarding the Repair & Leasing Scheme.

Monaghan County Council will continue to develop the vacant homes programme and target suitable vacant homes for acquisition in areas of housing need.

5. Would the Council consider allocating waste grounds (parts of sites that cannot be utilised for building or roadworks) in its ownership to community groups or schools or interested parties that want to increase Biodiversity, Environmental planting etc?

Reply: Monaghan County Council seeks to manage the property portfolio in a professional, coordinated and efficient manner. Only where a clear case can be demonstrated for the beneficial use of property will this will be considered in the context of; value, business needs and service provision by the Council.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

6. I ask for the Housing Section to give an explanation for the lengthy delays that are holding up commencement of the last phase of the Mullaghmat Remedial Scheme.

Reply: Work on Phase 4 of the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme officially commenced on site on 14 March 2019. The procurement of the project has been managed on behalf of Monaghan County Council by the Housing Agency. There

have been several unavoidable delays which prevented the earlier appointment of a Contractor.

Following a long design and consultation process the invitation to tender was published in April 2018. Tenders for the project were received on the 15th of May 2018 and following delays in the submission/assessment of the detailed pricing document and further information a pre-contract meeting was held with the apparently successful Contractor on the 11th of July 2018. On the 9th of August 2018 the Housing Agency received a letter from the apparently successful Contractor withdrawing their tender.

Following the withdrawal of the 1st Contractor the Housing Agency proceeded in contacting the Contractor who submitted the second-placed tender. The tender analysis, report and recommendation in relation to the 2nd Contractor was drafted in September 2018 however there was a significant delay in getting the necessary documentation from the 2nd Contractor to complete the Tender Report. In December 2019 the Housing Agency received sufficient documentation from the 2nd Contractor to allow full assessment of the tender and a recommendation to appoint the Contractor was prepared and submitted for approval in January 2019.

Approval to appoint the Contractor was received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and a letter of intent to appoint the Contractor was issued. Following the issuing of the letter of intent the Contractor is required to submit further documents including up-to-date insurance details, tax compliance information, programme information and documents demonstrating capacity to procure a contract guarantee bond.

There was a further delay on the part of the Contractor in providing some of the further documents required, this was in part due to the scale and complexity of the project and in part due to a change in the Contractor's situation. The Contractor appointed, Brendan Loughran & Sons Limited, has a good track record for delivery of similar projects. The project has now commenced on site and has a duration of 65 calendar weeks with completion scheduled for Quarter 2 of 2020. Opportunities to reduce the programme will be examined.

CLlr S. Coyle asked:

7. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed update to members on Septic Tank Registrations, Inspections and grant assistances paid out in County Monaghan for upgrade works since the commencement of the Registration Process-

(a) How many Septic Tanks are Registered in County Monaghan?

Reply: There are currently 11174 septic tanks registered in Monaghan.

(b) How many Septic Tanks have been inspected in each of the years since the commencement of the process?

(c) On inspection, how many Septic Tanks passed/failed the inspection?

(d) How many Grants have been paid by the Department for upgrade works on Septic Tanks in County Monaghan since the commencement of the scheme?

Year	Number of Inspections	In progress	Compliance Notices	Advisory Notices	Grants
2013	4	0	2	2	0
2014	47	0	29	18	3
2015	33	0	23	10	5
2016	30	0	20	10	1

2017	35	0	24	11	0
2018	28	0	22	6	6
2019 to date	8	0	4	4	1
Total	185	0	124	61	16

(e) What are the Rates of Grant available for upgrade works of a Septic Tank?

Reply: The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of gross household income and is either 50% or 80% of the approved cost of the works. The table below sets out the level of grant available based on the income of the previous tax year.

Household Income	% of approved costs available	Maximum Grant available
Up to €50,000	80%	€4,000
€50,001 - €75,000	50%	€2,500
In excess of €75,000	No grant is payable	No grant is payable

Household Income

Household Income is calculated as the property owner's gross taxable income in the previous tax year, together with that of his or her spouse or partner.

(f) What is the current process for Registration of a new Septic Tank and do Registrations have to be renewed on a 5 year rotation as indicated at the commencement of the process?

Reply: Applicants must register with Protect Our Water online at www.protectourwater.ie or you can email support@protectourwater.ie or they are contactable between 10-12noon Monday to Friday at 1890 800 800. Once registered, the certificate of registration is valid indefinitely. There is no need to renew it.

8. Will Monaghan County Council Executive give a full briefing to members on its communications with Eirgrid/ESB Networks personal on the proposed 400kv North-South Interconnector, the number of face to face meetings, communications etc, as the elected members of Monaghan County Council have been unanimous in their outright opposition to the overgrounding of the project?

Reply: 'As set out in An Bord Pleanala decision in respect of the proposed North South Electricity Connector, there are a number of conditions that require the undertaker to agree details in writing with the relevant planning authority prior to commencement of development. In accordance with the duty of the planning authority to engage with planning applicants/developers, two meetings have been facilitated between ESB/EirGrid and officials from Monaghan County Council, and a document (which was subsequently revised) relating the proposed approach to discharge of planning conditions issued to the relevant planning authorities in July 2018 was considered. An introductory meeting took place in the offices of Monaghan County Council on 20th October 2017 which was attended by a planning official and engineers from the relevant Municipal Districts and also by representatives from ESB International and ESB Networks. The second meeting took

place in the Nuremore Hotel on 6th September 2018 which was attended by planning officials from Monaghan and Meath County Councils and also by representatives from ESB International, ESB Networks and EirGrid. Agreement has yet to be reached on the method of discharge of the conditions and further engagement will take place as a result. All correspondence and documentation relating to these meetings is available to view on the public file held in the planning offices.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

9. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the taking-in-charge by this Council of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff, Carrickmacross; in the advance of this process being completed and in the interest of public safety will this Council continue to carry out essential maintenance to the public lighting, the access road and the waste water treatment plant etc.?

Reply: 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 works relating to the on-site waste water treatment plant. The Council shall continue to utilise the remainder of the bond to carry out necessary works to this development.

10. In relation to the supply of goods and services across the county, is the Council executive satisfied that the taxpayer is getting good value for money given the controversies at national level in relation to the awarding of public contracts?

Reply: Monaghan County Council have recently updated their procurement procedures which satisfies the Council executive in ensuring that procurement is conducted in line with the requirements of Public sector reform, the Office of Government Procurement, EU Directives and National Guidelines.

11. While this Council continues to promote and encourage the people of the county to shop local and rightly so; will the Council continue to shop local for its own goods and services as far as practical while maintaining good value for money practices?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is committed to implementing the initiatives to assist SME's in public procurement as outlined in circular 10/14 issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

12. Since the introduction of the local home/property tax (LPT) in 2013

- (a) How much funding has been collected in this county from this tax to-date
(b) How was this money spent?

Reply: The LPT will became operational on 1 July 2013 resulting in a half year LPT charge in 2013. A full year charge applied from 2014 onwards and the LPT is administered by the Revenue Commissioners. Local Authorities were not notified of the breakdown of the LPT until the 2015 Budget was being prepared. The local element of the LPT and the total LPT allocated to Monaghan County Council for each of the years from 2015 to 2019 is detailed below

Year	LPT Generated Locally	LPT Grant Allocation
2015	3,918,800	10,247,882
2016	3,436,851	9,969,218

2017	3,788,317	11,238,572
2018	3,806,264	11,238,572
2019	3,819,285	11,238,572

The last notified collection rate for Monaghan was 95.2%. 80% of the LPT generated locally is retained and enhanced by the equalisation fund to give the LPT Grant Allocation. The LPT Grant forms part of the general budgeted income of the Council and is allocated globally with rates income as part of the budget process.

13. In relation to recently announced Clár funding opportunities for infrastructure improvement etc.,
- What towns and villages can avail of this funding stream across the county?
 - Is there any opportunity to have the village of Donaghmoynne included in the Clár area?

Reply: CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas with the aim of attracting people to live and work there. Designation of Clár areas is decided by the Department of Rural and Community Development and not at Local Authority Level. The rural focus of Clár requires identification of eligible areas by way of District Electoral Division (DED) rather than by town or village designation. The entire list of eligible DEDs in County Monaghan is set out below.

COUNTY MONAGHAN							
DED ID	DED NAME	DED ID	DED NAME	DED ID	DED NAME	DED ID	DED NAME
34003	Clones Urban	34024	Broomfield	34039	Dawsongrove	34054	Derrygorry
34006	Bocks	34025	Carrickaslane	34040	Drum	34055	Drumhillagh
34008	Corracharra	34026	Carrickatee	34041	Drumully	34057	Emyvale
34009	Crossalare	34028	Church Hill	34042	Killeevan	34058	Enagh
34012	Drumcarrow	34029	Creeve	34043	Killynenagh	34059	Figullar
34013	Drumgurra	34030	Cremartin	34044	Lisnaveane	34060	Glaslough
34015	Inishkeen	34031	Greagh	34045	Newbliss	34061	Killylough
34016	Kilmurry	34032	Laragh	34046	St Tierney	34062	Kilmore
34017	Kiltybegs	34033	Mullyash	34047	Anketell Grove	34064	Rackwallace
34019	Raferagh	34034	Aghabog	34049	Bragan	34066	Shanmullagh
34020	Annayalla	34035	Anny	34050	Caddagh	34067	Sheskin
34021	Ballybay Rural	34036	Clones Rural (Pt.)	34051	Castleshane	34068	Tedavnet
34022	Ballybay Urban	34037	Cormeen	34052	Clones	34070	Tullycorbet
34023	Bellatrain	34038	Curriu	34053	Clontibret		

The CLÁR areas were last reviewed in 2006. A review of the CLÁR programme is currently being conducted by the Department of Rural and Community Development which will examine eligibility of CLÁR areas by reference to the 2016 Census of Population data. It will also consider whether there are any other factors that should be taken into account in designating areas for eligibility under CLÁR in the future.

For information, the following towns & villages are not included in eligible CLÁR DED Areas;

- Monaghan Town
- Castleblayney Town
- Carrickmacross Town
- Scotstown
- Ballinode
- Part of Smithboro & Threemilehouse

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

14. Can Monaghan County Council clarify the status of the Rebuilding Ireland Scheme for County Monaghan- current drawdown/ potential budget remaining and other important facts and figures for members relating to same?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received allocation of €5m for all loans including the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. To date:

- 38 applications received
- 11 have been approved to the value of €1,090,000
- 10 currently in process
- 6 were incomplete or ineligible applications and
- 11 declined

15. Can Monaghan County Council investigate the feasibility of bringing vacant commercial properties back into use to help ease the Housing Crisis, including the use of compulsory purchase orders?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has been inspecting various vacant properties including derelict commercial properties for possible use as social housing. Where owners of these properties can be identified and if suitable for purchase Monaghan County Council endeavours to purchase in a cooperative non-confrontational manner. If all cooperative avenues are exhausted or if ownership of the vacant properties cannot be identified Monaghan County Council may consider Compulsory Purchase Orders under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Feasibility studies are carried out on potentially suitable vacant properties including properties with previous commercial activity to establish the best possible use and investigate potential suitability for social housing. An example of this is the Clones Renewal Scheme where seven of the properties purchased had a history of commercial use on the ground floors and are now proposed as social housing units. The ground floors of the proposed apartment buildings in the Clones Renewal Scheme are designed in such a way that if in the future vibrant commercial activity returns to the area the ground floors could be returned to commercial use.

16. Can Monaghan County Council - open up a dialogue with other Local Authority Areas in regard to the Rural Resettlement Programme and position themselves top of the list for this when it does come down the line.

Reply: The current government has initiated a Pilot scheme to encourage people to return to living in town centres and this was launched in a number of limited villages in October 2018.

Upon the roll out of the national scheme, and when full details of the manner in which it will be operated have been published, the Housing Authority will explore the benefits to the County and its individual towns and villages and initiate its usage where appropriate

17. Can Monaghan County Council invite a presentation to members from Monaghan LEO in relation to their activities over the past year and their plans for the year ahead especially in light of Brexit?

Reply: Monaghan County Council already received a presentation from Mr. J. McEntegart, Head of LEO in October 2018. Additional information in relation to the activities of the Local Enterprise Office is contained in the Management Report for the April Council meeting.

18. Notices of Motion:

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded

1. That Monaghan County Council makes contact with neighbouring local authorities asking them to engage with Kanora B2B Ltd with a view to providing a similar text alert service to that being provided by this Council through Kanora B2B, for the purpose of providing a more thorough and robust effort at tackling cross border criminality.

Cllr Conlon requested that the following wording would be substituted for motion number 1 – this was agreed

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded that following the creation of the county wide text alert scheme by Monaghan Co. Co. in partnership with Komeer Alerts Group, that for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of this scheme and the security of our citizens in border areas, that we seek to explore cross-border cooperation that will implement a regional approach to this Komeer Alerts Scheme. Further, that we correspond with the Centre for Cross-Border Studies in Armagh in regard to their "New Common Chapter" Initiative.

A vote by show of hands on Cllr Conlon's motion resulted in 14 for, nil against, 2 abstentions.

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded

2. Following the absence of response from the December 2018 meeting that we write once again to the National Ambulance Service representatives Tom Howell and William Merriman seeking clarifications on their commitments given that 'six additional paramedics were being assigned to Monaghan in the near future'.

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

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr O’Hanlon seconded

3. That Monaghan County Council demands of the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D., the Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection, Regina Doherty and all government Ministers, the immediate payment of full pension entitlements to all of the 90,000 persons, discriminated against, by the anomaly created by the Fine Gael dominated government in budget 2012, described by Minister Pascal Donohoe as “bonkers and unbelievable”, which has cost huge numbers of pensioners, mainly women, thousands of euros per year, with the government giving a commitment to have the anomaly corrected, with the increased payments taking affect in the first three months of 2019, but to date only a small percentage of the 90,000 persons have had their files reviewed, this is a clear example of this Fine Gael governments, neglect of older people, as shown in a recent Eurostat report, which found that just 3.4% of GDP goes towards social protection for older citizens in Ireland, compared to EU average of 10% in member states”.

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

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr Conlon seconded

4. That this Council write to Minister for Children Katherine Zappone TD and Pobal CEO Dennis Leamy seeking of their offices to desist from implementing financial reparations on Childcare Facilities operated by Family Resource Centres. These facilities operate under Government guidelines that fail to acknowledge the needs and social challenges of marginalised families and staffing obligations that are necessary to ensure a vital and valuable quality service exists for our communities.

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

19. Votes of congratulations.

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

- Aaron McKenna, Smithboro on his 7th win as a professional boxer
- Eoghan McGinnity, Monaghan Harps Handball Club on winning the All-Ireland Minor Handball title 40x20, the first Monaghan player to hold this title.
- The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart for their sterling service to the Ballybay Community and County Monaghan on the occasion of a special ‘Thank You Mass for the Ballybay Nuns’ on Saturday 6th April in Ballybay.
- The players, team management, Principal, staff, parents and clubs of Ballybay Community College football team on winning the All-Ireland Football (Senior D) Br. Edmond Ignatius Rice Cup recently.
- Hiphopical and all of the Born to Perform Stage School on getting to the semi-finals of Ireland’s Got Talent.

20. Conferences/Training

There were no conferences proposed at the meeting.

Urgent Business

Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded

Monaghan County Council calls on the HSE to immediately reverse their decision to implement a €4 daily charge to those with a bus pass using collection services to, and from, day care services.

- *We highlight our concern that the most vulnerable people in our society will be hit with this expense;*
- *That those attending day care services for 5 days a week will be expected to pay almost 10% of their income in transport (approx. €1000 per annum);*
- *Families with more than one member using these services will be hit with multiple charges.*

This Council wishes to express our disappointment at the HSE for the lack of proper consultation prior to this implementation.'

That in view of the decision by the HSE to introduce a €4 per day charge on service users attending Community Day Care Centres and Intellectual Disability Care Centres, despite the fact that these service users hold free travel passes, that Monaghan County Council calls on the HSE to immediately reverse this decision which is due to come into effect on Monday 01/04/2019.

Following a debate on the motions of urgent business, the Cathaoirleach put them to the members and they were agreed.

Cllr McElvaney requested that the Council members on the HSE Forum would raise this matter at the next meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Crowe it was agreed that this Council seeks a meeting with the HSE to discuss the decision to implement a 4 euro daily charge to those with a bus pass using collection services to and from Day Care Services.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
