

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan, on Monday 13th May, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr D. Maxwell, Cathaoirleach

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

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

Apologies: Cllr. Conlon and Mr. A. King, Director of Services.

At the outset it was agreed that a vote of good wishes would be extended to Cllr S. Conlon who was hospitalised.

The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of sympathy to Cllr Raymond Aughey and his sister Suzanne Monahan, a member of staff of the Council, and the Aughey family on the death of Joey Aughey, RIP.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach stated that he had received a notice of urgent business in the name of the Sinn Fein members

That this Council calls on the Minister for Health Simon Harris, TD and the HSE to actively engage with the Rehab Group to ensure that appropriate funding is provided by them to ensure the continued provision of all current services to people with disabilities and to prevent the threatened cessation of these services due to existing inadequate funding arrangements.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, 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 the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

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 1st April, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 1st April 2019, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Joe McHugh, T.D, regarding Leaving Certificate students who suffer bereavement, serious illness or injury during the period of the Leaving Certificate examinations.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Disabilities, Mr. Finian McGrath, T.D. regarding respite services in Annalee View, Co Cavan.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding electronic tagging devices.
- Letter from Seamus Boland, CEO, Irish Rural Link regarding National Broadband Plan.
- Letter from the Football Association of Ireland regarding Statement of Assurance.
- Email from Micheál Rafferty, Chairman regarding Beef Plan Movement correspondence.
- Letter from the Municipal District of Monaghan regarding Elections Posters.
- Resolution from Galway County Council calling on the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to provide an agreed Pension Scheme for Community Employment Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors.
- Resolution from Kilkenny County Council regarding the Irish 'fada' to be placed in all communication documents when printing.
- Resolution from Kilkenny County Council regarding extending the scheme for the provision of the cancer drug Pembro.
- Resolution from Waterford City & County Council regarding the Irish Defence Forces (Navy, Army and Air Corps).
- Resolution from Wicklow County Council regarding the recent #Climate Strikes [1,2]

The following additional correspondence was also circulated:

- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D regarding Broadband, telecommunications infrastructure.
- Email from Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD regarding proposal in relation to Rates and Rateable Valuation.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr McNally seconded that Monaghan County Council requests the Health Service Executive to allow one representative from each group on the Council and a representative from the Cootehill Parents Group to view the St. Jude's building on the grounds of St. Davnets's, so as to consider its use as an interim Respite Centre until a suitable premises is found.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for, 6 against and 4 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Coyle seconded that the Council adopt the motion from Monaghan MD regarding election posters and that it be forwarded to all local authorities - "That Monaghan Municipal District calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton TD to: (A) to amend the laws which permit politicians and political parties to erect posters outlining information meetings and events outside the permitted 30 day postering period ahead of elections, and, (B) to examine the banning of

election posters entirely and replacing them with centralised notice boards complete with candidate picture and party logo”

A discussion took place on Cllr Connolly’s motion during which Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded that the SPC for Environment would look at developing a new protocol for the erection of election posters in Co. Monaghan in advance of future elections. This was agreed.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that the Council requests the Minister for Education and Skills to instruct the State Examinations Commission (SEC) to conclude its work on the review of the Scheme of Reasonable Accommodation during examinations, whereby a student suffers a traumatic experience, to enable the Scheme to be implemented before the commencement of the Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations on Wednesday 5th June 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle seconded by Cllr McNally it was agreed that this Council requests the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD and the Government to immediately implement a financial support package for Beef and Suckler farmers, who are currently suffering great financial hardships, with these vital sectors to the rural Irish economy facing wipe out if immediate action is not taken by the Government.

3. To consider Section 183 Notices

The members noted the report that had been circulated in relation to the disposal of land at Letterbane, Annyalla.

(i) Disposal of land at Scotch Corner landfill

On the proposal of Cllr B. McKenna seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.017 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Letterbane, Annyalla, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 19th March 2019 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The members noted the report that had been circulated in relation to the proposed lease of the Market House building in Carrickmacross.

(ii) Lease agreement at the Market House, Carrickmacross

On the proposal of Cllr P.J O’Hanlon seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the Council approve the lease agreement at the Market House, Carrickmacross in accordance with the terms of notice dated 9th April 2019 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The members noted the report that had been circulated in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Knockaconny, Monaghan.

(iii) Disposal of land at Knockaconny, Monaghan

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of 0.92 hectares in the townland of Knockaconny, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 11th April 2019 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. 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 the Part VIII proposal for completion and upgrade of access onto Main St, Ballybay, provision of footpath, temporary car parking area, public lighting, landscaping works and ancillary works.**

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 completion and upgrading of access onto Main Street, Ballybay (Cornamucklaglass) and all associated works to comply with the report from the Senior Planner, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended) (Ref 19/8003).

- (ii) To consider the Part VIII proposal for network of paths, additional seating/picnic benches, public lighting, outdoor gym equipment, open-air amphitheatre mound, pedestrian footbridge over river and ancillary works at Scotshouse Park.**

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the that the Council approve the granting of planning permission for construction of a network of paths, additional seating/picnic benches, public lighting, outdoor gym equipment open-air amphitheatre mound, pedestrian footbridge over river and all ancillary works to comply with the report from the Senior Planner, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended) (Ref 19/8004).

5. To consider Pre-Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Mr. K. Duffy, A/Senior Executive Engineer informed the members that the Council had prepared a draft Local Authority Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in accordance with the provisions of The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (NAF), 2018. He stated that climate change is recognised as the major challenge at both National and International level with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and also in adapting to the inevitable consequences of our changing climate.

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy represents a proactive step by Monaghan County Council in the process of adaptation planning to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change. Whilst Monaghan County Council is continually working to mitigate against the causes of climate change by striving to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions, this adaptation strategy is primarily concerned with increasing Monaghan County Council's resilience in adapting to the impacts of climate change and associated extreme weather events.

The Strategy considers the impacts of recent severe weather events experienced in the county and likely to face in the future and proposes a range of actions to be delivered at County Level to allow the council to adapt better to such events in the future. The strategy will further strengthen Monaghan County Council's ability to be climate resilient in our day to day operations and in our dealings and interactions with all stakeholders

Submissions are invited from the public and can be made by email or in writing before midnight on Wednesday 26 June 2019.

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

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve the draft Climate Action Adaptation Strategy and that it be placed on public display with submissions invited from the public up to and including Wednesday 26 June 2019.

6. To note the Annual Financial Statement and approve over expenditures and transfers to Capital Account for the financial year 2018

The members noted the Annual Financial Statement for 2018 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed to note the Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2018) and to approve over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

| | | <u>Over Expenditure</u> | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Expenditure (Over)/Under | Income Over/(Under) | Net Position |
| Division | | Estimates 2018 € | Estimates 2018 € | 2018 € |
| A | Housing and Building | -610,434 | 989,222 | 378,788 |
| B | Roads Transportation & Safety | -4,133,263 | 4,268,639 | 135,376 |
| E | Environmental Services | -701,548 | 196,279 | -505,269 |
| F | Recreation & Amenity | -323,179 | 267,714 | -55,465 |
| G | Agri, Educ, Health & Welfare | -22,390 | 28,334 | 5,944 |
| H | Miscellaneous Services | -206,629 | 922,326 | 715,697 |

Transfers to Capital

| | Transfer Amount | Budget Provision | Difference |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Machinery Account Surplus | 212,964 | 0 | -212,964 |
| Traffic Management | 41,930 | 0 | -41,930 |
| Regional Lighting Running costs | 27,018 | 0 | -27,018 |
| Local Lighting Running cost | 83,867 | 0 | -83,867 |
| Libraries - Energy Grant Repayment | 19,835 | 0 | -19,835 |
| Operation Parks & Open spaces Monaghan MD | 5,315 | 0 | -5,315 |
| Outdoor Rec Infrastructure Scheme BB-CL MD | 36,652 | 0 | -36,652 |
| Heritage Officer Recoupable | 608 | 0 | -608 |
| Provisions for Transfer to Capital (included in Budget 2018) | | | |
| Municipal District Allocations (unspent) | 451,133 | 450,000 | -1,133 |
| Loan Repayment Reserve | 240,307 | 240,307 | 0 |
| Disability Initiatives | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 |
| Co. Development Fund | 75,000 | 75,000 | 0 |
| Local Elections | 30,000 | 30,000 | 0 |
| Members Gratuity Scheme | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Fire Service Gratuities | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Libraries - Provision for Capital Balances | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 |
| Clones Sports Project | 25,000 | 25,000 | 0 |
| Computing - Provision for Capital Balance | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Traffic Management | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 |
| Industrial and Economic Development | 150,000 | 150,000 | 0 |
| Landfill Scotch Corner Operation | 9,764 | 9,764 | 0 |
| General Maintenance - Fire station | 7,691 | 7,691 | 0 |
| Swimming pool non capital charges | 11,502 | 11,502 | 0 |
| Monaghan Branch Library | 10,754 | 10,754 | 0 |
| Ballybay Branch Library | 1,847 | 1,847 | 0 |
| Monaghan Museum | 6,550 | 6,550 | 0 |
| Ballybay Clones MD Office | 6,659 | 6,659 | 0 |
| Carrickmacross/Castleblaney MD office | 4,173 | 4,173 | 0 |
| Offices Building Maintenance | 14,065 | 14,065 | 0 |
| | 1,862,634.13 | 1,433,312.00 | -429,322 |

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council will do all in its power to support local businesses by purchasing goods and services within the county.

7. To consider that MCC sign up as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Ms. Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer gave a presentation to the members on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in which she outlined the objectives and actions contained therein.

Following the presentation Ms. Clerkin responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr McNally, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that Monaghan County Council becomes an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner, thereby committing to the following:

- That Monaghan County Council supports the ethos of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and will consider the Plan in their policies, plans, and management decisions where possible.
- To consider the evidence-based actions in the guideline document *Councils: Actions to help Pollinators*, and to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least three more within the following five years. The guideline document lists 30 possible actions, many of which are low cost or cost-neutral.
- To update the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team (within the National Biodiversity Data Centre) on the positive pollinator actions planned, implemented or maintained at the end of each year.

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

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16th April, 2019 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16th April 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

9. To receive the Management Report – April 2019:

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

The Chief Executive responded to queries from the elected members.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. Connolly, Coyle, Keelan, McNally, Treanor and Truell in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG – Annual Training Conference, Co Longford
- LAMA Spring Conference, Co Leitrim
- AILG Training, Co Sligo
- AILG Training, Co Longford
- AILG Training, Co Westmeath
- Good Governance of Community, Voluntary in Ireland, Co Cork

11. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

Update on Castleblayney Market House:

The Chief Executive informed the members that a firm of specialist contractors had been engaged to undertake works to the building commencing on 14 May. The works will consist of the following:

- Removal of entire roof structure including asbestos cement slates
- Removal and salvage of the cupola and clock elements
- Clear-out and removal of all internal debris and materials
- Installation of structural stability bracing to the interior of the building.

The anticipated timeframe for completion of all works is a minimum of 8 weeks. The existing exclusion zones and roads closures already in place around the building will remain in place for the duration of the works.

Update on closure of LP4900 Drumgossatt Road:

The Chief Executive updated the members in relation to the closure of the LP4900. He stated that following a technical meeting on 24 April, clarification was sought from SRK Consulting in relation to matters within their report. The Council had cancelled the scheduled Resident's Forum meeting due on 13 May as the anticipated Verification Report from Wardell Armstrong, Consultants to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment cannot be completed until the clarifications sought from the company and its consultants are received and considered. A date for the next technical meeting was provisionally scheduled for the week commencing 26 May 2019.

12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 1st April, 2019

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st April 2019.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

The members noted the following correspondence which had been circulated:

- *Letter from the Office of Commission for Regulation of Utilities regarding ESBN/Eirgrid Infrastructure Agreement Compliance.*

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council notes with deep anger, that despite numerous requests for a meeting with the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton TD, no such meeting has been facilitated.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the members of this Council reaffirms our commitment to have the North South Interconnector undergrounded and if re-elected both individually and collectively we will continue to press Government and Eirgrid to ensure this happens.

14. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

There was no further information available since the previous Council meeting. A pre consultation briefing has been organised for the Council members on 10th June, 2019.

15. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

It was noted that Waterways Ireland had received an allocation under the Rural Regeneration Programme.

16. To receive presentation from Orla Nugent, MABS – Money Advice and Budgeting Service

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Orla Nugent from the Monaghan Money Advice and Budgeting Service and invited her to make a presentation to the Council.

Ms. Nugent, in her presentation, explained that MABS is a free, independent and confidential State-funded service, which provides advice on money management, budgeting, and dealing with debt. The MABS Mission Statement is to focus on helping people of limited incomes who are over-indebted, or at risk of becoming over-indebted. They do this by identifying, supporting, educating and empowering people with debt problems, and by using the knowledge and expertise gained through their work, they strive to bring about policy change towards eliminating over-indebtedness.

Every client's situation is completely different and MABS assess their rights and entitlements to ensure they are receiving everything they should be, and examine their finances to gain an idea of the extent of their commitments. They also assist clients with prioritising their debt and preparing budget plans to deal with the debt.

Following her presentation, Ms. Nugent responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Nugent for her presentation.

17. Questions:

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

1. With regard to the recent announcement by the Minister for Communications Climate Action and Environment regarding €3m being made available for Anti-Dumping initiatives, in particular for the purchase and operation of drones to survey and identify people who are dumping illegally, what level of funding has Monaghan County Council received from this €3m allocation?

Reply: An application for funding to this scheme was submitted on 30th April. An announcement on an allocation is expected before end of May.

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

2. Can Monaghan County Council please investigate the possibility of securing funding for footpath's from
 - (a) Scotstown Village to Kilmore Football field.
 - (b) The Ard Na Gaoithe housing development to the Corlatt, Knockatallon.

These roads are both extremely dangerous and a footpath on each would be a life saving measure.

Reply: There are a few avenues that the local community can explore in relation to securing funding for footpaths via the MD. These include

1. **The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) – Currently open to June 2018.**
2. **Town and Village Renewal Scheme. – Currently open for expression of interest via the MD.**

3. Monaghan County Council recently carried out a speed analysis in certain Villages. Can I please have an update on this and what is the outcome on my request for ramps at the Ballinode road entrance into Scotstown Village at the Knockatallon road out of Scotstown village.

Reply: The information received from the traffic counts has yet to be reviewed and an update aligned with the Traffic Calming Policy will be provided once the review has taken place. It's expected that Municipal District lead resources will review all survey data in Quarter 3 2019 with specific requests for Road Design input prioritised.

CLlr C. Bennett asked:

4. Monaghan County Council have recently increased rents on tenants in Local Authority Housing. Some of these increases have been extreme and unaffordable. Can I please have a breakdown of how rent increases have been calculated and the reason for such sudden increases.

Reply: Rent Assessments are calculated as follows:

The rent applied to all tenant households is based on the Rent Scheme adopted by the Council. The rent charged is based on the total household income. The previous rent assessment was applied in 2016 after receiving tenants' income details in 2015. It would appear that some tenants incomes have increased since that review and hence the rent has increased. For clarity the basic calculation of rent is as follows:

| |
|--|
| Principal Earners income 1. less allowance of €50.00 2. less allowance of €2.00 in respect of each dependent child x 20% PLUS |
| Each sub-earners income x 5% |

5. Can I please have an update on the new development planned for Bothar Na Mullaí, Scotstown. What is the proposed timeframe for completion.

Reply: Monaghan County Council received Stage 1 Funding Approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) to appoint design consultants and carry out site surveys to prepare proposals to complete four unfinished houses and develop the remaining site for social housing. Monaghan County Council has now received Stage 2 Funding Approval from the DHPLG to complete the four unfinished houses and provide an additional twenty eight houses. Part 8 Planning Consultation documents were submitted to Planning Section on the 17th of April 2019.

6. Have Monaghan County Council submitted any recent funding applications for the redevelopment of Hollywood Park. This park is one of the most utilized parks in the County but it has received very little upgrading.

Reply: A funding application has been made to the Dept of Children and Youth Affairs for funding to upgrade the children's play facilities at Hollywood Park. The fund in question is a Capital Grant Scheme for Play & Recreation, which offers up to €30,000

per local authority at a grant rate of 75% for the refurbishment of existing children's play facilities. Monaghan County Council applied for the maximum amount available.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

7. Has Monaghan County Council received any confirmation on when the Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties, Carrickmacross, will be opened and operational?

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" was the end of March 2019. The HSE has advised Monaghan County Council that submissions have been received from companies that satisfy the suitability criteria. 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.

8. What is the up-to-date position on CCTV for towns in Co. Monaghan

Reply: The Community Based CCTV Scheme, funded by the Department of Justice and Equality is intended to support local communities who wish to install and maintain CCTV security systems in their area, with the aim of increasing public safety and to deter illegal or anti-social behaviour. It is designed to provide financial assistance, to qualifying local organisations, towards meeting the capital costs associated with the establishment of local community CCTV systems. The Castleblayney and Mullaghmatte CCTV systems are operational. An application to the Department of Justice and Equality for funding for the Monaghan CCTV system is pending.

9. Has there been any developments on my request to locate and promote the areas in the county where Defibrillators are located (via the Councils website, an App etc)?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has been working on this issue for some time in partnership with the National Ambulance Service, which is anxious to map all available defibrillators, so that the Emergency Operator might direct a caller to retrieve a nearby device in case it is needed before the ambulance arrives. The NAS has issued MCC with a list of locations of registered defibrillators; however, it is clear from the very short list provided that the majority of defibrillators in the county are unknown to the Ambulance Service, and therefore could not be called upon in an emergency. Monaghan County Council has been encouraging local groups to register defibrillator locations with the National Ambulance Service, but the response is slow. Elected Members could assist by encouraging their constituents to email cfr@hse.ie and request the form to register their defibrillator with the National Ambulance Service. They will need the GPS co-ordinates of the location of the defibrillator, which Monaghan County Council staff will be happy to help them to find.

9. Has Monaghan County Council any new applications in for housing development proposals with the Department for south Monaghan (excluding those that are currently proceeding)?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has submitted new funding applications in 2019 for three separate housing developments in south Monaghan totalling 75 dwellings as follows:

- 8no houses at Coill an Rí, Kingscourt Road, Carrickmacross.
- 41no houses at Nafarty, Carrickmacross.
- 26 houses at Bree, Castleblayney.

On 18 January 2019 a funding application was submitted for 26 houses at Bree Castleblayney and approval of funding was received on 11 March 2019. Funding applications for the other two housing developments mentioned were submitted in the week ending 10 May 2019 and approval is expected within a similar timeframe subject to funding availability.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

10. Has the Environment Section confirmed if it will be offering any 'large goods' amnesties, similar to the 'mattress amnesty' in 2018, this year?

Reply: An application for funding has been submitted to the Department under the Anti-Dumping initiatives for this scheme. An announcement on funding is expected late May. If application is successfully the bulky goods amnesty will focus on sofas and armchairs and will be held in multiple location in the County during the summer months.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

11. What progress has been made in recent months between Council's Water Services Section and relevant agencies and stakeholders involved in securing a Group Sewerage Scheme for residents in the Milltown area?

Reply: Milltown Group Sewerage Scheme Committee members are not proceeding with this scheme, Water Services Section in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government are assisting the Committee with outstanding financial and administrative matters.

12. What progress has been made in recent months between Council's Water Services, Planning Section and relevant agencies and stakeholders involved in regularising the unsatisfactory foul water pipe infrastructure at Chois Cnoc, Pound Hill Monaghan.

Reply: A taking in charge application was received in respect of this development in November 2018. On foot of this, Planning Section met with Irish water and outlined residents' concerns relating to the foul sewerage network. Remediation of this network, if necessary, will be the responsibility of Irish water.

Existing drainage collection pipe condition has been assessed and engineering measures currently being considered.

13. In regard to the energy efficiency ratings (BER) of Council's housing stock:

- (a) What is deemed by the Council as an acceptable or minimum BER efficiency rating for a dwelling?

Reply: The national average for Building Energy Rating (BER) is D1 for existing dwellings and for newly constructed dwellings an A3 rating is required to comply with the current Building Regulations.

- (b) What criteria is in place to qualify a dwelling for energy retrofit measures?

Reply: Monaghan County Council inspects its Housing Stock on a regular basis and when funding or the opportunity arises undertakes energy efficiency

improvement works. Typical works to maximise the energy efficiency of the dwelling are the replacement of windows or doors, dry line walls, more efficient heating systems, insulate wall cavities and increase attic insulation. These works are typically done as part of Monaghan County Council's re-letting, planned maintenance and energy efficiency programmes subject to funding. Monaghan County Council has 63 properties remaining that require Phase 2 Energy Efficiency upgrade works. Phase 2 Energy Efficiency upgrade work focusses on building fabric upgrades including internal insulation or external insulation. Monaghan County Council is currently awaiting a response/funding approval from The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to proceed with Phase 2 Energy Efficiency works in 2019.

- (c) Approximately what number of Council dwellings are BER rated in the poor energy efficiency category of 'D' and 'E'?

Reply: As mentioned the national average for Building Energy Rating (BER) is D1 for existing dwellings. After Monaghan County Council has undertaken Energy Efficiency improvement work to dwellings, typically 80% of dwellings achieve a C Building Energy Rating or better and approximately 20% of older dwellings achieve a D1 Building Energy Rating. Most dwellings achieve a 2 to 3 rating improvement (for example a change from F to C rating post improvement works).

- (d) What is the Council's policy on the installation of wood burning stoves / fireplaces in newly built Council dwellings as well as refurbished existing housing stock?

Reply: Monaghan County Council's policy on the installation of wood burning stoves / fireplaces in relation to newly built dwellings is to ensure compliance with the current Building Regulations which requires a minimum of an A3 Building Energy Rating. In most cases stoves / fireplaces are not installed as this enhances fire safety and helps to achieve higher Building Energy Ratings than the national average. To achieve higher Building Energy Ratings Monaghan County Council focusses spending on improvements to the building fabric and insulation.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

14. In order to play our part in combating climate change, will this Council examine the feasibility of providing electric car charging points throughout our village areas including at Lisdoonan, Donaghmoyne, Corduff for example; will this Council work with community organisations such as the GAA, Churches, Community Centres etc. and in particular with the providers of this type of infrastructure?

Reply: EV charging stations have been provided in public locations in the County by Ecars, a subsidiary of ESBN in our main Towns, as well as a number of privately owned charging stations. Monaghan County Council have no plans at present to provide EV charging points but will work with national agencies to facilitate the provision and roll out of EV charging.

15. In relation to the ongoing commercial rates revaluation which is taking place across the county, what is the overall picture in terms of rates increases/decreases; what options are open to those businesses, including community facilities, that have been hit with a huge increase in their rates demand?

Reply: The breakdown of increases / decreases received from the Valuation Office is as follows:

| % Decrease | % Increase | % No Change |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 58.8% | 37.8% | 3.4% |

Ratepayers who are dissatisfied with their proposed valuation have up to 40 days from the date of issue of their proposed valuation certificates to make Representations to the Valuation Office. The Valuation Office will consider each Representation received and will reflect the outcome of its consideration, including the making of any adjustments warranted from the information and evidence provided with Representations.

16. Given the huge increase and indeed unsustainable Public Liability Insurance costs affecting the business community across the country, including the hospitality and recreational sector, has the Public Liability Insurance cost increased for this Council in recent years and if so, by what percentage?

Reply:

| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 2017 | Increase of 10% from 2016 |
| 2018 | No increase |
| 2019 | Decrease of 7.7% from 2018 |

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

17. How many claims per annum is received by this Council for personal injury as a result of trips or falls on public footpaths etc; how many claims are received per annum in relation to damage to motor vehicles as a result of poor road repairs etc; how much has been paid out in claims by this Council's insurers over the last three years in relation to these type of incidents?

Reply:

| | No of claims received for Personal Injury | No of claims received for damage to vehicles |
|------|---|--|
| 2016 | 16 | 23 |
| 2017 | 9 | 19 |
| 2018 | 10 | 90 |

| | Amount paid out in respect of Personal Injury Claims | Amount paid out in respect of Damage to vehicles |
|------|--|--|
| 2016 | €47,207 | € 7,568 |
| 2017 | €0 | € 2,272 |
| 2018 | €233,927 | €13,383 |

18. In relation to the very small County Road Resurfacing Programme, when is it expected to have these roads resurfaced; is it expected that there will be an increase in the tender costs from last year?

Reply: The roads programme is due to commence at the end of May 2019 with completion scheduled for early September 2019. There has been no increase in the tender costs from last year.

18. Notices of Motion:

Cllr Bennett proposed Cllr Carthy seconded

1. Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD to:
 - Implement the 2008 Labour Court recommendation regarding Pension schemes for Community Employment (CE) Supervisors
 - Meet with the unions representing these services to ensure that arrangements can be made to avoid industrial action into the future
 - Continue to support these invaluable services to individuals and communities alike

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

In the absence of Cllr Conlon, Notice of Motion 18(2) was not moved.

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr Mc Kenna seconded

3. That this Council notes with deep concern the crisis in the provision of Home Help Services across this county and indeed the country and calls on the Minister for Health Simon Harris TD and the Government to immediately release the necessary funding to address this unacceptable situation.

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

19. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Ruth Madden Largy College, Clones on winning the SFI Best Project Award for her project 'The Microplastic Filter' – a small solution to a global problem and extend best wishes to her in the national finals.

20. Conferences/Training

There were no conferences proposed at the meeting.

