

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, Armagh Road, Monaghan, on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr S. Coyle, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, R. Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. A. King, Director of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Service, Mr. F. McEntee, Senior Engineer, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing, Mr. D. Hurley, Senior Housing Officer, Ms. M. Walker, Social Worker, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies:** Mr. P. Clifford and Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services.

**Canada Day 2019 launch:**

Prior to the meeting commencing, the members of the Council and the Canada Day Committee attended for a photograph to launch the 2019 Canada Day Celebrations planned for June 29. Following the photograph, the Cathaoirleach welcomed all present, including Blaithin O'Donnell (Air Canada), Mark Clifford, O'Hanrahan Travel and members of the Canada Day Committee. He complimented them on their work in promoting the links between Monaghan and Canada. He also remembered the great work done in the past by former Councillor Willie McKenna.

Cllr Sean Conlon, Chair of the Canada Day Committee thanked the Cathaoirleach and members for allowing the launch to take place prior to the Council meeting that morning. He encouraged all present to get involved with the Canada Day celebrations on June 29<sup>th</sup>. He also highlighted to the public the lovely prize of a holiday for two to Canada (flights/accommodation – jointly sponsored by Air Canada and O'Hanrahan Travel in association with Shannonside Northern Sound Radio).

**Council meeting:**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all present to the first monthly meeting of the new Council. He thanked Cllr Bennett, as Manager of the Garage Theatre, for hosting the meeting on this occasion. He stated that he looked forward to working with the members and officials over the next five years to make Monaghan a better county.

*The Cathaoirleach then proposed a vote of sympathy with the family and Council colleagues of the late Noel Breakey, Museum Conservator, who had passed away suddenly the previous day.*

A number of members paid tribute to Noel for his service with the Museum over the past 41 years, as did the Chief Executive on behalf of the Management and Staff.

*Cllr Coyle also proposed a vote of sympathy with the family of Manus Kelly, a member of Donegal County Council who died following an accident whilst competing in the Donegal International Rally.*

*He also proposed a vote of sympathy to John Leonard & Family, Michael Leonard, General Services Supervisor and Paul Quigley General Operative on the death of Catherine Leonard, nee Quigley.*

Cllr McKenna seconded the votes of sympathy which were agreed by the members. The Chief Executive associated himself and the staff with the expressions of sympathy.

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

On resumption, Cllr Coyle proposed a vote of congratulations to Malachy O'Rourke who stepped down as the Monaghan GAA County Team Manager that weekend. He thanked Malachy for his contribution to football in the county and bringing the team to an All Ireland Semi-Final in 2018 and winning two Ulster Final Titles and two National League titles during the past seven years. The proposal was seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon and agreed by the members.

### **Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a Notice of Urgent Business in the names of Cllr Maxwell and Cllr Truell, as follows:

*That this Council take immediate steps to rectified and fix the sewage pumping station problem in the housing estate of the Corran, Monaghan Town. This is posing a considerable health risk to the residents and public alike.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, 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 P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Truell, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.*

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019, be confirmed.*

### **(ii) Minutes of Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019, be confirmed.*

## **2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy T.D, regarding the deposit required to secure the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding Insurance Costs.

- Acknowledgment letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy T.D, regarding Social Housing income limits for young people.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy T.D, regarding the Fire Safety in Ireland report of the Fire Safety Task Force.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy T.D, regarding Social Housing income limits for young people.
- 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 Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris T.D, regarding medical reports needed for a driving licence.
- Acknowledgment letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris T.D, regarding Rehab Group.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Defence, Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D. regarding Defence Forces Pay & Conditions.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed T.D, regarding beef farmers.
- Acknowledgment letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D regarding Pension Entitlements.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan regarding a cap on legal aid for repeat offenders.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Employment and Social Protection regarding the Council's resolution regarding a pensions review.
- Letter from the Disability Services Manager of the Health Service Executive regarding the St. Jude's Building on the grounds of St. Davnet's Hospital.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs regarding the Council's resolution relating to financial reparations for childcare facilities.
- Letter from Pobal regarding the Council's resolution relating to financial reparations for childcare facilities.
- Letter from Ciaran Cannon TD Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development inviting submissions on the new Diaspora Policy.
- Resolution from the Ballybay-Clones MD regarding the framework for road making materials.
- Resolution from the Ballybay-Clones MD regarding the implementation of the Mercier Report recommendations on Childcare Workers Wages.
- Letter from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment refusing a meeting with the Council in relation to the North South Interconnector project.

**The following additional correspondence was also circulated:**

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to home help services in Co. Monaghan.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council adopt the motions from the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to immediately implement the Mercier Report recommendations on Childcare Workers Wages as some childcare workers have not had a pay increase since*

2004 and also urge all workers in the sector to join the SIPTU/IMPACT unions to allow them seek a sectoral pay order from the Government.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council's proposal that the medical report fee for a driving licence for over 70's is included in the Medical Card services, be forwarded to the Oireachtas members for the constituency to follow up with the Minister for Health.

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council adopt the resolution from the Ballybay-Clones MD calling on the Minister for Finance to re-open the framework for road making materials under supplygov.ie to all suppliers in the industry as many of them were not aware of it in 2017 due to the lack of communications between the industry and the Department that year.

### **3. To Filling of vacant positions on external/Council committees.**

Cllr Connolly informed the members that he was resigning from the position of Leas Chathaoirleach of County Monaghan to which he had been appointed, in his absence, on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019. He also stated that he was no longer the Whip of the non party members on the Council.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the vacant position of Leas Chathaoirleach be filled at the meeting.

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded that the filling of the positions listed on the agenda paper (3(i) – (xiv) be deferred until the July meeting pending clarification on the d'Hondt system used by Leinster House.

A recorded vote on Cllr McElvaney's proposal resulted as follows:

<b>For:</b>	Cllrs Connolly, McElvaney and S. Treanor	Total 3
<b>Against:</b>	Cllrs Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Carthy, Coyle, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, McCooley, McKenna, Maxwell, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and R. Truell.	Total 14

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

At this point it was agreed that there would be a ten minute adjournment to allow the political groups and the non party members discuss nominations to the vacant positions.

It was further agreed that when the meeting resumed that the first matter to be dealt with would be the election of the Leas Chathaoirleach.

The meeting resumed at 11.35 am.

#### **Election of Leas Chathaoirleach.**

Cllr McElvaney proposed, Cllr O'Hanlon seconded, that Cllr S. Treanor be nominated to the position of Leas Chathaoirleach.

As there were no other nominations, the Cathaoirleach deemed Cllr S. Treanor elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the coming year. The Cathaoirleach congratulated Cllr S. Treanor on his election.

The Cathaoirleach stated that he was now proceeding to accept nominations to fill the vacant positions that had been deferred from the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**i. To fill one seat on the Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board**

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that Cllr Maxwell be elected to the Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board.*

**ii. To fill one seat on the North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that Cllr Carthy be elected to the North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force Committee*

**iii. To fill two seats on the Joint Policing Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Cllr McElvaney be elected to the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that Cllr Carthy be elected to the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee.*

**iv. To fill one seat on the Peace Campus Steering Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Treanor, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Cllr Connolly be elected to the Peace Campus Steering Committee.*

**v. To fill one seat on the Peace Partnership Board**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the filling of this position be deferred to the July Council meeting.*

**vi. To fill one seat on the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Truell, it was agreed that Cllr S. Treanor be elected to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.*

**vii. To fill one seat on the Audit Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the filling of this position be deferred to the July Council meeting.*

**viii. To fill one seat on the Local Improvements Scheme Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the filling of this position be deferred to the July Council meeting.*

**ix. To fill one seat on the Coiste Gaeilge**

*On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that Cllr McElvaney be elected to the Coiste Gaeilge.*

**x. To fill one seat on the Coiste Logainmneacha**

*On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that Cllr McElvaney be elected to the Coiste Logainmneacha.*

**xi. To fill one seat on the Speed Limits Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that Cllr O’Hanlon be elected to the Speed Limits Committee.*

**xii. To fill one seat on the Twinning Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the filling of this position be deferred to the July Council meeting.*

**xiii. To fill one seat on the Heritage Forum**

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the filling of this position be deferred to the July Council meeting.*

**xiv. To fill one seat on the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that Cllr McElvaney be elected to the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee.*

**Amendment to nomination to the Board of EBR:**

Cllr O’Hanlon requested the approval of the members to his nomination to the board of East Border Region (EBR) instead of Cllr Aoife McCooey. This was agreed.

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

The members noted the report from the Senior Planner which had been circulated in relation to the proposed development at No. 63 Fermanagh Street Clones and alterations to previously approved permission (Ref 18/8013) for building known as An Bonnan Bui and the adjoining property to the south formerly known as The Flower Shop

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the that the Council approve the granting of permission for the proposed development at No. 63 Fermanagh Street Clones and alterations to previously approved permission (Ref 18/8013) for building known as An Bonnan Bui and the adjoining property to the south formerly known as The Flower Shop 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 19/8006).*

**5. To consider Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025**

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner referred to the report circulated in relation to the application for planning permission to facilitate an extension to the existing Arthur Mallon Foods plant at Mullaghduin, Monaghan as well as associated access and ancillary site development works. (PP 18/604 refers). Mr. Gourley stated that a material contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 was required as part of the access tract was partially located on lands zoned as 'Recreation and Amenity'. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The report of the Senior Planner recommended that planning permission be granted subject to the conditions contained in the report.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that the Council unanimously approve the Material Contravention of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 to grant planning permission to facilitate an extension to the existing Arthur Mallon Foods plant at Mullaghduin, Monaghan, subject to the conditions contained in the report of the Senior Planner dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019.*

**6. To adopt the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024**

The members noted the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Mr. J. Murray, Director of Housing responded to queries from the members.

*On the proposal of Cllr Truell, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed to adopt the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council write to the Health Service Executive and the Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd., enquiring if they have evidence to suggest that there is a need for a transient site in County Monaghan as suggested in their submission made during the public consultation process on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme.*

Cllr Conlon requested that the Council would contact Pavee Point to explain that the Council meeting had taken place at the same time as the event being held in the Diamond, Monaghan and apologise for the non-attendance of Council members.

**7. To adopt the Draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable dwelling Purchase Arrangements**

The members noted the Draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase arrangements which had been circulated. Mr. J. Murray, Director of Housing, responded to queries from the members in relation to the draft scheme.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.*

*Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr McCooley seconded that the Council writes to Minister Damien English TD enquiring when will funding be allocated to Monaghan County Council for the Affordable Dwelling Purchase Scheme.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 6 for, 2 against and 8 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

**8. To consider allocations under the Arts Partners Grant Scheme 2019**

Cllr Bennett declared a conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of funding under the Arts Partners Grant Scheme 2019, as follows:*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of Arts Partner</b>	<b>Amount recommended</b>
1	The Garage Theatre	€16,500
2	Clones Film Festival	€8,000
3	Iontas Arts Centre, Castleblayney	€17,500
4	Patrick Kavanagh Weekend	€9,000
5	Castleblayney Drama Festival	€3,000
6	Feile Patrick Byrne	€2,200
7	Scoil Cheoil na Botha	€3,000
8	Muckno Mania Castleblayney	€1,500
9	Ballybay Community Arts Programme	€2,000

Following conclusion of this item, Cllr Bennett returned to the meeting.

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

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 which had been circulated.

**Date for July Council meeting:**

The CPG had recommended that the July meeting be scheduled for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July. However, this date did not suit some of the members and it was agreed that the July meeting would be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

*On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved, subject to the amendment in relation to the date for the July meeting.*

**10. To receive the Management Report – May 2019:**

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



The Chief Executive and Directors of Service responded to queries from the elected members in relation to the Management Report.

**11. 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

**12. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.**

The Chief Executive updated the members in relation to Castleblayney Courthouse, as follows:

Following a mini tender competition, Monaghan Co. Council appointed Hegarty Contractors on 13<sup>th</sup> May to carry proposed stabilisation works to the Courthouse Building. The proposed stabilisation works involve the removal of the entire roof structure, clear out and removal of all internal debris/materials and installation of stability bracing to the interior of the building. Works commenced on site on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019, it was initially envisaged that the proposed stabilisation works could be completed over an approximate period of 8 weeks. However, following removal of the roof structure and commencement of the internal clear out it soon became apparent that the building was in an extremely unsafe condition. To ensure the safety of the operatives and to comply with health and safety obligations, the majority of the proposed works is being completed by hand and involves working from a cradle suspended from a crane or mobile hoist. Accordingly, the works programme has been extended and it is anticipated that the stabilisation works will be completed by the first week in August.

***Works Progressed to Date:***

- Asbestos slates have been removed from roof and the existing roof structure has been taken down;
- The cupola has been taken down and placed in storage;
- Unstable sections of the four chimneys have been taken down to eave level;
- Removal of existing windows and clear out of all debris from the eastern end of building is complete;
- Removal of internal debris and material from remaining areas of the building is approximately 40% complete;
- The Conservation Architect engaged by Monaghan County Council to oversee the works has conducted a number of site visits and reports in relation to the ongoing works.

***Works to be completed:***

- Complete the taking down and removal of sections of unstable internal walls and floors;
- Complete the removal of all remaining internal debris and materials;
- Remove all existing windows and carry out remedial stabilisation works to all window heads;
- Complete the installation of stability bracing to the interior of the building;
- Complete the surveying and recording of all associated conservation elements.

### **Structural Survey & Assessment**

Following completion of all stabilisation works to the building, a full structural survey and assessment of the building structure will be conducted by a Structural Engineer on behalf of Monaghan County Council. It is envisaged that the full structural survey and assessment report will be completed in August. No decision in relation to the future of the Courthouse can be made until this structural assessment is completed.

### **Magheracloone subsidence:**

The Chief Executive informed the members that upon receipt of verification of the SRK Report from consultants engaged by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Monaghan County Council will consult with its insurers IPB and the Department Transport Tourism and Sport before making a determination on the reopening of the road. He noted that there was a Stakeholder meeting scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> June in Carrickmacross.

### **13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May & 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 were responded to by the relevant officials.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seek an update from Irish Water of their plans regarding their responsibility in remediating a potential biohazard and environmental threat that exists at Chois Cnoc, Pound Hill Monaghan due to unsatisfactory foul water pipe infrastructure.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that this Council notes with deep anger and concern the refusal of Richard Bruton T.D the Minister with responsibility for the North-South Interconnector to meet with the members of this Council. That this Council once again contacts our local Minister Heather Humphreys TD requesting that she use her influence at Cabinet to facilitate such a meeting.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that this Council renews its request for a meeting with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD in relation to the North South Interconnector. That this Council contacts Minister Heather Humphreys TD requesting that she use her influence at Cabinet to facilitate such a meeting with the Taoiseach. That Minister Humphreys revert to the members with any progress.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McCooey, it was agreed that the Council writes to Minister Humphreys, Minister McEntee, Minister Doherty asking if they agree with the article on EirGrid and the North South Interconnector that was published in the Northern Standard recently. Each Minister to forward their response in writing to Monaghan County Council.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council highlight its concern and disappointment at the constant delays in opening the group home for persons with physical and sensory difficulties (Respond HA) in Carrickmacross and requests that the HSE open this facility as quickly as possible. We also call on the Minister for Health to step in and deal directly with this situation which has seen a brand new purpose-built facility left unused for over two years.*

### **Standing items on the Council agenda:**

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the following items be placed on the agenda for each monthly Council meeting:*

- (i) To receive update on the Ulster Canal project
- (ii) To receive update on the North South Interconnector project
- (iii) To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes.

### **14. To receive presentation from John McArdle, Broadband Officer**

Mr. John McArdle, Broadband Officer, delivered a presentation outlining the current state of the National Broadband Plan(NBP). He expressed the hope that this could transform rural Ireland and rural Monaghan. National Broadband Ireland are the company tasked with the rollout of the NBP and they will commence all operations if the contract receives final signature around September/ October 2019. The fibre broadband being delivered will offer speeds of at least 150 Megabytes per second to all premises. John McArdle stated that Monaghan town is one of 35 key Deployment points in the overall plan. He added that all of the Metropolitan Area networks within the county are key pieces of infrastructure which will be used to roll out the fibre to the rural amber areas or broadband intervention areas. 130,000 premises nationwide will receive broadband in the first two years, with 70-80,000 receiving high speed broadband each year after that.

Monaghan's need is very great because the population is largely rural and almost half the population and premises are awaiting high speed broadband under the NBP. He also addressed the 12 community broadband connection points which will get high speed broadband in the first 12 months of the NBP but stated that these connection points are dependent on the NBP contract being signed.

Mr. McArdle stated that some businesses and homes have not received high speed broadband from OpenEir even though they are very close to other premises which can now achieve high speed broadband. He clarified that there was no public engagement with OpenEir under the 300k programme and so there often appears to be no logic to where the fibre lines stop.

Mr McArdle agreed that it was more difficult to get engagement from some telecommunications operators than others and that he is working will all operators to try to improve coverage in many areas across the county.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McArdle for his very informative presentation.

### **17. Questions:**

#### **Cllr A. Campbell asked:**

1. Regarding the water control works on the Fane river coming out of Lough Muckno which controls the level of the water passing to Dundalk at Toome in Castleblayney.
  - (a) Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed report on the Water works situated at Toome which controls the water levels on Lough Muckno as there is concerns to unnecessary flooding which is taking place at this time of the year?

- (b) Can the report also contain an explanation of the migratory fish movement on the fish pass gates?
- (c) What is the procedure in controlling these gates when during the winter months there is a serious issue with flooding in the area and who has the responsibility of monitoring and reporting on this?

**Reply: from Irish Water to follow.**

**Cllr A. Campbell asked:**

- 2. With the works started at the Market House in Castleblayney.
  - (a) When will the Council be in a position to provide an interim report on the condition and structure of the building?  
**Reply: The stabilisation work to the Courthouse building is currently ongoing by the specialist contractor engaged by Monaghan County Council. These works include the removal of all the internal debris/materials from the building and installation of internal stability bracing in order to facilitate a full structural survey and assessment of the building by a Structural Engineer. An interim report on the work has been issued to the Council. The proposed stabilisation works are anticipated to be finished in August, which will facilitate completion of the full structural survey and assessment report.**
  - (b) With the upcoming Muckno Mania Festival which is taken place beginning on the weekend of July the 5th and the area around the square and the Market House which is currently fenced off used during this busy weekend. What time scale is Monaghan County Council hoping to have the roads around the building opened up to traffic?  
**Reply: Having regard to the information provided under question (a) above it is hoped that roads around the Courthouse building will be able to be reopened by mid August subject to completion of all necessary stabilisation works and associated assessments. Arrangements will be put in place to facilitate Festival events in consultation with the committee and the contractor, without compromising public safety in Market Square.**
- 3. What is the update on the proposed new Enterprise Hub which was recently grant aided under the Rural Regeneration Scheme for €2.1 million to be located in the McGrath Road, Castleblayney?  
**Reply: A Letter of Offer has been received from the Department of Community & Rural Development and procurement of a Client's Representative for the project has commenced.**

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

- 4. What is the up-to-date situation with the Respond/HSE Group Home in Carrickmacross? Will it be opened and operational before July as was relayed to MCC previously?  
**Reply: The H.S.E. is currently arranging for the purchase and installation of hoists and other essential equipment. The selection process for the External Service Provider is currently being finalised and when complete the recommendation for appointment of same will be referred to the Head of Social Care and Chief Officer for approval at regional level. The H.S.E. predicts an opening date of September 2019 and has conveyed this to the intended tenants and their families.**

**Cllr C. Carthy asked (contd):**

5. When is it expected that works will get underway on the Magheross unfinished estate in Carrickmacross?

**Reply: Tuath Housing Association has confirmed that ownership of the company that owns the development is being transferred to a group that has experience in the delivery of social housing projects. The transfer of ownership has been a protracted process but will be completed in the week ending 21 June 2019. The new owners have been anxious to commence work on the project as funding approval has been in place for more than 12 months and they now intend to commence work on site before the end of June 2019.**

6. What are the latest figures for the Monaghan County Council housing waiting list (with a breakdown for each Municipal District)?

**Reply: Number on Waiting List = 1334**

**(Includes 838 Applicants – already in receipt of housing support – ie LA Accommodation**

**(145 Transfer requests), HAP (535), RAS (73) and Applications pending Decision and/or Allocation (85)**

**Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD = 553**

**Clones/Ballybay MD = 193**

**Monaghan MD = 588**

7. What progress has been made on vacant housing since the increased funding was provided last year to the housing section and are there any procedures in place for the public to notify the Council of properties that have been left unused/vacant/derelict?

**Reply: The desktop review of Vacant Housing in County Monaghan by Monaghan County Council is ongoing. Of the 216 vacant houses inspected over the last 28 months 92 have been purchased or in the process of been 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's Vacant Homes Unit is registered with [www.vacanthomes.ie](http://www.vacanthomes.ie) where the public can provide the details of any vacant homes in their locality and the website will automatically notify the Vacant Homes Unit by email. Monaghan County Council will continue to develop the vacant homes programme and target suitable vacant homes for acquisition in areas of housing need.**

**Cllr R. Aughey asked:**

8. Can the Council provide an update on the progress of the road re-alignment from Corracrin to Emyvale and whether it is progressing on schedule?

**Reply: N2 Corracrin to Emyvale National Road: The work schedule is progressing well with 6 out of 9 scheduled Traffic Management shuttles substantially complete. The Contractor is progressing with online works northwards towards Emyvale at Shuttle No. 7 and also with other offline works near Tydavnet Junction. Fencing works and Accommodations works are also progressing well. The Davagh Etra Road (L1160) is temporarily closed to facilitate completion of the new side road and to tie in to the mainline N2. It is scheduled to open on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The overall scheduled completion date is December 2019.**

**Cllr R. Aughey asked (contd):**

9. Can the Council provide an update on the progress of the bridge at Coolshannagh and whether the works are on schedule?

**Reply: Blackwater Bridge contract at Coolshannagh: Works are progressing well. The new temporary road layout and bridge was open to N2 traffic on 15th May, 2019. Demolition of existing Blackwater bridge has commenced. Accommodation works are progressing in Lakeland Dairies (former Lacpatrick) and are scheduled to be complete in the next few weeks. Overall planned completion date is currently scheduled for July/ August 2020.**

10. Can the Council list how many playgrounds it now maintains in the county, how many are disability friendly, what is the inspection schedule involved and the cost of insurance for same?

**Reply:**

**Monaghan Municipal District**

- **Monaghan Municipal District maintain 10 playgrounds, 6 of which are disability friendly.**
- **Weekly inspections are carried out by our Area Foreman, who has received specialised training in this area, and reports are uploaded to a Laserfiche App.**  
**Each Inspection is checked by Admin Staff and Repairs addressed/faulty or missing Parts ordered as required.**
- **An Independent Safety Assessment of the Playgrounds are carried out on an annual basis.**

**Ballybay-Clones Municipal District**

- **The MD of Ballybay Clones have responsibility for 14 playgrounds.**
- **All 14 playgrounds have disability access ie the surface is suitable**
- **Most of the playgrounds have disability friendly equipment such as basket swings, bucket roundabouts etc. Ballybay Town Park is fully inclusive, all other parks due to be upgraded/ repaired will have inclusive equipment installed going forward.**
- **Weekly inspections are carried out by qualified Council staff and annual inspections are carried out by Play Services Ireland.**

**Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District**

- **Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District maintain 10 playgrounds which all have disability Access.**
- **2 of the playgrounds have disability friendly equipment**
- **Weekly inspections are carried out by our Area Foreman and reports are uploaded to a Laserfiche App.**
- **Each Inspection is checked by Admin Staff and Repairs addressed/faulty or missing Parts ordered as required.**

**Monaghan County Council pay a public liability premium annually which covers all activities of Monaghan County Council.**

11. At what stage is the recruitment process for the replacement of the Council's horticulturalist?

**Reply: The Interviews for Horticulturist took place Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019. An appointment to the post will be made shortly.**

**Clr N. Keelan asked:**

12. In relation to the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff in Carrickmacross
- (a) Will this Council carry out some repairs or replacement if needed to the cattlegrid at the access to this housing development given the obvious health and safety concerns of the residents?
  - (b) It is my understanding that the taken in charge of this estate by Monaghan County Council, which is progressing, will be advanced or indeed completed when the issues with Irish water are resolved – Is this correct?

**Reply: This housing development was left unfinished by the developer with significant known defects relating to, inter alia, the road finish and the waste water treatment plant. A bond of €20,000 was obtained from the relevant bond provider, a significant portion of which has been expended on ensuring that the treatment plant has remained operational. The Planning Authority has been advised in recent days that an issue has again arisen in relation to this plant. This is currently being investigated, and it is anticipated that the remainder of the bond will be required to remedy this matter.**

**Irish Water do not currently take in charge individual waste water package plants provided by developers, and as such they have not have a role to play in this taking in charge process. It is however understood that the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is finalising plans for the introduction of a programme relating to the taking in charge of infrastructure of this nature, and that an announcement shall be issued in the near future.**

13. In relation to rural planning is there any further update from the Department in relation to a relaxation of (locals only rule) local needs policy. What plans have the Council to get this issue progressed in the time ahead?

**Reply: The Council have received no further updates on this matter from the Department.**

14. What assistance can this Council give the local rural communities and their development associations across the county in relation to the provision of electric car charging points including areas such as Donaghmoynne, Lisdoonan, Corduff, and Inniskeen village?

**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 in the county.**

## 18. Notices of Motion:

### **Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded:**

1. *That this Council follow up on Monaghan MD correspondence, enclosed in agenda, and respond to Enterprising Monaghan and Enterprise Ireland for the purpose of facilitating a stakeholders meeting to address the lack of crèche and pre-school facilities serving the Mtek buildings, and the proposed Advanced Technology Unit and Bio-Connect Centre on the extensive Knockaconny campus. Also that we write to the National Childcare Network and Monaghan County Childcare Committee seeking their participation and input.*

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

### **Cllr Bennett proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded:**

2. *That Monaghan County Council pass bye-laws to stop alcohol consumption in public at Hollywood Park and Rossmore Park. Drinking alcohol in public places should not be tolerated.*

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

### **Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded:**

3. *That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton TD and Minister for State for Local Government and Electoral Reform John Paul Phelan TD to implement legislation that following Local Authority Elections and to ensure that power-sharing is divided equally amongst all party and non-party councillors, that the D-Hondt system, as used in Dáil Éireann, be introduced and implemented by Local Authorities following All Local Authority Elections.*

During the course of the debate on the motion, Cllr McKenna proposed an amendment to Cllr Connolly's motion, as follows

*“ That the words ‘as used in Dail Eireann’ be deleted from the motion”.*

*Cllr Carthy seconded the amendment.*

The Cathaoirleach put the amendment to the meeting.

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, McCooey, McKenna, Maxwell, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor. Total 12

**Against:** Cllrs Connolly and S. Treanor Total 2

**Abstentions:** Nil.



The Cathaoirleach declared the amendment carried. He then put the substantive motion to the meeting,

A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, McCooey, McKenna, Maxwell, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor. Total 12

**Against:** Nil

**Abstentions:** Cllrs Connolly and S. Treanor Total 2

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

**19. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations.**

*It was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the family of the late PJ Russell, RIP, Nurebeg, Carrickmacross.*

*It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Tommy McCabe, Clones, on receiving an award from the GAA recently for service as Groundsman for St. Tiernach’s Park, Clones for over 30 years.*

**20. Conferences/Training**

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following training events by the members listed.*

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	Induction training for Councillors	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Pat Treanor Cllr. Noel Keelan Cllr. Colm Carthy Cllr. Seán Conlon Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. Richard Truell Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon Cllr. PJ O Hanlon
AILG	Induction training for Councillors	Horse & Jockey Hotel, (off the M6), Kilnoe, Thurles, Co Tipperary	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Cllr Cathy Bennett Cllr Seamus Coyle

**Urgent Business**

Cllr Maxwell proposed, Cllr Truell seconded,

*That this Council take immediate steps to rectify and fix the sewage pumping station problem in the housing estate of the Corran, Monaghan Town. This is posing a considerable health risk to the residents and public alike.*

In moving the motion Cllr Maxwell proposed that the Council go into Committee so that he could give specific information to the members. Cllr Conlon seconded the proposal which was agreed by the members.

Following a short period, in Committee, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Conlon to return to public session.

Mr. P. McGuinness, A/Senior Engineer informed the members that the Council had been in contact with Irish Water in relation to the matter and would work with them to find a solution.

The Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting and it was agreed.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_