

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan, on Monday 2nd September, 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, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, R. Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr A. King and Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Service, Ms. O. McConnon, Financial Management Accountant, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. K. Duffy, A/Senior Executive Engineer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllr McElvaney.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received two Notices of Urgent Business, as follows:

- (i) Notice in the names of Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Keelan, McKenna and P. Treanor

That Monaghan County Council seeks of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Minister Humphreys TD, to create immediate and necessary interventions that will assist the 68 members of staff facing redundancy at the Lakeland Dairies facility in Monaghan Town with further employment and up-skilling opportunities.

- (ii) Notice in the names of Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Keelan, McKenna and P. Treanor

That Monaghan County Council requests the attendance of Bus Eireann's Regional Manager for School Transport, Keith Ryan, at a future meeting of the Council to discuss and find a resolution to issues and concerns raised with us by parents, in relation to the operation of the school transport scheme.

That we also write to the Minister John Halligan and the School Transport Section of the Department of Education and Skills seeking a review of the School Transport Scheme and proposing its amendment so that every student can access a bus seat to the school/college of their choice.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan, 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 at the end of the meeting.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 9th July, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr. Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9th July 2019, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Minister for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, Mr Andrew Doyle, T.D. regarding the greyhound sector.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding the suspension of funding to Bord na gCon the Irish Greyhound board.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding the Mercosur Deal.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed T.D regarding the EU Mercosur Political Agreement.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding the Mercosur Deal.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone, T.D. regarding the Mercier Report.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D, regarding the Insurance Reform Programme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, Mr. John Paul Phelan, T.D. regarding the D-Hondt system.
- Email from the office of the Minister for Disabilities, Mr. Finian McGrath, T.D. regarding a Group Home in Carrickmacross included is a letter from the Minister for Mental Health and Older Propel Mr. Jim Daly, T.D. regarding same.
- Letter from the HSE regarding the opening of Carrickmacross Group Home.
- Letter from the CEO, Respond regarding the Carrickmacross Group Home.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone, T.D. regarding the implementation of the Mercer report recommendations on childcare workers' wages.
- Email from Shane Campbell, CEO, ICBAN regarding the potential social and community impacts, outside of economic impacts, that have the potential to occur as a result of Brexit.
- Letter from Ms Leona Keenan, PPN Resource Worker, Monaghan County Council regarding Brexit
- Letter from Mr. Gabriel O'Connell, CEO, Monaghan Integrated Development regarding the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.
- Letter from the HSE regarding the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council requesting an amendment to the Equal Status Act.
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding the Adjustment to Elected Members' Representational Payment.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and the Minister for Health, Simon

Harris TD and the Minister of State Jim Daly TD calling on them to immediately release the necessary funding to address the backlog in the provision of home help services.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that this Council supports the motion from Kerry County Council - considering obligations under the Good Friday Agreement that this Council calls on the Irish Government to bring the Equal Status Act in line with legislation in the six county state and include 'political belief' as an unlawful ground for discrimination.

3. To consider Section 183 Notices:

The members noted the reports circulated in relation to the following proposed disposals.

(i) Disposal of property, K M Healthcare, Castleross, Carrickmacross

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal by licence of 0.0746 hectares, in the townland of Tullyvaragh Lower, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

(ii) Disposal of property, Patrick McNally, Carrickmacross

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal by licence of 0.234 acres, in the townland of Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. Planning Matters

(i) Notice of proposed Variation to Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 - 2025 - in respect of protecting routes for N2 road realignment

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the report circulated. He stated that at the time of the decision to review the preferred route corridor and to progress an upgrade to the stretch of N2 road between Ardee and Castleblayney, the preparation of the Monaghan County Development Plan for the period 2019 to 2025 was at an advanced stage, whereas the review of the preferred corridor for the Clontibret to NI Border N2 realignment scheme and the upgrade of the stretch of N2 road between Ardee and Castleblayney were at the initial stages. Consequently, there is a need to update the current policy set out in the county development plan.

The specific policy to be included in the County Development Plan 2019-2025, is as follows:

NRP 7: To protect the selected route of the N2 upgrade road scheme between Ardee and Castleblayney and the selected route between Clontibret and the border with Northern Ireland, and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery.

Mr. Hughes explained that, subject to the approval of the members, the proposed variation would be subject to a public consultation process with any submissions received being presented to the full Council at a future meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council commence the public consultation process in relation to the proposed variation of the County Development Plan 2019-2025 to include a new policy NRP 7 - To protect the selected route of the N2 upgrade road scheme between Ardee and Castleblayney and the selected route between Clontibret and the border with Northern Ireland, and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery.

(ii) To consider Material Contravention to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 - 2025 (permission for dwellinghouse at Mullanary, Carrickmacross).

The members considered the report from the Senior Planner recommending that planning permission is granted, in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to construct a dwellinghouse at Mullanary, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (Ref 19/109)

Mr. A. Hughes Senior Planner outlined the background to the application for a material contravention of the County Development Plan. He stated that whilst the development does not accord with the land use zoning, it does accord with all other relevant provisions of the Development Plan. Notices, pursuant to Section 34(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), were published in the Irish Independent and the Northern Standard on the 25th of July 2019 indicating that the Council intended to consider granting planning permission for the proposed development. No submissions had been received from the public. He recommended that the *material contravention* of the Development Plan be passed by the elected Members, and that planning permission be granted.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was unanimously agreed that the Council approve a Material Contravention to the County Monaghan Development Plan 2019-2025 to grant planning permission, subject to the conditions specified, for the construction of dwellinghouse at Mullanary, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (Ref: 19/109).

5. Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 - 2024 - Chief Executive's Report on Submissions

The members noted the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The report summarises and details the outcome of the public consultation stage; lists the persons or bodies that made submissions or observations on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and gives a summary of all issues raised. It also sets out the Council's response and recommendations to the matters raised in the submissions.

Mr. K. Duffy, A/SEE Environment Section responded to queries from the members in relation to the report. He stated that all primary and secondary schools in the county had been contacted in relation to the preparation of the draft Strategy.

The Chief Executive complimented all involved in the preparation of the Draft Strategy. He said the Strategy presented opportunities to get positive engagement from young people through the schools. He also said it was very important that the commitments/actions included in the Strategy are delivered upon and that the Council would be measured on its programme of delivery.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that pursuant to the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018, Monaghan County Council resolves to approve the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, having considered the draft strategy, the contents of the CE report on submissions received during the period of consultation and the SEA and AA Screening Reports carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive (DIR 2001/42/EC) and Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC

6. To consider the Local Adjustment Factor - LPT 2020

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance outlined in detail the content of the report that had been circulated. The report explained that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%. Any decision by a local authority to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax must be taken by 30th September. In determining the rate of LPT a local authority must take account of its financial position and have regard to a number of factors -

- The local authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which LPT is to apply.
- The financial position of the local authority.
- Feedback from any consultation held.
- The financial effect of any variation to the rate of LPT.

He explained that the budget adopted for 2019 used the discretionary element of the LPT as the main contributor to the Municipal Allocation to each of the Municipal Districts. This ensured that each Municipal District has a discretionary budget that the members have direct control of. It is envisaged that the same approach will be adopted in relation to the 2020 Budget. However it is recommended that the LPT be increased by 15% in order to provide additional resources to the Municipal Districts to increase their matched funding potential for the upcoming Urban and Rural Regeneration Projects, Town & Village Renewal Projects, Tourism Projects and Economic Development Projects within the Municipal Districts and also provide for additional discretionary spend in the Municipal Districts such as provision of public lighting and general improvement works for which a specific budget has not been provided. By taking this approach it is proposed that a discretionary Municipal Allocation of €333,000 will be allocated to each of the Municipal Districts in 2020 and an allocation of €150,000 being set aside to service borrowings for industrial development throughout the County. Any unspent portion of the Municipal Allocation at the year-end will be transferred to Capital Account and will be available to the Municipal District in the following or future years. This will enable a Municipal District to generate a fund for a specific project that the members may want to develop.

(i) *Cllr Gilliland proposed, Cllr Aughey seconded*

That the Local Property Tax be increased by a rate of 15% for 2020.

(ii) *Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded*

That the Council reduces the rate of Local Property Tax for 2020 by 7.5%.

A lengthy discussion took place during which the majority of members voiced their support for or opposition to the proposals.

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Gilliland's motion to the meeting. A recorded vote was called for which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Coyle, Gilliland, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, O'Hanlon and R. Truell. Total 9

Against: Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Keelan, McKenna, P. Treanor and S. Treanor. Total 8

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

As Cllr Gilliland's motion had been carried, Cllr Carthy's motion was not put to the meeting.

7. To consider Draft Strategic Policy Scheme 2019-2024

The Meetings Administrator outlined the main points of the Draft Scheme for the establishment of the Strategic Policy Committees for the period 2019-2024.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that for the purpose of advertising the establishment of the SPC's that the Tourism Sector is represented.

The Chief Executive stated that the Tourism Sector could liaise with the Business Pillar in relation to seeking representation on an SPC and could also make a submission on the Draft Scheme during the public consultation process.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council approve the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme 2019-2024 and commence the public consultation process on the Draft Scheme for a period of one month from 5th September, 2019.

8. To approve nominations for appointment to Monaghan County Council Audit Committee

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Corporate Services referred to the report that had been circulated in relation to the appointment of members of the Council's Audit Committee.

Two new Councillors had been appointed to the Audit Committee by the Council, following the 2019 elections. They are:

- **Cllr Raymond Aughey and Cllr. David Maxwell**

There were three remaining external seats to be filled. The three external members from the previous term are willing to allow their names go forward for consideration and in order to allow the knowledge and continuity carry forward to the next term, he recommended that the following be appointed:-

- **Dermot McCrystal**

Dermot has 20 years experience as a registered Auditor and Chartered accountant. He runs his own Accountancy business and has extensive experience in providing audit and accountancy services to organisations within the charity and regulated sectors.

- **Des O'Connor**

Des is a Business Consultant. He has over 31 years banking experience. The last 25 years were in management with an in-depth knowledge of retail banking, credit underwriting, credit portfolio and arrears management.

- **Fern Ross.**

Fern is a Business & Financial Development Consultant who runs her own business "Effista". Fern has an MBA, a Certificate in Adult Training & Education and other IT & training qualifications. She has been working in these areas for the public, private and charitable sector since 2001.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland it was agreed that the three external members – Dermot McCrystal, Des O'Connor and Fern Ross – be re-appointed to the Monaghan County Council Audit Committee.

9. To nominate 1 member to the Connecting for Life (Suicide Prevention) implementation group

It was noted that Cllr Carthy had already been nominated to this committee. Mr. F. McPhillips clarified that it was in order to have a second member nominated to the committee.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McCooey, it was agreed that Cllr R. Aughey would also be nominated to the Connecting for Life (Suicide Prevention) Implementation Group.

10. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 27th August, 2019

The members noted the minutes and recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 27th August, 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 27th August, 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Ulster Fleadh

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council corresponds with the county structure of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, offering our expression of interest and co-operation in assisting C.C.E. with an application to host an Ulster Fleadh at a location within County Monaghan post 2020.

It was agreed that a sub-Committee would be established to examine the possibility of hosting the Ulster Fleadh in the future. The following members were agreed – Cathaoirleach of the day (Cllr. S. Coyle), Cllr S. Conlon, Cllr P. Connolly, Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon and Cllr Kerr-Conlon.

11. To receive the Management Report – July & August 2019

The members noted the Management Report for the months of July and August which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seeks a commitment from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to urgently address any outstanding issues that are delaying road realignment works at the Tullybryan Road realignment Scheme (N54 Clones Road), three and a half years after the allocation of €1.5 million towards this project.

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded, that this Council corresponds with the Department of An Taoiseach, Department of Justice & Equality, Department of Finance as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs seeking reassurances that appropriate staffing and resources are in place ahead of the impending Brexit that will have a particularly significant impact on our Border county.

A vote by show of hand resulted in 12 for 1 against and 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that Monaghan County Council please investigate the possibility of installing more electric charging points in the county, as European funding is presently available that could be applied for.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that a meeting be called with all Border Counties Chairpersons (North and South with the Taoiseach and Minister for Jobs in relation to the challenges of Brexit so that everything is done for all small and medium enterprises in the county which employ 90% of the people.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council writes to the Department of Communication Climate Action and Environment enquiring as to the status of the new 5G roll out by mobile networks.

It was agreed that an update on Brexit would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. To confirm date for Valuation Office presentation to MCC Members

It was agreed that the Council members would receive a presentation from the Valuation Office at 11.00 a.m. on the 11th September, 2019.

13. To fix date for meeting of the Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

It was agreed that the first meeting of the re-constituted Joint Policing Committee would be held on Monday 14th October, 2019, subject to agreement of An Garda Siochana.

14. To fix date for meeting of the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee

It was agreed that a meeting of the Standing Orders and Procedures Committee would be convened where there are a number of items to be discussed by the Committee.

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

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

- AILG Training- Module 3, Co Westmeath
- AILG Training, Co Tipperary

16. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

Update on Castleblayney Courthouse:

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive informed the members as follows:

Works on the Market House were completed on 26 August 2019, security fencing was removed and the roads Market Square were re-opened on 27 August 2019. Works completed on the Market House include:

- Asbestos slates and the existing roof structure has been taken down and removed;
- The cupola has been taken down and placed in storage;
- Unstable sections of the four chimneys have been taken down to eaves level;
- Removal of all existing windows is complete and clear out of all debris from the building interior complete;
- Taking down and removal of 2 nr. chimneys structures and adjoining wall to first floor level is substantially completed;
- Taking down and removal of damaged and unstable sections of the terracotta vaulted arched ground floor structure
- Installation of stability bracing to the building interior complete and protective paint coating applied
- Timber bracing remedial works to all existing windows (circa 52 no.) throughout the building is complete

- Precast concrete lintels and dry packing installed to replace missing/rotten timber lintel heads for windows and doors throughout the building (27 no. windows and 20 no. doors)
- Lime mortar capping applied to the top of relevant sections of external and internal wall

A Conservation Architect was engaged by Monaghan County Council to oversee the works. Gaffney & Cullinan Architect has completed the surveying and recording of all associated conservation elements from the building.

The Structural Engineers Alan Clarke & Associates Ltd., engaged by the Council in 2018, carried out an assessment of the Masonry Walls of the Market House in August. They recommended that an ongoing monitoring programme is established (4/6 monthly visual inspections) to identify further threats to the stability of the walls.

Their opinion is that the existing masonry walls, in their current condition, could be retained and reused as part of a redevelopment of the building. A new internal structural frame and a new roof in conjunction with the existing masonry walls would form the principal components of the new building structure and the existing walls would be tied into the new frame/floors to ensure their stability.

The costs of the structural works including engineering fees exceeds €400,000 to date.

The feasibility of retaining and reusing the remaining masonry structure would be dependent on future refurbishment works taking place before significant further deterioration to the structure can occur. The condition of the building would need to be reviewed in 3- 5 years if no redevelopment work has occurred in that period.

He apologised to all affected by the disruption and thanked the business people for their co-operation.

A number of members welcomed the completion of the work and the re-opening of the streets and complimented all involved in the work undertaken to date.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that this Council adds the Castleblayney Courthouse project to the agenda for Muckno Development Committee meetings.

Acquisition of HSE Lands at St. Davnet's:

The Chief Executive informed the members that the Council had almost concluded a deal with the Health Service Executive for the purchase of land at the St. Davnet's Hospital site. The acquisition of the property will provide an opportunity to develop it in tandem with the Dublin Street Regeneration Plan, for an integrated development that will enhance Monaghan Town Centre. Following conclusion of the deal, a masterplan will be prepared for the site to include elements of housing, new Civic Offices and other facilities.

17. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 9th July, 2019

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th July, 2019 were responded to by the relevant officials.

18. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan, Director, updated the members in relation to this item. She stated that the Consultants are working to identify feasible routes for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road schemes. It was anticipated that these would be available by late 2019 following which there would be further public consultation. A decision on the emerging preferred routes for the two schemes was expected by mid 2020.

19. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr. Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council notes with deep concern the lack of engagement and response from An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and from the lines Minister Richard Bruton TD and including our local Minister, Heather Humphreys TD in relation to the numerous requests made by this Council for meetings etc.

On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that Monaghan County writes to Eirgrid expressing our discontent with the inaccuracies in their recent circular letter regarding ongoing meetings with Monaghan County Council and that this inaccuracy is clarified.

20. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project and the Ulster Canal Greenway project.

Mr. Anthony Morrow, Greenway Project Officer, gave a short presentation to the members during which he outlined the background to the Greenway project, the current status and the public consultation process that was due to commence. He stated that Funding of €4.95m has been secured under the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme to construct Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal Greenway. This cross-border project, being delivered in partnership with Waterways Ireland, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and East Border Region will see the existing 4km Monaghan Town Greenway extended by a further 22km and will link Smithborough in County Monaghan to Middletown in County Armagh. A spur will also be provided along the route of the Monaghan Town Bypass, connecting the Coolshannagh roundabout to the Dublin Road Roundabout.

The Integrated Design Team (ICT) were appointed in June 2019. The ICT have completed their site walk-over and constraints review and have issued Route Option Drawings for Public Consultation. The public consultation process was scheduled as follows:

Public Consultation Event Smithborough 3rd September 2019
Public Consultation Event, Tyholland 11th September 2019
Public Consultation Event, Middletown 19th September 2019

It was estimated that construction would commence around September 2020 with completion of the project scheduled for September 2021.

The members thanked Mr. Morrow for his presentation and wished the project success.

21. To receive presentation from Monaghan Rugby Club

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Gareth Treanor, Barry Willis, Rugby Operations Manager, Colm Finnegan, Programmes Manager, Paul Bowe, Past President and Rory Geary, Hon. Secretary, Monaghan Rugby Club.

Mr. Gareth Treanor then gave a detailed presentation to the members during which he outlined the following:

- The background to the establishment of Monaghan RFC and the participation of the club in a range of competitions.
- The introduction of a new Rugby Development Programme which would have the following objectives
 - Increase the number of children (male and female) participating in rugby programmes at primary and secondary school level throughout County Monaghan
 - To increase club participation across Mini, Youth & Adult Rugby at Monaghan RFC
 - To Increase the number of social rugby players playing the sport in the area and provide programmes and avenues for those into continuing a healthy lifestyle
 - Leverage the wider staffing structure within Ulster Rugby to provide support including:
 - Coach development
 - Volunteer development
 - Club Development
 - Player development among other services

This support would complement the proposed post in the development of a quality, sustained rugby infrastructure for the county.

In conclusion Mr. Treanor stated that the Rugby Club were seeking financial assistance of €17,000 p.a. from the Council to ensure the success of the Development Programme in Co. Monaghan.

Following his presentation, Mr. Treanor responded to queries from the members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Treanor for his presentation and the other members of the Rugby Club for attending the meeting. He said that the request for financial assistance would be considered when the Budget for 2020 was being prepared later in the year.

22. Questions:

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

1. To ask the Executive for an update on my proposal dated May 2018 seeking the Council to acquire lands from the HSE at St. Davnets, Rooskey for the purpose of town centre development.

Reply: "The Chief Executive will respond to this question under Chief Executive's business at the September Council meeting"

2. In relation to the installation of drainage kerbing along the N2 Realignment Road Works near Emyvale, will the Roads Section make contact with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) seeking an assessment of the durability and integrity of this concrete kerbing that does not appear fit for purpose, and that budget provision is made available for the installation of a more structurally resilient product or road drainage alternative?

Reply: The Contractor is progressing the Works to specification. The Specification is fit for purpose. All defects are to be remediated as prescribed within the Contract.

3. Will the relevant Council Sections please provide a status report on the willow plantations introduced through a County Council pilot scheme at Corlat and Knocknageeha, Knockatallon and Lisglasson, Clontibret in 2013?

To include details of:

- a. IFA guidelines state the first cut of the willow plantation should occur in the fourth year of growth. Is a harvesting schedule in place to commence this operation, considering it has been six years since planting?

Reply: A contractor has been procured and direct chip harvesting of the willows is schedule for the Autumn 2019.

- b. Are all the terms and conditions of the 15-year contract still intact and being adhered to?

Reply: Yes, all terms and conditions are being adhered to.

- c. To provide explanation of the efficacy of the irrigation and pumping systems serving the willow plantations that were also to alleviate capacity issues at the Waste Water Treatment Plant serving the Clontibret and Knockatallon communities.

Reply: The irrigation system consists of a pump, valves, filter, main header pipes and irrigation pipe work with patented drip feeder caps. The whole system is automatically controlled and run with the minimum of input. The willows are fertilised by pumping treated effluent from the wastewater treatment plants.

The willow coppice is divided into zones approximately 0.5 ha in size to facilitate careful control over effluent application. Each zone is atomically irrigated by a controller depending on soil temperature, soil moisture, rainfall, etc.

The introduction of the willow project has eliminated a point source effluent discharge into the local watercourse, to a diffusion discharge throughout the willow zones.

- d. Who is currently responsible for site monitoring and maintenance, cultivation, site clearance and selling on of the harvested willow?

Reply: Irish Water is responsible for the monitoring and upkeep of these sites.

4. Following on from my proposal at the July meeting that seeks to address the lack of childcare facilities serving the Mtek buildings, and the proposed Advanced Technology Unit and Bio-Connect Centre on the extensive Knockaconny campus and surrounding businesses, will the Executive undertake to initiate the following additional proposals,

- a) Respond to correspondence received from John Nugent IDA Regional Business Development Manager, Finbarr Daly CEO Enterprising Monaghan, the IDA Property Division, the National Childcare Network and Monaghan County Childcare Committee, notifying that a meeting will be facilitated by Monaghan County Council to discuss the agreed proposal, date to be confirmed.

- b) To seek from the IDA Property Division maps of all lands under ownership of the IDA at Knockaconny and adjoining town lands, and details of current and proposed development plans at these locations.
- c) Forward this item of business to the Chair of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee, seeking this proposal is included on the agenda of the next SPC meeting for further discussion and consideration.
Reply: A meeting was facilitated by Monaghan County Council with representatives from Enterprising Monaghan, the County Childcare Committee and National Childcare Network on 15 July 2019.
The representatives from the childcare agencies undertook to carry out surveys on the demand/need for childcare facilities with the surrounding agencies and industries.
It also agreed to collate date in relation to the numbers of children in Monaghan Municipal District and contact the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to ascertain the availability of grant-aid for capital works.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

- 5. Has the HSE confirmed a date for when they intend to open the Group Home for Persons with Physical and sensory difficulties in Carrickmacross?
Reply: The HSE has confirmed that a meeting will take place in early September 2019 with the potential Service Provider and following that meeting it is hoped that an opening date can be agreed.
- 6. What is the up-to-date position of the proposed formation of a new homeless forum proposed at the July meeting – has it been formalised yet or when is it expected to start meeting to discuss individual cases?
Reply: The Homeless Action Team (HAT) is already established within Monaghan. Its role is to co-ordinate actions in respect of persons who are homeless and who are at risk of homelessness. It has cross departmental expertise and comprise the local, decision making bodies including health, housing, temporary accommodation and addiction professionals. It meets on a monthly basis.

Cllr A. McCooey asked:

- 7. Can Monaghan County Council outline the amount of litter fines it has issued to date in 2019 and how illegal dumping is being monitored?
Reply: As of the 27th August there have been 59 litter fines issued by Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council participates in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, which requires Monaghan County Council to carry out litter surveys in the County and assess the level of litter in these areas.
- 8. Can Monaghan County Council outline what supports are available and applicable through the Council Housing Section for our Young People in County Monaghan in the line of Affordable Housing?
Reply: Monaghan County Council's Housing Section provides supports and assistance for people in County Monaghan in need of housing however, as second-hand house prices in Monaghan are relatively low, there is no Affordable Housing Scheme in County Monaghan at present. In October 2018 the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government set out the requirements for a new Affordable Housing Scheme in Circular APH 02/2018. The circular explains that in order to justify the provision of

“Affordable Purchase Scheme dwellings” the realisable market price of a house must be at least 10% more than the all-in-cost of construction. For example, if the all-in-cost of construction of a new 3-bedroom house including the cost of the site and profit is €220,000 then the estimated realisable market price would have to be €242,000 or more to justify the provision of “Affordable Purchase Scheme dwellings”. If house prices continue to increase over the coming years then it might be possible to justify an Affordable Housing Scheme however at present there are more than 100 second-hand privately-owned houses advertised for sale in County Monaghan of which 78 houses have asking prices between €50,000 and €225,000.

The breakdown of asking prices is as follows:

- 18 houses between €50,000 to €100,000**
- 20 houses between €100,000 to €150,000**
- 29 houses between €150,000 to €200,000**
- 11 houses between €200,000 to €225,000**
- 9 houses between €225,000 to €250,000**
- 14 houses between €250,000 to €300,000**
- and 12 houses at more than €300,000 each**

Monaghan County Council closely monitors house prices in County Monaghan and will give further consideration to the provision of Affordable Housing on Council-owned land when supported by market prices. The following supports are currently available to First Time Buyers and to social housing tenants who are interested in purchasing a private house.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan: For First Time Buyers having trouble getting a mortgage to buy a house with a value up to €250,000 Monaghan County Council provides support in the form of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. Monaghan County Council has approved 18 Rebuilding Ireland Homes Loans since the scheme was launched in February 2018 and hopes to approve another 14 home loans currently on hand.

Further information is available at www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie or from Monaghan County Council’s Housing Section.

Mortgage Allowance Scheme: Social housing tenants and tenant purchasers who are taking out a mortgage to buy or build a private house may qualify for the Mortgage Allowance Scheme. The Scheme is designed to ease the transition from social housing to paying a mortgage. An allowance of up to €11,450 is payable directly to the lending agency over a 5-year period and repayments are reduced accordingly for the first 5 years of the mortgage.

Further information is available from www.citizensinformation.ie or from Monaghan County Council’s Housing Section.

Monaghan County Council also provides supports through the Rental Accommodation Scheme and Housing Assistance Payment scheme for people on low income who need financial assistance in paying their rent.

Help To Buy: In addition to the supports provided by Monaghan County Council there is also the Help To Buy incentive to help first-time buyers of newly built homes with the required deposit. It also applies to once-off self-build homes. First-time buyers who either buy or self-build a new residential property between 19 July 2016 and 31 December 2019, may be entitled to claim a refund of income tax and DIRT paid over

the previous 4 tax years. Further information is available from www.citizensinformation.ie or from www.revenue.ie

9. Can Monaghan County Council outline how many households benefitted from the Housing Grant Schemes for people with Disabilities/ Elderly in 2019 so far?

Reply: Monaghan County Council's allocation for 2019 funding is €1,268,725 which includes the 20% (€253,745) to be provided from Monaghan County Council's own resources. To date this year, a total of 234 Applications for the 3 Housing Grant Schemes has been received – HGD (50), MAG (42) and HOP (142).

179 Applications have been approved at a total expenditure of €1,334,963

- 41 (HGD) €563,001
- 29 (MAG) €149,066
- 109 (HOP) €622,896

155 Applications have been paid to date at a total cost of €1,231,765

- 46 (HGD) €667,460
- 26 (MAG) €129,862
- 83 (HOP) €434,443

The Department has paid €1,016,334 of the Recoupment Claims submitted to date and MCC will continue to seek the additional funding necessary to cover the costs of approved applications, which is currently €252,391 over the approved Budget. Assessments will continue on the remaining applications and further applications will be received up to the closing date of Friday 31st August 2019. Thereafter only applications with Priority 1 Medical status, verified with supporting medical evidence – OT / Hospital Consultant Report, will be accepted for assessment.

10. Can Monaghan County Council outline current frequency and policy for emptying bottle banks and other recycling facilities in an effort to avoid litter build up in the vicinity of these facilities?

Reply: The bring site collection frequency for glass and can collection is determined by the usage of the site. For example, sites in urban areas are serviced more frequently than sites located in the more rural areas. Monaghan County Council is striving to continually improve the service through improved monitoring of the sites and by increasing capacity at certain sites. Whilst littering is an issue at certain sites, in the vast majority of instances this can be attributed to the illegal deposition of waste materials at the sites rather than issues with the frequency of servicing. In relation to textile collection at the bring sites, Monaghan County Council intend carrying out a review of this particular service before the end of 2019.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

11. What is the up to date position in relation to the taken in charge by this council of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff given the very serious public health concerns in relation to the waste water treatment plant which is not functioning properly at present will the council address this issue as a matter of urgency ?

Reply: This development was left unfinished and with significant defects by the developer. They are 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 are currently assessing the development with a view to identifying appropriate remedial measures and it shall utilise the remainder of the bond to carry out works where possible.

12. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading a proposed improvement works to be carried out at the very dangerous Tullyvaragh junction on the N2 and also will this council press the TII to once again examine the possibility of putting in place a shadow lane at the equally dangerous Drumharriff junction?

Reply: N2 Tullyvaragh

Funding remains secure currently for the safety improvement scheme. MCC are now to proceed with CPO where required.

N2 Drumharriff

This junction was reviewed in October 2018. Drumharriff junction based on the October 2018 survey, its concluded that traffic movements remain below the TII threshold for junction upgrade appraisal progression.

13. While acknowledging the works carried out to date by the council including the energy saving measures carried out to the council housing stock and public buildings etc, in relation to the very important issue of climate change what practical measures will Monaghan county council hope to take in the time ahead on this issue?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has prepared a draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. This strategy contains a range of actions and measures aimed at making Monaghan County Council more climate resilient by incorporating climate change adaptation into all functions, operations and services of Monaghan County Council. The adaptation strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. In addition to climate change adaptation, Monaghan County Council continues to progress climate change mitigation by reducing its carbon footprint and reliance on fossil fuels to achieve an energy reduction target of 33% by 2020. Projects to date have included heating and lighting upgrades to council buildings, insulation upgrades to council buildings, retrofitting of public lighting with high efficiency LED's, progression of walking and cycling strategies, and the provision of solar panels on council properties.

14. In relation to road safety and in order to inform the general public what is the policy position for property owners and the farming community wishing to carry out hedge / and verge trimming along public roads etc. What works are acceptable for this council to carry out in and around our towns and villages in terms of verge / hedge trimming in order to keep our public roads / footpaths clear and safe to use etc?

Reply: Hedge Cutting is prohibited from 1st March-31st August in order to protect nature and biodiversity. Landowners are requested to maintain their hedges and verges during the months of September- February to ensure their boundaries do not pose a hazard to Road users. If landowners need to undertake trimming outside of these months they must receive permission from the National Parks & Wildlife Service

(NWPS). Monaghan County Council does undertake some essential facing of hedges and verges which pose a hazard, particularly at junctions in order to maintain visibility.

15. What plans has this council to carry out resurfacing works to the access road at Bree housing estate in Castleblayney given that the residents association were of the understanding that this work would be done in conjunction with the completion of the very fine new council housing development recently opened?

Reply: Monaghan County Council will consider the LT-78501 (Bree Estate road) for resurfacing works subject to funding and the Pavement Surface Condition Index ratings.

Cllr R. Aughey asked:

16. Can Monaghan County Council outline the dog control costs for the years 2017, 2018 and to date in 2019?

Reply: Dog Control Costs for 2017 were €149,358.95, €162,212.74 for 2018 and €119,367.12 so far in 2019.

17. Can Monaghan County Council outline how many people are on the social housing list in each MD area, i.e. two, three bed and large family, also numbers on OPD's list and how many on the list for affordable housing in each area?

Reply:

- Carrickmacross/Castleblayney 288(1Bed/69Over55), 236 (2Bed), 145 (3Bed), 36 (4Bed+),
- Clones/Ballybay 145 (1Bed/33Over 55), 80 (2Bed), 62 (3Bed), 18 (4Bed+)
- Monaghan 298 (1Bed/77Over 55), 291 (2Bed), 198 (3Bed), 43 (4Bed+)
- Affordable Housing – there is no Affordable Housing Scheme in County Monaghan at present - please see detailed response to Q3 above.

18. In relation to the works on N2 a) Timescale for completion of works on the Corracrin/Emyvale phase? b) Timescale for completion for the reconstruction of the bridge at Coolshannagh? and any expected or announced delays for both?

Reply: The road realignment works on the N2 between Corracin and Emyvale (Phase 3) is slightly delayed and is scheduled to be substantially complete Q1 2020.

The replacement of the Blackwater Bridge at N2 Coolshannagh is expected to finish ahead of schedule and should be substantially complete Q1 2020.

19. Subsequent to Monaghan County Council signing up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, has the council liaised with the Tidy Towns organisations across the county on which actions should be taken?

Reply: In May 2019, Monaghan County Council signed up as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The partnership agreement with the AIPP commits Monaghan County Council to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing and to carry out at least three more within the following five years.

The Tidy Towns network is one of a broad range of organisations that can take important actions for pollinators. Guidance for the following sectors is available on www.pollinators.ie

Communities (including Tidy Towns) Faith Communities Gardens Group water schemes Farmland Golf courses Businesses Junior Pollinator Plan

The Tidy Towns Groups are free to choose actions to suit them from the guidance, in keeping with their own circumstances. The guidance has been designed to encourage each sector to make positive changes that are cost neutral or cost free.

So far, Monaghan County Council has focussed mainly on raising awareness of pollinators within the local area as follows:

F. Raise public awareness of pollinators within local area

Action 25. Promote & distribute the Junior Pollinator Plan to local schools

- Bee workshops were held with national schools in Castleblayney, to assist them in developing their own pollinator plan for schools. These were hosted by the Irish Wildlife Trust on behalf of Monaghan County Council.

Action 26. Facilitate or deliver training on pollinators and how to protect them

- Bee workshops were held during Wild Child Day – 21st August – during Heritage Week at Rossmore Park, Monaghan Town again with Irish Wildlife Trust and Monaghan County Council.
- Butterfly Identification & monitoring workshop was held in Knockatallon, and on Sliabh Beagh in conjunction with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and the Interreg CANN project.
- Monaghan County Council supports the Tidy Towns National Pollinator Award.

C. Pollinator Friendly Planting

Action 13. Make some planters pollinator friendly

- The Market House (Arts venue) in Monaghan town changed all its planters to comply with the pollinator friendly planting code.

Monaghan County Council is planning further actions across all the themes in the AIPP for 2020.

Clrl C. Bennett asked the following questions at the July Council meeting:

1. Can Monaghan County Council please provide information to me on Capital Contribution Charges?
 - (a) How much has Monaghan County Council collected in the last five years
 - (b) What have these charges been spent on and how is this decided.
 - (c) Please provide me with a breakdown of how these charges are calculated.

Monaghan County Council collected €3,493,870 in Development Contributions in the period 2014 to 2019. Of this €941,176 was collected in respect of water and waste-water services and this sum was forwarded to Irish Water in accordance with the Water Services Acts and Regulations.

Many of the contributions relate to historical payments on planning permissions granted from 2006 onwards. An officer has been dedicated to the collection of contributions due from that period.

The balance of the contributions collected between 2014 and 2019 is as follows:

Category	Amount
Car Parking Monaghan MD	€358,210
Car Parking Ballybay-Clones MD	€2,788
Car Parking CBY-CMX MD	€70,428
Community, Recreation & Amenity	€2,027,155
Footpath & Lighting Monaghan MD	€18,198
Footpath & Lighting Ballybay-Clones MD	€11,658
Footpath & Lighting CBY-CMX MD	€63,257
Roads - Special Condition	€1,000
Total	€2,552,694

The allocation of development contributions is outlined in the General Development Contribution Scheme 2013-2019, as adopted by the members and revised in 2018. Appendix I of the Scheme details the Community Recreation and Amenity Projects that were approved for funding under the scheme. The following table and footnote is extracted from the scheme

Community Recreation and Amenity Facilities Projects 2013-2019	Projected Total Cost (approx)	Estimated % Local Contribution	Estimated Local Contribution
Contribution towards Garage Theatre	€5,300,000	15%	€800,000
Contribution towards Clones Erne-East Sports Project	€8,500,000	5%	€450,000
Monaghan Branch Library	€ 2,000,000	25%	€500,000
Court House and Gate Houses, Castleblayney	€500,000	60%	€300,000
Recreation Facilities Lough Muckno	€1,000,000	25%	€250,000
Market House, Carrickmacross	€400,000	67%	€270,000
Clones Post Office Community Arts Centre	€400,000	63%	€240,000
Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen	€400,000	65%	€260,000
TOTAL	€18,500,000	17%	€3,070,000

*The projects set out above is not an exhaustive list and additional projects may be included over the period of the Development Contribution Scheme. Similarly, given the uncertainty regarding the amount of development contributions that will be collected over the lifetime of the scheme, not all of the above projects may be progressed during the period 2013-2019.

Between 2013 and 2019 funding was allocated to the following projects in accordance with the Scheme

Projects Allocated Funding 2013-2019	Funding Allocated
Contribution to Garage Theatre	€750,000
Gate Lodge (1), Castleblayney	€300,000
Market House, Carrickmacross	€270,000
Clones Post Office Community Arts Centre	€240,000
Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen	€260,000
TOTAL	€1,820,000

Development contributions are charged in accordance with the Scheme and are detailed in Appendix 3 – Levels of General Development Contribution.

23. Notices of Motion:

Cllr S. Treanor proposed, Cllr P. Connolly seconded

1. *That this Council write to Minister for Finance asking him not to increase the duties on diesel and petrol and home heating fuels.*

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

Cllr S. Treanor proposed, Cllr P. Connolly seconded

2. *That this Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government asking him to defer the new rates regime for 2020.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the proposal to the members. A vote by show of hands resulted in 2 for, 8 against and 2 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

Cllr A. McCooey requested that the following notice of motion No. 3 in relation to sign language and interpreters be withdrawn until further notice. This was agreed by the members.

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr S. Conlon seconded

4. *The discussion on Brexit has refocused on the issue of partition and a possible scenario with one part of Ireland being in the E.U. and another part outside the E.U. This would be an intolerable situation for the people of County Monaghan and of Ireland. That Monaghan County Council writes to the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney proposing that; (a) the Irish government insists on a special status for the North of Ireland within the E.U., throughout the negotiations with all stakeholders, (b) the Irish government leads a debate on the peaceful reunification of Ireland, (c) analyses and promotes the benefits of a united Ireland, and (d) appoints a Ministry for reunification.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the proposal to the members. A vote by show of hands resulted in 6 for, 7 against and 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr S. Coyle seconded

5. *That on this, the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Shannon-Erne Waterway, we write to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Ministers Josepha Madigan TD, Simon Coveney TD and Heather Humphreys TD, demanding the necessary funding to re-open the Ulster Canal before 2023 when current planning permission runs out. They could ensure that this project is included in the next round of EU funding.*

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

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded

6. *That this Council supports the ongoing campaign by the National Ambulance Services Representative Association in their efforts to have Trade Union representation rights advocated on their behalf through the Psychiatric Nurses Association and further call on Health Minister Simon Harris to instruct the HSE to resolve this issue through the Workplace Relations Commission and negotiation. That this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.*

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

Cllr R. Aughey proposed, Cllr S. Conlon seconded

7. *That Monaghan County Council and the Tourism Section actively engage with Bus Éireann to open a dialogue and offer assistance in relation to the issues below:*
 - a) *immediately fix up Monaghan Bus station and the toilets in particular,*
 - b) *seek an immediate clarification in relation to the Bus services that pass through Emyvale, Monaghan, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross*
 - c) *implement a partnership and strategy of co-promotion in regard to what to do when buses are full, buses are late, toilets are locked or out of action, if a service has been cancelled etc*

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

24. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations.

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

- Kevin McNally, Co-ordinator, Ballybay-Clones MD on the death of his mother, Bernadette RIP
- Gerry McCarney and family on the death of his father Paddy McCarney RIP, a former member of the Council's outdoor staff.
- The Sherry family Monaghan and the Lynch Family Clones on the death of Simon Sherry,RIP

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

- Paula Cunningham and the Monaghan Ladies Minor Football team on reaching the final of the All Ireland Minor Football Championship recently
- Latton O'Rahilly GFC on winning the Connolly Meats U.19 Division 1 League title and the Reserve Football League Division 1B title 2019.

- Seamus McEneaney Corduff and his Management team on their appointment to manage the Monaghan Senior County Football Team.

20. Conferences/Training

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Centre for Cross Border Studies	20th Anniversary Conference The Good Friday / Belfast Agreement;	Crowe Plaza Dundalk, Co. Louth	20-10-19	Cllr Pat Treanor
Eastern & Midland CARO & Local Enterprise Office Offaly	Creating Economic & business Opportunities from climate Change.	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, County Offaly.	09-10-19	Cllr Richard Truell
LAMA	Autumn Training Seminar Details to be confirmed	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare	18 th & 19 th October 2019	Cllr Séamus Coyle Cllr Cathy Bennett Cllr Sean Conlon Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Pat Treanor Cllr Noel Keelan Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Richard Truell Cllr Sean Gilliland Cllr Aidan Campbell
AILG	“Climate Change and Planning – New Challenges for Local Authorities”	The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	11 th & 12 th September 2019	Cllr Paudge Connolly

Urgent Business

Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded

- (i) *That Monaghan County Council seeks of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Minister Humphreys TD, to create immediate and necessary interventions that will assist the 68 members of staff facing redundancy at the Lakeland Dairies facility in Monaghan Town with further employment and up-skilling opportunities.*

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

Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded

- (ii) *That Monaghan County Council requests the attendance of Bus Eireann's Regional Manager for School Transport, Keith Ryan, at a future meeting of the Council to discuss and find a resolution to issues and concerns raised with us by parents, in relation to the operation of the school transport scheme.*

That we also write to the Minister John Halligan and the School Transport Section of the Department of Education and Skills seeking a review of the School Transport Scheme and proposing its amendment so that every student can access a bus seat to the school/college of their choice.

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach _____ Meetings Administrator _____

Date: _____