

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan, on Monday 7th October, 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, 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, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Mr. N. O'Connor, A.O. Environment, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Cllrs McElvaney and O'Hanlon.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach extended the congratulations of the Council to Glaslough Tidy Towns Committee on winning the National Tidy Towns Competition 2019, and also the title of Irelands Tidiest Village 2019 for the second year in a row. He congratulated the huge number of volunteers who had contributed to this great achievement. He suggested that the Council would mark the occasion with a Civic Reception. He also congratulated Carrickmacross on winning an 8th Gold medal in the competition.

A number of members joined in the tributes to Glaslough and also commended the members of the Council staff for the assistance provided.

The Chief Executive associated himself with the vote of congratulations and the comments to the staff.

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council would host a Civic Reception to honour the achievement of Glaslough Tidy Towns Committee in winning the title of Ireland's Tidiest Town 2019.

Following consultation with the Glaslough Committee it was agreed that the Civic Reception would be held in Glaslough on Friday 1st November, 2019.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a Notice of Urgent Business, in the names of Cllrs Aughey and Coyle, as follows:

That Monaghan County Council strongly condemns the downgrading of the Cavan/Monaghan Garda division with the proposed new HQ proposed to be located in Drogheda to cover Cavan/Monaghan/Louth. This decision is baffling considering the lack of manpower in the Cavan/Monaghan area with Brexit less than 30 days away.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed to go 'Into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motion 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 Keelan, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd September, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 2nd September 2019, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris T.D. regarding Home Help Hours.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding Home Help Services.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Mental Health and Older People regarding Home Help Services.
- Email from the Minister for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research & Development, Mr. John Halligan, T.D. regarding School Transport.
- Letter from Bus Eireann regarding School Transport.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform regarding Fuel Costs.
- Email from LAMA Awards regarding a Save the Date.
- Motion from Ballybay-Clones Municipal district regarding Beef Farmers.

The following additional correspondence was also circulated:

- Letter from Cumann Luthchleas Gael regarding funding for GAA Coaching & Development in primary schools in co Monaghan.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan, that a delegation from MCC meet with Siobhan Griffin, Regional School Transport Manager at her earliest convenience.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that in the interest of animal welfare and environmental protection, that MCC seek from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D, an extension to the slurry spreading period, as lands have been totally inaccessible over recent weeks due to the unseasonable heavy rainfall. (The motion to be circulated to all Oireachtas members for Cavan/Monaghan).

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that we seek a meeting with Minister Halligan in relation to school transport scheme.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Truell, it was agreed that Council writes to the Minister of Agriculture requesting that he speaks to the EU to get agreement that the ANC payment is paid in one payment from 2020 in September each year.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to disposal of land at Knockaconny, Monaghan

Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services explained that the Council had resolved, at its May meeting, to lease 0.92 hectares of land valued at €70,000 (excl VAT) to BioConnect Innovation Centre CLG for 25 years at a rate of €10 per annum. The Council wrote to the Minister seeking his consent to the lease. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government advised the Council that the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 should be applied and, therefore, it was necessary to re-issue the Section 183 Notice, accompanied by a report from the Chief Executive setting out the economic or social reasons for the proposed lease of lands at Knockaconny. The members noted the reports circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal by land of 0.92 hectares, in the townland of Knockaconny, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan to Monaghan BioConnect CLG, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 12th September 2019, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. Material Amendments to the NWRA Draft RSES

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner gave a presentation to the members on material amendments to the North Western Regional Authority Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). He outlined in detail the proposed material alterations to the Draft RSES which are currently on public display until the 11th October, 2019. Submissions on the material amendments can be made up until that date.

Mr. Gourley suggested that the Council would make a submission to the public consultation process to include the following comments and also to point out minor errors/discrepancies highlighted in previous reports that have yet to be amended:

- Monaghan Town needs to be mentioned as a candidate destination tourist town in material amendment MA11 (RPO31)
- Inclusion of upgrade of N54 Monaghan to Cavan road welcomed but needs to mention N53 (part of Monaghan to Dundalk) in material amendment MA19

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council make a submission on the material amendments to the Draft RSES as per the recommendations outlined above.

5. To approve Draft County of Monaghan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2019

Mr. N. O'Connor, A.O. Environment gave a detailed presentation to the members on the proposed draft Bye-Laws for the segregation, storage and presentation of household and commercial waste. He explained that the purpose of the draft bye-laws was to combat litter and illegal dumping; to meet EU and National waste targets; is a requirement of the Regional Waste Management Plan and also to ensure uniformity in the bye laws across the country.

Following his presentation Mr. O'Connor responded to queries from the members.

Mr. O'Connor explained that, if the draft bye-laws are approved by the Council they would then be placed on public display for a minimum period of one month during which time the public could make submissions. Any submissions received would be considered by the full Council following which the final version of the Bye Laws would be adopted by the Council, with or without amendment.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Truell, it was agreed that the Draft County of Monaghan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye Laws 2019, be approved and that they be placed on public display for a minimum period of one month, with submissions being invited from the general public.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Executive engage in a process to identify a suitable site in our capital town for the provision of a Recycling Centre in Monaghan Town or its suburbs.

6. To approve Draft Bye Laws for the Regulation & Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances

Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator referred to the Draft County Monaghan (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2019 which had been circulated with the agenda. The purpose of the bye laws was to provide a mechanism for An Garda Síochána to deal with the increasing number of instances of the consumption of intoxicating substances in public places in Co. Monaghan, including all of the towns. She stated that the text of the draft bye laws had been forwarded to the Municipal Districts for consideration at their September meetings. Provision had been included for the relaxation of the draft byelaws during festivals and community events, subject to consultation in advance between the Council and An Garda Síochána.

If approved by the Council, the Draft Bye Laws would be placed on public display for a minimum period of one month during which time the public could make submissions. Any submissions received would be considered by the full Council following which the final version of the Bye Laws would be adopted by the Council, with or without amendment.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell seconded by Cllr Keelan seconded it was agreed that Article 11 of the Draft Bye-Laws be amended to include the words "and the local Municipal District members" after the words An Garda Síochána.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that the Draft County Monaghan (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2019, as amended, be approved and that they be placed on public display for a minimum period of one month, with submissions being invited from the general public.

7. To fix date for Statutory meeting to consider the Budget for 2020

It was agreed that the Statutory meeting to consider the Budget for 2020 would be held on Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 2pm.

8. To consider submissions on the Draft Scheme for the establishment of SPCs 2019 - 2024

The members considered the Report on submissions received following the public consultation process on the Draft Scheme for the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees for the period 2019 – 2024.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that having regard to the proposal from the Monaghan Public Participation Network that each SPC would have six elected members and six sectoral representatives.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Environmental Electoral College be allocated a seat on the Housing, Social and Cultural SPC.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that one of the two Business/Commercial places on the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support be reserved for the Tourism/Hospitality Sector.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that the nominations for the Business/Commercial sector places on the SPCs be invited from the Town Teams in the county.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that the Draft Scheme for the establishment of the Strategic Policy Committees 2019-2024, as amended above, be adopted and that the Council proceed to fill the vacant positions on each SPC.

9. To approve Joint Policing Committee membership

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the membership of the County Monaghan Joint Policing, as circulated, be approved.

10. To approve membership of the Local Community Development Committee

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Mr. Alan Johnson, representing 'Business Interests' replace Ms. Martina Quinn on the LCDC.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Ms Ursula McKenna, representing Social Inclusion replace Ms. Dzintra McConnon on the LCDC.

Cllr Maxwell thanked Ms. Quinn and Ms. McConnon for their service to the LCDC.

11. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17th September, 2019

The members noted the minutes and recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 17th September, 2019.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the CPG meeting held on 17th September, 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

12. To receive the Management Report – September 2019

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

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

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

The members noted the report from Cllr. McCooey in relation to her attendance at the following conference/training event:

- AILG – Induction training for new Councillors – Co. Westmeath

14. To receive update on BREXIT from LEO

Mr. J. McEntegart, Head of LEO gave a presentation to the members in which he outlined the role of the Local Enterprise Office in encouraging SME's to prepare and mobilise for Brexit. He stated that while Brexit had implications for all sectors, it would have a particular impact on food-related enterprises. He also stressed the importance of the backstop element of the Withdrawal Agreement, describing it as an insurance policy or safety net to prevent the reintroduction of a hard border on the island of Ireland. He said the best possible trade negotiation for Ireland would be an agreement that had a balance of rights and obligations for all parties. He recommended that SMEs assess their exposure by filling out the online Brexit Scorecard and investigate the grant aid available from Enterprise Ireland and Inter Trade Ireland.

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

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. McEntegart for his presentation.

15. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive informed the members that planning permission had been granted to IDA Ireland for the development of a new advanced technology unit at Knockaconny, Monaghan.

16. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 2nd September, 2019

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd September, 2019 were responded to by the relevant officials.

17. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan, Director, updated the members in relation to this item. She stated that the feasible route options have now been appraised and narrowed down to a shortlist of route options which will be published and display at a second round of public consultations in October and November. Public consultation events will take place in the 4 Seasons Hotel from 2-8pm on 22 and 23 October for the N2 Clontibret to the Border scheme.

A further series of consultations will take place on the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney section of the N2 on 5th November (Nuremore Hotel); 6th November (Glencarn Hotel) and 7th November at the Ardee Parish Centre.

A briefing for Members and Oireachtas members will be held in the 4 Seasons on the 22nd October and an invitation will issue later.

The consultations will be an opportunity for the public to see the route options, meet the project team and discuss the project. The public consultations will run for a period of four weeks and during that time the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback including written feedback to the Project Team.

18. 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 calls on Eirgrid & SONI to desist from giving the false impression that MCC is hosting them or seeking meetings etc. with them.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that we write to An Taoiseach Minister Richard Bruton, Minister Heather Humphreys and Eirgrid, reaffirming this Councils view that the North South Interconnector will not proceed using the pylon supported method. In light of this we are calling on Government & Eirgrid to develop plans for the undergrounding of the interconnectors. {similar to the Celtic Interconnector} - given that the undergrounding of the project is the only method acceptable to the people of Co Monaghan.

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

In response to a query from Cllr P. Treanor, Mr. P. Clifford, Director stated that responsibility for progressing the Marina project lies with Waterways Ireland. The Council will ask Waterways Ireland for a project timeline.

20. To receive presentation from Monaghan Down Syndrome

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Valene Duffy, Brian Renihan and Francis Flanagan from the Monaghan Branch of Down Syndrome Ireland.

Ms. Duffy then gave a detailed presentation to the members during which she outlined the following:

- The background to the establishment of the Branch

- The Branch currently have three people employed. - one special educational teacher, one primary school teacher and a Special Needs Assistant too. The three key areas the teachers work on is speech and language, Occupational therapy and physio.
- The parents want to grow the branch from preschool, national school, secondary and third level education not forgetting about new members joining us along the way. They are a highly efficient branch with no running costs with many thanks to the Crannog Centre we get free use of the facilities of a Saturday morning and the for branch meetings.
- The Branch are seeking financial assistance from the Council to assist them in developing the branch in future

Following her presentation Ms. Duffy and Mr. Finnegan responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members of the delegation for the presentation and wished them every success in the future. He stated that the request for funding would be considered when the Budget for 2020 was being prepared.

21. Questions:

CLlr C. Carthy asked:

1. What number of HAP tenants on Monaghan County Council waiting list are currently paying a top-up in rents to their landlord, and how many tenants are currently being facilitated with the 20% allowable increase under 'exceptional circumstances'?
Reply: There are currently 570 active HAP supported tenancies, 408 of these tenants pay a top up to their landlord. 328 HAP supported tenancies have been facilitated with the 20% discretionary payment.
2. What measures have been taken, since the start of 2019, to bring unused and derelict private properties into use by the local authority?
Reply: Under the Rebuilding Ireland Vacant Homes programme Monaghan County Council's Housing Section are identifying vacant private properties and issuing information leaflets on options available to the owners to bring the properties back into use including the Repair and Lease Scheme, private rental or sale. On the correspondence the Housing Department are asking the owners to contact Monaghan County Council to confirm if the property is vacant and discuss the options available to encourage them to bring the properties back into use. Monaghan County Council will continue their campaign and engagement under the Vacant Homes programme to encourage owners to bring vacant properties into use. Monaghan County Council has received final funding approval for the Clones Renewal Scheme from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to demolish 10 derelict properties in Clones and construct 19 apartments and two townhouses, construction works have commenced on site and the appointed Contractor is Lowry Construction. Monaghan County Council has also submitted a Stage 3 Funding Application to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to advertise a request for tenders for a housing project in Scotstown

known as Luí na Gréine to bring four derelict properties into use and construct an additional twenty eight houses on the associated Derelict Site in Scotstown.

There are currently 3 properties being brought back into use under the Repair and Lease Scheme and a further 20 units which have been deemed suitable for the scheme.

1 property was completed in September and is now occupied

1 property is due to be completed in November

1 property the works will commence in November and due for completion Q1 2020

3. How many Council-owned properties will be retrofitted with energy-saving measures in Co. Monaghan this year?

Reply:

Energy Efficiency – 38 | Acquisitions – 11 | Voids – 60 | Total = 109

In 2019 a total of 109 local authority properties will have energy-saving measures carried out.

CLlr S. Coyle asked:

4. Can Monaghan County Council outline -

(a) The periods of the year for hedge cutting by Landowners?

Reply: The period for hedge cutting commenced on 1st September 2019 runs to the 28th February 2020.

(b) The responsibilities on land owners to cut/maintain hedges along roadsides?

Reply: The Roads Act 1993 (Section 70) places a statutory obligation on all landowners/occupiers of land or structures to ensure that roadside structures, trees, shrubs or other vegetation do not present a danger to those using and working on public roads.

(c) The powers of a Local Authority to enforce on a landowner to cut hedges causing a hazardous situation along a roadside?

Reply: The owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use or the maintenance of a public road. Non compliance with a request from the Council can ultimately lead to the initiation of legal proceedings against the landowner or occupier of land, which, if successful, could lead to a maximum fine of €5,000.

(d) How many enforcement notices have Monaghan County Council issued in the years 2016, 2017 & 2018?

Reply: Prior to enforcements notices being issued the Municipal Districts liaise with landowners to ensure hedges are cut, if non-compliance continues the MD's issue warning letters prior to forwarding to roads for Enforcement.

The table below outlines the number of letters issued to landowners per Municipal District for 2016 - 2018.

Municipal District	2016	2017	2018	Procedure
CMX	53	41	15	2 reminder letters are issued to landowners and if the landowner remains non-compliant the matter is then forwarded to Roads Section in MCC for Enforcement Notices to be issued.
BBCL	11	3	4	Clones GSS visits the landowners initially requesting compliance before written notices are issued. If the landowner remains non-compliant the matter is then forwarded to Roads Section, in MCC for Enforcement Notices to be issued.
Mon	13	23	22	One Warning letter is issued to landowner requesting compliance. If the landowner remains non-compliant the matter is then forwarded to Roads Section in MCC for Enforcement Notices to be issued.

The Total number of Enforcement Notices issued in Roads Section are as follows:

2016 – 1 2017 -1 2018 – 5

5. Can Monaghan County Council give an update on progress on the “Taking in Charge” application from the residences of the Alders Estate, Clones Rd., Ballybay?

Reply: The process of taking in Charge of the Alders Estate is on going and it is anticipated that it will conclude in the near future.

6. Can Monaghan County Council give an update on progress on the New Fire Station for Ballybay, as the current facilities are outdated and not fit for purpose for a modern day Fire Service?

Reply: An alternative site has been identified in Ballybay for the provision of a fire station and the process of negotiating with the land owner has commenced.

7. In relation to the proposed North-South 400Kv Interconnector, have any meetings/communications occurred between Monaghan County Council and Eirgrid/E.S.B. Networks and can this Council confirm that details/notes/attendees of any such meetings were they to take place would be placed on file for public inspection?

Reply: Two meetings between Council officials and Eirgrid/E.S.B. Networks have taken place since a decision was made by An Bord Pleanala on the North South Interconnector. The first meeting was held on 20th October 2017 and the second meeting was held on 6th September 2018. The purpose of both meetings was to discuss compliance with the planning conditions set out on the decision by An Bord Pleanala. Details of these meetings are recorded on a post decision file which is available for inspection in the planning office.

Cllr R. Truell asked:

8. I request that Monaghan County Council issue a response on any proposals that are in place to purchase/upgrade the “derelict” properties on the Monaghan Road into

Rockcorry Village, also known as “Tea Pot Row” and “Widows Row” out the Ballybay Road. Is there any update on any discussions that has taken place to acquire these “derelict” buildings?

Reply: The Council does not have any plans to acquire the buildings in Rockcorry known as the Tea Pot Row or the Widows Row. The owner of Tea Pot Row, which is a protected structure, has recently had pre-planning discussions with the Planning Authority.

9. I request that Monaghan County Council issue a response on any proposals that are in place to purchase/upgrade the “derelict” filling station in Newbliss Village next door to the old courthouse. Is there any update on any discussions that has taken place to acquire this “derelict” building?

Reply: The Council has no current plans to acquire the former filling station in Newbliss but is happy to advise the owners in addressing the dereliction issue.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

10. With the recently published plans issued by the Roads Section of development works in Monaghan to be undertaken between Old Cross Square and the traffic light junction, and nearby on the Glen Rd for the demolition and rebuilding of the Convent boundary wall, what timescales are projected for these excavation and road rebuilding works that will have a considerable impact on traffic management and access to car parks and businesses? Will contractors work night time shifts to reduce the disruptive element of this large scale project?

Reply: Subject to Part 8 planning its currently scheduled that Monaghan County Council will procure a contractor for the culvert upgrade works under the road networks enabling construction work commencement in Q2 2020 with substantial completion expected for the road networks culvert upgrade element by the end of 2020. The developer is responsible for the works within the carpark and no date has been confirmed for this development or its phases of construction.

Considerable temporary works will be needed to construct the works on the existing road network and significant efforts will be made to maintain two-way traffic and mitigate local business disruption, however given the complexities of the project phases distributive traffic management impacts will present within the town environs during the large-scale engineering works which is planned to be constructed during normal working hours.

Where health, safety and environmental parameters permit, periodic night time works will be scheduled for specialised operations such as service diversions and the associated reinstatements.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

11. In the interest of road safety what is the up to date position in relation to the extension of the 60km speed limit adjacent to the very busy bus stop on the N2 slip road accessing Carrickmacross town?

Reply: The new Bye-Laws for Special Speed limits for National Roads in County Monaghan came into effect on 1st September 2019. These Bye-Laws allows for the extension of the 60km per hour speed limit by approx. 160m from the existing speed signs currently located at the roundabout at Carrickmacross towards the N2 junction.

12. In relation to Inniskeen village what is the up to date position regarding the implementation of the proposed flood alleviation measures given that a number of homes & property including the pitch & putt course have been flooded in recent years?

Reply: Inniskeen Village was identified in the Cfram report along with three other areas in Monaghan County as flood risk areas. The OPW reviewed all the flood risk areas in Monaghan along with flood risk areas in the rest of the country, they ranked them in order of most severe using their Cost Benefit Analysis Ratio Assessment. The top 100 schemes were selected, and Inniskeen Village was not within the 100 schemes selected. Presently no funding available from the OPW to complete the works in Inniskeen.

13. In relation to the ongoing & welcomed housing & industrial development taken place in the Carrickmacross town area has the towns waste water treatment plant the capacity to deal with this increased loading?

Reply: The Waste water collection and treatment facilities are currently provided at Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

The facility is maintained on Irish Water's behalf by Monaghan County Council under a Service Level Agreement. Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently included in the Irish Water 2017-2021 Investment Plan.

The Project is currently at an advanced stage of detailed design, with statutory approvals in place. It is expected that the project will advance to construction in 2020. Note that the works are not intended to increase treatment capacity at the plant; the upgrade works will improve operational performance and compliance with statutory legislation.

The plant is deemed to have sufficient capacity to meet the current and projected future needs of the town.

14. In relation to rental properties & in particular large rental properties in our main towns & villages have the Council an inspection regime in place in relation to health & safety concerns such as fire regulations & overcrowding etc? Have the council in recent years served a closure order on any such properties that pose a risk to public health?

Reply: Under the Rebuilding Ireland Private Rented Inspections programme Monaghan County Council is continuously engaged in an inspection programme for private rented houses and applies the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 to the inspected properties. Monaghan County Council have exceeded the annual property inspection numbers as set by the National Oversight and Audit Committee to date and will continue with the inspection regime. Included in the regulations are standards to be inspected under Health & Safety and Fire Safety. The Landlord can agree to rectify all noncompliance with the regulations or face enforcement notices, in relation to Fire Safety noncompliance can be referred to the Fire Authority if deemed necessary.

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection has a fire safety inspection programme/plan for properties (as per the Fire Service Act 1981-2003) including residential buildings. Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection has served enforcement notices under the Fire Service Act 1981-2003 on residential properties in recent years.

15. In relation to road safety throughout County Monaghan will the Council take a zero tolerance approach to the very small number of landowners that refuse to comply with hedge cutting notices given that we are now in the hedgecutting season? How many landowners have been prosecuted to date for non-compliance with these notices?

Reply: As outlined in Question 4 Notices are issued initially to landowners advising them of their requirement under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 and this usually resolves the issue however if the hedges are not cut as requested legal action is pursued. The last court action by MCC occurred in 2017 and there were no prosecutions in 2018.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

16. Can Monaghan County Council give an update from our Broadband Officer
- (a) In relation to wi-fi 4 EU?
 - (b) Provision of public Wi-Fi and Broadband.
 - (c) What consultations has taken place with community groups to identify practical locations for public Wi-Fi and Broadband.

Reply: Monaghan County Council currently offers free public WiFi in all five main towns within the county. This is funded through the Municipal Districts. In order to apply for 4 Wifi4EU vouchers, four municipal areas were identified and registered on the Wifi4EU portal. At this point Monaghan County Council has applied for four Wifi4EU vouchers and has been successful in receiving two vouchers for Monaghan C and Monaghan D areas. Monaghan C covers the South-Monaghan area and Monaghan D covers most of the Ballybay-Clones MD area. The grant agreements for these contracts were completed on 22 September 2019. Call 3 of Wifi4EU was announced on 9 September. On 20 September, the broadband officer applied for two additional vouchers on behalf of Monaghan County Council for Monaghan A and Monaghan B. The results of this call have not yet been announced.

Monaghan A covers the North-Monaghan area, while Monaghan B covers the area from Monaghan town towards Castleblayney.

It is expected that Monaghan County Council will go to tender in the coming months to deliver free public WiFi to a number of council premises, public spaces and communities.

Under the terms of the wifi4eu agreement, the minimum standard for public WiFi is 30Mb connection, which means that this service can only be delivered in areas where high speed broadband is already available. The broadband officer has been working to identify suitable locations across all four areas within the county to identify suitable locations and organisations.

In the coming weeks, we expect to invite applications from community groups and voluntary groups, asking these groups to set out proposals for how they can take advantage of wifi4EU if they are successful. These applications will be considered along with other sites that have been identified in discussions with the Municipal Districts. In order to deliver the speeds and timescales set out within the Wifi4eu process, this competition will be limited to groups which currently have access to high speed broadband.

Although the timescales for contract signature have slipped slightly, the National Broadband Plan is still expected to commence before the end of the year. Under the terms of the National Broadband Plan, when the contract is signed, the first priority will be to deliver high speed broadband to a number of broadband connection points (BCPs). This will deliver a 150mb broadband connection to thirteen community centres and enterprise hubs throughout the county within the first year of the National Broadband Plan.

17. With the purchase of 500 smoke alarms by Monaghan County Council to be made available to vulnerable households. What uptake has there been on the alarms and how has the Council promoted this scheme?

Reply: Half of the 500 alarms are being distributed through the Fire Service during promotion events carried out as part of Fire Safety Week, from 7th - 14th October. The remainder are being distributed through the Community Alert groups. To date 150 units have been allocated, leaving 100 remaining. Community Alert groups should continue to use the new "Komeer" system to make subscribers aware of their availability and to then advise Monaghan County Council Community Development Section on the numbers needed by each group.

18. With regard to the Market House in Castleblayney, when is it hoped that the QS would be appointed to look at a staged process of preparing works to put a roof on the building now that it is completely exposed to the elements.

Reply: Monaghan County Council has recently completed works on securing the stability of the Market House and a report furnished to members in September. The works costing in excess of €400,000 incorporated measures to protect the structure. A lead covering was retained to protect the external walls from further deterioration and internal walls were capped pending a decision as to how to restore the building and obtain funding for same. Surveying work has commenced and it is hoped to identify costs of the restoration of the building over the coming months.

23. Notices of Motion:

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded:

1. Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton TD, to legislate for the banning of all non-recyclable materials used in food/drinks packaging by the end of 2021 and ensure that only recyclable and biodegradable packaging be used.

We ask that this motion be circulated to all local authorities.

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

Cllrs D. Maxwell proposed, B. McKenna seconded

2. That this Local Authority writes to Paschal Donohoe T.D, Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform stating that "Eurostat has confirmed that the Northern and Western Region, which includes our local authority, has moved back from a 'Developed Region' to 'Region in Transition and considering that this points to a two speed national economy, how is the Minister proposing to address it; is there opportunity for positive discrimination? Can the Minister also confirm that European Regional Development Funding will continue to be delivered in the regions post 2020?"

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

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded:

3. Regarding the recent adoption by Monaghan County Council of the Climate Change Adaption Strategy, that this Council assess what lands are in its ownership that have the potential for plantation of broadleaf trees and furthermore write to Coillte enquiring of their afforestation policy in this regard.

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 congratulations be extended to the following:

- Blackhill GAA Club on winning the 2019 Universal Graphics Junior Football Championship and wishing them every success in the Ulster Championship.
- St. Brigid's Ladies GAA Club on winning the 2019 Monaghan Junior Club Championship and all of the club's success in 2019.
- Ms. Kay Cassidy Staff Officer and the staff of Monaghan Library on being awarded the Age Friendly Charter for the Monaghan Branch Library.
- Ms. Kelly Loughran, Teacher, Beech Hill College, on being the recipient of the Ulster Award in the Teachers Inspire Ireland Desmond Award 2019.

20. Conferences/Training

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	The Office of the Planning Regulator	Crowe Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Saturday 12 th October	Cllr P. Connolly Cllr A. McCooey Cllr S. Coyle Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr R. Truell Cllr S. Conlon Cllr B. McKenna Cllr P. Treanor
AILG	Climate Change – Local Authorities in the front line	Hodson Bay Hotel Athlone, Co. Westmeath	Thursday 21 st November 2019	Cllr P. Connolly Cllr S. Coyle Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr R. Truell Cllr S. Conlon Cllr B. McKenna Cllr P. Treanor Cllr N. Keelan Cllr C. Carthy

CELTIC CONFERENCES	Emerging Threats and Persistent Conservation Challenges for Freshwater Biodiversity	O'Donovan's Hotel, Main St., Clonakilty, Co. Cork	8th to 10th November 2019	Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr A. Campbell
LAMA	Autumn Training Seminar	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare	17 th - 19th October 2019	Cllr A. McCooey

Urgent Business

Cllr Aughey proposed, Cllr McCooey seconded

That Monaghan County Council strongly condemns the downgrading of the Cavan/Monaghan Garda division with the proposed new HQ proposed to be located in Drogheda to cover Cavan/Monaghan/Louth. This decision is baffling considering the lack of manpower in the Cavan/Monaghan area with Brexit less than 30 days away.

Following a debate on the motion, it was agreed that a vote would be deferred until more information is obtained.

Cllr Aughey agreed to re-submit the motion, as a Notice of Motion for the November meeting

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
