

Monaghan Matters

Monaghan County Council

Newsletter

Summer-Autumn 2019



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Tourism



**Sports
Partnership**



**Environmental
Services**



**Fire Control
&
Civil
Protection**

CORPORATE SERVICES



Monaghan County Council Annual Awards Ceremony 2019

The Monaghan County Council 15th Annual Awards Ceremony was held on 1st April 2019 in The Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.

There were 39 Nominees under the following categories: (3 under Youth) (14 under Arts & Culture), (9 under Community), and (13 under Sports)

The Members of Monaghan County Council initiated the Annual Awards Scheme in order to give due recognition to those individuals/groups in County Monaghan who, during 2018, had excelled in the areas of Sport, Arts/Culture, Youth, Community, Environment/Heritage. The Awards Scheme permits Monaghan County Council to publicly acknowledge these people for their contribution to our society and to show them that their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

The Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive welcomed and commended everyone nominated on their achievements. Each individual/group nominated were presented with a trophy and a certificate by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell. The Awards night was a great success for all involved.



120th Anniversary of Monaghan County Council

In April, Monaghan County Council commemorated the 120th anniversary of the organisation's first meeting at a poignant event in the Monaghan Court House.

The event, which was attended by current and former members of Monaghan County Council along with members of the Oireachtas and members of Monaghan County Council staff heard speeches from the Museum Curator, the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr. David Maxwell and the Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council, Eamonn O'Sullivan.

Liam Bradley, Curator of Monaghan County Museum, gave an overview of the history of Local Government in Ireland since the arrival of the Anglo Normans 850 years ago. The museum also had on display the minute book from the first County Council Meeting, which was held in the Grand Jury Room in Monaghan Court House on April 22nd 1899. The Cathaoirleach referenced the more specific history of Monaghan County Council itself referring to excerpts from the minutes of the first meeting.

The Chief Executive stressed the importance of Local Government in the context of the nation's history, highlighting the very important work carried out by the County Councillors on behalf of the public they serve and also acknowledging the dedication and commitment of the Monaghan County Council staff. He also thanked the Courts Service for facilitating the County Council in hosting the event in the Court House.

Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme

Cúis mhór áthais do Choiste Gaeilge Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin gur bronnadh 36 páirt-scoláireachtaí ar scoláirí Mhuineacháin chun freastal ar choláistí Gaeltachta an samhradh seo. Tharla an bronnadh ag ócáid a d'egraigh an Coiste ar an 9 Bealtaine in Amharclann an Gharáiste, Muineachán.

Cuid de Scéim Gaeilge na Comhairle 2017-2020 is ea an tionscadal seo ag Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin.

It is with great delight, that Monaghan County Council's Coiste an Gaeilge Committee has awarded 36 part scholarships to Monaghan students to attend Gaeltacht colleges this summer. The students, received their scholarship at an event hosted by the Coiste on the 9th May, in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan.

This initiative by Monaghan County Council is part of the Council's Irish Language Scheme 2017-2020.





Local Elections 2019

Elections for the Local Electoral Areas of Ballybay-Clones, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney and Monaghan were held on the 24th May. 33 candidates contested the elections – 6 candidates in Ballybay-Clones, 11 in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney and 16 in Monaghan. The candidates included 17 outgoing members of the Council.

The Local Election count took place in Sean McDermotts Sports Centre in Threemilehouse and commenced at 6pm on Saturday 25th May, following the segregation of ballot papers and the counting of the Divorce Referendum papers.

The count concluded on Sunday evening with all 18 candidates being deemed elected. Sixteen outgoing members were re-elected to Monaghan County Council. Two new Councillors were also elected – Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon and Cllr. Aoife McCooney, in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Electoral Area.



7 Monaghan County Council Projects Shortlisted for Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019

Following on from successfully picking up awards for 'Everybody Plays – Inclusive Playground Policy' and for repairmystuff.ie 'Ireland's Leading Online Repair Directory' at the 2018 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, Monaghan County Council is again delighted to be shortlisted in 7 award categories in the 2019 Awards.

The annual awards scheme, which is hosted in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, acknowledges and encourages best practice and constructive initiatives by local authorities and is aimed at enhancing the positive relationships that already exist between chambers, businesses and their respective local authorities.



Monaghan County Council has been shortlisted in 7 of the 16 categories:

- An Age Friendly Guide to Communication – Age Friendly Initiative
- Monaghan Community Alerts – Best Practice in Citizen Engagement
- Rossmore Forest Park Tourism & Recreational Development – Supporting Tourism
- Monaghan County Council Rents App – Local Authority Innovation
- Refurbishment and Remodelling of Clones Market House, Clones, Co. Monaghan – Outstanding initiative through the Municipal Districts
- The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War – Heritage and Built Environment
- Your Vote Your Voice – Disability Services Provision

Councillor Seamus Coyle, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, commented, "I am delighted to learn that the Council has been shortlisted in 7 separate categories of what is a very prestigious awards scheme for the Local Government sector in Ireland."

Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, added, "Following on from our success at the 2018 Awards, Monaghan County Council has performed very well in this year's awards scheme and we are delighted to have 7 separate initiatives shortlisted for the 2019 Excellence Awards". The Excellence in Local Government Award winners will be announced at the 16th annual ceremony on 28th November at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood, Santry. Awards will be presented for excellence in 16 different categories and one Local Authority will be awarded the overall award and named Local Authority of the Year 2019.

CORPORATE ASSETS AND ENERGY

Monaghan County Council launch 'The Peace Campus' Project

Monaghan County Council launched 'The Peace Campus' project on Monday 29th April 2019. 'The Peace Campus' will bring much needed neutral shared space to Monaghan.

This €14.5 million project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) which awarded €9.5 million to Monaghan County Council to deliver the project.

The balance of the funding is being provided by Monaghan County Council from various sources. Match-funding has also been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland and the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.

The launch event was held on Monday 29th April, with over 80 people in attendance. Representatives of the Council included the Chief Executive Eamonn O'Sullivan, Cathaoirleach Councillor David Maxwell, Director of Capital Projects Cathal Flynn and Elected Members. Also in attendance was Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Heather Humphreys TD, other local TDs, MEP's and representatives from the Department of Rural and Community Development (Ire) and the Department for Communities (NI).

Speaking at the Launch, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council, Eamonn O'Sullivan said, "The Peace Campus project was developed to address the needs that still exist in our communities today such as issues of segregation, fears to engage and an unwillingness to express identity. This project will allow all communities to come together to engage in a safe setting. It will be of major significance as it is the first time that the Orange Order and the Ulster Scots Agency have engaged in a Peace Programme in County Monaghan."

Representatives from SEUPB were also in attendance and provided an overview from a funding perspective. Speaking at the event Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body said; "Unfortunately our society remains deeply segregated, which reduces the opportunities for many citizens to mix with, understand and learn from each other. This only serves to perpetuate a cycle of division which prevents us from making new and positive relationships with people within our local communities, who are from a different background or culture, or hold different views. Projects like this within the PEACE IV Programme, will help to end that cycle as it will break down barriers, bring people together and help combat prejudice and intolerance."



The launch event marked the official start of 'The Peace Campus' project. This project, in addition to the development of much needed community space in a neutral setting, also includes a youth facility, a new town library and a cultural heritage area. The overall aim of this project is to engage with all communities especially where there is a legacy of difference and segregation in relation to attitudes and beliefs. This project will seek to dispel myths and allow relationships to be built which will not only benefit individuals but also the wider community.

The tender competition for the construction of this iconic facility is now open, and further details can be found on the e-tenders website www.etenders.gov.ie.

The PEACE IV Programme is an EU funded Programme designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region. It is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

This project has been supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Peace Campus Video

To get a better idea of what Monaghan County Council's new Peace Campus will look like click here: <https://youtu.be/gxG-wHqcAM4>



This new facility will consist of the construction of a new four storey mixed use community building, comprising a culture/heritage centre, library and youth facility, shared community multi functional space with external community space and underground parking.

This project is supported by the European Union's Peace IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



In April, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funding of over €180,000 was awarded for the retrofit of over 300 lights on National Primary and Secondary Roads in Monaghan.

HOUSING

Houses Under Construction at Latlorcan

43 Houses at Latlorcan:- Monaghan County Council & Geda Construction funded under Rebuilding Ireland

The construction of 43 houses at Latlorcan is progressing well. In May 2019 all the timber frame kits provided by IJM Timber Engineering, Monaghan were erected. The works on the 43 properties are at an advanced stage, second fixing works and internal painting have already commenced for 30 houses and are nearing completion.

External works have commenced on the installation of kerbing, utility services, tarmacing roads, fencing works and external garden works which are 50% complete.

Playground, pedestrian pathways and public green space landscaping works will commence in September in preparation for project completion. The project is progressing well and is expected to be completed in Quarter 4 of 2019.



January 2019



August 2019

External finish, roofing & windows complete and scaffolding removed



Utility services, kerbing & tarmacing road installed



Kitchens installed



May 2019



August 2019

OPD 2 bedroom dwellings external finish, roofing & windows complete and scaffolding removed

Monaghan County Council Rebuilding Ireland Project: Bree, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

Construction works are now completed on the Bree Housing Project. Construction commenced in June 2018 and substantial completion was achieved within 12 months.

The Project:

Planning consent was granted in December 2016 to build a proposed development of 8 local authority houses. These eight houses are divided into two terraces of four houses each. The most westerly terrace comprises of single storey, 2 bedroom houses. The easterly terrace comprises of two storey, 2 bedroom houses. The houses have an excellent Building Energy Rating and have been designed to allow for future adaptation. The development includes provision of a new access road and turning area, a 7-a-side soccer pitch, a basketball court, a new allotment/communal garden area, upgraded site boundaries, improved pedestrian access, landscaping, drainage works to the open space areas and all associated works. The site was open space which served the existing Bree houses. Some of this open space was over grown, rough land which was not being utilised as an open space amenity. The site is located within the development limit for Castleblayney Town on lands zoned "existing residential".

Funding:

Stage 4 approval was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland programme on 29th May 2018 for the €1.6 million project with the condition that Monaghan County Council meet the costs associated with the open space, football pitch and basketball court. Monaghan County Council's contribution to the works required was €144,969 from Internal Capital Receipts with Department approval.

The Team:

Management Team Monaghan County Council (MCC)

Building Owner on behalf of Monaghan County Council: John Murray

Senior Exec Engineer – Lorcan MacCinna (MCC)

Clerk of Works – Conor Mc Bride (MCC)

Project Engineer – Jennifer Finlay (MCC)

Construction Team

Main Contractor: Doohamlet Construction (local)

Design Team:

Architect: Housing Agency

Structural Engineer: Housing Agency

Services Engineer: IN2 Engineering

PSDP: ARUP

Quantity Surveyor: Housing Agency

Assigned Certifier – Peter Coyle FJ Coyles (Monaghan)



Clones Renewal Scheme

Monaghan County Council has received Stage 4 Funding Approval of €5.2 million from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to appoint a contractor to begin construction of the Clones Renewal Scheme housing project.

The project consists of the demolition of 10 derelict properties at four locations on Fermanagh Street and two locations on Analore Street, Clones.

In their place Monaghan County Council will construct 14 No. 2 Bed apartments, 5 No. 1 Bed apartments and 2 No. 3 Bed townhouses totalling in 19 new apartments and 2 new Townhouses.

The project is being managed by Monaghan County Council in coordination with the appointed Monaghan based consultants Craftstudio Architecture.



TOURISM

New Adventure Playpark Launched at Rossmore Forest Park

Rossmore Forest Park, just outside Monaghan Town, now boasts a wonderful new Adventure Playpark, set in a landscaped corner, just off the main car park area. The Playpark was funded under the European Union's Peace IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and by Monaghan Municipal District and is aimed at both locals and visitors alike.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

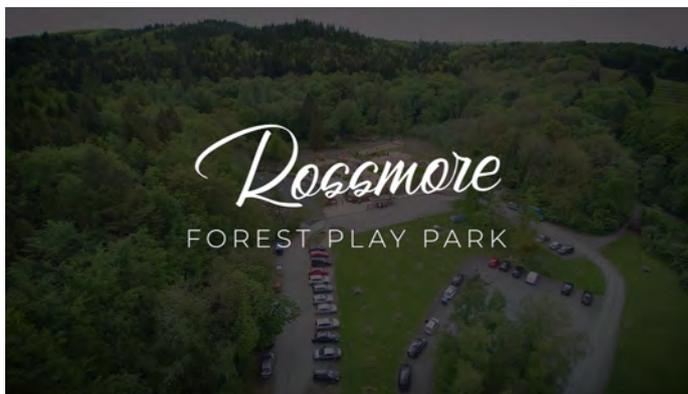


The new playpark marks a significant investment into the redevelopment of Rossmore Forest Park which is being driven by Monaghan County Council. Funding of €301,526 was provided by the PEACE IV programme for the development, and the match funding of €145,000 was invested by Monaghan Municipal District. The park is owned by Coillte and the playpark was developed as a collaborative project under the Rossmore Masterplan which was developed in 2017 after an extensive consultation process.

Heather Humphreys T.D. Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, officially opened the new facility on Monday, 20th May while representatives from Monaghan Municipal District, Monaghan County Council, SEUPB and Fáilte Ireland also attended. There was also a great turnout from local community and volunteer groups, as well as representatives from the local schools who worked with the design team – The Paul Hogarth Company – to provide ideas for its design and the equipment and features they wanted incorporated into 'their' playpark.

It is anticipated that the playpark will be enjoyed by families from all around County Monaghan, but also from further afield and will play a part in developing the regional tourism potential of Monaghan Town.

In the coming months, Monaghan County Council is planning to undertake significant further developments in the park but in the meantime the playpark is open to all to be explored and enjoyed.



#MyMonaghan Campaign

The #MyMonaghan tourism campaign 2019 commenced on 17 June and finished on 7 August 2019.

Videos featured; Brehon Brewhouse, Swallow Studios, Irish Country Quads, Busy Bee Ceramics, Dromore Guided River Tours, Rally School Ireland, Blasta Street Kitchen and Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre. The videos can be viewed here: <https://www.monaghtantourism.com/index.php/mymonaghan>

In addition, a #MyMonaghan Image competition was also launched and ran until end August. The campaign was supported by ads on Northern Sound, Press Releases in the Northern Standard and mailshots to tourism trade.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Launch of the 'Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Consumer Survey Report

On Friday July 19th, the launch of the 'Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Consumer Survey Report' – initiative with The Heritage Council took place in The Market House, Monaghan.

Pictured from left to right are: Máire Cullinan, Regeneration Officer, Monaghan County Council, Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council, Virginia Teehan, CEO, Heritage Council, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys T.D., Ali Harvey, Co-ordinator, CTCHC and Orla Purcell, Irish Planning Institute.

Photo credit: Irish Planning Institute.



HERITAGE



Heritage Week

Co-ordinated by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days which promotes Europe's common cultural heritage and ran from August 17th to 25th 2019. Heritage Week, Ireland's most popular cultural event, saw half a million people participating in over 2,200 events in 2019.

In Monaghan, the Monaghan County Council Heritage Office helps to facilitate and promote engagement in Heritage Week. This year's theme was "Pastimes/Past Times" which have shaped the type of events on offer. There were craft demonstrations and classes to partake in, as well as re-enactments of past times, nature activities and outdoor explorations.

World War Two Mortar

The World War Two mortar pictured below, was given to Monaghan County Museum by the Monaghan Heritage Officer in April 2019. The British two inch mortar was found on Sliabh Beagh during a bog habitat survey for the Interreg "Collaborative Action for Natura Network" or CANN project recently.

It demonstrates how natural and cultural heritage folds together in our landscape, including on our blanket bogs where ecologists expect to see mosses, sedges and wild birds, not mortars of the explosive variety!

This mortar, though, is now harmless, as it is a fragment of the original, which would be from a 28 gauge shotgun cartridge released during training by the flying boats of Castle Archdale or RAF Lough Erne. Sliabh Beagh was used for training as it was soft, or bogach, due to the bog habitat.

These planes then travelled to the North Atlantic to patrol for German U-boats. RAF Castle Archdale was located on the eastern shore of Lower Lough Erne, near the village of Lisnarrick. It was used during the Second World War by flying boats of No. 209 Squadron RAF. From Castle Archdale, Consolidated Catalinas and Short Sunderlands could patrol the North Atlantic for German U-boats.

A secret agreement with the government of Ireland allowed aircrafts to fly from Lough Erne to the Atlantic along the Donegal Corridor.



MUSEUM

Cultural Diversity Awareness Training
On Friday 12th April, Monaghan County Council's Social Inclusion Inclusion Department and Monaghan County Museum delivered Cultural Diversity Awareness Training to over 20 different Local Authorities and the National Museum in conjunction with the Heritage Council of Ireland.



War of Independence Files

The statements in the War of Independence Files were collected to produce a book that was published in 1966 for the County Monaghan commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the state, Cuimneacán Muineacáin. They are personal recollections of former members of the Old IRA who were active in County Monaghan during the War of Independence. The statements are both handwritten and typewritten documents, letters and copy books. Many of the statements are in the persons' own handwriting, accompanied by a covering letter.

The files contain personal names, place names and business names making them an excellent resource for local or family history research. As you open these files, you will discover what it was like to live in Monaghan a hundred years ago. Read how people lived, travelled and communicated and uncover a seldom told story.

The War of Independence Files are available to view here: <https://monaghan.ie/museum/monaghan-war-of-independence-files/>



Noel Breakey, Monaghan County Museum Conservator 1959 – 2019

Everyone associated with Monaghan County Museum were deeply saddened and shocked to learn of the recent, untimely death of our friend and colleague, Noel Breakey. Noel had worked at Monaghan County Museum for 41 years. Over his remarkable career, which was defined by a dedication and love for the history and heritage of County Monaghan, he was an integral part of the literal and figurative building of the service to what it is today. He was the heart and the memory of the museum. His loss has left a void which will never be filled but also a memory, which will always be cherished by those who knew and loved him.

Noel was committed to his family and this was a very important part of his life. His late Father and recently departed Mother along with his brother, sister in law and nephew all played a significant part in his life. His late Mother, Mabel lived with Noel until his death and they enjoyed a very close bond and loved looking after each other. Everyone who knew Noel would speak of his kindness and no one enjoyed the warmth of that kindness more than Mabel.

The 'clothes maketh the man' was a principle that Noel lived by. He was always immaculately turned out reflecting a sense of dignity and pride in one's appearance that was a cornerstone of his identity as a true gentleman. He always had time for people and if he could do something for you, then he would. 'That lovely man, who works in the museum', is a phrase that many who frequented the building on Hill Street would refer to him as. He was part of the fabric of the town and regaled many with his knowledge of local history and was an inspiration to others through the incredible passion his displayed for the material heritage of Monaghan.

To many Noel Breakey was the museum and in many ways, that is true. He built the displays that adorn the galleries of the current museum at 1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan Town. The collection which is held by Monaghan County Museum is counted among the finest in the country. Noel's life's work was to ensure that this collection was enjoyed by the visitors of the today and preserved for the generations to come. He was a founder member of the Irish Conservators and Restorers Institution, an organisation which has gone on to assist and develop the skills of thousands of conservators and restorers who work around the country to ensure our heritage, our culture, who we are, is protected. Noel did that.

To us in the museum, he was the touchstone, the sage, the person you went to when you needed an answer. 'Just check with Noel', was something we all said, practically every day. He had his challenges in life and at times they overwhelmed him but when he was wrong, he admitted it, when he needed help, he asked for it and when we needed him to show the strength of character and courage he possessed, he never let us down.

To sum up a man's life in a few paragraphs is not possible, nor is it necessary. His legacy is not words on a page, his life touched us all. We will carry his memory and the collection at Monaghan County Museum will carry his signature, one of diligence and passion. We, at the museum look forward now to an exciting new future and a new chapter in our story with one eye however, always fixed on the past. Noel is part of that story now and we take him with us and we know our friend will rest in peace.



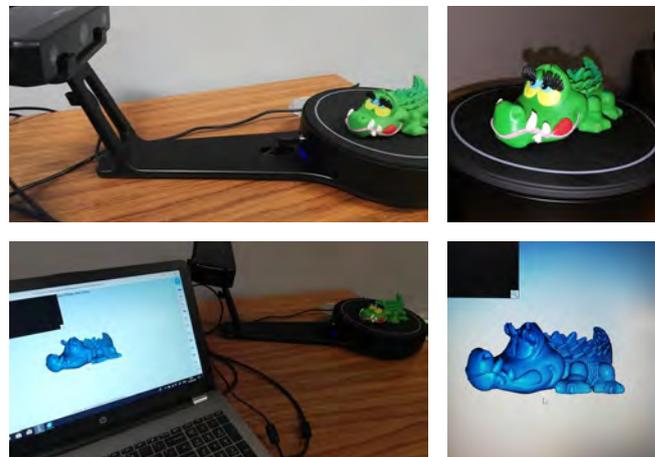
MONAGHAN LIBRARIES

3D Design & Printing Course at Carrickmacross Library

Did you know that a 3D printer is available for use in Carrickmacross Library and will soon be up and running in both Clones Library and Monaghan Town Library? In March, Carrickmacross Library offered a free 4-week introduction to 3D Design & Printing.

If you are interested in using either the 3D printer or 3D scanner pop in or make an appointment by emailing kmccague@monaghancoco.ie

It's completely Free! See some of the great designs that were produced in the photographs below.



'My Open Library' @ Carrickmacross Library

Carrickmacross was chosen to be one of 20 Public Libraries across the country to pilot a new service known as 'My Open Library'. This new service gives customers the opportunity to use the library from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The additional 59 hours of access are 'staffless' and the services available to the Public during these times include borrowing, computer use, WiFi use and access to the Study Areas. A Community Meeting Room is also available for non-profit use. All services are self-service based during the Open Library hours, however staff will continue to be present during regular opening hours. Customers wishing to avail of the additional hours must go through an Induction presentation prior to having their Library Card Activated.

The system went 'Live' on 13th May and Inductions are ongoing. To use the Service you must be over 18. Those who are aged between 16 and 17 may use the service unsupervised with parental consent, whilst those Under 16 can also access the service if a parent is present.

If you would like to learn more, or would like to sign up for an induction, please contact carrickmacrosslibrary@monaghancoco.ie



DEAR Day

On Friday April 12th, Monaghan County Libraries took part in DEAR day (Drop Everything and Read) Day/EU Reads.

DEAR Day encouraged everyone to take 10 minutes and read something for pleasure at 12 noon on the day as part of this National Campaign.



See some of the visitors to our Libraries that made the day such a success in the photographs to the right!

HEALTHY MONAGHAN

Well Fest

Teach Na nDaoine hosted a wellness fair on April 3rd to celebrate winning an anti-bullying award.

The group was awarded the ISPPC Anti-Bullying Shield for its work in promoting positive peer groups and the help is available.



This event also promoted the number of supports and services available locally that promote resilience in the community including the Healthy Ireland @ Your Library and Healthy Monaghan initiatives. It was fantastic to be a part of the Teach Na Daoine Well Fest and it was also both inspirational and motivational listening to the journeys of guest speakers Martina Crudden and Oisín Mc Conville. Well done to everyone involved!

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

Ulster Scots

In March 2019, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr. David Maxwell hosted the Ulster Scots Agency board meeting in Monaghan. After the meeting the board were given a short presentation on the Peace Campus project and shown around the Peace Campus site.

The Ulster Scots Agency have been working closely with us on the Peace Campus project and will have a significant presence in this new facility.



With funding received from Healthy Ireland, administered through the Healthy Monaghan committee and in partnership with the Peace Link, Clones, members of Cairde Activation Centre ran a hugely successful Strictly Come Dancing Night recently. Ten couples took to the dance floor to show off the skills they had learned over the past 10 weeks under the guidance of Jimmy & Eileen Scott. The aim of the project was to create an opportunity for each member of the Cairde Activation Group to choose a dance partner from the community, therefore enhancing community integration. Attendance on the evening surpassed all expectations as the group danced the night away to family, friends and the wider community.



National Community Weekend: May Bank Holiday Weekend #TheBigHello

It was great to see that County Monaghan had the third highest number of events per county in the country for #TheBigHello / Heileo Mór- National Community Weekend which took place over the May Bank Holiday.

This scheme was co-ordinated through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with funding from the Department of Community & Rural Development.

The LCDC had received €10,000 funding for the National Community Weekend Funding Scheme 2019- The Big Hello to be held over the first weekend of May 2019.

This LCDC invited groups to organise events over the May Bank Holiday weekend of 4th to 6th May 2019.

The LCDC Chief Officer Fintan McPhillips reported a very enthusiastic response from Community Groups in County Monaghan with a total of 41 groups applying for funding. A grant of up to €250 will be offered to each group totalling €10,000.



New Outdoor Gym Equipment

New outdoor gym equipment was installed by Monaghan County Council at Barry McGuigan Park, Clones recently with funding received from Healthy Ireland administered through the Healthy Monaghan committee and in partnership with Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.

For more information see: <https://ppnmonaghan.ie/2019/07/15/opening-of-outdoor-gym-at-barry-mcguigan-park-clones/>



Age Friendly Programme

Age Friendly Strategy Consultation

The public consultation process for the development of a new age friendly strategy for County Monaghan is now complete. Over 300 submissions have been received from throughout the county.

Some of the key issues emerging from the consultation are outlined below.

- Downsizing from large family homes to smaller units.
- Knowledge of services within HSE Primary Care Centres
- Access to GP's and difficulties making appointments
- Online services and information cause significant difficulties and barriers
- Crime and safety in the home and community
- Loneliness and isolation
- Dealing with bereavement
- Older people in full time career roles for siblings and spouses

Work has begun on analysing and processing the data collected during the consultation process.



Voter Participation Training

In our final session of Voter Participation Training in advance of the Local and European Elections on Friday 24th May. Monaghan County Council delivered Voter Participation Training at the National Learning Network in Monaghan Town.

Overall 300 people with disabilities took part in the training this week. Thank you to Drumlin House, Rehabcare and the National Learning Network for hosting us.

Your Vote Your Voice: Monaghan County Council supporting voter participation.

Monaghan County Council in collaboration with Monaghan Public Participation Network recently launched its "Your Vote Your Voice an Easy Guide to Voting" booklet. This information booklet was developed to support more people in the community to come out and vote in the Local and European Elections which took place around the county on Friday 24th May.

"Your Vote Your Voice an Easy to Read Guide to Voting" explains the voting process in Ireland and how you can exercise your right to vote. The publication responds to issues identified in several different public consultations carried out recently with older people, people with disabilities and migrant communities in County Monaghan. All of these groups highlighted the need for more simplified information on voting and lack of awareness of the voting process among many people in the community. This was mainly due to inaccessible information.

Many older people were unaware they could apply for a postal vote or have someone assist them at the polling station. Many people from other countries now living in Monaghan did not know Ireland uses a secret ballot system of voting.

Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Officer with Monaghan County Council stated "It was quite surprising the amount of people in the community who were unsure of the voting process and the supports that are available to assist people to vote. For many this was the reason they did not vote. We decided to produce a guide that would provide clear and simple information on all aspects of voting in Ireland."

"Your Vote Your Voice" includes information on the different types of elections and voting that takes place in Ireland. How you register to vote, marking a ballot paper and supports that are in place to help you vote.

Monaghan County Council are committed to the promotion and embedding of accessibility and inclusion across all its functions and services. Over the past number of years, Monaghan has taken the lead in the Local Government sector through highlighting and addressing barriers experienced by people when trying to access information and services. This publication is another example of Monaghan County Council's commitment to the promotion of equality in its customer services.

Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN) currently has a membership of over 500 community and voluntary groups registered with the network from across the county.

PPNs were set up in every Local Authority area to provide a mechanism by which citizens can have a greater say in Local Government decisions which affect their own communities. Active citizenship is a key role for the PPN and the production of "Your Vote Your Voice an Easy to Read Guide to Voting" aims to promote active citizenship in the county by ensuring information on how to vote is accessible and easy to understand and subsequently encouraging more people to vote.

Speaking at the launch event Leona Keenan, Monaghan PPN Resource Worker said "We are delighted to have collaborated with Monaghan County Council on this initiative. One of the PPN's core functions is to encourage people to be empowered to participate in democratic decision making which will improve the quality of life where they live".

To obtain a hard copy of the booklet please contact Leona Keenan by telephone 047 73750 or email ppn@monaghancoco.ie.

To find out more about Monaghan PPN visit our dedicated website www.ppnmonaghan.ie



Celebration of 75 years of scouting with launch of book by 2nd Monaghan, Monaghan Town Scout Group

On Monday 15th April in the Four Seasons Hotel, past and present members of 2nd Monaghan, Monaghan Town Scout group, travelled from near and far to attend the launch of a very special book.

'75 years of Scouting Memories from a Border Town' is a publication that was produced as part of a project that Monaghan County Council in partnership with 2nd Monaghan, Monaghan Town Scout group undertook with funding from the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

For further information see:

www.monaghan.ie/communitydevelopment/2019/04/29/celebrating-75-years-of-scouting-with-launch-of-book-by-2nd-monaghan-monaghan-town-scout-group/



Young Social Innovators Project

Largy College, Clones launched its Young Social Innovators Project 2018/19 on Thursday May 2nd in Monaghan County Museum. "We are all human", supported by the Monaghan County Council PEACE IV County of Sanctuary Programme, received high praise from all speakers who included Caroline Reid of the Irish Refugee Council Minister Heather Humphreys T.D., Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr. David Maxwell and a number of speakers from the St. Patrick's RIA Centre at Monaghan.

The event included the launch of their book, app and board game which are all targeted at supporting the integration of new arrivals into County Monaghan. 'A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).'

Celebration of 120 years of Women in Local Government

The National Women's Council of Ireland approached Monaghan County Council to host an event to celebrate 120 years of women in local government.

The event took place on Thursday 16th May in the County Museum. Presentations were made on the night by Minister Heather Humphreys, National Women's Council of Ireland, Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Monaghan County Council, Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Officer, Monaghan County Council and Teresa Loftus, Research Officer with the County Museum.

Former and current female elected representatives for Monaghan County Council were in attendance on the night. Dochas for Women and Blaney Blades women's groups in Monaghan facilitated a discussion on the barriers to women's participation in political representation.



Monaghan Community Alerts Update

Monaghan Joint Policing Committee launched Ireland's first county-wide Community Alert Messaging service on April 25th. All 29 local community alert groups have joined the new scheme, which enables Gardaí to quickly send alerts out to all groups at once, or to individual groups for more local alerts.

The scheme also allows people to join who live in parts of the county which don't currently have an active community alert group, which means that Monaghan for the first time has all-county coverage by the Community Alert Initiative.

Since launching at the end of April, over 3,100 people have joined the service, and are receiving messages from An Garda Síochána about crime in their area.

Monaghan County Council is covering the cost of the service, including the cost of sending texts to those who choose to receive messages by SMS rather than by downloading the App.

The aim of the project is to make County Monaghan the most difficult county in Ireland to engage in criminal activity. With over 3000 pairs of eyes all over the county already linked and active, we are well on our way.



Pictured above are representatives of Monaghan Joint Policing Committee, Monaghan County Council, Muintir na Tire, An Garda Síochána and Monaghan Community Alert groups, along with members of the Oireachtas, at the launch of Monaghan Community Alerts

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

National Bike Week Successes!

National Bike Week (A Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport Initiative) took place across Ireland from 22nd-30th June with some great events in Monaghan involving both adults and children as they enjoyed free cycling activity.

Over 400 children from primary schools and pre-schools got involved throughout the week in bike skills with a further 500 entering the Library/Road Safety bookmark art competition.

A youth cycle took place in conjunction with Teach na nDaoine FRC, the Scouts of Carrickmacross took to the roads for their event. Muckno Cycling Club hosted two leisure spins for beginners and Monaghan Sports Partnership's 6-week inclusive cycling programme for children with a disability reached a conclusion.

Public Bike Fest events took place in Monaghan Town, Ballybay, Carrickmacross and Castleblayney during the week with young children taking part in balancing, bike handling and co-ordination skills and older children trying out mountain bike skills. Bike Green Cycle Training provided expert tuition for these events.



Pre-Schools Programme

Buntús Pre-school Teacher Training

In June, Monaghan Sports Partnership delivered a two-day Buntús pre-school teacher training workshops in Iontas, Castleblayney. There were nine different pre-school facilities represented and nineteen pre-school teachers took part in the training. This is a physical activity programme for children aged 2- 5years rolled out by Monaghan Sports Partnership in conjunction with Monaghan County Childcare Committee. Activities included Buntús training for staff, Balance Bike activities for Children, Introduction to 'Walk the Earth' and Fundamental Movement Skills. The Programme was funded through Healthy Ireland.



Schools Programme

The Daily Mile

The Daily Mile initiative was run in 15 schools across the county with 1413 students getting out for as little as 15 minutes per day regularly and getting active.



Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated a visit from Frank Greally, dedicated former athlete, editor of "Irish Runner" magazine and Daily Mile Ambassador to visit St. Louis Girls National School Monaghan in June. Frank did a short presentation for the students before all classes got outside for their Daily Mile outing.

Volleyball

The schools volleyball programme was run in five schools with over 150 students participating in volleyball.



Volleyball has been a big success in the schools and we already have a large number of schools signed up for next year.

Baseball

Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated a baseball programme for primary school students. Six schools took part in the baseball training and 180 students got to sample baseball. Mrs. Morgan from Scoil Mhuire, Clontibret said "We had a great afternoon. Both coaches were fantastic, the activities were great and the children really enjoyed it. Thank you very much."



Active Schools Week

Monaghan Sports Partnership devised and delivered an Active Homework Challenge for schools across Monaghan. This involved all students doing active exercises as part of their homework over a three-week period. Monaghan Sports Partnership visited 9 schools and delivered the active exercises to 770 students who then did exercises over three-week period as part of homework.



Students from Scoil Bhríde, Silverstream



School Sports Day Workshop
Monaghan Sports Partnership ran our first Sports Day Workshop for primary school teachers. The training workshop was attended by 6 teachers representing 4 schools. This is something we hope to roll out annually in Spring to help teachers prepare for school sports days.

Community Participation



Go for Life Games

On Saturday June 8th, the National Go for Life Games took place at DCU in Dublin with over 350 older people from 24 different counties participating.

Monaghan was well represented at this fantastic event. All participants from Monaghan had attended the recent 5 week Go for Life Games workshops organised by Monaghan Sports Partnership in St. Josephs Pastoral Centre as part of our Active Adults 50+ programme.

Go for Life Games include three games, Cornhole, Scidil and Flisk. Scidil is an adaptation of Ten-Pin Bowling and Skittles, and Flisk is an adaptation of Frisbee and Horseshoe Pitching.

Mens Pilates Classes

Monaghan Sports Partnership provided two 6-week Pilates and Exercise classes in both Monaghan & Clones in May & June. In total, 21 men participated in the introductory programmes.

The programmes were led by experienced instructors, who provided guidance and ensured participants received the maximum benefits from the class.

Pilates is a low impact activity that works on improving, postural alignment, core strength and muscle balance. The programmes were supported by Healthy Ireland funding.



Sports Inclusion Disability Programme

The Sports Inclusion Disability Programme (SIDP) for people with a disability aims to provide greater opportunity for people with a disability to engage in sport and physical activity, and develops partnerships which create openings for inclusive sport in the community.

Disability Awareness in Sport

On Tuesday 25th June, Monaghan Sports Partnership delivered a Disability Awareness in Sport Workshop at the Peace Link, Clones. The workshop was delivered by Dean McElroy, Sports Inclusion and Disability Office with Monaghan Sports Partnership.

The workshops were delivered as part of the 'Peace Building Through Sport Summer Scheme'. Aimed at 15-24 year olds, a total of 18 people completed the course. Disability Awareness in Sport is an interactive workshop that covers perceptions, communication and etiquette, understanding disability and inclusion and readiness along with local initiatives for people with disabilities.



Autism in Sport Workshops

In April, the first ever Autism in Sport Workshop was delivered in Monaghan and due to popular demand a second course was delivered in May with 37 participants successfully completing the workshops.

The aim is to help participants recognise and understand key areas of difference, as well as looking at practical strategies which will help to include people with autism in sport sessions.

Monaghan Sports Partnership worked directly with 35 primary schools to co-ordinate sports programmes to give children an opportunity to engage in several different sports in a fun and friendly environment.

Some programmes had as many as 1000 children taking part.



Monaghan Sports Partnership's Sports Inclusion Programme aims to increase the participation in sport by older people, people with a disability, and those who may not have been actively engaged in sport recently.

This will be done through targeted programmes providing new opportunities to engage.



MONAGHAN FIRE CONTROL AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Chief Fire Officer Association (CFOA) 2019 Conference

Monaghan hosted the CFOA Annual Conference on 8th & 9th May 2019 in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. The conference had speakers from Ireland, UK, Canada and Estonia, and explored and shared best international practice in service response to ever evolving issues. The Conference also involved the launch of a 'Network for Women in the Fire and Rescue Service'. The aim of this network is to encourage fire and rescue services to be inclusive to everyone, to improve working conditions, and to promote recruitment and retention of women within fire and rescue services.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Spring Clean

Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr. David Maxwell, along with National Spring Clean Ambassador Sarah McGovern Vaughan, Moira Kelly of Environmental Services and students from Gaelscoil Ultain officially launched the 2019 National Spring Clean in County Monaghan on 5th April 2019.

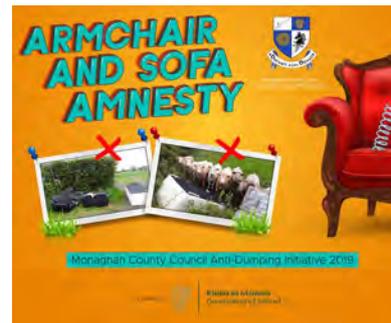
Over the past 21 years, The National Spring Clean has focused on the collective responsibility we share in tackling and preventing our national litter problem. Participating in organised clean-ups is an opportunity for groups and individuals of all ages to make a meaningful and positive contribution in their own communities. This year, the initiative focused on raising awareness about another crucial issue: the link between litter and climate change – the biggest environmental challenge of our time – and highlighted how combined local actions can have a global effect. 55 local groups registered their clean-up event with An Taisce and most of these groups received additional support from Monaghan County Council.



Stop Food Waste Course

Environmental Services organised a very successful "Stop Food Waste" course for all members of the public in March 2019. The course ran over a period of four weeks and covered topics such as the cost of wasting food, meal planning, the shopping battleground and ideas for using up leftover food. The course was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. For more information on how you can reduce your food waste, please go to www.stopfoodwaste.ie. Nationally, Stop Food Waste Week took place from 12th to 19th June 2019.

Help is available for local businesses to reduce food waste in workplaces. If you know a business interested in getting involved with this initiative, please contact Environmental Services.



Anti-Dumping Initiative

As part of the national anti-dumping initiative, Environmental Services organised 2 amnesty days for couches, sofas and 3-piece suites – these items will be disposed of free of charge on the designated days. The events were held in Scotch Corner Recycling Centre on 15th June 2019 and Carrickmacross Recycling Centre on the 20th July 2019. All other waste presented on the day were charged as per the normal rates.

Green Schools Programme

On 23rd May 2019, 14 local schools received their new green flags from the Green Schools Programme in An Taisce. Flags were awarded for the first time to Gaelscoil Ultain, Monaghan Town and St. Joseph's National School, Knockatallon for their work on the Litter and Waste theme.



The 12 other schools were awarded flags for their work on themes such as Water, Energy, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship Marine Litter. The flags were awarded at a very enjoyable ceremony in City North Hotel, Co. Meath. The Green Schools Programme is supported by Environmental Services on an ongoing basis.

Success for Local Schools

In addition to the ongoing Green Schools Programme, Environmental Services continue to support local schools in national environmental competitions.

Latnamard National School students were named Ireland's Water School of the Year for the Western Region.



This was for their hard work on the Green-Schools Water theme, a special award which is sponsored by Irish Water. This award honours efforts promoting water conservation and awareness and was presented at an award ceremony in Dublin on the 1st May 2019.

Another big success story for County Monaghan in recent times was in Beech Hill College, Monaghan Town. They came first overall in the national SEAI "One Good Idea" competition for their efforts in completely banning single-use plastics from their campus. #plexit.



Congratulations also to local schools that took part in the national Junk Kouture competition.



Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Collection Days

There were two very successful Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling events in Monaghan Town on Friday 24th May 2019 and in Clones on 23rd August 2019. Just over 20 tonnes were collected in Monaghan Town, one of the biggest collections ever recorded in County Monaghan. After collection, the materials were sent for decontamination, separation and recovery.

Community and Environment Funding Scheme 2019
 Monaghan County Council continues with its commitment in supporting local communities to promote, enhance and develop their local areas. Applications for the 2019 Community and Environment Funding Scheme opened in February 2019, with funding available across three measures; Community Infrastructure Supports, Community Development Supports and Environmental Supports.

Over 300 groups were successful with their applications, with funding amounting to €140,000 distributed throughout the County. Presentations were made to successful groups in their local Municipal District areas in May 2019.



Bikes For Africa
 Bike Repair and Reuse Scheme
 Monaghan Rotary Club in association with Monaghan County Council's Environmental Services, McElvaney Motors and Grahams of Monaghan organised a very successful event "Bikes for Africa" on 25th May 2019. People turned out in their hundreds to donate their old bikes to this very worthy cause. The 500 bikes collected will now be sent to Loughlan House, the correctional facility in Co. Cavan.

The Irish Prison Service will facilitate the refurbishment of the bicycles collected in preparation for their delivery to Africa. Bikes will remain the property of the chosen school, with teachers allocating them to the children according to set criteria. When a child graduates from school, their bike is then reallocated to another child and therefore each bike impacts positively on as many as 10 students.



Gum Litter Taskforce Launch 2019

On Friday 28th June 2019 in Monaghan Town, Leas Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council Seamus Treanor officially launched the Gum Litter Taskforce's gum litter education campaign. The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) has been successful to date in changing the public's behaviour by encouraging correct gum disposal through a targeted education and awareness campaign.

The 2018 campaign maintained an all-time high of 93% of people stating that they regard chewing gum as litter, up from 74% when the campaign first began in 2007. This points to the attitudinal impact which the campaign has had to date.

Speaking at the launch, Leas Cathaoirleach Seamus Treanor said; "The Gum Litter Taskforce's gum litter education campaign is a fantastic initiative which harnesses community spirit and channels it towards achieving a common goal, that of ridding our streets of littered gum. I am delighted to see local communities from right across the county coming together again this year under the GLT banner in an effort to make a positive change within their respective localities. The GLT campaign has made some very positive inroads to date on this issue and I hope that the campaign will continue to do so again this year."



Biodiveristy Day: 31st July 2019



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Monaghan County Council Defibrillators-An Important Community Notice

Monaghan County Council has recently purchased four new defibrillators which have been installed in external locations. We have also moved our four existing defibrillators (which were located inside buildings) to the external wall on each building. All defibrillators can be accessed 24/7 by Health Service Executive (HSE) First Responders and any person trained and certified in the use of defibrillators.

Each defibrillator is located on the front of the building with the exception of the Machinery Yard defibrillator which is located at the main entrance.

Defibrillators located in the following locations:

1. The Glen County Offices (Monaghan Town) Eircode: H18 YT50
2. Motor Tax Office Monaghan Town Eircode: H18 D721
3. Monaghan Town Library Eircode: H18 FT98
4. Machinery Yard Monaghan Town Eircode: H18 HR23
5. Fire Station Monaghan Town Eircode: H18 YW81
6. Carrickmacross Civic Offices Eircode: A81 RY22
7. Clones Library Eircode: H23 RW70
8. Ballybay Library Eircode: A75 TR79

These defibrillators are in place to save a life. That life could be you.

Pictured to the left are Monaghan County Council employees recently trained in defibrillator use; Aisling Kierans, Sinead Kenny, Cara Greenan and Bernie Moen. See: <https://monaghan.ie/monaghan-county-council-defibrillators/>



ROADS

Blackwater Bridge Project:

In mid-May a giant crane lifted the 80 tonne bailey bridge into place to facilitate the next phase of the bridge replacement project over the River Blackwater at Coolshannagh. The Bridge will stay in operation for a year and the speed limits has been reduced to 30kms for the duration of the works.



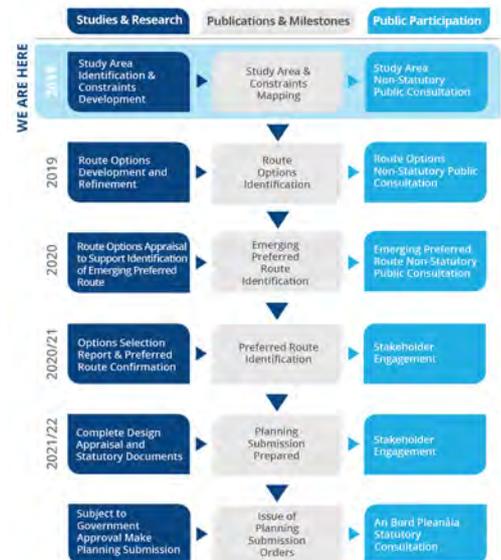
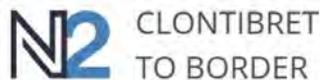
N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to Border Schemes

Monaghan County Council is working in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to upgrade two sections of the N2/A5 Dublin-Derry Road. One element of the project, the Clontibret to Border road scheme, will upgrade a 28km section of the N2. Monaghan County Council is working in partnership with Louth County Council to upgrade the second element of the project - a 32km section of the N2 between Ardee and Castleblayney. Together with the other improvements planned for the N2/A5 route, the proposed schemes will significantly improve transport connectivity along the N2 and provide safer and more efficient access to other strategic national roads.

The N2 Clontibret to Border scheme had originally been initiated in 2008 and a preferred route corridor was identified in 2012, however due to the economic downturn further progress was suspended. Funding has now become available under Project Ireland 2040 to progress the planning and design of the scheme. Due to changes in environmental legislation, design standards and to comply with the requirements of the Public Spending Code, it will be necessary to carry out a new route selection process and the existing preferred route corridor may change. This requires all stages of the planning and design process to be undertaken again, including identifying a study area, constraints, identifying route corridor options and selecting a preferred route corridor. The N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme is a new project, and it too will pass through all stages of the planning and design process.

In June 2019 Monaghan County Council held a series of non-statutory consultations on the 'Study Area and Constraints' for each scheme. Two public consultation events took place for the N2 Clontibret to Border scheme and three public consultation events took place for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Scheme. The public consultation periods ran until late July 2019. Submissions could be made by FREEPOST or by email until the end of July 2019 and a post-consultation report will be prepared and will be published on the project website. Monaghan County Council's consultants will consider the submissions when developing route options which are due to go on public display before the end of 2019. It is planned to publish an emerging preferred route corridor in 2020. At each stage of the route selection process the public will be invited to give feedback and make submissions. A Public Consultation Roadmap has been developed to illustrate each stage of public consultation/public participation and provides an indicative timeframe for each design stage.

Members of the public can contact the project team by phone (087 340 3786), by email (ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie / ClontibretBorder@N2MonaghanLouth.ie) or can arrange to meet with the project team by appointment at the N2 Project Office. Project information and latest news will be posted on the website www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

“Making it Happen” 5 years of the Local Enterprise Office Network



Since the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) were established in 2014 they have supported the creation of over 18,600 jobs nationwide with 144,830 entrepreneurs and business people trained in a range of skills over the five years. The figures were announced in April by Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Pat Breen T.D., Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection at an event in Russborough House in Wicklow to celebrate 5 Years of the Local Enterprise Offices.

Since 2014 the Local Enterprise Offices across the country have approved and contributed funding to over 5,000 business and entrepreneurial projects. The LEOs have distributed €81.5 million worth of direct financial assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs, stimulating job creation in communities across the country. In those 5 years, 40,577 people have received mentoring support through the LEO network, while over 17,500 have taken a Start Your Own Business course.

Minister Heather Humphreys T.D., said; “Since their inception in 2014, the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) have played a hugely significant role in generating indigenous employment across the country. There are now over 36,000 people employed by LEO-supported companies, small Irish businesses that are creating jobs in their own towns and villages. Supporting regional enterprise is a big priority of mine as Minister and it’s for this reason that I allocated an additional €5 million to the LEOs in Budget 2019.

Turning to Future Jobs Ireland, the new whole-of-Government plan to secure the country’s economic success, the Minister said: “A range of measures in Future Jobs Ireland 2019 support balanced regional development and the LEOs will play a central role in the success of the initiative. For 2019, the focus will be on strengthening the capacity of LEOs to provide a comprehensive suite of supports to indigenous Irish businesses and entrepreneurs. We are also working to increase the take-up of LEO productivity supports in particular. Our entrepreneurs are central to ensuring balanced regional development into the future, and I have no doubt the LEOs will continue the success of the past five years in the next five and beyond.”

John McEntegart, Head of Local Enterprise, Monaghan, said; “The figures really do speak for themselves when you look across the 5 years of the Local Enterprise Offices. The Local Enterprise Office Monaghan has played a key role in fostering entrepreneurship in the area and is very much at the fulcrum of the local business community. That positioning has come through trust, expertise and the ability to help businesses over the toughest of hurdles because we have the resources to do so. Looking to the future, we are at the forefront of microenterprise and we have an opportunity to help shape policy and supports that we believe will only increase these impressive figures in the next 5 years and give our entrepreneurs and small businesses an even greater advantage in the market.”

LEOs offer a comprehensive range of supports from mentoring and training to financial assistance and Brexit planning, to entrepreneurs and small businesses alike to help them to plan, start and grow. The Local Enterprise Offices also run some significant programmes to increase engagement and draw entrepreneurs and small businesses into the business support eco-system. These include Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE), the National Enterprise Awards, Food Academy, the Student Enterprise Programme and Local Enterprise Week.

Local Enterprise Office Figures – 2014 to 2019

- 18,640 – Jobs created by Local Enterprise Office supported clients
- 5,080 – Projects approved for funding by the Local Enterprise Offices
- €81.5m – Direct financial assistance to Local Enterprise Office clients
- 17,587 – Taken Start Your Own Business with their Local Enterprise Office
- 144,830 – Engaged in training with their Local Enterprise Office
- 7,371 – Entrants to Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE)
- 752 – Availed of a Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME) grant
- 40,577 – Availed of specialist mentoring through their Local Enterprise Office
- 5,227 – Received Trading Online Voucher
- 24,245 – Average yearly entrants to the Student Enterprise Programme
- 1,687 – Approved applications for Microfinance Ireland loans
- 432 – Availed of LEAN Consultancy through their Local Enterprise Office

Summer-Autumn 2019

Local Enterprise Week

Over 350 individuals signed up to attend a broad spectrum of Local Enterprise Week events, covering topics ranging from business costing and grants, to Brexit and the implications for supply chain management, labour mobility and tax.

Highlights of the week included a sell-out food photography and styling workshop delivered by Sunday Times’ columnist, Cliodhna Prendergast, and best-selling cookbook author, Imen McDonnell, attended by food producers, hoteliers, start-ups and more.

Over 40 Monaghan retailers attended a flagship seminar at the Glencarn Hotel with David Fitzsimons, CEO of Retail Excellence, Ireland’s largest retail industry body. During an energetic and invigorating presentation, Fitzsimons predicted that online sales would grow by 30% over the next five years and, regarding opportunities for the year ahead, he proffered: “it’s important that businesses focus on what customers want, to remain viable and sustainable. Trading conditions are, admittedly, tough, but it is important to know that customers want mid-week convenience, weekend experiences and clear offerings.”

In an event held jointly with LEO Cavan at Errigal House, Cootehill, businesses heard from local case studies on growing a competition business through LEAN and innovation; businesses who imbed innovation as part of their culture are 80% more successful than those which don’t, was one of the key take-aways. Pilot studies have shown businesses that participate in the LEAN micro programme, available through the Local Enterprise Office, can expect savings of up to €41k along with a 45% increase in output capacity, enhanced working environment and reinforced teamwork.

Over 50 female entrepreneurs attended the Monaghan Women in Business 2019 launch at the Westenra Arms. As part of Local Enterprise week activities, business owners heard from Irish Tatler Woman of the Year in Media and co-founder of pioneering news app, Kinzen, Aine Kerr.

Meanwhile, local businesses voiced their concerns about Brexit at a panel discussion with local experts: tax consultant, Rose Tierney; supply chain & logistics specialist, Dick Clerkin; and HR supremo, Vincent Turley. The lively discussion immediately followed a flagship seminar from Ireland’s most experienced practising competition lawyer, Dr Vincent Power. Power predicted a “spectrum” Brexit deal that will be long, late and latent, given the complexity and multifarious elements of a border issue. Acknowledging Brexit fatigue, he advised businesses to be mindful of the bigger picture and to keep asking questions.

On a practical level, a range of local professional service providers were on hand to deliver no-nonsense advice on the costs associated with starting a business to a group of would-be entrepreneurs at an event titled ‘Can you Handle the Cost of Starting a Business’. There was also a session on LEO grants and schemes, covering the Trading Online Voucher Scheme, valued at up to €2,500, and the Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grant; attendees learned about eligibility criteria, terms and conditions associated with receiving financial support, along with the differences between priming, business expansion and feasibility study grants.

Lastly, local businesses across all sectors discovered how to use professional platform LinkedIn to best effect, with a hands-on workshop delivered by Yvonne Seymour Training. She emphasised the importance of taking time to create a headline and summary to ensure getting the key messages across to your ideal business customers.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Community and Environment Funding Scheme 2019

On Monday, 29th April, 2019, Monaghan Municipal District hosted their Annual Presentation of Community and Environment Funding Scheme in the Four Seasons Hotel. The night was very well attended with representatives from various Community Groups receiving eighty-four grants, a total of €43,500 in funding.

The Cathaoirleach of Monaghan Municipal District, Cllr. Brian McKenna welcomed everyone and presented Certificates to a representative from each group.



Monaghan Municipal District's Trevor Connolly was awarded Local Food Hero for Monaghan and Ulster at the recent and prestigious Restaurants Association of Ireland Ulster Branch awards.

CARRICKMACROSS-CASTLEBLAYNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



In March 2019, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District made a presentation to the St. Louis Order of nuns to acknowledge their contribution to the town of Carrickmacross, particularly in the field of education, over the past 103 years.



In March 2019, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District held a Civic Reception to acknowledge the achievement of the St. Louis Girls Basketball team on winning the Under 19 All Ireland Subway Cup and also the Under 19 All Ireland League.



In April 2019, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District acknowledged the works of 96 voluntary groups in the district.

Under the Community Grant Scheme, the following was awarded:
 Measure 1 – Community Infrastructure: €13,300
 Measure 2 – Community Development: €11,800
 Environment Initiatives: €21,980
 Municipal District Events, 2019: €73,600



In May 2019, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District hosted an Awards Night in the Iontas Centre, Castleblayney for two groups to acknowledge their achievements. These were; the Castleblayney Senior Hurling Team on reaching the All Ireland Junior Club Hurling Final, and Our Lady's Secondary School Choir on winning the National Showcase Champions, and the Youth Section at the Sligo International Choral Festival.

Katrina Day

Approximately 250 people attended the Katrina Day BBQ which took place on Thursday May 30th at the Civic Centre, Carrickmacross and was organised by Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Staff.

The event was attended by family and friends of Katrina's who worked in the Economic Development and Enterprise Section of Monaghan County Council. Food was provided by Amanda Maggs, Music by Comhaltas and Sound by Liam Connolly. Invitations were donated by Farney Print. The rain held off and the mood was jovial.

Raffle on the day-winners:

Leona Keenan, (Hamper), Dymrna Condra, (Hamper), Rory Treanor, (Bottle of Wine) and Mary Gologly, (Bottle of Wine).

The Katrina Day BBQ raised €4,000.77 in aid of Carrick Cancer Society. which was presented to Michael McMahon, Carrick Cancer Centre on the 7th of June in the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross.



BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Civic Reception

On the 11th of April Ballybay-Clones Municipal District hosted a Civic Reception to mark the occasion of Ballybay Community College winning the Post Primary Schools All Ireland Football Final.





Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council