

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Monaghan, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr S. Treanor, Leas Cathaoirleach

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Carthy, Coyle, McElvaney and Mr. A. King, Director of Services.

**Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a Notice of Urgent Business, in the name of Cllr Connolly as follows:

*That Monaghan County Council calls on Minister for Justice Charles Flanagan T.D to ensure that OPW take immediate steps to ensure that Emyvale Garda Station is reconstructed as a functional Garda Station as a matter of urgency.*

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

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

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

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, TD regarding the ANC payment.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Heather Humphreys regarding slurry spreading.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding slurry spreading.

- Letter from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed to Senator Robbie Gallagher in response to slurry spreading.
- Acknowledgment letter from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, T.D. regarding slurry spreading.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, TD to Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, T.D. regarding slurry spreading.
- Letter from Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, T.D. to Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, TD supporting motion adopted by members for Monaghan County Council.
- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D. regarding representational correspondence regarding slurry spreading.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, T.D. to Brendan Smith, T.D. regarding slurry spreading.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy, T.D. to Brendan Smith, T.D. regarding slurry spreading issues.
- Email from Niamh Smyth, T.D. regarding representational correspondence sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, T.D. regarding slurry spreading.
- Email from Joe O'Reilly, T.D. regarding representational correspondence sent to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed, T.D. and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Richard Bruton, T.D. regarding slurry spreading.
- Letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D. regarding the National Ambulance Services Representative Associate.
- Letter from the Northern & Western Regional Assembly regarding Motion from Monaghan County Council - Brexit preparedness.
- Email from Mary Kirke, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann regarding a meeting date to discuss a future Ulster Fleadh to be held in County Monaghan.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding their support in a no confidence vote in the Mercosur Trade Deal.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding the increase awareness of Lyme Disease.
- Resolution from Westmeath County Council regarding Defence Forces pay.
- Resolution from Fingal County Council regarding presentation on "Developing and Implementing Local Migrant Integration Strategies."

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that this Council makes further contact with Minister for Health Deputy Simon Harris for the purpose of making the appeal, similar to January 2018, that Monaghan General Hospital is utilised for additional services and bed capacity that will assist in alleviating outpatient clinic waiting lists and hospital trolley dependency.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that a meeting to discuss the possible hosting of a future Ulster Fleadh would be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 pm in the Conference Room, The Glen, Monaghan.*

**3. To approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10m for period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020.**

Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to Overdraft Accommodation in the amount of €10m for the year 2020.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Mckenna it was agreed that the Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.*

**4. Housing - To receive update on the Housing Construction Programme and the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Nuala Woods, SEO Lorcán MacCinna, Senior Executive Engineer and Drew Hurley Senior Executive, Housing Section.

Mr. L. MacCinna gave a presentation to the members on the Housing Programme during which he highlighted that 259 social houses had been delivered in the period 2015 – 2018 comprising 100 built, 120 acquired and 39 leased units. He also updated the members in relation to the ongoing construction programme that was currently underway in the county by both Monaghan County Council and a number of Approved Housing Bodies which will deliver 150 houses in 2019 and potentially similar significant numbers each year thereafter subject to funding and continuation of the Rebuilding Ireland programme.

In addition, Mr D. Hurley presented details of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme to the members.

Following the presentations a lengthy discussion ensued during which Mr. L. MacCinna, Ms N. Woods and Mr D. Hurley responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Housing staff for the update and frank discussion. He complimented them and all their staff on the great work that is being done throughout the county in the provision of housing. The Chief Executive also commended Nuala, Lorcán and Drew and the Director of Housing John Murray for their work and also thanked the elected members for their support in the delivery of the housing programme.

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that we call on the Minister for Housing and the Government to consider the reduction of VAT on building materials for a period of two years to encourage the building of houses by the private sector.*

**5. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meetings**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**6. To receive the Management Report – October 2019:**

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

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

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that for the purpose of enhancing community safety and building on the success of this Council's role in promoting the Community Text Alert Scheme, that this Council makes contact with the designated Policing Community Safety Partnership Offices in Armagh Banbridge Craigavon and Fermanagh-Omagh District Councils with a view to creating a cross border community text alert scheme. Also, that this proposal is forwarded to the Joint Policing Committee.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that an official invitation is issued to the Nelson Doyle Dancers, Miramichi to visit Monaghan in August 2020.*

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Keelan and McKenna, in relation to their attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG – Autumn Seminar, Co Monaghan
- AILG Training Seminar, Co Louth
- AILG Training, Co Westmeath
- LAMA Training Seminar, Co Claire

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

Mr E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive briefed the members of the Council 'in Committee' on a matter of Council business.

**9. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

*Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr Aughey seconded, that Monaghan County Council calls on the government to change the entrepreneurs Capital Gains Tax {CGT} which puts Ireland at a competitive disadvantage. Irish businesses are paying twice what their European Competitors are paying for credit.*

*OECD report says the country lacks a united SME and Entrepreneurship Policy Document. Ireland has fallen to its lowest ranking in the 12-year history of the World Banks "ease of doing business" standings.*

Following a discussion on the proposal, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 4 for, 5 against and 5 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal defeated.

**10. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.**

The members noted the letter from EIRGRID regarding North South Interconnection development.

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council writes to all Oireachtas members for this constituency, asking them what efforts they will make in the time ahead to ensure that the Interconnector will be underground, given that this is the only method acceptable to the various companioning groups and the people of Co Monaghan and the other affected countries.*

**11. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services informed the members that the public consultation on the N2 Clontibret to the Border Scheme had taken place during October and had been well attended with circa 340 people attending over the two days. A further series of consultations will take place on the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney section of the N2 on 5<sup>th</sup> November (Nuremore Hotel); 6<sup>th</sup> November (Glencarn Hotel) and 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Ardee Parish Centre.

**12. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.**

The following correspondence was circulated in relation to this item:

- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding letter received dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms. Josepha Madigan, T.D. regarding funding for the Ulster Canal.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding EU funding to re-open the Ulster Canal.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. regarding funding to further advance the development of the Ulster Canal.

**13. To receive presentation from Liam Devaney, Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Tanya Clarke, Maeve Cusack, Grainne McPhillips and Liam Devaney from Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg.

Tanya and Maeve then addressed the Council members outlining in detail two projects they had been involved in during 2019. These projects were –

1. A survey conducted with the help of the ISPCC on ‘An understanding of the Romantic Relationships for young people in County Monaghan’.
2. A ‘Lets Talk 2019’ event that was held in the Ballybay Wetlands Centre in May with local election candidates, prior to the Local Elections on 24<sup>th</sup> May, at which a number of topics were discussed.

Tanya and Maeve outlined the work involved in the two projects and highlighted the issues that arose as a result.

Following their presentation, Tanya and Maeve responded to queries from the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Tanya and Maeve for their presentations and also thanked Grainne and Liam for their work with the young people in Comhairle na nÓg.

**14. Questions:**

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

1. Following on from yet another missed date by the HSE, can the council executive confirm if it has been given any further ‘commitments’ on when it is expected that the Group Home for Persons with Physical and Sensory Difficulties, Carrickmacross, will be opened?

**Reply: The H.S.E. has provided an update as follows: “A meeting has been convened with the potential service providers. Costing's from the potential service provider have been forwarded to Senior HSE Management for consideration. No opening date agreed.”**

2. Has Monaghan County Council a dedicated member of staff that deals with climate action issues or have there been any attempts made to seek funding from Government to appoint someone to a similar role?

**Reply: To date there has been no announcement of additional funding from the Government to Local Authorities.**

3. How many houses have been added to the Council’s stock and approved housing stock in Co. Monaghan so far in 2019 and what is the breakdown per Municipal District?

**Reply: The table below shows the number of houses being added to Monaghan County Council’s social housing stock in 2019 and the number of social houses being provided by AHBs. The figures do not include 24 dwellings that recently commenced construction under the Clones Renewal Scheme and do not include 16 houses that are due to commence shortly at Liseggerton in Clones and do not include 32 social houses planned for Scotstown. Dwellings going through the approval process for Ballybay and Rockcorry numbering 20 are also not included as they have not yet commenced.**

**Number of social houses being provided in County Monaghan in 2019**

	Monaghan	Castleblayney/Carrickmacross	Ballybay/Clones
<b>Acquisitions</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>New Build</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part V</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>AHBs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>6</b>

**Please note that there will be an additional 10 acquisitions before end of 2019 not included above. This table does not include Repair and Lease, CALF Acquisitions or Casual Vacancies/Voids.**

4. What is the up-to-date situation with the taking in charge of Ascall Rois housing estate in Carrickmacross?

**Reply: No Taking in Charge applications have been received in respect of Ascall Rois or Lough na Glack.**

5. When is it expected the current re-drawing of the CLAR maps will conclude?

**Reply: The Department of Rural & Community Development has indicated that it is currently reviewing the designation of areas under the CLAR programme. The Department has not provided a timeline for the completion of that exercise but when the outcome is provided Monaghan County Council will promote it to affected communities and groups.**

**Cllr P. Treanor asked:**

6. (a) When will the Scotshouse Close ‘taking in charge’ process be completed ?

**Reply: Technical reports are currently being prepared in respect of this Taking in Charge application in association with Irish Water.**

- (b) In the interest of public safety can the Council install traffic calming measures as a matter of urgency?

**Reply: “The Roads section will liaise with Clones MD to assess the situation taking into consideration the Monaghan County Council Traffic Calming Policy”.**

**Cllr A. McCooey asked:**

7. It is widely recognized that Lough Muckno has a huge amount of potential and if developed correctly is a huge attraction, not only for the people of Castleblayney, but for the people of the entire county of Monaghan and indeed the entire North East region.

(a) Can Monaghan County Council outline the current position of Lough Muckno in relation to the immediate plans and the long term outlook for the area?

(b) Also, when can the people of Castleblayney expect these plans to be announced?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council in conjunction with Muckno Partnership Committee manages and maintains the public open spaces on the estate. In 2019, Monaghan County Council secured funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to repair and refurbish the Ski-Club premises and develop a**

walkway and bathing area. The Ski Club premises has subsequently been leased and is operating as a commercial leisure facility under lease. Works on the walkway and bathing area are substantially complete.

An application for capital funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund was submitted in August 2019 for the first phase in the regeneration of Market Square. This project incorporates the development of a new public library and gallery in the former Gate Lodge.

In accordance with the recommendations of the CHL Report presented to the Council in 2018, Monaghan County Council is currently procuring estate agency services to advise the Council in relation to securing Expressions of Interest from third parties in refurbishing and developing Hope Castle and the Annex. Work was carried out this summer clearing vegetation around the Annex and Castle to facilitate the process. It is anticipated that procurement of these services will be completed in 2019 with a view towards seeking expressions from interested parties/potential investors in Spring 2020.

8. Can Monaghan County Council outline the uptake and interest of the Town Centre living initiative? How much money from this fund is available to property owners in the designated area of Castleblayney who wish to develop their properties?

**Reply:** Castleblayney has been selected by the Department of Rural and Community Development as one of six towns under the Pilot Town Centre Living Initiative. The Department has requested the six local authorities to look at developing schemes that will provide solutions to the linked issues of vacancy, dereliction and lack of residential occupancy in rural town centres.

Shaffrey Architects have been appointed by Monaghan County Council to carry out a preliminary study towards developing an appropriate method and mechanism for the revitalisation of Castleblayney town centre as a place for living that will have potential to be replicated in other Irish towns.

To date Shaffrey Architects have held two well-attended property owner workshops and engaged with key Council staff. These workshops have helped to identify the blockages and challenges to redevelopment of town centre properties, as well as identifying opportunities along with enabling more specific recommendations. Three clusters on Market Square have been identified as areas where there may be potential for landowners to collaborate on redevelopment.

Shaffrey Architects are currently formalising a report on their study, which will include concept drawings and recommendations. A key proposal to be contained in the Report will be the recommendation of a designated support worker who would be available to work with the property owners to guide them through the process of redevelopment of their properties and advise of supports available.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

9. What is the up to date position in relation to the taken in charge of the Sliabh Dubh estate in Corduff by Monaghan County Council?

**Reply:** Negotiations are ongoing regarding the acquisition of lands from the developer which will facilitate remedial works to be carried out and the Taking in Charge application to be progressed.

10. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of WiFi facilities across the county including village areas such as Donaghmoyne / Inniskeen / Corduff etc.?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council currently offers free wifi in five town centres within the county, in addition to free wifi and internet facilities in all five public libraries. Carrickmacross library now operates as an open library which means that library users who have registered for Open library can go into the library out of hours, borrow books and continue to make use of internet and wifi facilities until 10pm in the evening.

In relation to wifi provision within smaller community areas within the county, there are at present two strategies in operation which focus on the delivery of high speed broadband to communities. Wifi4EU relates to areas where current broadband provision is good, the BCP programme relates to areas which are dependent on the National Broadband Plan for broadband provision.

#### **Wifi4EU**

In recent weeks, we have secured 2 more vouchers under the Wifi4EU initiative. Monaghan Co. Co. has now secured all four vouchers under Wifi4EU scheme.

The Wifi4EU scheme offers community groups, voluntary groups and sports organisations the opportunity to get Wifi facilities inside or outside of their buildings. Grants of up to €120,000 are available in total under this scheme for public wifi installation. The capital costs for this scheme are funded by EU under Wifi4EU, with matched funding from Department of Rural and Community Development. Monaghan County Council assumes responsibility for the maintenance and ongoing cost of this network for a three year period.

This represents a major investment by the local authority which undertakes the cost for connectivity, wifi maintenance and support of the Wifi4EU network. It is anticipated that 50-60 wifi points will be installed under this scheme, allowing the council to further extend our public wifi network and allowing community groups to develop more digital capacity within their areas. All interested groups must apply to the broadband officer. Details of the Wifi4EU scheme have been published via the media, Monaghan County Council website, social media updates and distributed by email through the PPN and Sports Partnership. Application forms have to be returned to the broadband officer by Friday 18 November 2019.

In order to avail of these grants, there must be a guarantee that these facilities can achieve broadband speeds of at least 30 Megabits per second. It is hoped to proceed to procurement and to roll out this scheme in the early months of 2020.

#### **Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)**

Upon signature of the National Broadband Plan, work will also commence on the delivery of high speed broadband to 13 Broadband connection points. These broadband connection points represent communities in rural areas which are depending on the NBP to in order to take delivery of commercial speed broadband. Within the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the NBP, these facilities will be able to get speeds of at least 150 Megabits per second, far in excess of what is in place in most areas at present.

These BCPs have already been identified and agreed with the Department of Rural and Community Development. They include community centres, enterprise hubs, public buildings offering wifi and a primary school where existing connectivity is extremely poor.

**It is expected that the delivery of wifi under these schemes will allow communities and organisations to develop greater digital capacity, to deliver a range of IT and online courses, and to operate remote working facilities where appropriate.**

**All groups are encouraged to engage with CMETB and Monaghan Integrated Development to identify areas where they can secure additional funding and training in order to develop further digital initiatives within the area.**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

11. In relation to the repair & lease scheme which allows for up to a forty thousand euro loan per vacant housing unit, what has been the uptake of this scheme across the county?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council have received an expression of interest in the Repair and Lease Scheme for 60 properties throughout the county.**

**To date Monaghan County Council has been successful in returning 5 vacant properties back into use through the Repair and Lease scheme. All 5 properties are located in Carrickmacross town. These properties have had improvement works carried out and are now occupied by local authority tenants.**

**Contracts have been signed and works are underway on 1 vacant property in Monaghan town and works are due to commence on a further contract for 1 vacant property in Carrickmacross**

**Contract negotiations are on-going for 1 vacant property in Clones. There are currently 20 properties under consideration which have been deemed suitable for the scheme.**

12. What plans have Monaghan County Council to acquire land banks across the county for the provision for much needed social & affordable housing in to the future?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has prioritised the purchase of vacant and derelict houses and unfinished housing developments (UHDs) which has allowed the Council to address housing need while also dealing with the issues of vacancy, dereliction and UHDs. Monaghan County Council has successfully acquired three UHDs and has supported the completion several other UHDs which combined with vacant house purchases delivered 100 social houses in 2017, a further 108 social houses in 2018 and will deliver circa 150 social houses in 2019. Monaghan County Council has advertised annually for expressions of interest from parties who have housing land and/or houses available for sale. It has been found that some Landowners and Developers are not just interested in selling their land but are also interested in developing social houses on their land for Monaghan County Council and/or Approved Housing Bodies. Monaghan County Council has accepted offers from Landowners and Developers who have built or arranged the building of houses for Monaghan County Council and/or AHBs on land in private ownership. The strategy of not just acquiring land but also encouraging development of social housing on privately owned land has resulted an exceptional social housing delivery programme which, subject to funding, will continue to deliver unprecedented numbers of high quality social houses year on year into the future. Monaghan County Council will continue to examine all opportunities available for the provision of social housing and for the development of affordable housing when the need arises.**

13. When is it hoped to bring forward an affordable housing scheme for County Monaghan given the number of people & couples who don't qualify for social housing support as a result of excess income etc.?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council's Housing Section provides supports and assistance for people in County Monaghan in need of housing however, as second-hand house prices in Monaghan are relatively low, there is no Affordable Housing Scheme in County Monaghan at present. In October 2018 the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government set out the requirements for a new Affordable Housing Scheme in Circular APH 02/2018. The circular explains that in order to justify the provision of "Affordable Purchase Scheme dwellings" the realisable market price of a house must be at least 10% more than the all-in-cost of construction. For example, if the all-in-cost of construction of a new 3-bedroom house including the cost of the site and profit is €220,000 then the estimated realisable market price would have to be €242,000 or more to justify the provision of "Affordable Purchase Scheme dwellings". If house prices continue to increase over the coming years then it might be possible to justify an Affordable Housing Scheme however at present there are more than 100 second-hand privately-owned houses advertised for sale in County Monaghan of which 75 houses have asking prices between €50,000 and €225,000.

Monaghan County Council closely monitors house prices in County Monaghan and will give further consideration to the provision of Affordable Housing on Council-owned land when supported by market prices.

The following supports are currently available to First Time Buyers and to social housing tenants who are interested in purchasing a private house:

**Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan:** For First Time Buyers having trouble getting a mortgage to buy a house with a value up to €250,000 Monaghan County Council provides support in the form of the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. Monaghan County Council has approved 18 Rebuilding Ireland Homes Loans since the scheme was launched in February 2018 and hopes to approve another 5 home loans currently on hand. Further information is available at [www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie](http://www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie) or from Monaghan County Council's Housing Section.

**Mortgage Allowance Scheme:** Social housing tenants and tenant purchasers who are taking out a mortgage to buy or build a private house may qualify for the Mortgage Allowance Scheme. The Scheme is designed to ease the transition from social housing to paying a mortgage. An allowance of up to €11,450 is payable directly to the lending agency over a 5-year period and repayments are reduced accordingly for the first 5 years of the mortgage. Further information is available from [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) or from Monaghan County Council's Housing Section.

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

**Help To Buy:** In addition to the supports provided by Monaghan County Council there is also the Help To Buy incentive to help first-time buyers of newly built homes with the required deposit. It also applies to once-off self-build homes. First-time buyers who either buy or self-build a new residential property between 19 July 2016 and 31 December 2019, may be entitled to claim a refund of income tax and DIRT paid over the previous 4 tax years. Further information is available from [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) or from [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)

**15. Notices of Motion:**

**Cllr P. Treanor proposed Cllr Keelan seconded**

1. That this Council calls on Ministers Pascal Donoghue, Heather Humphreys and the Government to:

- recognise the huge contribution low paid workers make to the Irish economy;
- Immediately reverse their decision not to increase the national minimum wage;
- Introduce a Living Wage of €12.30 per hour in 2020, with appropriate legal protections for those SMEs who can show they cannot afford to pay the Living Wage.”

That if passed this motion is circulated to other Local Authorities and Oireachtas members from this constituency.

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

**16. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations.**

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy would be extended to Bernie McElvaney, Council employee on the death of her brother Felix McElvaney, RIP.

**Votes of Congratulations**

It was agreed that the congratulations of the Council would be extended to the following:

- Ballybay Pearse Brothers GFC on winning the Owen Ward Cup Senior League football title.
- Clontibret O'Neills GFC on winning the County Monaghan Senior Football Championship.
- Emyvale GFC on winning the U-17 Football Championship
- County Monaghan Macra na Feirme on celebrating 75 years in existence.
- Donaghmoyle Ladies GFC on winning the Ulster Senior Football title for their 12<sup>th</sup> title in 16 successive finals.

**17. Conferences/Training**

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, 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	"Climate Action" – The Local Authority Response"	<b>Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> November	Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr R. Truell Cllr S. Conlon
AILG	"Climate Action" – The Local Authority Response"	<b>Radisson Hotel, Little Island, Cork,</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Cllr S. Gilliland Cllr P. Connolly
Celtic Conferences	Emerging Threats and Persistent Conservation Challenges for Freshwater Biodiversity	<b>O'Donovan's Hotel, Main St., Clonakilty, Co. Cork</b>	8th - 10th November	Cllr S. Gilliland

**Urgent Business**

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded,

*That Monaghan County Council calls on Minister for Justice Charles Flanagan T.D to ensure that OPW take immediate steps to ensure that Emyvale Garda Station is reconstructed as a functional Garda Station as a matter of urgency.*

Following a debate on the motion to which a number of members contributed, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

**December Council meeting:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor it was agreed that the December Council meeting be held at 2.00 pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019*

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings Administrator** \_\_\_\_\_

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