

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Peace Link, Clones, on Monday 2nd December, 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

Chair: Cllr S. Coyle, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. A. King, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Mr. P. Clifford, Director of Services

At the outset the Cathaoirleach welcomed all present to the Peace Link, which he described as a fabulous facility for the people of Clones and further afield, including Northern Ireland. He stated that the Council had been the lead partner during the construction phase of the project which had been officially opened in 2014. He invited the Manager of the Peace Link, Fergal Corrigan to speak to the members.

Mr. Corrigan thanked the Council for holding its meeting in the facility. He gave a short presentation outlining the facilities available to the public, with an annual footfall of 60,000 plus and over 100 groups using the facility. He thanked the Council for the support it had provided to the Peace Link on all fronts.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of Cllrs McCooey and Cllr Campbell, as follows:

We request the Monaghan County Council appeal to the TII to extend the submission deadline for the N2 until Friday 31st January, to accommodate those affected in making strong and fully informed submissions.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 4th November, 2019

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 4th November 2019, be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 19th November 2019

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on the 19th November 2019, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D. regarding the Council's request for reassurances that appropriate staffing and resources are in place ahead of Brexit.
- Letter from the Office of the Department of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, TD regarding the Council's request for reassurances that appropriate staffing and resources are in place ahead of Brexit.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, regarding the Council's request for reassurances that appropriate staffing and resources are in place ahead of Brexit.
- Letter from TII regarding N54 Tullybryan Road Realignment Scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding VAT reduction on building materials.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D regarding Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding the establishment of an A5/N2 Cross Border Committee.
- Resolution from Carlow County Council regarding the reinstatement of the Rehabilitative Training Bonus for people with disabilities.
- Resolution from Roscommon County Council regarding the proposed closure of Cuisle in Donamon, Co Roscommon as a National Holiday Centre by the Irish Wheelchair Association.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding the introduction of a National Screening Protocol of all neonates (newborn infants) in advance if of the commencement of the administration of Live Virus Vaccines.
- Resolution from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council regarding Local Property Tax (LPT).

The following additional correspondence was also circulated:

- Email from Ellen MacDonald Miramichi, confirming that the Nelson Doyle Dancers will be delighted to visit Monaghan in August 2020.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Michael Ring T.D. regarding additional funding for the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure & Reform, Mr. Pascal Donohoe, T.D. regarding VAT on building materials.
- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D regarding North South Interconnector.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that this Council expresses its disappointment with the response from the Minister for Health Deputy Simon Harris where he only extended himself and his Department in acknowledging our appeal from

the November monthly meeting that sought from the Department to utilise Monaghan General Hospital for additional services and increased bed capacity. We also convey our support to the 'Care Can't Wait' campaign initiated by the Irish Hospitals Consultants Association and their passing of a vote of no confidence in Minister Harris, passed as an indication of the extent to which consultants have lost faith in the ability of Minister Harris to provide timely quality hospital care or to improve conditions for patients.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, TD to allocate funding to Monaghan County for the local and regional roads in the county at 2011 levels of funding as a minimum.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Carlow County Council calling on the Minister for Health to reinstate the Rehabilitative Training Bonus for people with disabilities.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed that the Council adopt the motion from Roscommon County Council calling on the Joint Oireachtas on Health to meet to discuss the proposed closure of Cuisle Centre in Donamon, Co. Roscommon as a National Holiday Centre and that the Irish Wheelchair Association be invited to this meeting to explain their decision.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council accept the invitation from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to nominate four members to an A5/N2 Cross Border Committee that is being established. It was further agreed that Cllrs Coyle, McKenna, Maxwell and Connolly would be nominated to the Committee.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice - Disposal of .0035 hectares of land at Drumbanagher Glaslough

The members noted the report which had been circulated recommending the disposal of .0035 hectares of land at Drumbanagher Glaslough, for the purpose of rectifying the title to the site.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of .0035 hectares of land at Drumbanagher, Glaslough in accordance with the terms of Notice dated 13 November, 2019, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider the Chief Executives Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed installation of a box culvert under the Glen Road, Macartan Road and Castle Road, Monaghan, and associated works. (Ref 19/8008)

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner referred to the Chief Executive's Report that had been prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed installation of a box culvert under the Glen Road, Macartan Road and Castle Road, Monaghan, and associated works.

The report documented the nature and extent of the works to be undertaken by the Council. No submissions or objections had been received during the public consultation process. The works proposed have been assessed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the

Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025. The Chief Executive recommended that having considered the proper planning and sustainable development of the area that the members resolve to proceed with development as proposed in accordance with the plans and documentation submitted to the Planning Authority on the 12th September 2019.

Mr. Kevin West, A/Senior Executive Engineer Roads Section then gave a presentation to the members during which he outlined the proposed works to be undertaken by the Council at the Glen Road, Macartan Road and Castle Road, Monaghan, and associated works. He stated that the existing culvert has been identified as one of the main factors contributing to the flooding. Analysis has shown that the existing culvert is undersized in places and has subsided due to poor ground conditions, which has significantly restricted the passage of floodwaters on the Shambles River. The proposed scheme is to upgrade the existing culvert that runs from the Glen Road through Mc Nally's Carpark to the Castle Road and discharges into the Shamble's River at the back of the Credit Union. The works are a significant phase of a larger project to alleviate the flooding in Monaghan Town, but a full solution would require some additional works, if/when funding allows.

Mr. Hughes and Mr. West then responded to queries from the elected members in relation to the planning permission and the works to be undertaken.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council should proceed with the development as submitted.

5. To consider the allocation of Artist Support Grants 2019

The members considered the report from the Arts Officer recommending the allocation of grants under the Artist Support Grants Scheme 2019,

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Artist Support Grants Scheme 2019:

	Name of Artist	Amount Awarded
1	Claire McCabe	900
2	Siobhan McDonald	900
3	Eileen Ferguson	900
4	Neal Greig	900
5	Evelyn Conlon	900
6	Joanne Behan	600
7	Dara MacGabhann	450
8	Mary O'Donnell	600
9	Roland Purcell	400

6. To consider adoption of Draft County Monaghan (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Public Places) Bye Laws 2019

The members were advised that the Draft County Monaghan (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Public Places) Bye Laws 2019 had been placed on

public display on the Council website with submissions being invited from the public. A similar notice had been placed in the Northern Standard also inviting submissions from the public. Copy of the draft bye laws had been forwarded to the Garda Superintendents in Carrickmacross and Monaghan and to the Minister. No submissions had been received during the public consultation period.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Keelan it was agreed that the Draft County Monaghan (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Public Places) Bye Laws 2019 be adopted.

7. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 19 November 2019 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

It was agreed to receive a presentation from the Alzheimers Association at the January Council meeting.

8. To receive the Management Report – November 2019:

The members noted the Management Report for the month of November 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 providing the County Monaghan Disability Network and groups associated with the 'Make Way Day' an opportunity to give a presentation of their observations regarding accessibility for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility; that this Council invite these groups to a full Council meeting. That Monaghan Integrated Development and Council officials Regina Byrne and Bernie Bradley as well as outdoor staff foremen are also invited.

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

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

- AILG – Autumn Seminar, Monaghan Town, Co Monaghan
- AILG Induction Training Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
- LAMA Training Seminar, Ennistymon, Co Claire
- AILG Training Seminar, (Planning) Dundalk, Co Louth

10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 7th October and Budget meeting held on 19th November 2019.

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th October and the Budget meeting held on the 19th November, 2019 were responded to by the relevant officials.

11. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

Mr E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive informed the members that IDA Ireland proposes to have an official sod turning event for the Advanced Technology Building at Knockaconny on Monday 9th December, 2019. Invitations will be issued by the IDA.

12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project.

The members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter from EIRGRID regarding North South Interconnection development.
- Email from Deputy Niamh Smyth acknowledging receipt of the resolution passed by the Council at the November meeting

13. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services informed the members that the public consultation process on the N2 Clontibret to the Border and the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road schemes was ongoing. The deadlines for the receipt of submissions from the public was the 5th December for the N2 Clontibret to the Border and 19th December for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney schemes. She stated that there will be a further round of public consultation after the preferred route emerges in late 2020. She encouraged all landowners to engage with the Consultants in relation to both schemes. The Consultants are based in the Mtek Building.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the Council invites Waterways Ireland to make a presentation at their convenience, on progress and further plans for the development of the Ulster Canal project.

15. Questions:

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

1. (a) Can Monaghan County Council please give me a breakdown of Local Property Tax (LPT) bands and the associated charges.
(b) Can Monaghan County Council please give me a detailed account of what LPT has been used for in County Monaghan.

Reply:

Property Valuation €	LPT Valuation Bands County Monaghan					
	0-100000	100001-150000	150001-200000	200001-250000	250001-300000	over 300000
Percentage of Properties	42.7%	42.4%	11.6%	2.1%	0.7%	0.5%
Unadjusted LPT Rate	90	225	315	405	495	585
Rate after 15% Increase	103.50	258.75	362.25	465.75	569.25	672.75

The amount of LPT for Monaghan in 2020 after the 20% contribution to the central equalisation fund is €3,639,393. An amount of €8,173,820 is received from the equalisation fund resulting in an overall allocation of €11,813,213 for the year. The discretionary element of the LPT is allocated directly to the Municipal Districts with a portion being set aside for economic and industrial development. For 2020 this will result in €333,000 being allocated to each MD and €150,000 being set aside for economic and industrial development. The remainder of the LPT (€10,654,213) along with the rates income (€14,206,851) for the year is used to fund all day to day Council activities that are not directly funded by any other source. The major items that are funded from LPT and Rates are, Council contribution to Housing Grants, Roads own resources contribution, local and regional public lighting, Planning, Tourism, Community and Enterprise, Environmental Services, Fire Service, Street Cleaning, Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces, Libraries, Museum, Arts Programme, Coroners, Local Representation, Motor Tax Office, Pension Payments, MD Office costs, IT costs, Corporate buildings, Human Resources costs and Finance Function costs.

2. In relation to the new Peace Campus building planned for Monaghan town.
- (a) Can I please have a timeframe for the completion of works and the proposed opening date.
- Reply: A Design Team was appointed to the project in 2016, and planning permission was granted in May of 2017.**
- This €14.5 million project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) who awarded €9.5 million to Monaghan County Council in Nov. 2018 and also by the Department of Rural and Community Development.**
- The project design was finalised and went out to tender in 2019. The tender process is in accordance with OJEU rules and uses the Construction Works Framework Restricted procedure. The first stage of this two stage process was completed in the summer, and the project is currently at tender stage. It is planned to have this process completed by early next year (2020) and to have construction complete in 2021 and when complete will provide a modern iconic facility that will serve the needs of the wider community into the future.**
- (b) Can Monaghan County Council please outline the intended uses of the Peace Campus.
- Reply: The Peace Campus will bring much needed shared space into the heart of Monaghan Town, making it easily accessible for all.**
- There will be a large underground parking area, providing spaces for over 100 vehicles, and facility for electric vehicle hook up's.**
- Level One will see our main reception area and social enterprise café. This will also be the area for our youth facility and it will be the home for the new town library. In**

addition, there will be a number of multi-use rooms that will be available for groups and organisation to use.

Level Two will see a recording studio type area for groups and individuals to practice and learn. There will be office space for stakeholders. Consultation rooms. A large kitchen that will be available for cookery classes and culinary demonstrations. An arts and crafts room for activities and training. A Cultural Heritage area that will incorporate the County Museum, and provide a dedicated space for the Ulster Scots Agency.

Level Three sees the continuation of the Cultural Heritage area. A large multi-purpose hall. A smaller multi use room. Office space and consultation rooms.

Level Four will allow open access to the roof area, which will include exhibition areas depicting key areas of interest on the Monaghan landscape. There will also be a large multi-use room available.

In addition to the building Monaghan County Council has committed to delivering a large number of cross community activity programmes once 'The Peace Campus' is open, and we will be beginning preparatory engagement with groups over the coming months. <https://monaghan.ie/monaghan-county-councils-new-peace-campus/>

3. In relation to a previous motion that I had passed at Monaghan County Council with regards to 5G Networks.

- (a) Have Monaghan County Council investigated Health implications associated with this.

Reply: Monaghan County Council does not have a direct role in determining the health implications associated with 5G networks. In relation to the health effects of 5G, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) is responsible for policy relating to the health effects of non-ionising radiation including electromagnetic fields. The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has recently made new regulations conferring additional responsibilities for public exposure to non-ionising radiation including the frequencies used for 5G on the EPA. This Statutory Instrument includes a public advice and a monitoring function. International guidelines for public exposure to electromagnetic fields including 5G have been developed by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines are endorsed by the European Commission and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

ComReg is responsible for measuring the emissions from masts throughout the country and has commissioned audit reports to verify that all licensed operators are in compliance with their licence conditions relating to emission limits for non-ionising radiation. All of this data is available on Comreg's website <https://siteviewer.comreg.ie> The results from the emission measurements taken at numerous sites to date have shown compliance with the ICNIRP guidelines with values that were typically thousands of times below the limits.

- (b) Have any 5G antennae been applied for in planning applications in County Monaghan or will previous antennae work for 5G networks.

Reply: We checked all applications for the past 3 years (back to 2016) and have found no reference to 5G.

Any equipment or antennae previously used for 3G and 4G would be unsuitable for 5G. Additional equipment would be required.

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

4. When is it expected the first phase of the Magheross unfinished estate (Carrickmacross) will be allocated to residents?

Reply: Thirty-three dwellings are being provided in an unfinished housing development at Magheross in Carrickmacross. The development which has been derelict for circa 12 years is being brought into use by Tuath Housing Association with the support of Monaghan County Council and funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland programme. The 19 houses and 14 apartments are to be provided as social housing and all of them will be made available to Housing Applicants on Monaghan County Council's housing list.

The first seven of the houses will be completed in December 2019 and the phased completion is as follows:

7 houses in December 2019

8 houses in Q1 of 2020

4 houses in Q2 of 2020

14 apartments in Q4 of 2020

The development has now been named in agreement with An Coiste Logainmneacha. The group of houses will be called "Clós Dhromainn" and the apartment block will be called "Teach na Dromainne".

The process of allocation of the first available properties is expected to commence in Q1 of 2020.

5. What is the up-to-date figures on the uptake of the Tenant Purchase Scheme for Co. Monaghan – how many applications (successful and unsuccessful) per Municipal District, since the new TPS was introduced in 2016?

Reply:

Report Date - 25/11/2019				
Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016				
APPLICATION STAGE	CL/BB	CMX/CBY	MON	TOTAL
Closed (ineligible / not progressed)	7	20	17	44
New Application Stage	2	1	1	4
Letter of offer issued	5	3	15	23
With Solicitor	5	2	5	12
Sold / Completed	7	10	13	30
Total Applications Received - 2016 - To Date	26	36	51	113

***Note: Figures above are exclusive to each application stage**

6. Officially, what is the role of Monaghan County Council in relation to the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road scheme; what role will this local authority be playing throughout the lifetime of the project?

Reply: This project is being delivered in line with Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines, January 2019. In accordance with the Guidelines, Monaghan County Council is the 'Sponsoring Agency'. As the project is within Counties Monaghan and Louth, a Section 85 Agreement is in place with Louth County Council to

make Monaghan County Council the lead authority. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is the Sanctioning Authority. The Sanctioning Authority is responsible for granting the approvals required to proceed through the life cycle of publicly funded projects.

The Sponsoring Agency's functions are listed in the Project Management Guidelines, and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Nominating and appointing a Project Manager;
- Managing the overall planning and delivery of the Project (This includes publishing the Development Application documentation, which includes the Compulsory Purchase Order and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. An Bord Pleanála is the Authority who will make a decision on whether this development can proceed.);
- Appointing a Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) and Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS) as required under Health and Safety legislation;
- Acting as the Contracting Authority to procure the planning, design and construction/implementation of the Project.

7. Has a full list of vacant houses been assessed in the urban centres of Co. Monaghan and, if so, what measures are being taken to bring these units into use?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is continuing to progress the Vacant Homes Programme and is collating information regarding all properties inspected for vacancy. Since the inception of the Vacant Homes Programme and after reviewing initial desktop information the Vacant Homes Office carried out onsite inspections identifying 271 vacant homes. Once vacancy is confirmed Monaghan County Council issues information regarding possible options to bring vacant properties into use such as the Repair and Lease Scheme and engages with owners if interest is initiated. Monaghan County Council's Vacant Homes Office is registered with www.vacanthomes.ie where the public can provide the details of any vacant homes in their locality and the website will automatically notify the Vacant Homes Office by email.

Monaghan County Council will continue gathering information and surveying vacant homes to provide a holistic profile on vacancy throughout County Monaghan with the intention of encouraging the use of vacant homes wherever possible towards revitalising and repopulating the areas that are most affected by vacancy.

8. How many housing units are expected to be delivered to social housing tenants in 2020 (with a breakdown of each Municipal District and town)?

Reply: At present Monaghan County Council has a housing delivery programme in place that will provide more than 170 additional social housing units in 2020 subject to funding as follows:

Municipal District / Town	Total per MD	Ballybay	Clones	Rockcorry	Castle-blayney	Carrick-macross	Monaghan Town
Ballybay-Clones MD	30	6	12	12			
C'blayney-C'macross MD	126				70	56	
Monaghan MD	15						15

The figures above do not include casual vacancies which annually amount to a further 60 plus social housing units that become available to accommodate social housing applicants throughout County Monaghan. The figures do not include HAP and RAS. In addition to the above Monaghan County Council intends to pursue additional opportunities for social housing provision throughout County Monaghan in 2020 and onwards to continue to increase social housing provision and investment in housing in County Monaghan.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

9. Has Monaghan County Council received any updates on when funding is to be made available by Government for the works recommended in the CFRAM Study recommendation for potential flooding alleviation works in Ballybay, Monaghan Town and Inniskeen?

Reply: Minister Moran announced a first tranche of funding for flood mitigation measures along with the publication of the flood risk management plans for affected areas nationally in May 2018. Neither Monaghan Town, Ballybay or Inniskeen met the criteria/weighting for the first tranche of funding. However, funding is being from OPW to carry out flood alleviation works at Macartan Road, Monaghan. An announcement on the second tranche of funding has not been made to date.

10. Can Monaghan County Council, outline in detail their plans for installation of Electric Car Charging Points, as many of the major Car manufacturing companies move to manufacture of Electric Cars only?

Reply: Over the past few years there has been a number of initiatives put forward that Monaghan County Council has participated in for the installation of EV charge points.

- 1) Sept 2018 - Climate Action Fund / 2040 NDP. As part of the Eastern & Midlands CARO applicant, Monaghan Co Council participated in this initiative that was ultimately won by E-Cars.**
- 2) Sept 2018 – Interreg IVA N. Ireland – Ireland – Scotland Sustainable Transport Programme. Along with the Lead Applicant, East Border Region, Monaghan Co Council is participating in this programme as an associate member for the provision of EV Charge Points. Possible outcome for Monaghan would be 2 EV chargers in three locations (total 6 No chargers). The evaluation of this campaign is ongoing and no successful Applicant has yet been identified.**
- 3) Aug 2019 – DCCAIE EV Public Charger Scheme funded by Climate Action Fund administered through SEAI. Funding for 1000 on-street EV charge points over next five years. Since this announcement was made, there has been much communication between the LA's and Energy Agencies on how best to proceed to ensure the most effective use of this funding. There are many variables when considering what type of EV charger to install, where to install, capacity of the ESB network to accommodate new EV chargers, how to determine tariff for charging etc. At the recently held Energy Performance Officers conference (Nov 2019 in Limerick) it was decided that the Eastern & Midlands CARO office would undertake a study and report back on the best approach for determining the size, the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of new EV Charge points by LA's. It is believed that there should be standardisation of EV Charge Points across the country and a joined-up approach in relation to their location. There is some concern as to whether or not it should be the LA that gets involved in the provision of EV charge points, perhaps this would be better driven by the private sector. At this point in time. Monaghan Co Council has adopted the position of facilitating any private applicant for EV Charge Points and will await the findings of the Eastern & Midlands CARO office report in relation to the DCCAIE EV Public Charger Scheme.**

10. Will Monaghan County Council conduct an immediate audit of all “Disabled Parking” spaces as many across the County are located at Raised Footpaths ,which are very difficult and dangerous for Wheelchair users to access or on to town main streets which in many cases are part of the National or Regional Road Network, which means a Wheelchair user is exiting or entering their vehicle with large volumes of traffic passing H.G.V.s etc, again difficult and dangerous, rendering independent living, very difficult for Disabled persons?

Reply: The MDs have committed to carrying out an audit of the disabled bays within their districts and will subsequently make the necessary corrections.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

11. In welcoming the €2.61 million from the recent announcement regarding the rural regeneration fund for the works to be carried out at the Gate House in Castleblayney for the renovation and refurbishment of this building and the area around the entrance to Hope Castle. The fact that part 8 planning is already granted and the design and layout has been completed.

(a) When will work commence on this project?

Gate Lodge No.2 Building Works: Monaghan Co. Council have already engaged the services of a consultancy design team to carry out design works on the Gate Lodge Library proposal. Part 8 planning was approved for the library development in July 2018, the design team have detailed designs substantially complete and it is anticipated that outstanding design issues will be finalised in the next number of weeks with the intention of advertising the Gate Lodge No. 2 building project for tender in January/February 2020. Making provisions for the actual tender advertising period, evaluation and contract award processes it is anticipated that works will commence in May/June 2020 subject to satisfactory compliance with all procurement regulations.

Market Square Public Realm Works: The Council are currently engaging with ESB Networks for detailed cost proposals and timeframes in relation to the proposed undergrounding of overhead services in the Market Square area. Following confirmation on the ESB undergrounding proposals, tender documents for the execution of the public realm and streetscape works will be prepared and advertised in a separate procurement competition in February/March 2020. As before making allowances for the actual tender advertising period, evaluation and contract award processes it is anticipated that works will commence in May/June 2020 subject to satisfactory compliance with all procurement regulations.

(b) What is the actual scope of works?

The Market Square Regeneration Scheme proposals are as follows:

Gate Lodge No.2 Building Works: Refurbishment of the Gate Lodge No. 2 building and construction of a new extension increasing the overall floor space from 281m² to 511m² to provide a modern 21st century public library, gallery space, cultural and creative space.

Market Square Public Realm Works: Environmental upgrading of the existing streetscape using high quality paving materials, street furniture and natural landscaping. Removal of existing ESB overhead service cables together with their relocation underground and provision of new decorative public lighting.

(c) What is the timescale of the project to completion?

Gate Lodge No.2 Building Works: The construction period for the Gate Lodge No. 2 building is expected to be around 16 months, therefore subject to commencing the works in May/June 2020 the project will be scheduled for completion in September/October 2021.

Market Square Public Realm Works: The construction period for the Gate Lodge No. 2 building is expected to be around 4 months, therefore subject to commencing the works in May/June 2020 the project will be scheduled for completion in September/October 2020.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

12. With regard to the new enterprise hub to be located on the McGrath Road in Castleblayney, when will work commence on this project?

Reply: The project is to be delivered by way of a design-build contract. The steering group, which incorporates the partners, Enterprising Monaghan and Castleblayney Enterprise Centre has appointed Wynne Gormley Gilsean, Architects & Surveyors Ltd., Cavan as Client's Representative. Site investigation works and preliminary surveys have been undertaken. Following a review of the initial design, a planning application will be lodged shortly to enable the project to be tendered in Q1 2020. It is anticipated that construction works will commence in Q3 2020.

13. With regard to the New Fire Station being constructed in Castleblayney, when will this project be complete and handed over to the fire service?

Reply: Construction of New Fire Station in Castleblayney due to be completed in March 2020 and for handover to Fire Service in April 2020.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

14. Regarding the Unfinished Development (UFD) at "Chapel Court" Carrickroe

(a) In view of the dilapidated condition of the stonework on the exterior of the development what plans have Monaghan County Council to erect guttering to prevent further deterioration to the stonework?

(b) In view of the fact that "Chapel Court" is empty and unfinished and empty for approximately 12 yrs will Monaghan County Council consider doing a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on this premises a view to when acquired putting the property forward for auction?

Reply: The Council are currently investigating the options open to it regarding this property.

15. In relation to the Unfinished Development (UFD) of 6 houses at Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet Village and the fact

- that these houses remain unfinished and unoccupied for well in excess of 12 yrs,
- that there is an acute shortage of houses for sale in the area and that a demand for such houses exists,
- that Monaghan County Council have tried on a number of occasions to negotiate with the new owners in recent years to ensure a resolution and completion of this development to no avail,

- (a) Will Monaghan County Council now consider doing a Compulsory Purchase of this UFD and when complete put the houses up for sale on the open market?

Reply: Following the works carried out to improve the appearance of this site, the Council do not consider it to be a derelict site at present.

16. Notices of Motion:

Cllr S. Coyle proposed Cllr P. Treanor seconded

1. *That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D. and the government to immediately formulate a taskforce to initiate proposals to address the serious animal welfare challenges facing the Irish Dairy Industry in the Spring of 2020, when 80% of calving's take place. With farmers being forced to rear tens of thousands of additional bull calves, if they are unable to sell them, as the labour to care for the additional calves or the housing facilities are not on many farms, then the government must ensure this potential crisis is averted, in consultation with all the relevant agencies.*

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

Cllr C. Carthy proposed Cllr McKenna seconded

2. *Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton TD and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to:*
 - *Legislate for a deposit return scheme to be introduced on recyclable packaging*
 - *Ensure that all local authorities in the state be funded to provide a climate action officer to incorporate energy efficiency in all aspects of council*
 - *Introduce a carbon tax on aviation fuel*

We also ask that this motion be circulated to all other local authorities in the state.

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

16. Votes of Sympathy/ Congratulations.

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

- Somhairle MacConghail, Council employee on the death of his father Muiris RIP.
- Bernie McBrien, Council employee on the death of her father Tom King, RIP

Votes of Congratulations

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

- Magheraclone Mitchells GFC on winning the Ulster Intermediate Club Football Final and wishing them the best of luck in the All Ireland semi final
- Blackhill GFC on winning the Ulster Junior Club Football Final and wishing them the best of luck in the All Ireland semi-final.

17. Conferences/Training

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Celtic Conferences	First-Time Home Buyers Incentives	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	13th to 15th December 2019	Cllr P. Connolly
Environmental Pillar	Local Government Climate and Biodiversity Action Workshop	Wood Quay Venue, Dublin 8.	4th December 2019	Cllr P. Connolly Cllr A. McCooey

Urgent Business

Cllr McCooey proposed, Cllr Campbell seconded,

We request the Monaghan County Council appeal to the TII to extend the submission deadline for the N2 until Friday 31st January, to accommodate those affected in making strong and fully informed submissions.

In proposing the motion, Cllr McCooey requested that the deadline for receipt of submissions for the N2 road schemes be extended to the 31st January 2020. She stated that people in south Monaghan did not have enough information to make their submissions and required more time to do so. Cllr Campbell supported the comments made by Cllr McCooey.

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Transportation stated that the deadlines for both schemes had already been extended by 2 weeks. The projects are in competition for funding with more than 20 other schemes throughout the country. All projects would not be funded. So far, the Monaghan projects were on target and meeting their milestones, and it was vital to keep on schedule in order to retain funding and avoid delays and related costs. She encouraged affected persons to engage with the project office and find out the facts about the proposed schemes as there is a lot of misinformation in the public domain at the minute.

The Chief Executive stated that there are still 17 days left in the extended consultation period for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Scheme. The Council is the project lead on behalf of Louth County Council and it has a responsibility to the people in Louth as well. The contract is for a period of 40 months and it was a condition of the contract that the Consultants would be based in Monaghan – in the past, Consultants would have been based outside of the county. He also encouraged people affected to engage with the project office.

At this point a five minute adjournment was agreed to allow members discuss the matter further.

On resumption, Cllrs McCooey and Campbell, stated that they were withdrawing the motion. Ms. P. Monahan stated that in order to move the project into its next stage, whilst the Council would not be extending the deadline for the receipt of submissions, they would continue to accept submissions beyond the closing date. She reminded members that there would be a further round of public consultations when the emerging preferred route was selected, which is expected to be in late 2020.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members and staff of the Council for their co-operation and assistance to him since his election as Cathaoirleach in June 2019. He wished all present, and their families, a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year 2020.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____
