

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, Armagh Road, Monaghan, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr C. Carthy, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Connolly, Coyle, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, R. Truell.

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. P. Clifford, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Ms. N. Woods and Ms. C. O'Hare, A/Directors of Service, and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Conlon and Kerr-Conlon, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. King, Director and Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, be confirmed.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- Email from the Office of the Minister for Finance, Mr Pascal Donohoe, T.D. regarding VAT for Bus operators.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Climate Action Communication Networks and Transport, Mr Eamon Ryan, T.D. regarding VAT for Bus operators.
- Notice of Motion from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District regarding extension to the Agricultural GLAS Scheme.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the VAT rate on the tourism industry to be reduced to 0%.
- Resolution from Carlow Municipal District regarding the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest in Guildhall, Derry on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
- Resolution from Westmeath County Council regarding the Leaving Certificate class of 2020.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Barry Cowen, T.D. regarding Cattle Marts.
- Email acknowledgement from the Garda Commissioner's office regarding Emyvale Garda Station.
- Resolution from Limerick City & County Council regarding the National Small Business Recovery Plan.

### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council supports the motion from Ballybay-Clones MD calling on the Government and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, to introduce a two year extension to the Agricultural GLAS Scheme, as 26,000 farmers payments under GLAS 1 and 2 will end on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and 31 December 2021. With the new/next CAP and its Environmental Programmes not operational until 2023, farmers would suffer a significant loss of income, The maximum payment is €5,000, the average payment to Monaghan farmers has been approximately €3,000-€4,000. This is a cut that farmers cannot afford, while maintaining an environmental method of land use in anticipation of a similar GLAS type scheme in the next CAP Programme.*

*On the proposal of Cllr McCooey, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that this Council supports the motion from Westmeath County Council calling for assistance for the Leaving Certificate Class of 2020 to allow them to pursue their chosen careers this autumn, where some may want to attend third level education and others follow the apprenticeship of their choice. The proposal of 'First Choice for All' should be accommodated as much as possible.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council support the motion from Kerry County Council calling on the Department of An Taoiseach and the Department of Tourism to reduce the VAT rate on the Tourism Industry to 0% to try and alleviate the pressure on related businesses and attempt to avoid the complete decimation of this sector.*

### **3. To consider Section 183 - Disposal of a portion of lands and adjacent derelict building at Main Street, Ballybay to Dr Jack Crummie, Ballybay Health Centre**

The members noted the report which had been circulated recommending the disposal of a at Main Street Ballybay part of Folios MN25263F and MN24633F and marked in red on the accompanying map.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of a vacant premises off Main Street, Ballybay (part of Folios MN25263F and MN24633F), in accordance with notice dated 22 June, 2020 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

The members acknowledged the amount of work that had gone into this project and bringing it to a successful conclusion.

### **4. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

## **5. To receive the Management Report – June 2020:**

The members noted the Management Report for the month of June 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 P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council –*

- *collaborate with the Construction Sector to establish the barriers to house-building in the county.*
- *That we write to the relevant Ministers to request a reduction of VAT on building materials for a period of 3 years.*
- *That we discuss with CMETB the provision of courses/apprenticeships in construction skills.*
- *That we encourage people in the county who need social and affordable housing over the next few years to apply and be included on the waiting list.*

*On the proposal of Cllr O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council request the Minister for Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands to increase the funding of €250,000 for the Local Improvements Scheme to get the current backlog cleared and get started on the new list which is approximately 200 applications.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council write to Leo Varadkar, TD, Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment requesting that community centres which are paying commercial rates be included the Business Re-start Grant and that they also be included in the upcoming Economic Stimulus Package.*

## **6. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

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

- AILG – Climate Action – Longford – 4/5 March 2020
- AILG – Making a Development Plan – Waterford - 15 February 2020
- Tackling Carbon emissions and fuel poverty – Clonakilty, Co. Cork – 24/26 January 2020

## **7. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.**

There was no business submitted by the Chief Executive.

## **8. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllrs O’Hanlon and Keelan, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, TD to proceed*

*with the opening of the Group Home for Persons with Physical and sensory disabilities in Carrickmacross, as a matter of urgency. It was further agreed that the Council request the Minister to visit the site as soon as possible.*

**9. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes:**

Ms. P. Monahan, Director updated the members in relation to this item. She stated that The exercise of identifying an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for each scheme is continuing. It is planned to publish the post-consultation reports for the second round of public consultations in August 2020. The physical office of the N2 Project Team remains closed but the team are continuing to work on the project remotely and can be contacted through the manned project phone line or by email to answer any queries. The team is also considering how the third public consultations will be conducted in a manner that is safe under public health guidelines while allowing for adequate consultation to take place.

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

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seeks an immediate meeting with the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, Eamon Ryan TD, all the Fianna Fail and Fine Gael Oireachtas members for the Cavan-Monaghan Constituency to ensure as part of the Programme for Government and the review of the National Development Programme (NDP), that the North/South Interconnector is prioritised. We call on the Government to direct Eirgrid to cease all works/planning etc on the current proposal for the North /South Interconnector and to ensure that Eirgrid are brought to account for the wasteful spending/u-turns over the past 14 years.*

*We further request that as part of a Climate Change Strategy, a full and proper independent and international expertise is engaged to analyse undergrounding for electricity Infrastructure clearly analysing the costings – financially and environmentally of undergrounding -v- overgrounding and that the Government ensure there is full community acceptance of the chosen option.*

Motion to be circulated to all Oireachtas members for Cavan/Monaghan with a request that they expedite the meeting with the Minister.

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to An Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, as head of Government, seeking clarification on the following;*

- *What is the Government policy in relation to the undergrounding of the North-South Interconnector.*
- *What action, if any, will your office take to ensure that the Interconnector is undergrounded?*

*given that this is the only methodology that has community acceptance across the counties of Monaghan, Cavan, Meath, Armagh and Tyrone and also given it is the view of the members of this Council that the project will not be delivered unless it is undergrounded.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport Eamon Ryan TD and to Nichola Mallon MLA, Minister for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland seeking clarification on the following:*

- *What action, if any, will your office take to ensure that the Interconnector is undergrounded? given that this is the only methodology that has community acceptance across the counties of Monaghan, Cavan, Meath, Armagh and Tyrone*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council writes to all the Oireachtas members for this constituency seeking clarification on the following:*

- *What action, if any, will your office take to ensure that the North-South Interconnector is undergrounded? - given that this is the only methodology that has community acceptance as you will be aware.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Campbell, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council requests a meeting with Minister Eamon Ryan TD regarding the North South Interconnector and its proposed over-grounding in light of the fact that there is no public acceptance for the proposal over-ground; and in view of the fact that other methods and systems are available to be researched – ie underground the Interconnector.*

#### **11. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

It was noted that a detailed update had been included under Item 12(8) – Questions.

In response to a query from Cllr Connolly in relation to funding for the Ulster Canal Greenway, the Chief Executive stated that a briefing on the project would be given to the Ballybay-Clones and Monaghan MD members at their next meetings.

#### **12. Questions:**

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

1. Can the Housing Section give a breakdown of housing projects currently in construction throughout the county that are being supported by MCC (including Approved Housing Bodies, Council Build, Part 5's etc) as per each MD?

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Monaghan County Council or Approved Housing Body</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>MD</b>
Gortakeeghan conversion of units/bays to houses	Monaghan County Council	4		Monaghan
Kingscourt Road Part V	Monaghan County Council	2		Carrick - C'blayney
24 at Lough na Glack	North & East Housing Association	24		Carrick - C'blayney
Bree / Rosevale Castleblayney	Monaghan County Council	26		Carrick - C'blayney
Liseggerton, Clones	Oaklee Housing Trust		19	Ballybay - Clones
Davys Fermanagh Street	Monaghan County Council		3	Ballybay - Clones

An Bonnan Bui & Flower Shop Fermanagh Street	Monaghan County Council		6	Ballybay - Clones
Boyle Sport Fermanagh Street	Monaghan County Council	3		Ballybay - Clones
82 & 83 Fermanagh Street	Monaghan County Council		3	Ballybay - Clones
2a & 3 Analore Street	Monaghan County Council		2	Ballybay - Clones
Abbey Gatehouse Analore Street	Monaghan County Council		4	Ballybay - Clones
Coill an Ri Carrickmacross	Monaghan County Council	6		Carrick - C'blayney
Magheross Carrick	Tuath Housing Association	19	14	Carrick - C'blayney
Bree Castleblayney	Tuath Housing Association	25	13	Carrick - C'blayney
63 Fermanagh Street Clones	Monaghan County Council		3	Ballybay - Clones
12 Church Street, Ballybay	Monaghan County Council		2	Ballybay - Clones
Lui na Greine Scotstown	Monaghan County Council		32	Monaghan
12 apartments at Drummond Radhairc	North & East Housing Association		12	Carrick - C'blayney
Naferty Ballybay Road Carrickmacross	Monaghan County Council		41	Carrick - C'blayney
Projected Part Vs various locations and other	Monaghan County Council	6	8	Various
Rockcorry	AHB	12		Ballybay - Clones
	<b>Total Delivery</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>162</b>	
	Monaghan MD	4	32	
	Ballybay - Clones MD	15	42	
	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney MD	102	80	
	Various	6	8	

2. When is it expected works will progress on the Gate House II and Market House buildings, Castleblayney?

**Reply:**

**Gate Lodge 2**

Monaghan Co. Council have completed the tendering process and secured funding approval for Phase 1 of the project works which involves undergrounding of ESB overhead cables and new decorative public lighting in Market Square. It is anticipated that the Phase 1 construction works will commence the first week of August and will be completed in mid September. The closing date for tender submissions for the Phase 2 public library and external public realm works is the 09<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Following receipt of tenders, a tenders assessment will be carried out and relevant information will be submitted to the Department under the RRDF funding approval process seeking approval to proceed to contract award and project construction, the duration of the phase 2 project construction works are estimated to be 16 months.

**Market House**

The proposed works under the recent announcement of Category 2 RRDF grant funding includes for preliminary and detailed design for the refurbishment of the Market House building and for high-quality public realm enhancement works to the historic Market Square area. In addition the design process will be supported and informed by a public/stakeholder consultation exercise to allow for refinement of future uses and to ensure the adaptability of the facility. Monaghan Co. Council are currently commencing preparations of tender documentation for the engagement of consultants (within Q3 2020) for the public consultation process. The Public Consultation, Preliminary/Detailed Design

and Part VIII Planning processes are expected to take 16 months to complete, following this a further Category 1 application under the RRDF will then be submitted to the Department to secure funding for the delivery of the proposed development works.

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

3. That in view of the fact that the Vacant Site Levy (VSL) is now in operation for over 3yrs to ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to the implementation of the VSL in the following specific areas:
  - (a) How many sites do Monaghan County Council have on their VSL register
    - 1st Jan 2018?
    - 1st Jan 2019?
    - 1st Jan 2020?
    - 31st May 2020?
  - (b) How many appeals have been taken by owners charged with the VSL?
  - (c) Have any sites been removed from the VSL register?
  - (d) What level of income has been generated by the 3% VSL?
  - (e) What level of income has been generated by the 7% VSL?
  - (f) How many notifications have Monaghan County Council received under Sect 10 of the Act indicating that the site is no longer vacant or idle?
  - (g) How many sites have changed ownership since being placed on the VSL register?
  - (h) How many certificates have been issued under Sect 21 of the VSL Act in respect of payment due?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has made no entries on the Vacant Sites Register since the implementation of the respective legislation under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.**

**An assessment of all town centre zoned lands was carried out in June 2018. In total 26 sites were considered. As the county has not seen an upsurge in demand for development lands, it has not been possible to determine that current vacant or idle sites are *'having adverse effects on existing amenities or reducing the amenity provided by existing public infrastructure and facilities'* as required by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. Monaghan County Council continues to use the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act and the Planning and Development Act to address vacant and derelict properties across the five towns in County Monaghan, which may result in a more expedient resolution to certain instances of vacancy and dereliction.**

4. In relation to the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway and in view of the fact that Monaghan County Council have received no response to date in relation to their formal request in March of this year for additional SEUPB funding for this project, can Monaghan County Council clarify:
  - (a) Whether the original €4.9M to complete this project is still in situ?
  - (b) And if the original amount is in situ will it complete this project?
  - (c) What impact will the lack of further SEUPB have on this project?
  - (d) Can Monaghan Co Co give a timeframe for commencement and completion date for the construction of the Ulster Canal Greenway?

**Reply: The budget of €4.9 million is still in place but it will not be sufficient to carry out the project in its entirety. The scope of the project may have to be reduced or phased to match the budget made available by SEUPB, the main funder. Subject to planning and land acquisition, construction is likely to start in early 2022 with completion by mid-2023.**

5. To ask Monaghan County Council to confirm whether the Council has entered into any agreements with the HSE or vice versa to perform a function or service for either parties within the past 18 months and if so please provide details?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council collaborates with many State Agencies, including the HSE, across a wide range of activity areas including the Local Community Development Committee, Healthy Ireland/Monaghan, the Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention Implementation Group and most recently the Covid-19 Community Response Forum. Monaghan County Council has not entered into any agreements with the HSE, nor vice versa, to perform a function or service for either party within the past 18 months.**

**ClIr S. Conlon asked:**

6. Will the Council Executive please provide an update on the status of my previous proposals regarding acquisition of HSE lands at Rooskey, Monaghan; specifically to advise on the projected number and type of housing units envisaged for the development planned; and if he would inform the members of timeframes and any other salient details regarding Council's plans for the approximate 12 acres at this location?

**Reply: The Council solicitors are currently finalising the conveyance of these lands from the HSE. Monaghan County Council has engaged Urban Design/Planning Consultants to prepare a detailed regeneration plan and masterplan for HSE lands and properties to the northern end of Dublin Street. Works on the masterplan and stakeholder engagement/consultation is ongoing and this will inform the precise use and development proposals for this area.**

7. Will the Council Executive outline the Council's plans for the restoration or removal, as appropriate, of the heavily fire damaged weighbridge office at the former landfill site at Letterbane, Annyalla, immediately adjacent to the Municipal Recycling Facility, and also to provide an up-date to the members on all approved activities currently underway at the former landfill site and an inventory of all approved traffic accessing that same site and its extensive curtilage.

**Reply: Design work regarding the damaged site office building has been completed and tender documentation for the remedial work is being finalised. It is the intention to go to tender for the remedial works by the end of July.**

**Although the landfill site is no longer accepting waste for landfilling, all activities on the landfill continue to be carried out in accordance with our EPA licence. In addition, activities are also being undertaken with emphasis on complying to Covid 19 requirements. Environmental services can also confirm that an EPA site inspection was carried out on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2020. The report issued by the Agency to Monaghan County Council was positive with no non-compliances noted. Traffic movements on site continue to be monitored via our site security and monitoring system as is required under our licence.**

**ClIr P. Treanor asked:**

8. What is the update on the Ulster Canal re-opening from Clones to Derrykerrib bridge project?

**Reply:**

**Ulster Canal Restoration (Phase I)**

**Dredging of the River Finn was completed in 2016. A short length of new lateral canal together with a new navigation arch beside Derrykerrib Bridge on the River Finn were completed in the autumn of 2018.**

**Works relating to the installation of a new floating jetty facility at Castle Saunderson were completed in October 2019 and the navigation channel from Upper Lough Erne to Castle Saunderson (circa 2.5 km) is now open for boating.**



### Ulster Canal Restoration (Phase II)

Waterways Ireland was successful in 2019 in securing €325k of Category 2 funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for additional engineering studies for a section of the restoration between Clones and Clonfad (circa 1 km) in County Monaghan. A further 25% of match funding is being provided from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. A commission to investigate sourcing a sustainable water supply commenced in 2019 and is ongoing with completion expected in July 2020 (delayed due to COVID-19 crisis). A tender has also been awarded for the drilling of investigatory wells in order to inform this study. Work is also ongoing on a tender to develop a vision for the canal zone in this section of restoration. Work relating to land requirements and purchase arrangements for this section of the restoration has also commenced.

Waterways Ireland's Engineering Design Section is also preparing outline designs and preliminary investigatory work in order to facilitate the preparation of estimates for the restoration of this section of canal in County Monaghan. This work is being completed in advance of, and to facilitate a submission to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund 2020 Category 1 application.

9. What is the procedure for residents on the Roslea road and McCurtain street, Clones, who are concerned about their safety because of speeding traffic, to have their concerns addressed?

**Reply: The procedure for residents who have concerns regarding speeding is to bring the matter to the attention of the relevant Municipal District.**

**The Ballybay Clones Municipal District is aware of residents concerns regarding speeding on the Roslea road and McCurtain street in Clones town. The first step in the process of a review is for the Municipal District to collect traffic count and vehicular speed data. This process is ongoing and will be completed in the coming weeks.**

**Once this data is to hand an engineering assessment can be made in order to identify possible works to address the issue.**

10. How many applications for Social Housing have Monaghan County Council received in 2020 per M.D.? How many have been housed by the Council in 2020, per M.D.?

**Reply:**

**121 Applications Received**

**38 Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD**

**7 Clones/Ballybay MD**

**55 Monaghan MD**

**21 Applications in Progress**

**53 Allocations**

**21 Carrickmacross/Castleblayney MD**

**12 Clones/Ballybay MD**

**20 Monaghan MD**

**Cllr C. Bennett asked:**

11. Can Monaghan County Council please provide an update on the installation of electric car charging points within the County.

- (a) How many are currently available?

**Reply: There are 13 No publicly available EV Charge Points at 6 No locations in Co Monaghan**

- (b) Where are these located?

**Reply: The current publicly accessible EV charge point in Co Monaghan are located at the following locations:**

	Town	Location	# of Chargers	Charger Size/Type	Provider	Tariff	Point ID
1	Clones	Town Centre Car Park	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	Free	C8AAb
2	Monaghan	Rooskey Vale	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	Free	C8NPC
3	Monaghan	Circle K / Topaz, Emyvale Road	3	1 x 43kW AC43, 1 x 50kW CHADEMO, 1 x 50kW Combo CCS	E-Cars	Pay as you go	C5D6Z
4	Castleblayney	Off Thomas Street	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	Free	C825F
5	Carrickmacross	Market Street	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	Free	C84FT
6	Carrickmacross	Louis Convent, Castle Street	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	Free	C7NT3

You can locate your nearest ESB charge point on the go, download the ecar connect app from the [App Store](#)

(c) What are the plans for additional points?

**Monaghan Co Council has not provided any EV Charge points in the county to date. There are three main public EV Charge Point providers in Ireland at present, E-Cars (ESB Networks), EasyGO and Ionity/CircleK (very large capacity chargers on motorways).**

**EasyGO have no immediate plans for any new EV Chargers in Co Monaghan.**

**E-Cars has been contacted and asked to give details of their plans for additional EV Charge points in Co. Monaghan, their response is awaited.**

12. In relation to the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan and tourism in the area.

(a) Can I please have an update on projects that are presently being considered.

(b) Have Monaghan Council considered cycling and walking routes in the vicinity as these are badly needed with the increase in users.

**Reply: In terms of the tourism aspects of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan, the Tourism unit worked in conjunction with Ballybay Clones MD on an application for funding for Sliabh Beagh under the Outdoor Recreation scheme last year which was unsuccessful. The intention is to submit another application in conjunction with Monaghan MD under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2020 and this is currently being prepared. The closing date for submissions under this scheme (Measures 2 & 3) is 30 November 2020.**

**Cllr A. Campbell asked:**

13. With the recent announcement of funding of €285,000 from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for the Market House in Castleblayney.

(a) What is the exact scope of work to be carried out under this funding?

(b) How long will it take to carry out this work and when will it commence?

(c) What will be envisaged as the next stage in restoring this historic building?

**Reply: Market House**

**The proposed works under the recent announcement of Category 2 RRDF grant funding includes for preliminary and detailed design for the refurbishment of the Market House building and for high-quality public realm enhancement works to the historic Market Square area. In addition the design process will be supported and**

**informed by a public/stakeholder consultation exercise to allow for refinement of future uses and to ensure the adaptability of the facility. Monaghan Co. Council are currently commencing preparations of tender documentation for the engagement of consultants (within Q3 2020) for the public consultation process. The Public Consultation, Preliminary/Detailed Design and Part VIII Planning processes are expected to take 16 months to complete, following this a further Category 1 application under the RRDF will then be submitted to the Department to secure funding for the delivery of the proposed development works.**

14. What is the current update on the Hope Castle, Annex buildings in Castleblayney and what plans has Monaghan County Council for these Historic Buildings?

**Reply: Tenders have been received in relation to a call for appointing property consultants for this project and are currently being evaluated.**

15. Regarding the housing waiting list for the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross Municipal District.

(a) How many are on the waiting list for housing in this area? **496**

(b) How many are receiving the Housing assistance payments? **196**

How much is being paid out in Housing assistance payments? **Approximately, €100,121.49 is paid to Landlords each month in the Castleblayney / Carrickmacross MD.**

How much is being paid out on the Rental Accommodation Scheme? **Approximately, €14,800 is paid to Private Landlords each month in the Castleblayney / Carrickmacross MD.**

16. How much has been paid out to businesses in Monaghan under the Re-Start grant by Monaghan County Council?

**Reply: €2.12m has been paid by Monaghan County council under the restart grant to 639 applicants as of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

17. With the new and modern Fire Station due to be opened shortly on the Monaghan Road in Castleblayney and with the movement of all fire services out of the Commons in Castleblayney.

- Will Monaghan County Council look at a plan for this area to include building new homes as this town centre location would be very suitable for elderly with access to shops, churches and all town centre amenities?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council is working on a proposal to provide social housing at the location of the old Fire Station and Council Yard in Castleblayney. The potential to convert a protected structure at this location into social housing is being considered alongside the possibility of building new accessible dwellings for older people and other people who require accessible accommodation. The location is potentially suitable for social housing as it has shops, churches and town amenities close by and is also close to a Primary Care Centre.**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

18. In relation to the local lane improvement scheme (LIS) how many of these private laneways are currently on the waiting list for resurfacing, what is the breakdown by municipal district, how many laneways will be resurfaced this year 2020?

**Reply: There are 55 applicants on the current list. The breakdown by Municipal District is as follows:**

<b>Ballybay/Clones MD</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>CMX/Castleblayney MD</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Monaghan MD</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

**It is hoped to get 9-10 lanes surfaced in 2020. There are 118 new applicants awaiting to be assessed for the new scheme when the above 55 lanes have been completed.**

19. Given that the County Council and Municipal District Areas Councils have been in a lockdown situation over many months including public offices and buildings closed to the public with the exception of some essential services etc, has any significant savings been made as a result?

**Reply: As a direct result of COVID 19 restrictions it is forecast that some savings will be achieved in the following expenditure categories for 2020:**

- **Travel and Subsistence**
- **Staff training**
- **Payroll (some delays in recruitment of staff for vacant positions)**

**However, any forecast savings will be more than offset by significant reductions in income, the most material of which is Commercial Rates. There will also be an adverse variance versus budget for Paid Parking income for example. In addition to this we still have no clarity regarding recoupment of additional Covid 19 related expenditure.**

20. In relation to the scourge of illegal dumping, has there been any significant increase in the instances of illegal dumping detected over the course of the covid 19 lockdown throughout our county?

**Reply: Since March 2020 until end of June Environmental Services have received 140 complaints in relation to litter and illegal dumping of waste, this compares to 181 complaints during the same period in 2019.**

21. In relation to the department / government (local needs only policy ) has there been any further update in relation to the amending of this policy as a result of the ( Flemish Decree 2013 on land and real estate policy ) which was deemed contrary to EU law?

**Reply: The Planning Section have received no recent updates on this matter from the Department**

22. In commending the council staff for overseeing and processing the various grant aid applications for mobility aids / housing aids / and housing adaptation grants how many application were received prior to the closing date, what is the breakdown of these grants?

**Reply: Monaghan Local Authority received and processed 287 applications for the Private Grants Scheme in 2020, with an approximate value of €2.9million up to the closing date of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The breakdown of grant applications received is as follows:-**

<b>HGD</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>HOP</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>MAG</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>287</b>

**In addition to the above, staff continue to process another 170 applications received prior to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

**13. Votes of sympathy/congratulations**

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

- Ciarán Duffy, Council employee on the death of his mother, Ann Duffy, RIP
- Peter Murphy, Council employee on the death of his mother Phyllis, RIP
- The parents and family of Detective Garda Colm Horkan RIP and the Garda Commissioner on his tragic death.
- The Charlton Family and the Football Association of Ireland on the death of Jack Charlton RIP, a man who brought pride, joy and inspiration to the Irish nation.
- Senator Robbie Gallagher on the death of his uncle Robert Lynagh, RIP
- Brid Rutledge, former Ballybay Town Councillor and the McGuinness and McPhillips families on the death of Mary McGuinness, RIP, Ballybay and Latton.
- Shane Raftery, Failte Ireland on the death of his mother Teresa, RIP.

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

- Magheracloone Mitchells GC on fund raising of over €200,000 for the Heart Children's Irelands Blue Ribbon Fund #MillysMini Marathon

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

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