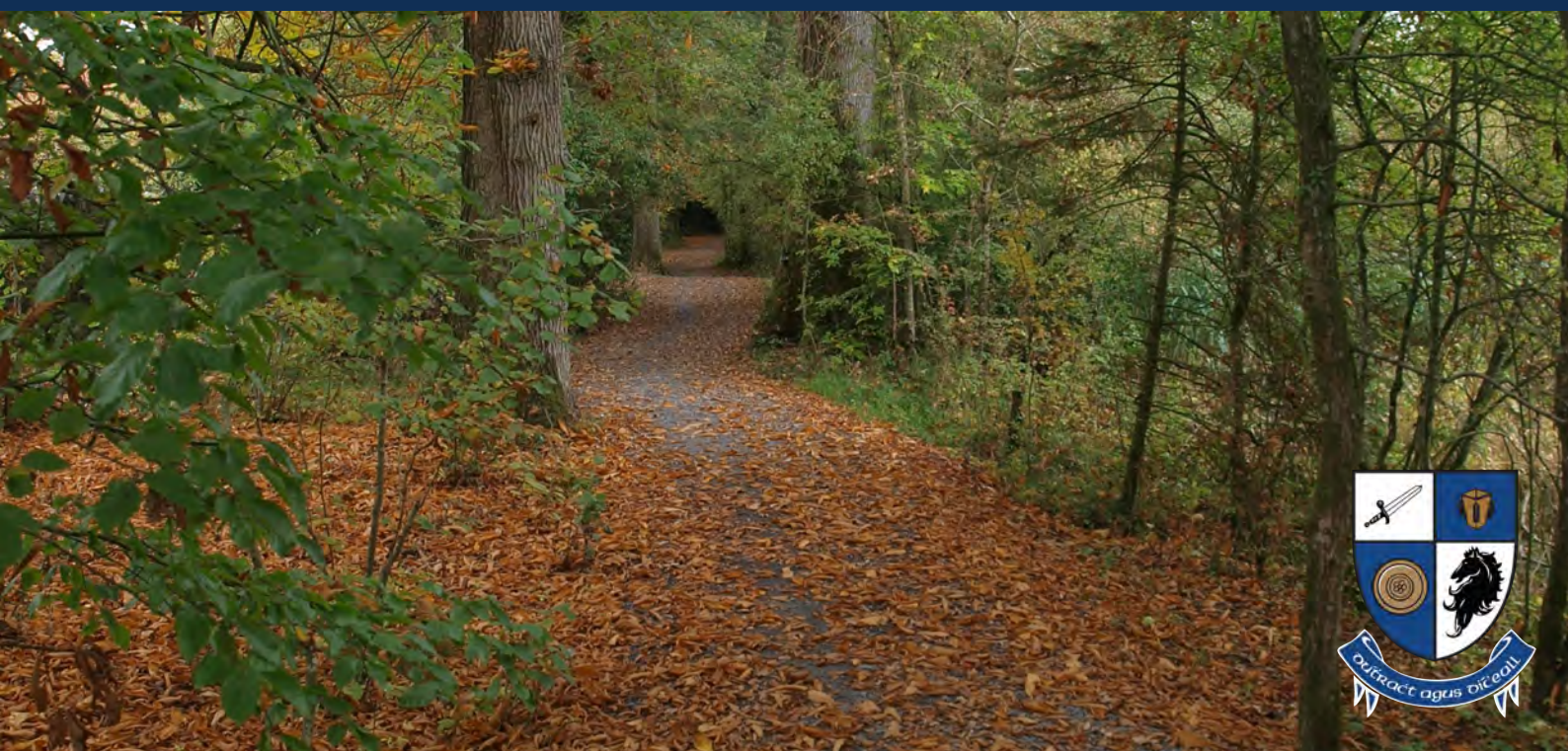




Monaghan County Council
Newsletter
Autumn 2020

Monaghan Matters



CONTENTS

P03: Community Call

P05: Corporate Services

P06: Corporate Assets and Energy

P07: Tourism

P08: Housing

P10: Museum

P10: Heritage

P11: Roads

P13: Fire Control
and Civil Protection

P15: Sports Partnership

P17: Community and Enterprise

P19: Clones European Direct
Information Centre

P20: Libraries

P24: Environmental Services

P25: Climate Action

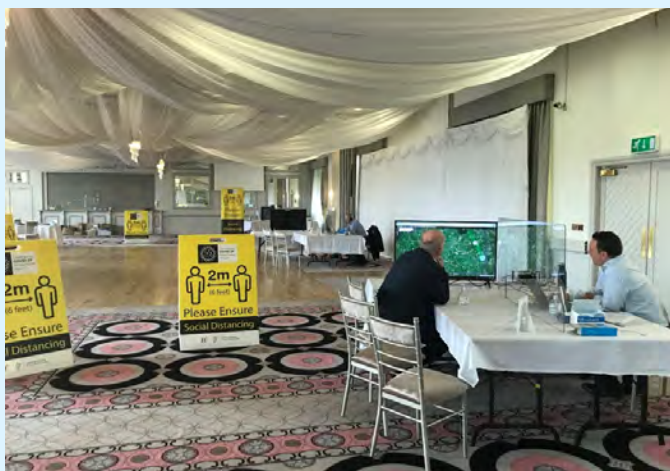
P26: Water Services

P26: Municipal Districts

P27: Innovation/IS



**Corporate
Assets and
Energy**



Roads



**Monaghan
Sports
Partnership**



Innovation/IS

COMMUNITY CALL

Community Call: Monaghan County Council takes the lead in joining together local organisations to assist citizens during COVID-19
Dedicated community support helpline has been available since Tuesday 31st March

Monaghan Covid-19 Community Call Helpline

1 800 804 158 covidsupport@monaghancoco.ie

If you're cocooning, or otherwise isolated or vulnerable, and require assistance with essentials, call today.

Calls are free and phone lines are open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Supports available include:

- Delivery of food, medicine, essentials
- Transport for testing, medical appointments
- Social supports
- Meal delivery

#HOLDFIRM

At the instigation of Minister Murphy a COVID-19 Community Response Forum was put in place for each City/County and co-ordinated by the Local Authority in each case.

A dedicated community support helpline was established in County Monaghan to assist at risk members of the public in accessing non-emergency and non-medical supports and advice during the current public health emergency.

The confidential phonenumber service was established by the new COVID-19 Monaghan Community Response Forum, which includes over a dozen agencies and organisations. The role of the Forum is to ensure that there is a co-ordinated community response and to enable all voluntary statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly of our most vulnerable members.

Included in the COVID-19 Monaghan Community Call are:

Monaghan County Council, Health Service Executive, Community Champion, An Post, Community Welfare Service, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, Local Volunteer Centre, Local Development Companies, Red Cross, Civil Defence, GAA, IFA, Public Participation Network, Age Friendly Network, Local Link, Citizen's Information, Alone, Migrant Forum and Religious Organisations.

The new phonenumber is just one aspect of the Forum's work. Its core aim is contributing to the community-wide effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. Monaghan County Council, through this group, will ensure that the wide variety of groups working across the county to assist those in need, will do so in an organised, collaborative and targeted way. The Council's COVID-19 Community Response Forum is there to ensure the very best use of the many resources assisting vulnerable persons with their daily needs at this unprecedented time, whether that is collecting medication, food shopping, social support and contact.

Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council, Eamonn O'Sullivan, explains "There are a number of agencies currently doing excellent work in delivering care to older and vulnerable people in our communities. These groups are currently operating independently of each other and Monaghan County Council's role is to provide a targeted, integrated and coordinated approach to the delivery of these much needed services to our more vulnerable citizens across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Monaghan County Council is ideally placed both statutorily and regionally to channel this great work and provide the governance structure in partnership with all stakeholders. This public health crisis has changed life for so many, and we are there to help with that change. Our own staff whose day-jobs have changed due to this crisis, will be a key resource in the management and operation of this community support programme along with our partner agencies/groups. Since coming into effect from Tuesday 31st March, Monaghan County Council is providing a dedicated FREE contact number 1 800 804 158 with the lines open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday."

At the height of the pandemic staff members from many sections throughout Monaghan County Council assisted with the Community Call Helpline.





In This Together

The 'In This Together' Campaign aims to help everyone in Ireland to stay connected, stay active, and look after their mental health throughout the COVID-19 Emergency.

The Campaign encourages everyone to set a new daily activity which helps them to feel a little healthier or a little happier as we deal with COVID-19. It signposts useful advice to help people of every age group to cope with the ongoing restrictions, whether they are looking after children, dealing with self-isolation or cocooning.

The 'In This Together' campaign draws together a huge range of activities that you can pursue in your home or your locality, by yourself or with family members or with friends online. There are ideas and activities for people of all ages.

A full range of supports is available online at gov.ie/together.

Details of local wellbeing initiatives underway in Monaghan are available here:

<https://monaghan.ie/covid-19-community-response-in-this-together/>



COVID-19 Emergency Fund provides Tablets for Care Homes

One of the projects supported by the Monaghan County Council COVID-19 Emergency Fund was the provision of IT Tablets to all HSE care homes and support provided to others right across the county to facilitate contact between residents and family members that had not been possible due to physical distancing requirements.

HSE:

'On behalf of Cavan/Monaghan Mental Health Service and the residents of the New Blackwater House, I wish to thank you for your kind donation of Samsung Tablet. The tablet has already been used to link residents with their families, this has been an invaluable resource particularly when family members are unable to visit at this time.'



Picture above shows Fintan McPhillips, Monaghan Co. Co., presenting one of the Samsung tablets to HSE Principal Social Worker Orla Curran.



Picture above shows staff receiving one of the tablets at New Blackwater House

CORPORATE SERVICES

CPD (Continuous Personal Development) Accredited Employers Standard from Engineers Ireland

Congratulations to the CPD Committee who through their hard work achieved the CPD Accredited Employers Standard from Engineers Ireland for Monaghan County Council for a maximum 3 year period from 1st October 2020 to the 1st October 2023.

Monaghan County Council is committed to the professional development of its staff & is seeking to harness this National CPD Framework to raise competence levels & deliver tangible business benefits to the organisation.

Monaghan County Council wish to promote the implementation of this best practice framework in order to recruit & retain talented staff.



COISTE GAEILGE

Le Chéile Mhuineacháin

Le linn mí an Mheithimh léirigh an Coiste Gaeilge trí cinn de Shruithanna Beo ar Facebook. B'í aidhm an tionscnaimh ná Ábhar as Gaeilge a sholáthar ar ardáin Mheáin Shóisialta na Comhairle le linn Srianata COVID-19 agus ioncam riachtanach a thabhairt do cheoltóirí áitiúla. As Gaeilge ar fad a tharla an craoladh ó Amharclann an Gharáiste trí oíche Aoine i ndiaidh a chéile, cuid de na ceoltóirí ab fhearr i gContae Mhuineacháin a ghlac páirt ann. Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Gaeilge buíochas a ghabháil leo siúd ar fad maraon le Glúin Cheoil An Chabháin Mhuineacháin, Oifig Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Muineachán le Gaeilge, Conchubhar Mac Lochlainn agus FKU Media as a dtacaíocht.

Tá na trí ócáid ar fad le feiceáil ar leathanach Facebook na Comhairle: <https://www.facebook.com/Monaghancoco/posts/2741297352764712>

During June the Coiste Gaeilge produced three Facebook Livestreams "Le Chéile Muineachán". The project aimed to provide Irish Language Content on the Council's Social Media platforms during COVID-19 Restrictions and to provide local musicians with much needed income. Broadcasted live entirely As Gaeilge from the Garage Theatre over three consecutive Friday nights, the programmes featured some of the County Monaghan's finest musicians.

An Coiste Gaeilge would like to thank all the musicians that participated and also Monaghan Cavan Music Generation, Monaghan County Council's Arts Office, The Arts Council, Muineachán Le Gaeilge, Conchubhair Mac Lochlainn and FKU! Media for their support.

All three broadcasts can be viewed back on the Council's Facebook page.

Live streams: Le Cheile Muineachain: <https://www.facebook.com/Monaghancoco/posts/2741297352764712>



CORPORATE ASSETS AND ENERGY

Monaghan County Council signed the contract for the Peace Campus project on Friday 10th July 2020. 'The Peace Campus' will bring much needed neutral shared space to Monaghan.

This €17.6 million project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) which awarded €9.5 million to Monaghan County Council to deliver the project.

The Peace Campus will provide community space, a youth facility, a new town library and a cultural heritage area.

Following a detailed tender process Monaghan County Council is pleased to award the contract for construction of the Peace Campus to Felix O'Hare & Co. Ltd.

Present at the signing of the contract, Cathaoirleach of County Monaghan, Councillor Colm Carthy said, "The Peace Campus project was developed to address the needs that still unfortunately exist in our communities today. This project will be the catalyst to allow all communities to come together to engage in a safe setting. I am looking forward to seeing good progress being made on this project over the coming months and am especially looking forward to using this facility once completed."

Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council Eamonn O'Sullivan said, "We are delighted to be in a position today to award this contract to Felix O'Hare & Co. Ltd. This project will bring much needed community space to the heart of Monaghan. The last few months have been challenging for us all, but what it has demonstrated is a strong sense of community in Monaghan and a willingness now more than ever for people to come together. The Peace Campus will provide the venue to allow interaction in a neutral, safe setting."

Welcoming the signing of the contract Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "This is a significant development in this excellent EU PEACE IV funded project. It is one of a number of shared space initiatives that are being constructed across the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Each facility has been specifically designed to help bring divided communities together in a safe and welcoming environment. As we start to emerge slowly and plan for recovery from the current crisis, local infrastructure projects like this can help reconnect people and create a confident, forward looking and cohesive society."

Chief Executive of Felix O'Hare & Co. Ltd said, "Felix O'Hare & Co. Ltd are delighted to have been awarded this prestigious and innovative project. We're very excited to be working alongside Monaghan County Council to transform this site and very much look forward to delivering this regeneration project, one in which we all can be proud."

Monaghan County Council has been working collaboratively on this project since 2016. Alistair Beckett, Director of Hall Black Douglas, the Architects for the project commented, "Hall Black Douglas Architects are delighted that this ambitious project is now proceeding on site."

The design team have enjoyed working with the Council and look forward to successfully working with the contractor, Felix O'Hare & Co. Ltd, on site. This exciting construction project will provide contemporary community facilities for the people of Monaghan and beyond. This is a very significant building both personally and for the practice, we trust that it will make a positive contribution to Monaghan and all who visit the building. We have designed the building to respond to the local streetscape and level changes across the site."

Construction work has commenced on site and it is expected that the project will be completed early 2022.



At the signing of the contract for the Peace Campus Development in Monaghan Town, was Cllr Colm Carthy, centre, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, with representatives of the contractors and funders. In photo are seated (L-R) Damien Gill, Felix O'Hare Contractors, Cllr Colm Carthy, Cathaoirleach, Monaghan County Council, Eamon O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council and Heather Humphreys, TD – Minister of Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands. Behind (L-R) Cathal Flynn, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Monaghan County Council, Peter Maguire, Felix O'Hare Contractors, Leanne Massey, SEUPB, Kim McKenna, Corporate Services, Monaghan County Council, Alan Hall, Senior Executive Engineer, Monaghan County Council and Nicola Payne, Corporate Services, Monaghan County Council. ©Rory Geary/The Northern Standard



TOURISM

Monaghan Tourism Summer Campaign 2020

This year's campaign launched at a time of great uncertainty within the tourism and hospitality sector. The global pandemic and the resulting restrictions imposed on travel and movement impacted on everyday life as never before. The Monaghan Tourism Summer Campaign 2020 was thus presented with a unique opportunity to rally local tourism businesses, to inspire local people to get out and explore their home county, and to tempt visitors from further afield to give Monaghan a try.

The campaign adopted a number of approaches to achieve this. Firstly, a radio campaign consisting of daily ads and a series of weekly radio interviews with key tourism providers was undertaken on a phased basis. The first phase focused on Co. Monaghan via Northern Sound and this was widened out to neighbouring counties via Shannonside as the restrictions lifted.

Secret Spots

The 'Secret Spots' series ran across Monaghan Tourism social media channels, showcasing some of the county's best-loved – though not necessarily well known - things to see and do, as recommended by local experts as well as some well-known names too, amongst them Helen Steele, Pat McCabe and Caitriona Balfe.

The Monaghan Quest

The Monaghan Quest ran throughout August and was the perfect incentive to encourage participants to get out and discover the gems on their very own doorstep, by answering a series of questions covering heritage sites, outdoor spaces and attractions across the county to be in with a chance to win.

Prizes in the form of town vouchers were offered with additional vouchers up for grabs via 'Spot Challenges' released via Monaghan Tourism social media channels over the course of the month.

Kids were encouraged to get involved by completing the Monaghan Mini Quest, a series of 10 questions with a €50 voucher prize offered.

Although the current pandemic continues to pose a challenge for tourism across the country, the Monaghan Tourism campaign continues to affirm and promote the message both locally and nationally that Monaghan is open for business and offers a wealth of things to see and do for all ages and interests.

There is no better time than now to discover, explore and try something new whilst avoiding the crowds and maintaining a safe social distance in Monaghan, a lesser-known staycation haven.



Rossmore Forest Park wins in RDS Spring Agriculture & Forestry Awards 2020

Recent upgrade works to Rossmore Forest Park (funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme) were completed over the Summer.

These included improvements to the entrance area, resurfaced entry road, landscaped car park with additional parking spaces, wildflower planting and 3 new giants.

As a result of all the improvements to the park, Rossmore recently received the Community Woodlands Award in the RDS Spring Agriculture and Forestry Awards 2020.

The Community Woodlands Award is designed to encourage and reward projects involving the communal ownership and/or management of forests and woodlands which have been established and managed in a sustainable way that is beneficial to the local economy and/or environment.

The award was presented to representatives of Monaghan County Council, Coillte, and the Monaghan Town Team in a socially distanced presentation at Rossmore Forest Park in August.



Culture Night at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre

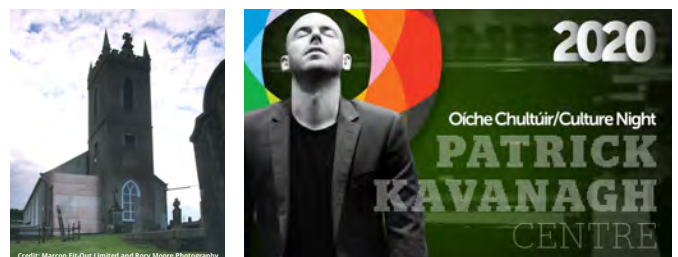
The Kavanagh Centre hosted a bilingual evening of music and poetry as part of Culture Night on 18th September. Performers included the composer Michael Gallen, Irish band Scullion and there were poetry readings from John McArdle and Caitriona Ni Chléirchín. The night was a great success and the musicians and audience were unanimous in their enjoyment.

The event was live-streamed as the audience numbers were restricted and there were very strong levels of engagement online.

The event is available to watch back online via the Patrick Kavanagh Centre Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/patrickkavanaghcountry/videos/973924706456567/>

Bhí ócáid an-speisialta dhátheangach san Ionad Patrick Kavanagh don Oíche Chultúrtha 18ú Meán Fomhair. Ar an gclár bhí an cumadóir Michael Gallen, an grúpa ceoil Scullion agus léamha filíochta ó Caitriona Ni Chléirchín agus John McArdle. D'éirigh go hiontach leis an oíche agus bhain na ceoltóirí agus an lucht féachana sult as. Rinneadh beoshruthú as an ócáid tosc go raibh srian ar líon an luacht féachana ach bhí leibhéil an-láidir rannpháirtíochta ar líne.

Tá an ócáid ar fáil le breathnú siar ar líne trí leathanach Facebook Ionad Patrick Kavanagh:
<https://www.facebook.com/patrickkavanaghcountry/videos/973924706456567/>



HOUSING

Luí na Gréine – Scotstown

Monaghan County Council has appointed Lowry Construction through tender competition to complete 4 derelict unfinished houses and construct 28 new houses on a derelict site in Scotstown located between the Scotstown-Smithborough and the Scotstown-Rosslea roads. The site was acquired by Monaghan County Council through the Derelict Sites Act 1990 to resolve the derelict nature of the unfinished housing development.

Monaghan County Council received Stage 4 Funding Approval on the 27th January 2020 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

The Luí na Gréine development consists of 32 properties including 4 two-bedroom single storey houses, 12 two-bedroom two-storey houses, 12 three-bedroom two-storey houses, and 4 four-bedroom two-storey houses. The overall project budget is approximately €7 million including site investigations, design fees, construction costs and utility & statutory fees.

Local Architectural firm Wynne, Gormley and Gilsenan Architects is the Employers Representative and Lead Designer to deliver the project along with Alan Traynor Consulting Engineering, Cuilinn Group and FJD Surveyors. Part 8 Planning consent is in place and Detailed Design is complete. The homes have been designed to the highest quality for modern living providing a Building Energy Rating of A3 and above.

The project is advancing well with the first houses estimated to be available for occupation in 2021 in a phased approach.

Monaghan County Council is administering, monitoring, processing payments and proactively managing and ensuring quality on this project which is of enormous significance to Scotstown and the surrounding area as it is dealing with derelict properties in an unfinished housing development while providing much needed social housing which will help the sustainability of the village of Scotstown and strengthen the viability of local services for the wider rural community in the area.



Site 2 - Former Boyle Sports site



Site 3 - Former An Bonnan Bui site

Clones Renewal Scheme

Monaghan County Council and the appointed contractors Lowry Construction Ltd are progressing well with the Clones Renewal Scheme. The various sites were acquired by Monaghan County Council through negotiated purchase and the Derelict Sites Act 1990 to resolve the derelict nature of properties in the Town Centre.

Monaghan County Council received Stage 4 Funding Approval mid 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

The Clones Renewal Scheme consists of 22 apartments and 2 two-storey social homes. The overall project budget is circa €6 million including site investigations, design fees, construction costs and utility & statutory fees.

Local Architectural firm Craftstudio Architects is the Employers Representative and Lead Designer to deliver the project along with Alan Traynor Consulting Engineering, Coleman Reynolds M & E Engineers and FJD Surveyors.

Part 8 Planning consent is in place and Detailed Design is complete with the homes designed to the highest quality for modern living providing a Building Energy Rating of A3 and above.

The project is advancing well with the first properties delivered in 2020 and the remaining units to be delivered in 2021.

Monaghan County Council is administering, monitoring, processing payments and proactively managing and ensuring quality on this significant and noteworthy project which is receiving national attention as a standout example of how to deliver social housing under difficult circumstances on brownfield sites while contributing massively to renewal of the Town Centre.



26 Social Houses to be provided at Plás an Bhrí Bree, Castleblayney under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme



Monaghan County Council continues to make excellent progress under the Rebuilding Ireland Social Housing Programme.

Monaghan County Council has contracts in place for the provision of 26 houses at Plás an Bhrí, Bree, Castleblayney. The houses are under construction by Ballymar Development Limited.

The finance of €5,530,000 for the construction of these homes is provided by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

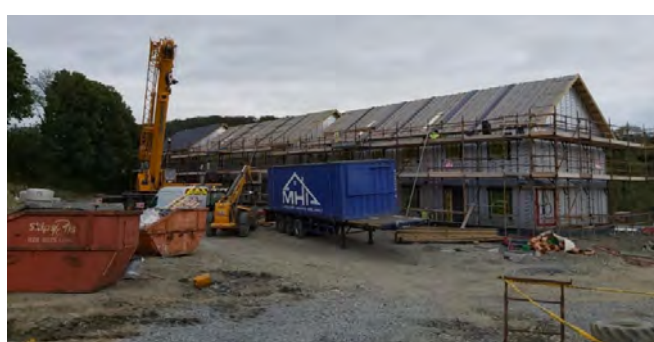
The development comprises of the following house types:

- 4 no. Four-Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses (126m²)
- 16 no. Three-Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses (98m²)
- 6 no. Three-Bedroom Terraced Houses (98m²)

The works include open space, landscaping, new access road, drainage, street lighting and other siteworks as described in the Planning Application.

The main structure of the houses is by MHI (Modern Homes Ireland) who use an innovative system of building in the form of a modular steel frame volumetric method of construction. The houses are 80% constructed within a factory environment, prior to the delivery to site of 4 modules which make a single house. This process increases the speed of construction while ensuring excellent quality control. The 26 homes will be finished to a high standard and will have Building Energy Ratings of A2.

Work commenced in March 2020 and is projected to be completed by Quarter 4 of 2020.



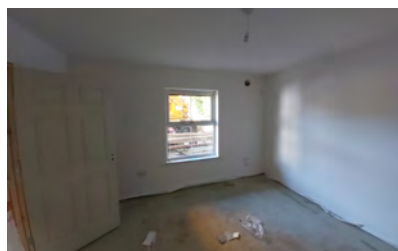
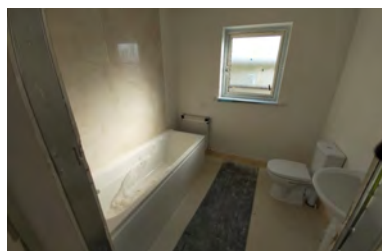
Photos above:
Foundations completed prior to modules arrival - August 2020

Photo above: Photo of 8 home modules installed in 1 week - September 2020



Photos above:
Module being lifted into place - September 2020

Photo above: Floor plan to line up module being lifted into place - September 2020



Photos above (left to right):
Module Bathroom, tiled, plumbed, and fitted in factory and module living room - September 2020

Monaghan County Council will continue to seek additional funding for Social Housing at every opportunity that arises and proactively pursue opportunities for additional social housing provision in areas of Housing Need throughout County Monaghan.

Monaghan County Council is administering, monitoring, ensuring quality, processing payments and proactively managing and ensuring quality on this significant project which is the **first of its kind in County Monaghan.**

Ensuring quality control while facilitating and managing the fast pace of this rapid build project is challenging. Everyone involved deserves credit for keeping this project on track during this particularly difficult time.

MUSEUM

Recording Our Experience:

Monaghan County Museum has sought to collect stories from the public about the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Seeking experiences in the form of:

- Photographs or drawings
- any sort of pictures or drawing that shows life as it is now during the pandemic

Stories relating to the pandemic in Monaghan

- These could be your stories or perhaps those of a family member or friend that you have spoken with video, audio or sound files
- These could be interviews with family members – perhaps older members of your family who have memories of times like this in the past.

Ideas for topics included:

Changes to daily life, work, shopping, religion, communication, spare time and community.

All material submitted will be added to the museum collection and form part of an exhibition in the near future.

If you would like to get involved email comuseum@monaghancoco.ie



HERITAGE

Heritage Happenings

In April the Heritage Office initiated the Heritage Happenings series, daily little snippets to stimulate curiosity for your local place during times of social distancing and cocooning.

On their 2km radius walk each day, people were encouraged to keep an eye out for things they never noticed before, such as a flower in a hedge, a tree, an unusual postal box, an iron gate, building, monument, butterfly or even a placename.

To see all of the Heritage Happenings pieces visit: <https://monaghan.ie/heritage/2020/04/06/heritage-happenings/>



ROADS

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to Border Road Schemes Emerging Preferred Route Corridor – Public Consultation

Emerging Preferred Route Corridors were published for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to Border Road Schemes on the 24th August 2020, and a period of public consultation ran until 5th October 2020.

Monaghan County Council is working in partnership with Louth County Council and in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Westmeath National Roads Office (WNRO) to develop the 32km N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme. Monaghan County Council is also working in association with TII and WNRO to develop the 28km N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme.

Together with the other improvements planned for the N2/A5 route, these proposed road schemes will significantly improve transport connectivity along the N2 and provide safer and more efficient access to other strategic national roads. The N2 Dublin to Derry route is a national primary road linking Dublin to Northern Ireland and the North West of the country. It passes through the towns of Slane and Ardee, and bypasses Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Monaghan before becoming the A5 as it passes through Northern Ireland.

A first public consultation took place for the 'Study Area and Constraints' for each scheme in June/July 2019. The key constraints within the study area were reviewed and feedback received through the public consultation was considered. Six Route Corridor Options were identified for each scheme and a second public consultation was held on the 'Route Corridor Options' in late 2019. The feedback received has been considered as part of the Option Selection process by the Project Team in identifying the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors.

What is an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor?

An Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is the route option that has been assessed to have the best combination of benefits and impacts based on the criteria to be considered for road transport projects. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridors shown on the project website are typically 400m wide. The 400m corridors do not represent the actual width of the road scheme or the lands to be acquired – the corridors indicate the lands within which the N2 road schemes could be developed. The exact details of the land take, earthworks, junction and side road design and property impacts will be developed during the next Phase of the planning and design process.

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor – N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme is Route Corridor Option A, also known as the Yellow Route Corridor (Shown on the project website). This option was one of the six Route Corridor Options presented at Public Consultation 2 (Route Corridor Options) in November 2019. The corridor predominately follows the existing N2 route for the entirety of its length.

Following completion of Public Consultation 2 and through the Option Selection Process, it was identified that a localised widening of the Option A (Yellow) in the Townlands of Cookstown and Charlestown, directly North-East of Cookstown Cross in Co. Louth, was required. The area is approximately 1km in length and is approximately 140m at its widest point, and the widening is required to mitigate potential impact to Cultural Heritage Sites at Cookstown Cross. This widening was not previously included in the Route Corridor Options presented through Public Consultation 2.

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor – N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme is a combination of the Route Corridor Options brought forward for assessment after the second public consultation. Six Route Corridor Options were presented through the second Public Consultation in October 2019, and feedback received suggested combining corridors in the area north of Castleshane. Following consideration of this feedback, a seventh Route Corridor Option was brought forward for assessment. This additional Route Corridor Option includes an area of land that was not previously included within the published Route Corridor Options – this area of land is shown in grey and lies within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor (Shown on the project website).

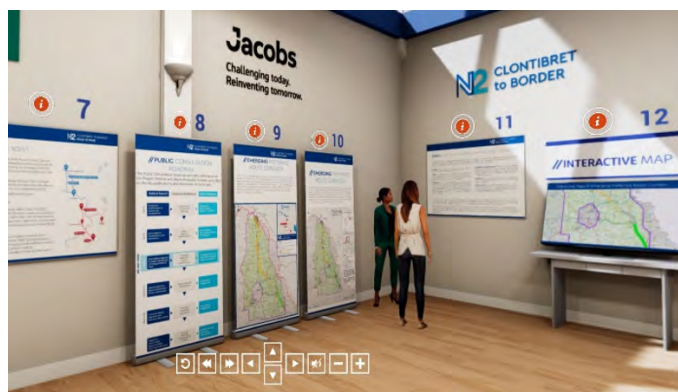
The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor was identified using the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Stage 2 assessment process, with further analysis and appraisal methods used to determine the best performing option. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor combines sections of Option F (Green), Option E (Yellow) and Option B (Orange). This new Route Corridor is referred to as Option H (Green+Yellow+Orange) (Shown on the project website).

Public Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors

Public consultation is an important and integral part of any major national road project scheme development process and is extensively catered for during key stages of the project. Non-statutory public consultation is included more frequently than statutorily required under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2015.

This was the third non-statutory consultation on these projects. Due to the threat COVID-19 poses to human health, it was not possible to hold the large scale public events that had previously been held for public consultations 1 and 2. Ensuring that all landowners and stakeholder with an interest in the project were made aware of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors and could engage in the public consultation process was a challenge, particularly since many vulnerable people were still isolating.

Providing online information was recognised as the safest way of communication with the public, however it was understood that online information could not be accessed by everyone, particularly as John McArdle, Monaghan County Council's Broadband Officer, had provided statistics showing that 46% of properties/premises in County Monaghan do not have access to high speed broadband. Monaghan County Council's Social Inclusion Officer, Bernie Bradley, was also consulted in relation to use of the internet in County Monaghan, and she advised that in a briefing paper published in January 2020 Age Action had stated 'The majority of older people have never been online and digital literacy rates among older people in Ireland lag far behind our EU neighbours. Over half of Irish people aged between 65 and 74 have never used the internet'. As the older population of County Monaghan is higher than the national average, coupled with the rural settlement pattern and limited high speed broadband access, it was recognised that information had to be made available using other means.



The Online 'Virtual Consultation Experience', accessible via the project website www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie

Monaghan County Council's draft 'Inclusive Consultation Policy 2020' was considered when planning for the public consultation and a multi-faceted approach to communicating and engaging with people was proposed which included online resources, targeted direct mailing, a leaflet drop, print media and radio advertising, roadside signage, social media, PPN publicity in Monaghan and Louth and direct email notifications to registered stakeholders. Elected Representatives were updated regularly throughout the public consultation process and their support in encouraging affected stakeholders to engage with the project team was invaluable.

An online 'Public Consultation Experience' was developed on the project website www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie, which featured a virtual room with information laid out in a format similar to other public consultation events. This online public consultation experience allowed stakeholders and the general public to view maps, project information and express their opinion in a safe and accessible environment. Advance publicity advertised that the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors were to be published via the project website at 6pm on Monday, 24th August. Over 3,400 people visited the website/public consultation experience in the first week. Within three weeks over 5,000 people had visited the website.



Up to 1,000 registered landowners within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors received an information pack by post. A leaflet was also delivered to approximately 6,000 properties within all of the previously published Route Corridor Options advising that the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor has been identified and that the public consultation process has commenced.

A range of options were available to speak directly with and meet members of the Project Team during the six week public consultation period:

- During the first 3 weeks of the public consultation period members of the public could arrange meetings with a member of the Project Team by phone or using digital technologies. Over 110 such meetings took place.

- During the second 3 weeks of the consultation period face-to-face meetings were held by appointment in the Four Seasons Hotel in Monaghan Town and in the Nuremore Hotel in Carrickmacross. Stakeholders had the opportunity to meet with key project team members to find out more about the project and discuss their individual concerns. These meetings allowed for social distancing and adhered to all COVID-19 guidelines to safeguard the health of the public and staff. Approximately 250 face-to-face meetings took place.



-Information was available through the project phone line, where members of the team were available to give an overview of the project and answer general questions. The project phone line continues to operate and can be contacted on 087 340 3786.

-Email queries are being accepted throughout the public consultation period.

Monaghan County Council would like to thank TII, WNRO and the staff of Jacobs Engineering Ireland for their innovation and support in addressing the challenges presented by COVID-19 to deliver an effective and meaningful public consultation. The format of this public consultation has been well received, and many valuable lessons in relation to stakeholder engagement have been learned. Details of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors are available on the project website www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie.

Feedback and submissions received through the third public consultation will be considered by the N2 Project Team and amendments may be made to the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors before Preferred Route Corridors are finalised. Once the Preferred Route Corridors are finalised the 'Option Selection Report', which includes all information relating to the assessment of the Route Corridor Options and the selection of the Preferred Route Corridors, will be published. It is hoped that the Preferred Route Corridors will be finalised and published by early 2021. Stakeholders and the general public will be kept informed as part of Monaghan County Council's commitment to ongoing and considered stakeholder engagement. Updates, news and details will be posted on the website www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie and through local media.

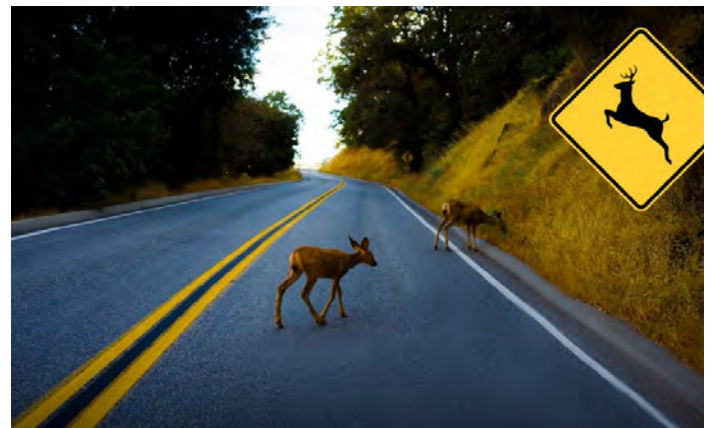
After a Preferred Route Corridor is finalised the next Phase of the planning and design process can commence (subject to relevant approvals), which will include identifying the landtake required, junction and access designs and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. During this phase further engagement with landowners and interested parties will be undertaken as part of the ongoing design process.

Roisin Moore (Nic An Iarla)
Project Liaison Officer, Monaghan County Council

Ulster Canal Greenway Phase 2, Smithborough to Middletown

Following a thorough route selection process, the Preferred Route Corridor for the Ulster Canal Greenway Phase 2, Smithborough to Middletown has now been selected. Two Public Information events were held for communities along the route of the Greenway to give stakeholders an opportunity to review the Preferred Route Drawings and to meet with the Project Team. The Information evenings were held in Tyholland and Middletown during August, but the Smithborough event had to be postponed due to changes to the COVID-19 guidelines. It will be rescheduled once COVID-19 Restrictions permit.

The formal Planning Applications comprising planning drawings, design reports, ecological reports, archaeological reports, and conservation architecture reports are being finalised for submission on both sides of the border during October 2020. Detailed discussions with landowners along the Preferred Route will continue over the coming months.



Road Safety: Motorists Urged to Be Vigilant During Rutting Season!

Deer breeding season is now underway. The "rut" occurs during the month of October and may last up to 6 weeks and is a time when there are increased incidents of road traffic accidents involving deer crossing roads.

The Wild Deer Association of Ireland advise motorists to reduce speed and to stay alert where they see a warning sign or in high risk areas such as woodlands and mountains, especially at dawn and dusk when deer are most active.

The advice is: Prepare to stop, never swerve as you could hit another obstacle or oncoming vehicle. When you see a deer dip your head lights as the full-beam may cause them to freeze. If a deer has crossed in front of your vehicle, be aware that others may follow. Do not approach an injured deer. If you are involved in an accident or come across a deer that has been involved in an accident, contact your local Garda station or the Traffic Watch lo-call number 1890 205 805.

MONAGHAN FIRE AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Castleblayney Fire Station:

The new Fire Station for Castleblayney is now complete.

This will replace the old Fire Station which was home to Castleblayney Fire Brigade since 1965.

This modern facility features training and welfare areas for fire crew and two appliance bays to house fire service vehicles.

Construction began in January 2019 and was completed on 4th August 2020.

Castleblayney Fire Brigade will mobilise to all emergency call outs from this location.



New Dangerous Substance Licencing Procedures April 2020

In April 2020 the introduction of SI 630 and SI 631 of 2019 saw the first major review of the Dangerous Substance Regulations in Ireland since 1979.

The new Regulations are broader in scope than the previous 1979 Regulations and now includes diesel, as well as several 'alternative fuels' such as electricity, hydrogen, biofuels, synthetic and paraffinic fuels, compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The new regulations take account current industry best practice when it comes to the design and construction of filling stations.

Monaghan County Council as the current licencing authority for County Monaghan, has a role in relation to the licensing and inspection of relevant premises and taking enforcement action when required for breaches of licences under the Dangerous Substance Act, 1972 and Dangerous Substances Regulations, 2019.

Fire Safety Week 5th to 12th October 2020

"Smoke Alarms Save Lives"

"Sábháilann Aláirim Deataigh Beathaí".

In the time of COVID-19, as we spend more time at home it is more important than ever that we are all aware and fully-informed as to the steps we can take to protect ourselves and our homes from fire.

This year for Fire Safety Week we focused particularly on fire safety in the home and encouraged all homes to have smoke alarms and test them weekly.

As we move towards a 'new normal', we hope to help the public build new Fire Safe habits.

Check out: <http://firesafetyweek.ie/>



S

Smoke alarms

Make sure you have at least one on every floor.

T

Test your smoke alarms weekly

Test your smoke alarm weekly, or ask someone to check it for you.

O

Obvious dangers

Look for fire risks like overloaded sockets, candles and unattended appliances.

P

Plan your escape route

Keep access routes clear and have your keys at the ready.



Pictured Above: Kieran Gallagher conducting a Building Control Inspection

Building Control Inspections

The National Building Control Office (NBCO) recently joined Monaghan Fire and Building Control during a number of site inspections throughout the county.

The joint inspection offers an opportunity for learning, peer review and to exemplify good practice.

The process on this occasion focused on the construction of modular buildings. The steel-frame modular construction is one of the first of its type in County Monaghan.

Monaghan Building Control Officer Kieran Gallagher and NBCO Regional Inspector Richard Butler conducted inspections of a 26 unit Modular Steel Frame Development in Bree, Castleblayney.

AVAILABLE SUPPORTS

Seniors Alert Scheme (SAS)
Aid seniors in your area aware of the Seniors Alert Scheme. The SAS supplies emergency alarm pendants for seniors.
For further information, please visit www.pobal.ie

CLAR Programme
The Department of Rural and Community Development has provided funding under the CLAR programme to provide support for emergency responders in disadvantaged rural areas.
Details on eligibility and the application process are published on the Department's website www.drcd.gov.ie

Libraries
Libraries are welcoming spaces at the centre of the community where people can access newspapers, books, online resources, free WiFi, computers and communal spaces. People can go to their libraries to reflect, connect and learn.
For more information on the services you can access at your local library, please see www.libraryireland.ie

Volunteering
Ireland has a strong tradition of volunteer activity. From checking in on vulnerable neighbours to testing fire alarms, formal and informal volunteers have made a huge contribution during recent extreme weather events.
For more information on how you can contribute to your community, please see www.volunteer.ie

GENTLE REMINDER: CHECK ON YOUR OLDER RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS



If it's difficult for you to get around it will be impossible for them.

- Do you have their phone number(s)?
- Phone them or call around
- Check they have enough fuel, food supplies and necessary medications
- If in doubt call the Gardaí and ask them to check

BE WINTER-READY



**You
Your Community
and the Winter**

You can get more information from:

- www.winterready.ie
- www.drcd.gov.ie
- www.mapalrter.com
- www.undertheweather.ie
- www.emergencyplanning.ie
- www.met.ie



LoCall OEP: 1890 252 736 or 0761 001 608
e-mail: oeop@defence.ie



www.winterready.ie

[@emergencyIE](https://twitter.com/emergencyIE)





Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

Winter readiness is a challenge for individuals and communities across Ireland each year, and calls for cooperation and collaboration between many different groups.

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has a unique role to play in fostering the links that bring communities together. Our mission is to "promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland."

Strengthening community links helps to improve preparedness for emergencies. Experience has shown that active preparation leads to a better response in an emergency, leading to the best possible outcome for all concerned. This preparedness enables the community to come together to use locally identified resources (people and equipment) during an emergency affecting their community, such as the flooding and heavy snowfall of recent years.

Although the response to severe weather events is coordinated both nationally and locally, communities have an important role to play in emergencies. Central to this is neighbours knowing each other and working together. Being prepared, knowing your neighbours and working together will help to ensure that you and your community are winter ready in the months ahead.

BEING PREPARED

Know Your Community
Is your community based around an apartment building, a housing estate, a street, a road or a village? Is there a local residents' association or community alert group?

Neighbourhood Supports
Do you have your neighbours' contact details? How can you help each other? For example, do you or your neighbour have an off-road vehicle or medical experience?

Planning
What emergencies might your community have to plan for? For example, fire, flooding, snow, power outage, water shortage or accessibility problems.

Vulnerable Neighbours
Are some of your neighbours particularly vulnerable? For example, older people, people with disabilities or mobility problems, neighbours with young children or people without access to transport.

Remember

- Know your Eircode
- Know your GP's Contact Details
- Get the flu vaccine
- Keep your phone charged
- Keep warm, eat well and avoid unnecessary travel
- Know how to turn off your utility services (electricity, gas, water) in your home

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Fill in your contact numbers below
- Keep your contact numbers on display
- In the event of an emergency, dial 999 or 112

Eircode:	
Electrician:	
Emergency Contact:	
Family GP:	
Hospital:	
Local Authority:	
Neighbour:	
Pharmacist:	
Plumber:	
Residents' Association/Community Alert Group:	

You, Your Community and the Winter

Building Control Management System (BCMS) - Online Submission of Fire Safety Certificates and Disabled Access Certificates (DAC) July 2020

In July 2020 the National Building Control Office (NBCO) migrated Building Control application to Building Control Management System (BCMS) to allow and facilitate the online/electronic submission of application such as Fire Safety Certificates, Disability Access Certificates and Dispensation/Relaxation Certificates.

From the 13th July 2020, Monaghan Fire & Building Control Authority has advised and encouraged all technical agents wishing to submit applications for Fire Safety Certificates, Disability Access Certificates and Dispensation/Relaxation Certificates to do so via the new BCMS online/electronic application process.

For consultants and technical agents, the new BCMS online submission process allows for paperless applications and is similar to the existing process for submitting a commencement Notice (CN) or Certificate of Compliance on Completion (CCC).

The new BCMS online/electronic submission process involves the completion and signing of statutory application forms, the acceptance of designated roles, the uploading of signed statutory application forms and all necessary supporting documentation including drawings, reports, calculations, certificates and specifications.



Monaghan Fire & Building Control Authority has acquired additional hardware and software to facilitate online/electronic assessment of applications.

The new BCMS online submission process allows immediate customer/agent focused engagement and has facilitated the move to a paperless application process.

MONAGHAN CIVIL DEFENCE

New Headquarters for Monaghan Civil Defence

Monaghan Civil Defence Headquarters was substantially completed in February 2020 and has been the command centre for Civil Defence deployment during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The new Headquarters provides training and welfare facilities for volunteers, along with offices and storage capacity to support front line emergency response.

The building will be a hub to provide local community support and assist Principle Response Agencies during severe weather events, pandemics and other emergency response capabilities. An official opening will be arranged at an appropriate time.



MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Let's Play Monaghan! - Family Fun Games & Activities

Monaghan Sports Partnership launched its 'Family Fun and Games Activities Booklet in July. The booklet is a compilation of 'old school' and new games that are suitable for a range of age groups and ability levels.

The booklets complemented 340 activity 'play packs' that were collated for children to support ideas for play and physical activity.

The play packs were created for two age-groups:

- 0-4 year age group: touch n' feel book, bubbles, soft ball, teething ring, play doh, sensory balls.

- 5-12 year age group: mini football, skipping rope, bubbles, chalk, frisbee, dice, juggling balls.

The play packs were distributed through family support services, such as PPFs (Prevention Partnership Family Support) Beacon project linking with Family Resource Centres, ISPCC, Tearmann, HSE Public Health Nurses, Hope Café and Carickmacross Food Bank to targeted families in the Community.

An additional 200 booklets (without play packs) were printed and made available to the general public and were distributed through the 5 Library Branches.

The booklet is also available to download at www.monaghan.ie or www.monaghansports.ie

The booklet and activity packs were funded through the Healthy Ireland Fund and supplemented through National Play Day funding (from Department of Children & Youth Affairs)



Reports and Updates

In June, Sport Ireland published its annual report for Local Sports Partnership, and Minister of State, Brendan Griffin launched the report which details the work of the 29 Local Sports Partnerships, including Monaghan Sports Partnership's case study on Sport Club Development.

Sport Ireland also produced an infographic to summarise the collective outputs of the network of Sports Partnership nationally in 2019. Monaghan Sports Partnership produced its own local Annual Report 2019.

Collaboration with HSE (CHO1 area) and Age Friendly Programme

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme produced a booklet for cocooners which was distributed to 6,000 households.

In this Monaghan Sports Partnership, in conjunction with HSE Physiotherapy Services collaborated on an activity based leaflet to encourage older / vulnerable people to stay active through simple exercises in the home.

Monaghan Sports Partnership also distributed the HSE Chair Based Exercise Booklet and Age & Opportunity Exercise Booklet on request.



100 Days of Walking

Monaghan Sports Partnership introduced the 100 Days of Walking Challenge aimed at motivating people to adopt walking as a daily lifestyle habit to help families stay active during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The challenge involved walking 100 days in succession, and we suggested an approximate distance of the 2km travel restrictions in place at the time and completion of a total of 200 km at the end of 100 days.

Participants recorded their daily walk progress on the Monaghan Sports Partnership downloadable progress chart over the 100 days. This challenge was suitable for all ages and families were encouraged to get out and walk together, in line with HSE guidelines, and reap the benefits that walking has on physical and mental well-being.

The 100 Days of Walking Challenge commenced in May and concluded in August - 210 people registered to take part.

0-3 km Walk to Jog Monaghan Sports Partnership launched a 6-week (0 to 3k) Walk to Jog Programme in April designed to encourage complete beginners to increase walking fitness and progress to jogging with relative ease.

It is a simple progressive programme that begins with more walking than jogging, and gradually evolves into more jogging than walking. No fitness levels were required, just a commitment to completing 3 sessions per week for the duration of the programme. This programme was designed to fit within the government 2k radius restrictions (at the time) and was provided FREE of charge and all participants were issued with weekly training plans as well as some video classes and tutorials from professionals on mobility/ core strength, flexibility and training and nutrition.



Cycle Challenges

Monaghan Sports Partnership introduced two cycling challenges to encourage people to be active through cycling distances that were permissible under COVID-19 travel restrictions in place in April.

Cycle Monaghan Challenge – to cycle short distances from home on a regular basis, until a collective distance of 110 kms is completed – participants registered online and kept a manual record of progress (see sample of completed progress trackers pictured to the left).

Malin to Mizen Challenge – to cycle short distances from home on a regular basis until a collective distance of 640 kms is completed - participants registered online and kept a manual record of progress (see sample of completed progress trackers pictured to the left).

Outcomes:

- 115 people of all ages took part
- Some used their challenge to raise funds for their own chosen charity
- Evidence of people joining a local cycling club and increasing their ability to cycle long distances as a result of the challenge

#BeActive Day

Sport Ireland #BeActive Day took place on Sunday 28th June as an initiative for Local Sports Partnerships across Ireland to promote families being active at home.

Monaghan Sports Partnership promoted the day through press releases, and social media content. While weather conditions prevented outdoor activity taking place there were many examples of indoor family fun games and activities. The #BeActive campaign also linked in with the publication of our new Family Fun Games and Activities Booklet and Play Pack.



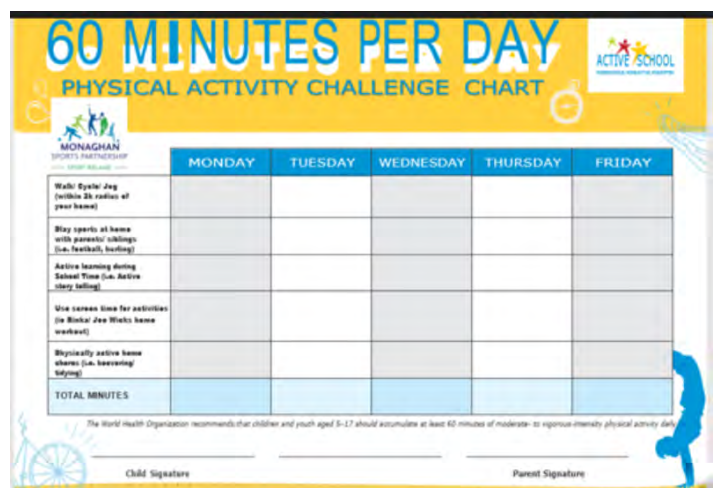
#BeActive While Not At School - Active Home Week

Active School Week 2020 was due to take place from Monday 27th April – 1st May 2020. As schools were not able to run Active School Week this year, the Active Schools Committee promoted the 'Active Home Week' challenge instead.

To complete the challenge children and young people, had to find 4 different ways of being active each day making sure that this adds up to 60 minutes, or more. They were encouraged to try something new, have fun with a family activity and enjoy the week!

Monaghan Sports Partnership devised a number of challenges for Children (along with adults) to undertake including the:

- 3 Week Active Homework Challenge
- The Active Everyday Challenge
- Climb the Heights Skipping Challenge



COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

New Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for Monaghan Local Community Development Committee

At the July meeting of Monaghan (LCDC) Local Community Development Committee, Alan Johnston was elected as the new Chairperson for a 3 year term. Alan represents the Business/Employer interests on the LCDC, he succeeds Cllr. David Maxwell in this role.

Also at the meeting Alan McCabe, active member in his own community and Member of Monaghan PPN, an existing LCDC member, was elected Vice Chairperson, succeeding Packie Kelly in the role. Alan represents the Environment Pillar on the LCDC and hopes to build on the work the LCDC have already delivered over the past 6 years.

The New Chairperson Alan Johnston had previously chaired the Monaghan Town Team since it was established in January 2016, he supported the development of the town team over the last four years. Under his leadership and direction as chairperson the Monaghan Town team has achieved many awards including Enterprising Towns and the Top Ten Foodie Destination. The Team also set up the Monaghan Town Business Awards and the very successful Monaghan Town Voucher Scheme. A special word of thanks to the local businesses of County Monaghan for supporting the voucher scheme, which is now one of the top voucher schemes in Ireland.

The Local Community Development Committee is a very important Committee in County Monaghan and was established in 2014 and have primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local community development funding, such as the LEADER Rural Development Programme, the SICAP programme which aims to tackle poverty and social inclusion, the HEALTHY Ireland programme and the Community Enhancement Programme etc. The LCDC drives meaningful citizen and community engagement in the scoping, planning, delivery and evaluation of local and community development programmes; They also in collaboration with Monaghan County Council have overseen the establishment and implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021, a 6 year strategy, roadmap for Economic and Community Development for County Monaghan.

The outgoing Chairperson Cllr. David Maxwell and Vice Chairperson, Packie Kelly, thanked the members of the LCDC and the staff of Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Integrated Development CLG for their help and support over the last three years.

The LCDC Chief Officer Fintan McPhillips and LCDC Members congratulated the new Chairperson Alan Johnston and Vice Chairperson Alan McCabe and thanked out-going Chairperson Cllr. David Maxwell for his 3 very productive years as Chairperson on Monaghan LCDC/LAG.

He also thanked Packie Kelly for his work as Vice Chairperson and confirmed that he had been a stalwart member of the LCDC/LAG for the past 6 years and the end of his term on the LCDC, he had brought the coalface of Social Inclusion into the boardroom of the LCDC.

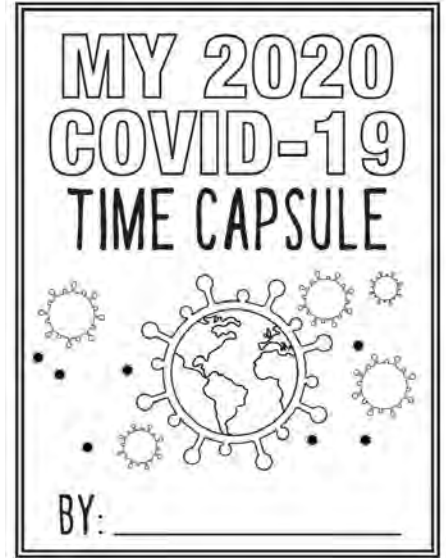


COVID-19 Time Capsule Booklets

In April 2020 COVID-19 Time Capsule Booklets were produced offering a nice activity for children to do over the Easter Holidays.

This is a very strange time in our history and this is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to capture it.

The booklets are available to download here: <https://monaghan.ie/communitydevelopment/2020/04/08/covid19-time-capsule-booklets-for-children/>



Eircode Fridge Magnets

A new Eircode fridge magnet which also provides space to include emergency numbers was launched recently by the members of the Healthy Monaghan committee.

These fridge magnets are easily read, can be written on with an ordinary pen and will provide peace of mind to older people and their families. They provide a space to include your own Eircode number, your doctors number and who to contact in case of an emergency.

These magnets will be distributed to various members of our community with the support of our stakeholders.



Pride Week 2020

In June 2020 Monaghan County Council for the first time raised the Rainbow flag over the Council Offices to mark the start of Pride Week 2020 and in solidarity with the LGBTQI + community in County Monaghan.

Cathoirleach of Monaghan County Council Cllr. Colm Carthy raised the flag at the Council Offices on the Glen Road, Monaghan at a small ceremony and was joined by members of Monaghan County Council, Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board - CMETB, An Garda, Youth Work Monaghan LGBT project and members of Monaghan Equality Sub-Committee.

The Pride flag was also raised in Carrickmacross, Clones and the Monaghan County Museum.



Age Friendly Feel Good Activity Pack

In May 2020 Monaghan Age Friendly Programme produced a 64 page Activity Pack for people cocooning in the county. The cocooning activity pack included riddles, quizzes poems and stories along with some useful information on services and supports during the COVID-19 pandemic for older people in the county. The pack also included good wishes from some well know Monaghan people.



The pack was aimed at older people who didn't have access to online activities and information. Working in partnership with Monaghan Gardai and HSE, 6000 copies of the booklet were distributed to older people across the county.

For further details and to download the Activity Pack see: <https://monaghan.ie/monaghan-age-friendly-programme-coming-up-trumps-for-cocooners/>



A special delivery of the booklet was made to Mrs Mc Conkey in Killeevan, mother of Professor Sam Mc Conkey who has been a great source of information and advice to the public during COVID-19.



“It’s Good To Talk GAA Initiative”

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme and Monaghan GAA County Board joined forces to launch “It’s Good To Talk GAA initiative” . Monaghan GAA stars, past and present volunteered their time to give a phone call to older people cocooning in the county.

Over 100 people across the county received phone calls from Monaghan GAA stars. The feedback from those who received calls and the GAA volunteers making the calls has been very positive.

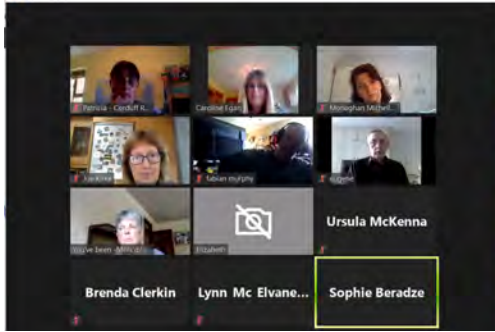
Read some of the feedback.

Request /Nomination
 Hi Mary.. My name is Peadar Smyth and I'm living in Wicklow. My mother Mary is living on her own in Monaghan town and is an avid Monaghan fan. she is 87.. her first time in Galway was when Monaghan played there two years ago... She has rarely missed a match so I have to travel from Wicklow through Monaghan and pick her up and back to Wicklow.. She has travelled to Mayo Roscommon, Leitrim and all over after the Monaghan team... I ring twice a day and every day she enquires will the football start this year...my father passed away suddenly 8 yrs ago this week and it would give her a great boost if Conor Mc Manus would give her a ring..
Feedback
 Ah Mary she's just off the phone to me. She's speechless.. she said she can't believe it.. Couldn't understand how Conor Mc Manus would ring her.. we are in stitches down here...
 Please please tell Conor thank you ...And thanks to Monaghan Co Board for organizing it...
 She is beside herself..



Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN)

In a recent survey carried out amongst the membership of the PPN, the community sector voiced their concerns about how they will begin the process of re-opening the doors of their centres in the coming months. As a result, a series of four training sessions was organised on "Post COVID-19, Back To Business".



Training helped community groups who are beginning to reopen their community centre doors consider how they will conduct risk assessments, identify controls needed to be put in place, develop operating procedures, maintain records and training of employees/volunteers.

Three sessions were delivered via Zoom and one was delivered in the Garage Theatre to facilitate those with no access to computer or with poor broadband.

All sessions were very well attended from community groups across the county and feedback from the members was very positive. The training was delivered by Caroline Egan, Cramden Tech Solutions.

CLONES EUROPEAN DIRECT INFORMATION CENTRE

Clones European Direct Information Centre News

Throughout the month of September, the Europe Direct Information Centre in Clones, concentrated on Climate Change and the European Green Deal.

The European Green Deal is a set of policy initiatives by the European Union with the overarching aim of making Europe Climate Neutral by 2050. During the month they focused on what citizens can do to play their part in helping Ireland reach their targets.

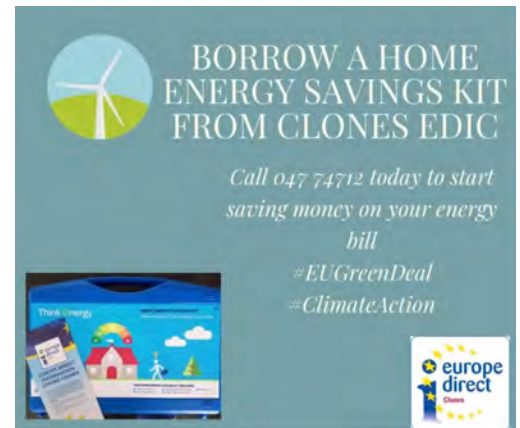
An Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr. Colm Carthy launched the Home Energy Savings Kits on the 10th of September. These kits, designed by Codema, contain 5 easy to use tools which will help you to better understand where you are currently wasting energy at home. Borrowing this kit is the first step to making your home more comfortable, helping you to save money on your energy bills while contributing to a better environment.

We can all play our part in helping Ireland reach our targets, whether it be by reducing our use of single-use plastics, by retro-fitting our homes, choosing to drive an electric vehicle or indeed by using public transport.

Contact the Europe Direct Information Centre in Clones at 047 74712 or at cloneslibrary@monaghancoco.ie to borrow this kit for Free!

You will find more information on how to borrow the kits on the EU Direct Clones Facebook page.

Remember every change, no matter how small will make a difference!



Take the pledge with Clones EDIC and win an e-Coffee Cup.

As part of our focus on the European Green Deal, we are asking you to pledge to reduce your use of single use plastics.

Like the EU Direct Clones Facebook page and leave a comment under the Take the pledge poster to be in with a chance to win your e-coffee cup.

Remember every change, no matter how small will make a difference!







MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES

We've made lots of changes in our Branch Libraries as we adapt to the 'New Normal'

Since the initial COVID-19 restrictions were put in place in March, staff at Monaghan County Libraries have been busy making changes to each of the library branches in order to make them a safe place to visit. Desks and shelving had be reconfigured to allow 2 metre social distancing, protective screens have been installed, hand sanitizer is available throughout and visitor numbers have been capped based on Health & Safety advice and building capacity. The number of Public PCs has been reduced and visitors were asked to keep their visit to less than 30 minutes. Check out the changes to your local library below.

****Please Note:** Opening hours listed do not apply if we are in Level 3 or above. During times of heightened levels, please revert to 'Contact & Collect' or Home Delivery Services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Opening Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday: 11:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00, 18:00-20:00 Tuesday to Friday: 11:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00 Branch Access Control Unit Installed Maximum Customer Capacity = 9 Maximum 30-minute visit Perspex Screens 4 x Internet PCs 6 x Tablets Printing and Photocopying Services WiFi available National Request Service Available 	 <p style="text-align: center;">MONAGHAN LIBRARY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Opening Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday: 11:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00, 18:00-20:00 Tuesday to Friday: 11:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00 Branch Access Control Unit Installed Maximum Customer Capacity = 10 Maximum 30-minute visit Perspex Screens 2 x Internet PCs 6 x Tablets Printing and Photocopying Services WiFi available National Request Service Available Limited Access to Local History and Genealogy services by Appointment 	 <p style="text-align: center;">CLONES LIBRARY</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Opening Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday: 11:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00, 18:00-20:00 Tuesday to Friday: 11:00-13:00, 14:00-17:00 Branch Access Control Unit Installed Maximum Customer Capacity = 17 Maximum 30-minute visit Perspex Screens at Library Desk 3 x Internet PCs 6 x Tablets Printing and Photocopying Services WiFi available National Request Service Available 	 <p style="text-align: center;">CARRICKMACROSS LIBRARY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CASTLEBLAYNEY AND BALLYBAY BRANCHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact and Collect Service in operation for both branches since 7th July 2020 National Request Service Available Browsing Service by Appointment. Opening in September 	

Contact and Collect Service

Our 'Contact & Collect' service allows users to request books by phone, email or through the Online Catalogue. Staff will then prepare your order and arrange a time for you to collect from a designated collection point in a socially distanced manner.

<p style="text-align: center;">Contact & Collect Introducing a new service from Monaghan County Libraries</p>  <p>If you would like to avail of the 'Contact & Collect' service please call one of the libraries listed below between the hours of 10am & 4pm, Monday to Friday to discuss your reading preferences and arrange a collection time.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Monaghan: 047 81830 Clones: 047 74712 Carrickmacross: 042 9661148</p>  <p>Your order will be carefully prepared by library staff who will take full precautions when handling the books.</p>  <p>Your order will be made available for collection at the agreed designated time only to ensure Social distancing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact & Collect Introducing a new service from Ballybay Library</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Available from Wednesday 8th July</p>  <p>In need of some reading material for you or your family? Contact us to discuss your reading preferences and we'll put together a selection of books for you. You can then collect it at an agreed time.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Phone Lines open from 10am - 1pm Wednesday & Thursday</p>  <p>Your order will be carefully prepared by library staff who will take full precautions when handling the books.</p>  <p>Your order will be made available for collection at the agreed designated time only to ensure Social distancing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact & Collect Introducing a new service from Castleblayney Library</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Available from Tuesday 7th July</p>  <p>In need of some reading material for you or your family? Contact us to discuss your reading preferences and we'll put together a selection of books for you. You can then collect it at an agreed time.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Phone Lines open from 10am - 1pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday</p>  <p>Your order will be carefully prepared by library staff who will take full precautions when handling the books.</p>  <p>Your order will be made available for collection at the agreed designated time only to ensure Social distancing.</p>
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Health and Safety

All branches have strict Hygiene and Health and Safety measures in place. All items returned by customers to the branch are placed in quarantine for a period of 72 hours.

Customers are obliged to wear a mask within the library. Customers are obliged to use the hand sanitiser on entering and exiting the library. We also provide anti-viral wipes for customers to wipe down Computers/Tablets & Self Service Units etc. before and after use.

Library staff wear Personal Protective Equipment while handling library materials and remain behind protective screens when the library is open to the public.

Staff will offer instruction to customers on the use of Self Service Units, PCs, Printer/Photocopiers etc., but staff are required to stay a minimum of 2 metres away from members of the public at all times.

Housebound Service:

As a result of the COVID-19 Closures, we introduced a new Home Delivery Service on 5th May 2020. This was initially introduced through the County Council's Community Call Help Desk however following increased demand it was decided to take calls directly through selected libraries. .

Our 3 larger branch libraries arrange deliveries for across the county so if you are in the Ballybay area please contact Clones Library and if you are in the Castleblayney area please contact Carrickmacross Library.

This service is for ANYONE Cocooning or in Self Isolation – whether you are a Library Member or not!

Library staff will be available to take delivery requests from Monday to Friday, 10am – 5pm.

Please have your Eircode available.



MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES

Public Notice

In light of the most recent Government announcement we would like to remind you that if you are Cocooning or in Self-Isolation you can request a FREE Library Home Delivery.

This Service is available to both members & Non-Members . Please have your Eircode when calling as this will assist with Delivery.

**Ballybay/Clones area
047 74712**

**Carrickmacross/Castleblayney
042 9661148**

**Monaghan
047 81830**

You can also email your request to:
homedelivery@monaghancoco.ie



Online Services

Monaghan County Libraries have been providing an online offering of eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines and Online Classes for several years now.

Those who use the service find them invaluable so it was no surprise that usage figures rocketed during the COVID-19 closures.

We are now offering over 40,000 ebook titles as well as a similar number of audiobooks. You will find over 400 of the top magazine titles available to download for free and over 500 online courses to get stuck in to. All you need is your Library Card Number and PIN.

If you aren't already a member visit us at www.monaghan.ie/library and follow the links to join.

Over 500 online continuing education courses. Available here.

Digital magazines are available at your library!

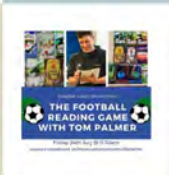
Explore 100+ LANGUAGES

pressreader™

THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATIVE EBOOK AND EAUDIOBOOK SOLUTION

ONLINE SERVICES

<https://monaghan.ie/library/online-services/>



Outreach Activities

Those familiar with the Library service will know that it is usually a hive of activity. This year we had some wonderful events lined up but alas it wasn't to be - at least not in the traditional way. Library staff were quick to adapt though and a programme of online events and activities was arranged.

A series of Children's Storytime videos were recorded and broadcast, our Writer-in-Residence developed a series for budding writers, authors were beamed live into houses across the county and pre-teens learnt how to use their phone responsibly with our Cyber Safety Bootcamp. Families also battled against each other in the weekly 'Big Family Quiz'.

Since the schools were closed in March we have also been able to enrol 260 children in our TTRS Programme which as been designed to assist those with Dyslexia and other reading difficulties learn how to Touch-Type, read and spell.

ONLINE OUTREACH EVENTS

- Online Creative Writing Course (4 weeks) with Writer in Residence for both adults & Children
- Cyber Safety Bootcamp for Children & Parents (60 children registered for the week-long Bootcamp)
- Online Toddler Storytime videos recorded by Library staff
- Craft Bags for collection in libraries & origami videos created by library staff
- Online Heritage Week Video Series in conjunction with Monaghan County Museum
- Healthy Ireland Webinars with Lucy Wolfe & Breege Leddy
- TTRS Literacy Programme (260 children signed up to it since library closures)

MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES
TAKE-AWAY CRAFT BAGS
FOR BIG IMAGINATIONS
Let your imagination run wild and see what you can create with the contents!
#SUMMERSTARS

Monaghan County Libraries
Thinking of getting your Child a Phone?
Sign them up for our Children's CyberSafe Bootcamp first!
This one week course will teach them about managing personal information, setting up accounts safely, privacy settings, social media and gaming, fake news, your digital footprint and cyberbullying.
Advance Registration required. Please email kmccague@monaghancoco.ie
Starting Monday 29th June @ 12:30pm
Advance registration required as numbers limited

MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES
TOUCH-TYPE, READ AND SPELL
TTRS is an award winning multi-sensory course that teaches typing, reading and spelling.
It is only useful for those with specific difficulties (Dyslexia, ASD, ADHD, etc) and can be used by Children & Adults.
We are delighted to be able to offer FREE access to this online course.
Each Student needs a unique login and Password.
Please contact us to set up a Free account: kmccague@monaghancoco.ie - 0909 747029
Or call Monaghan County Libraries in Parkhouse

MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES
Monday Musings
Creative Writing Series with our Writer-in-Residence Deirdre Cartmill
• Facing a Blank Page
• Using the 5 Senses
• How to Create Characters that resonate
• How to Structure your story
Launching Monday, 1st June 2020
www.monaghan.ie/library/writing
Clár Éire Ildánach Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022

Book Club Sets

Did you know that Monaghan County Libraries offer Book Club sets? We have a wide variety of titles available for your Reading Group and we are always adding to it. Titles include 'After The Silence' by Louise O'Neill, American Dirt by Jeanie Cumins and Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell.

If you would like to see a full list of titles available please contact your local library. There are usually about 10 copies available of each book and can be sent to any branch library in County Monaghan for you to pick up.



Monaghan County Libraries Present
The Writer's Room with Deirdre Cartmill
Clár Éire Ildánach Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022

The Writers Room with Deirdre Cartmill

Our Writer in Residence also created a series of videos for adults which demonstrate what life as a Writer is really like. Deirdre showcased the highs and inspire those on their own writing journey.

- The video series explored:
- What a Writer's day is really like
 - Foraging for inspiration
 - Finding your individual voice
 - When to submit.

You'll find all of the videos and more at www.monaghan.ie/library/writing

Irish History Live – Heritage Week Video Series

Monaghan County Libraries and Monaghan County Museum teamed up to run a series of videos on social media in August to celebrate Heritage Week, taking viewers on a journey through Irish History & Heritage with help from Irish History Live

Monaghan County Library & County Museum Present a week of 'Irish History Live' from Stone Age to 1916..



Join us as we take a look at our History and Heritage with 'Irish History Live' 17th - 21st August



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council



Bealtaine at Home:

Each year Bealtaine, celebrates arts & creativity as we age.

Although this year live and in-person events were cancelled. In light of restrictions. A taste of the festival will be brought to you online for the entire month of May – Bealtaine At Home.

Bealtaine Festival, an Age & Opportunity event, is a celebration of the arts and creativity as we age. Although we had to cancel our live and in-person events this May, we are bringing a taste of the festival to you online for the entire month of May – Bealtaine At Home.

Bealtaine At Home honours the creative spirit of the festival with a wide selection of online activities that we want you to get involved in, and share with the older people in your lives. "The festival has moved online this year, but we have a wide variety of activities that we hope will interest older people in particular who are cocooning during this difficult time," Karen Horgan, CEO Age & Opportunity, said. "The incredible calendar of events for Bealtaine At Home throughout the month of May reminds us that we can be creative and enjoy the arts in our homes."

Further Details:

<https://monaghan.ie/bealtaine-at-home-celebrating-creativity-as-we-age/>

CULTURE NIGHT

Connect Through Culture/ Le Chéile Trí Chultúr - Friday 18th September 2020

Culture Night is an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts and took place on Friday 18th of September. Monaghan has a vibrant rich cultural community, and this is a great opportunity to sample the area's cultural and creative offerings for free throughout the evening.

The programme has been developing year on year and that is due to the cultural and creative community who partner with us.

Usually from 5pm onwards, cultural venues across the country stay open for everyone to come enjoy the unique experience of Culture Night, a free night of fun, entertainment and discovery.

For 2020, we were challenged with putting together a programme within the health and safety guidelines of COVID-19. And our partnering organisations truly stepped up to the mark and put together a blended programme which we hope everyone enjoyed. Most of our events this year took place online.

We were delighted to have so many organisations involved again this year and we hope you enjoyed exploring the rich cultural landscape of County Monaghan.



CONNECT THROUGH CULTURE

FRI 18 SEPTEMBER

CULTURE NIGHT

CULTURENIGHT.IE

NIGHT AT THE MOVIES WITH CLONES FILM FESTIVAL

Showing the films Up at 7pm and The Van at 9.30pm. One ticket per car

Organised by: Clones Film Festival
Venue: Credit Union Carpark, Clones
Time: 7pm and 9.30pm

Booking: Spaces are limited and must be booked through website
Website/URL: <https://www.clonesfilmfestival.com/>

MONAGHAN YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS AN EXTRACT FROM FIREBRINGER, THE MUSICAL

Short video with scenes and musical numbers from upcoming show.

Organised by: Monaghan Youth Theatre
Venue: Online
Time: 7.30pm - 8pm

Website/URL: Go to Cavan Monaghan Creative YouTube Channel
Website/URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2BggOPHfjwYmJfLzaw>

OUTDOOR MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT WITH GRAINNE DUFFY AND PAUL SHERRY

Join Grainne and Paul for an evening of music

Organised by: Garage Theatre
Venue: Garage Theatre, Armagh Rd, Monaghan
Time: 6pm - 7.30pm
Website/URL: <https://www.garagetheatre.com/>

Website/URL: <https://www.garagetheatre.com/>

IONTAS COMMUNITY SEISIÚN

Live performances of Irish music, song and spoken word with dance.

Organised by: Iontas Community and Arts Centre
Venue: Online (Live on Iontas Facebook page)
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Website/URL: <https://www.facebook.com/iontascommunity>

Website/URL: <https://www.facebook.com/iontascommunity>

THE MUSEUM GOES BACK TO THE HITS FROM THE 70's AND 80's FOR CULTURE NIGHT!

Fantastic soul lifting music such as Stevie Wonder, JLO, Fleetwood Mac, Super Tramp.

Organised by: Monaghan County Museum
Venue: Online (Live on Museum Facebook page)
Time: 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Website/URL: <https://www.monaghan.museum.ie/>

Website/URL: <https://www.monaghan.museum.ie/>

CULTURE NIGHT AT PATRICK KAVANAGH CENTRE

Featuring some of Ireland's finest artists including Scullion, Michael Galien, Caitrín Ní Cláricín.

Organised by: Patrick Kavanagh Centre
Venue: Online at website
Time: 8pm - 10pm
Website/URL: <https://www.patrickkavanaghcentre.com/>

Website/URL: <https://www.patrickkavanaghcentre.com/>

SENSORY SONGS: UNDER THE WISHING TREE

A musical adventure created especially for children with autism.

Organised by: Cool Connected (in partnership with Cavan CoCo)
Venue: Online at Cavan Monaghan Creative YouTube Channel
Time: 6pm - 6.30pm
Website/URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2BggOPHfjwYmJfLzaw>

Website/URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2BggOPHfjwYmJfLzaw>

CAVAN MONAGHAN MUSIC GENERATION NOCTILUCENT

Unique musical performances from the Tin Church, Laragh. From Massive Attack to Jackson C Frank.

Organised by: Cavan Monaghan Music Generation
Venue: Online at Cavan Monaghan Creative Channel
Time: 7 - 7.30pm
Website/URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2BggOPHfjwYmJfLzaw>

Website/URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2BggOPHfjwYmJfLzaw>

To find out more on Culture Night go to www.culturenight.ie
Culture Night is brought to you by the Arts Council in partnership with Monaghan County Council

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Unesco

The Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) is the biggest Eco-Action programme in Ireland that recognises and rewards young people who take practical action to improve their local environment.

Registration opened on the 1st September for young people aged 10-18 years of age, to get together in teams, and come up with innovative solutions to an environmental or sustainability issue of their choice and enter it into the YEA 2021 competition www.ecounesco.ie



Litter Awareness Campaign- "Be Clean, Keep it Green, Take your Litter Home".

A litter awareness campaign took place over the summer months in collaboration with Monaghan Municipal District, targeting outdoor users of play parks, loughs and parks in the North Monaghan area to "Be Clean, Keep it Green, Take your Litter Home".

The campaign was officially launched in July and involved a photoshoot at Rossmore Playpark with Monaghan Municipal District Councillors and Staff. Cllr. Seamus Treanor, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and the Environmental Awareness Officer spoke to the Northern Standard about the objective of the campaign and what they hoped to achieve.

A social media campaign promoting and advising users also took place over the two month period and signs were placed strategically in local parks, loughs and secluded spots.

National Upcycle Challenge

The National Upcycle Challenge is currently taking place and is open to community groups and schools, with prizes across a range of categories.

For more information visit: <https://www.mywaste.ie/upcycle-challenge20/>

Dangers of glass at bottle banks

A social media post was also developed to draw awareness to the dangers associated with leaving glass bottles at bottle banks if the banks are full.

These bottles can cause serious injury to staff or contractors involved in their removal. They may be broken in the bag which is not visible, however, once the person lifts the bag, it tears, and can cause a serious injury.



A great community effort by members of Scotstown GAA Club who picked litter within 2km of their homes.



Monaghan County Council's Litter Warden continues to provide an essential service collecting illegally dumped waste.



Before and after photos of a clean up of illegal dumping by Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Staff and Environmental Patrol Warden.

See Something, Say Something
How to make a litter complaint

Email – litter@monaghancoco.ie
Phone: 042 9661240

Confidential Freephone: 1800 200014
In person: We are located in the Carrickmacross Civic Offices

Don't Waste a Day National Campaign

A national social media campaign from ERP Ireland and My Waste Ireland is currently being promoted by Monaghan County Council, aimed at recycling old electronic appliances. There are currently more electronic and smart devices than there are humans on earth, with many sitting idle in drawers that are neither trash nor treasure.

Now is the perfect time to de-clutter your home from old gadgets including kettles, irons, hair straighteners to bigger items including televisions and washing machines; any electrical item that had or has a plug or battery is recyclable.

Don't waste a day thinking about it - Recycle for free at your local electrical retailer or our two recycling centres – Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Civic Amenity Site.

For more information visit: <https://erp-recycling.org/ie/news-and-events/2020/07/dont-waste-a-day-recycle-2/>

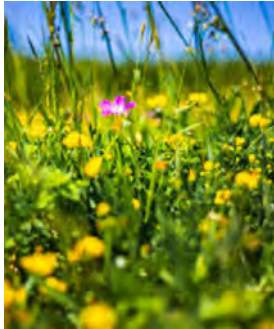
CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action Initiatives to date:

Monaghan County Council's Climate Action Initiatives to date include weed control, invasive species control, grass cutting and a change to the terms of the Community and Environment Grant.

Applicants were asked to demonstrate how their projects could contribute to environmental sustainability/biodiversity and are encouraged to use open pollinator planting where possible.

This is in keeping with the work of the Horticulturist and Climate Action Steering Group, as well as that of the adjudication process in the National Tidy Towns competition. This form now has criteria for groups to use pollinator plants, with a list of same developed.



Purchase of first electric sweeper in Ireland

The latest innovative project that is being spearheaded by Monaghan County Council is the purchase of an electric sweeper, the first in the country. The new Maxvac machine is a state-of-the-art road sweeper which also has multi-function facility that includes blower and litter picker among other devices.

The sweeper has an eight-hour battery running capacity and is a cleaner greener response to cleaning our streets and was launched recently at the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross.

Pictured above from Left to Right: - Matthew Lambe Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District Engineer, Jim McMahon Area Foreman, Adrian Sharkey Machine Supplier(Sharkey Business Solutions) , Paddy Rooney Machine Driver/Operator, Michael Duffy General Services Supervisor, Damien Stirratt Machinery Yard Supervisor.

Picture by Gerry Hand, Carrickmacross Tidy Towns



Playparks

A new playpark in Scotthouse and an upgrade of Ballybay Playpark are being progressed within the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.

These parks contain pollinator friendly plants including honeysuckle and other bee friendly hedges and plants.

July 2020: Plastic Free Month



July was "Plastic Free" month and a social media post was developed to enquire if people would sign up for 1 day, 1 week, 1 month or go completely plastic free, avoidance of single use plastic packaging and targeting takeaway items including coffee cups, bags and bottles.

Storm Francis 25th/26th August 2020.

Storm Francis had a relatively significant impact on infrastructure in the Monaghan Municipal District particularly in the Emyvale/Ballinode area, see below photos. Image Credits: Gregory Murphy.



Pictured above from left to right:
Emyvale Football pitch and Emyvale Enterprise Building

Pictured above from left to right:
Blackwater at Monaghan Creamery, Dernashallog, Emyvale & Cappog, Ballinode

WATER SERVICES



Pictured above, Monaghan County Council Water Services Staff worked to ensure continued water supplies during the spell of fine weather in May. Overall demand for water throughout the county rose sharply.



Pictured above Water Services Staff undertaking caretaking duties at Water & Waste Treatment plants in May.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Oriel Play Park
funded by
Town and Village Renewal Scheme



Hollywood Playground completed in
2020, funded by Department of
Children and Youth Affairs



Resurfacing of Cluain Lorcan
Playground funded by Monaghan
Municipal District's own resources



A Host of golden
daffodils at Peter's Lake, Monaghan
Town

INNOVATION/IS

Success for Monaghan County Council under the Public Service Innovation Fund

Monaghan County Council was one of 34 successful applicants out of a total of 364 that applied for funding this year under the Public Service Innovation Fund, an initiative of the Our Public Service 2020 Reform Strategy for development and innovation in the Public Service. Monaghan County Council secured €29,900 for the development of a 360-degree Virtual Reality Tour and House Inspection App

360-degree Virtual Reality Tour and House Inspection App

The solution will enable housing applicants to experience a virtual tour of a Local Authority house either in the Local Authority Offices or at their own convenience at a time and place that suits them.

The proposed solution will also use voice recording and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for logging specific categories of repairs e.g. electrical, plumbing, carpentry.

This will aid both pre-let and post-let housing inspections. Monaghan County Council is making substantial progress with the development of this app and will report on progress in future reports.



Business ReStart Grant and ReStart Grant Plus

Monaghan County Council continues to get value from its investment in Laserfiche Enterprise Content and Records Management System (ECRMS).

When the Government announced the COVID-19 Small Business Re-Start Grant, Monaghan County Council was able to meet the challenging go-live deadline as we had the necessary skills and tools in-house to design and develop an efficient and effective solution from the online application form through to payment of the grant.

The online form was designed with accessibility and ease of use in mind. Address/Eircode finder, BIC and IBAN validation and revenue registration number verification were built into the form. The process, from application form submission to payment of grant, was automated using Laserfiche workflows. The solution also included the automatic generation of daily reports summarising Re-Start Grant Stats including numbers and values of grants received, approved, and paid.

Re-Start Grant Application Process

To assist grant applicants, we also developed a Virtual Assistant and made it available on the Re-Start Grant webpage of our website. The Virtual Assistant was trained to answer frequently asked questions about the Re-Start Grant.

This 24/7 service could deal with multiple simultaneous conversations, thus reducing the burden on staff as well as providing improved customer service.

In time for the launch of Re-Start Grant Plus, Monaghan County Council developed another solution which catered for the Online Declarations and new Grant Application process. Using Laserfiche workflow and online forms we created a process to automatically email all Re-Start Grant recipients a prepopulated Declaration Form. To apply for the Re-Start Grant Plus all that the applicants needed to do was sign the Online Declaration form electronically and submit.

We also created online application forms and automated processes for other new COVID-19 related services - COVID-19 Emergency Fund for community groups assisting with the Community Call initiative, Mortgage Payment Break – and non-COVID-19 related services including Town and Village Renewal, CLÁR Measure 1 and Measure 2, and Community Enhancement Programme 2020.



Local Authority Customer Portal

Monaghan County Council Local Authority Customer Portal is a unique Local Authority customer service initiative bringing together businesses and citizens into one online self-service application making it is easier to do business with Monaghan County Council.

The Customer Portal is being rolled out initially for Rates, Rents and Housing Loans customers.

Customers will have access to the following features:

- View and print statement
- Pay bills online
- Emailed copy of receipts
- Download Rates Bills
- Loan customers can view their redemption figure
- Customers can view payment plans agreed with Monaghan County Council

The Customer Portal can be accessed by customers 24/7 via smart phone, tablet or computer. This exciting technology places Local Authorities to the fore of customer services.

The Customer Portal has been developed on a 'Build to Share' model that can be rolled out easily to other Local Authorities.





Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council