

Monaghan Matters

Monaghan County Council

Newsletter

Winter 2019



*Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2020
From Monaghan County Council*

*Nollaig Shona le, Dea-ghuí i 2020,
ó Comhairle Chontae Mhuineacháin*



CONTENTS

P03: Corporate Services

P04: Corporate Assets and Energy

P05: Tourism

P06: Housing

P08: Museum

P09: Library

P10: Community and Enterprise

P14: Fire and Civil Protection

P17: Environmental Services

P19: Planning

P19: Municipal Districts



Tourism



Housing



Community and Enterprise



Environmental Services

Municipal Districts



CORPORATE SERVICES



Congratulations to all involved with the Monaghan County Council project 'The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War' in winning The Award for Heritage and Built Environment at the 2019 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.



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

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

An Age Friendly Guide to Communication – Age Friendly Initiative

Monaghan Community Alerts – Best Practice in Citizen Engagement

Rossmore Forest Park Tourism & Recreational Development – Supporting Tourism

Monaghan County Council Rents App – Local Authority Innovation

Refurbishment and Remodelling of Clones Market House, Clones, Co. Monaghan – Outstanding initiative through the Municipal Districts

The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War – Heritage and Built Environment

Your Vote Your Voice – Disability Services Provision



An Coiste Gaeilge

Tá sé mar aidhm ag Coiste Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn i gContae Mhuineacháin. I ndiaidh na dtoghchán áitiúla bunaíodh Coiste nua agus toghadh na Comhairleoirí seo a leanas; Comh. Pat Treanor, Comh. Cathy Bennett, Comh. Richard Truell, Comh. Raymond Aughey agus Comh. Hugh McElvany.

Le linn 2019 bhí an Coiste an-ghnóthach mar eagraíodh mórán ócáidí agus clár éagsúla. Orthusan bhí:

- Urraíocht ar Chómortas na bhFuinneog le linn Féilte Pádraig
- An scéim bhliantúil scoláireachta do mhic léinn dara leibhéal a théann ar chúrsaí Gaeltachta i rith an tsamhraidh
- Teagasc na Gaeilge d'fhoireann agus baill tofa Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
- Céilí Sráide ar an Spás Glas i mBaile Mhuineacháin mí Lúnasa
- Lón agus foghlaim maidir le forálacha Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla d'fhoireann Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
- Ócáid ceol traidisiúnta As Gaeilge don Oíche Chultúir i dTeach an Mhargaidh, Muineachán.
- Ceardalann scéalaíochta le Muireann Ní Chíobháin ó TG4 i leabharlann Charraig Mhachaire Rois le linn

Tá tuilleadh ócáidí ar na bacáin do 2020, mar sin Bígí Linn.

Monaghan County Council's Coiste Gaeilge aims to promote the use of the Irish language in County Monaghan. Post the local elections a new Coiste has been established with the following Councillors elected; Cllr. Pat Treanor, Cllr. Cathy Bennett, Cllr. Richard Truell, Cllr. Raymond Aughey and Cllr. Hugh McElvany.

2019 has been a busy year for the Coiste with a range of events and programmes delivered, they included-

- Sponsorship for Cómortais na bhfuinneoga during St Patrick's Festivals
- Annual scholarship scheme for second level students attending Gaeltacht courses during summer months.
- Irish language training for Monaghan County Council staff and elected members. A Céilí Sráide on the Greenspace in Monaghan Town in August
- Lunch and learn on the provisions of the Official Languages Act for Monaghan County Council staff.
- A traditional music event As Gaeilge for Culture Night in the Market house, Monaghan.
- Story telling workshop with Muireann Ní Chíobháin from TG4 in Carrickmacross Library during Children's Literary Festival.

More events are planned for 2020 so Bígí linn





Monaghan County Council honours Glaslough's National Tidy Towns Success with Civic Reception.

On Friday November 1st Monaghan County Council held a Civic Reception to honour Glaslough's Tidy Towns on being named as Ireland's Tidiest Town and Ireland's Tidiest Village.

A delegation of Council members and officials led by Leas Chathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr. Seamus Treanor joined invited guests, including Minister Heather Humphreys TD, Oireachtas members and a large contingent of local people to celebrate Glaslough's success.

Cllr. Treanor congratulated Glaslough Tidy Towns on its fantastic achievement out of a record number of 918 entries from towns and villages throughout the country in the SuperValu National Tidy Towns competition. He acknowledged the great work being undertaken by the Glaslough community to achieve this success. In addition to being named Ireland's Tidiest Town and Ireland's Tidiest Village, Glaslough also claimed the Regional Award for the North West and West, the Monaghan County Award and retained their Gold Medal Award for the 7th year in a row. Cllr. Treanor then made a presentation of a framed Citation and a piece of glass to Louise Duffy and Gareth Corrigan to mark the momentous occasion.

Congratulations to Glaslough, Carrickmacross, Monaghan Town and Killeevan on their success in the 2019 Ireland's Tidy Towns

Monaghan County Council wish to congratulate Glaslough on being named Ireland's Tidiest Town and Ireland's Tidiest Village for 2019.

Congratulations also go to the other award winners in the county, Carrickmacross, Monaghan Town and Killeevan.

Glaslough also won the regional award for the highest scoring entry in the Northwest and West and retained their Gold Medal Award for the 7th year in row.

Congratulations to the other Monaghan winners; Killeevan who were awarded the Endeavour Award for the most improved town or village in the county, Carrickmacross retained their Gold Medal Award for the 8th year in a row and Monaghan Town retained their Silver Medal Award for the 4th year in a row.

List of all Monaghan Winners:

Ireland's Tidiest Town: Glaslough

Ireland's Tidiest Village: Glaslough

Regional Awards:

North West and West: Glaslough

County Award Winner: Glaslough

County Award Highly Commended: Carrickmacross

County Award Commended: Monaghan Town

County Endeavour Award: Killeevan

Gold Medal Awards:

Category B: Glaslough

Category E: Carrickmacross

Silver Medal Awards

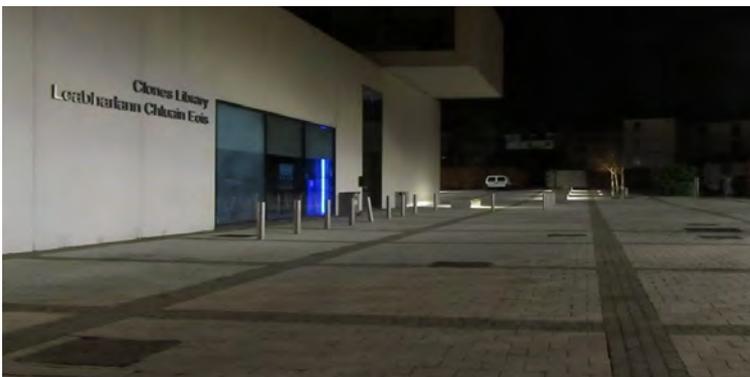
Category E: Monaghan Town



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Brought to you by the Department of Rural and Community Development

CORPORATE ASSETS AND ENERGY



Clones Library now "Fossil-Fuel" free.

The heating system in our County Library HQ in Clones was upgraded under a Better Energy Communities scheme this year with the installation of a Heat Pump and controls and the removal and decommissioning of the two old gas-fired burners. This means that this building is now operated without the use of any fossil fuels – gas or heating oil.

The new Air to Water heat-pump system uses a small amount of electrical energy to extract heat energy from the air and transfer it into the water for the central heating and the hot water system. The heating control system allows for real-time monitoring of the building and easy adjustment of the temperature controls, if necessary.

This is the first of our public buildings to go "fossil-fuel-free".

TOURISM

Developing Tourism Experiences in Monaghan workshop and Launch of New Monaghan Tourism App and Brochures

The beautiful surrounds of Conra Wood Golf & Country Club, Castleblayney was the scene for a productive morning of networking, idea sharing and showcasing of the latest initiatives to promote and boost tourism in County Monaghan on Tuesday 22nd October 2019.

The Developing Tourism Experiences in Monaghan workshop, organised by Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Local Enterprise Office in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, was enthusiastically attended by local businesses and tourism providers from across the county. The main objectives of the workshop were to examine how to further enhance the tourism experiences and products currently offered in Co. Monaghan, and to explore where opportunities exist for businesses and tourism providers to network and work together to create new, visitor focused experiences in the county.



Developing Tourism Experiences workshop & App and Brochures Launch Photo: Jimmy Walsh Northern Standard

Ireland's Ancient East Manager at Fáilte Ireland, Mark Mohan, said: "In order to encourage overseas tourists to visit Monaghan and stay in the area for longer, we need to ensure that we can offer a really compelling visitor experience in terms of storytelling and bringing the area's rich history to life – key elements of the Ireland's Ancient East brand. Visitor numbers and revenue generated by tourism across Ireland's Ancient East are already on a strong footing through the brand. To grow tourism to the region, it is critical that businesses work together to cross-promote what they have on offer. At Fáilte Ireland, we will continue to work hand-in-glove with tourism businesses so that Monaghan can stand out to the international visitor as part of the Ireland's Ancient East brand."

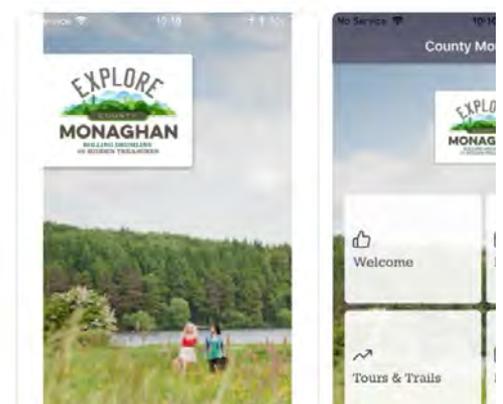
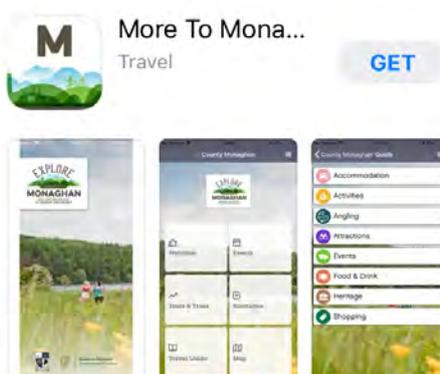
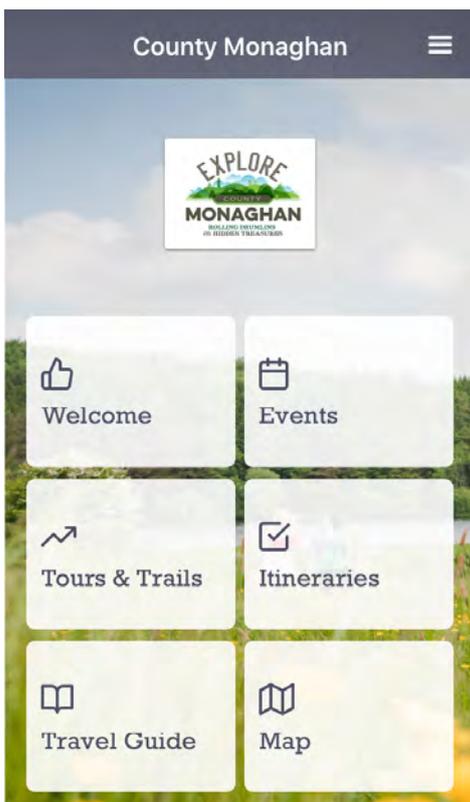
The importance of the destination 'sell' i.e. networking and cross-selling to create a destination visitor experience that can encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more time in the county, was a strong and recurrent theme in the workshop. Additionally, the importance of understanding what potential visitors are looking for from a trip and then incorporating this into the tourism offering for Monaghan was also reiterated. It is hoped that the workshop will encourage increased networking and idea generation amongst those that work in the tourism industry in the county and result in new opportunities for growth.

Following the successful conclusion of the workshop, two new Monaghan Tourism initiatives were launched by Cathaoirleach Seamus Coyle. These included the new 'More to Monaghan' tourism App for Co. Monaghan, and a newly published suite of 'Explore County Monaghan' brochures. Both products highlight all that is available to see and do in the county and will act as handy information tools for visitors looking for suggestions and recommendations.

The 'More to Monaghan' App can be downloaded free for Apple devices from iTunes and for other phones and tablets from the Play Store. It is divided into sections such as Events, Tours & Trails, Itineraries and a Travel Guide which itself is organised into categories such as Attractions, Food & Drink, Activities etc. Funding for the App was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Digital Innovation Programme and matched using funds from Monaghan County Council.

The 'Explore County Monaghan' brochures were designed locally to an exceptional standard and have proven to be a very important promotional piece for the county in recent years. The brochures have been given a new vibrant look and feel that portrays Monaghan as a destination well worth visiting with lots to enjoy.

The new App and brochures are welcome additions to the current promotional efforts undertaken by Monaghan Tourism. Other initiatives include the Monaghan Tourism social media sites – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter posts that are updated regularly with engaging content, the successful delivery of the 'My Monaghan' video campaign during the summer months, and the Monaghan Tourism website – www.monaghantourism.com – a key resource when planning your visit to Monaghan.



HOUSING

Clones Renewal

Monaghan County Council received Funding Approval in April 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland programme to demolish 10 properties on Fermanagh Street and Analore Street, Clones and construct 19 new apartments and 2 new Townhouses in their place.



Following a competitive tendering process, Local Architectural firm Craftstudio, were appointed as the Lead Design Team to deliver the project. Part 8 Planning is finalised, tender competition for construction is complete and the construction Contract has been Awarded to Lowry Construction Ltd (€3.75m + VAT) who will be starting works on site 30th September 2019. Ceremonial signing of Contracts with the Elected Members took place in the Ballybay Clones Municipal District offices on the 17th September 2019. The finished homes will be of highest quality with a Building Energy Rating of A3 and above. The project has been given high priority in Monaghan County Council to help breathe new life into derelict unused properties in Clones town centre whilst providing quality homes for the community. Total All-in project value is just over €5.2m including VAT and programme completion is Q2 2021.

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.

Pictured to the left; Contract Signing Ceremony 17th September 2019.

Magheross Development

Excellent progress is being made under Rebuilding Ireland and the work in progress on the unfinished housing development at Magheross, Carrickmacross is now a prime example. The site is located within the town centre of Carrickmacross. The works being carried out on behalf of Tuath Housing Association commenced on the 9th of July 2019 and are progressing well on site. The first seven houses in Block A will be ready for occupancy in early 2020 with a further twelve houses (Block B) ready in Q1 2020. Block C which contains fourteen 2-bedroom apartments requires significantly more works than Block A and B and is due for completion in Q4 2020.



Block A - Estimated Completion: late 2019/early 2020



Block B - Estimated Completion: March 2020



Block C - Estimated Completion: December 2020

Gortakeegan Reconstruction Programme (3 No. Houses)

The Gortakeegan Pilot Project consists of the refurbishment and extension of the existing halting site units (4 No.) located at Gortakeegan Halting Site. This will involve the conversion of 4 No. utility units to provide the following three houses types:-

- 2 No. x 1 bed dwellings
- 1 No. x 2 bed combined dwelling
- All associated site works

Monaghan County Council advertised a mini-competition on e-tenders via the Housing Framework 2019-2020. Thirteen pre-qualified contractors were invited to make a submission. Three tender submissions were submitted by the 26th July tender due date.

In September 2019 the successful tenderer, NC Plant Hire Ltd. was appointed to undertake the works which have now commenced on site. It is expected that works will be completed by the end of November 2019.



Unit Pre commencement works



Internal Works Progress



External Works Including Openings and Foundations for New Extensions



Mullaghmatt Remedial Works

Phase 4

The Contractor Brendan Loughran & Sons Limited started work on Phase 4 of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme in March 2019.

House refurbishments and roof works are proceeding on programme and one of two derelict houses purchased to temporarily rehouse tenants has been renovated and will be ready to occupy shortly.



Houses with roof works and painting completed.



Vacant house renovated and ready for letting



Derelict house returned to use.

Site development works are proceeding including the upgrading of one access road, a number of car parking areas, footpaths, steps, retaining walls, safety barriers and public lighting in the housing estate. The upgraded access road is to be reopened shortly.

Roof works and house refurbishment works are progressing ahead of schedule in some areas and good weather will hopefully allow all roof works to be completed before winter.



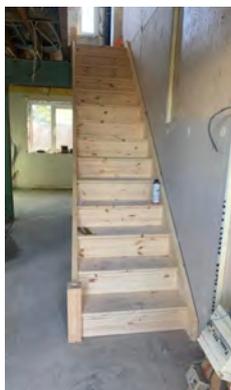
Road nearing completion.



Retaining wall and steps under construction



Retaining wall and new footpath.



Work in progress on second derelict house.

This is the final phase of the Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme. Work is progressing well and the programmed completion date is June 2020.

Pictured below: Roof works to privately owned houses and house refurbishment works to social houses in progress.



Lúí na Gréine, Scotstown

Monaghan County Council received Stage 3 Funding Approval in October 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland programme to proceed to Tender competition for the completion of 4 derelict unfinished houses and construction of an additional 28 houses on a derelict site in Scotstown. The existing derelict site is located between the Scotstown/Smithborough and the Scotstown/Roslea roads.

Following a competitive tendering process, Local Architectural firm Wynne, Gormley and Gilsenan Architects were appointed as the Lead Designer to deliver the project along with other local Consulting Engineering and Quantity Surveying practices. Part 8 Planning is finalised and Detailed Design is nearing completion with the homes designed to the highest quality with a Building Energy Rating of A3 and above.

Following the outcome of a Tender competition Monaghan County Council will apply to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to seek Stage 4 (Final Stage) Funding Approval to bring this project to construction.

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.



MUSEUM

Remnants of United States fighter plane excavated in County Monaghan *Launch night of P-38 Lightning finds in Monaghan County Museum*

The first-ever licensed excavation of a Second World War US fighter plane in Ireland has taken place in a field near Castleblayney, County Monaghan. In early 2019 objects from a P-38 lightning plane, the first fighter plane to fly faster than 400 mph, were uncovered and excavated in a cross-border initiative led by Aviation Archaeologist Jonny McNee, Queens University Belfast, Monaghan County Museum and pupils from Ballybay Community College and Foyle College Derry. On display are several finds that tell the story of Lieutenant Milo E Rundall who bailed out of his P-38 Lightning aircraft in 1942. The speakers at the event were; Curator Liam Bradley, Aviation Archaeologist Jonny Mc Nee, Air Marhsall Sean Reynolds of the RAF, Defence Attaché Lt Col Robert Skopeck of the US Air Force and some of the students who participated on the dig.

The new display adds to the story of Monaghan County Museum's successful exhibition "The Monaghan Spitfire Life on the Border with a world at war".

You can visit free of charge Monday to Friday 11am – 5pm and Saturday 12pm-5pm www.monaghan.ie/museum until December 2019.



Cruinniú na nÓg –Celebrating Creativity

Now in its second year, Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Saturday 15th June across the county with a varied programme of free creative activities for under 18's. A number of creative residencies were facilitated in the lead up to the day, with the young people performing and showcasing their creative talents.

With a strong emphasis on participation, activities were specially designed to spark an interest and encourage the inner creative in children and young people to try something new or fulfil a secret ambition! Over 700 young people participated in drama, music, dance, graffiti art, crafts and exhibits.

This initiative is part of the Creative Ireland Programme, funding the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, coordinated by the Creative Ireland Team in collaboration with the Local Arts in Education Partnership.



Culture Night

Culture Night is an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. This year, it will take place on Friday 20th September. From 5pm onwards, cultural venues across County Monaghan remained open for everyone to come enjoy the unique experience of Culture Night, a free night of fun, entertainment and discovery.

Monaghan has a vibrant rich cultural community, and this was a great opportunity to sample the area's cultural and creative offerings for free throughout the evening. We were delighted to have so many organisations involved this year again and we hope you got to see many explore the rich cultural landscape of County Monaghan.

Culture Night is brought to you by the Department of Culture, Heritage and The Gaeltacht and the Creative Ireland Programme in partnership with Monaghan County Council.



Right to Read Champion Award

Mr. Seán Canney TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, presented Catherine Elliott, County Librarian, Monaghan County Council, with the Right to Read Champion Award at a ceremony in Dublin on 17 October. The awards were presented to local authorities in recognition of their ongoing efforts to support literacy development through the library service.

The Awards, which were hosted by the LGMA at Local Government House in Dublin, were presented to all 30 library authorities in recognition of the support and promotion of literacy skills development through initiatives such as the 'Summer Stars Reading Programme' and 'Spring in to Storytime'.

The delivery of the Right to Read programme at local level is led by the public library services in each local authority and the implementation is overseen by a Right to Read co-ordinator in each library service. These awards are being presented to and is coordinated at national level by the Right to Read Steering Group, chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development in collaboration with Libraries Development in the LGMA.

National Age Friendly Libraries Recognition Programme

Minister Michael Ring, Department of Rural and Community Development officially launched the National Age Friendly Libraries Recognition Programme on October 1st to mark the International Day of the Older Person.

An Age Friendly library service makes it easier for older people to engage with our library services. Participating libraries were presented with an Age Friendly Charter to reflect the steps each library took to make their service more Age Friendly. Monaghan Town Library were awarded their Age Friendly Charter at the launch on Tuesday.

Pictured to the right: Kay Cassidy, Age Friendly Champion in Monaghan Town Library received the charter on behalf of the library.



Cavan-Monaghan Science Festival 2019

The Cavan-Monaghan Science Festival returned to the region this year and celebrated, explored and promoted the wonders of science, technology, engineering arts and maths (STEAM) in our everyday lives with events taking place in both Cavan and Monaghan.

"The appetite for this Festival is truly amazing", comments Deirdriú McQuaid of the Festival Committee. "National Science Week actually runs from 19th – 16th November but the level of interest in the Festival locally has grown over the four years and therefore we run it for two weeks". 'Over the past 2 weeks exciting experiments and discoveries have been made in libraries, museums, theatres and classrooms throughout the counties as the Festival's extensive school programme was rolled out whilst a public programme of workshops and talks were well attended.



"Whilst the Science Festival is great fun and includes lots of free entertainment, the main objective of the Science Festival and National Science Week is a serious one" explains Deirdriú. "By stimulating an interest in and increasing awareness of the relevance of the STEAM subjects in our everyday lives, we hope to increase the engagement of pupils and students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

There is currently a shortfall of skills in these key areas and the current and future opportunities are massive. And also this year the national theme was Climate Action, which we all have a part to play in getting involved and we organised events around the theme but also we reduced our use and printing of materials".

The 2019 Cavan-Monaghan Science Festival ended with a 'big bang' with the Family Fun Day on Saturday 23rd November with a fun packed educational day for the whole family to engage in at Monaghan Institute.

The Family Fun Day: To finish off the festival in County Monaghan, we had a fun packed educational day for everyone at our Family Fun Day on Saturday 23rd November in Monaghan Institute, with hands on activities, workshops, shows, demonstrations, performances, exhibitions and build it make it area.

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN)

Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN) member groups gathered on Tuesday 10th September in Ballybay Wetlands Centre to consult on the Healthy Monaghan Strategic Plan.

Every county in Ireland is developing a local plan to promote Health and Wellbeing. The Healthy Monaghan committee, consisting of key stakeholders including the PPN is driving the development of this plan which will be launched by Minister for Health Promotion, Catherine Byrne in November. The 3 year plan will list objectives and actions and involve the development of projects and initiatives aimed at empowering people and communities to better look after their own health and wellbeing.

Leona Keenan, Resource Worker said “Monaghan PPN are delighted that the Healthy Monaghan Steering Committee recognised the role the PPN can play when an organisation wishes to consult with the community and voluntary sector on the development of a local policy or plan. When developed the strategy will focus on reaching out to different groups in communities who might not already be linking in with activities locally. Community groups will be important to ensuring the Healthy Monaghan message is spread and acted on throughout County Monaghan in the coming years”.



LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The Monaghan LEADER Programme is now in full swing with high levels of interest and demand for project funding. The Monaghan LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 will run until 2020. A budget of €7.59 million was allocated for its implementation and delivery.

Monaghan LEADER Programme aims to develop sustainable rural communities throughout the county, by promoting social inclusion, economic development and stimulating Enterprise, Tourism, and Community Services while protecting the natural and built heritage of the county. The LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) sets the priorities for the programme.



Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of delivery of LEADER. The LAG meets monthly to discuss matters in relation to the Programme. Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd (MID) is the Implementing Partner and Monaghan County Council is the Financial Partner for the Programme. The LAG has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning overseeing and approval of projects for LEADER funding. Applications are submitted to an Independent Evaluation Committee for consideration and then submitted to the LAG for approval.

LEADER PROJECTS approved since Programme commenced: -

Projects Approved by LAG: 58.

58 Projects have been approved to date to a value of €2.4m with projects going to the Local Action Group (LAG) on a monthly basis for approval on the recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Committee. €1.2m has been paid to project promoters in the county.

Some of the projects that have been funded are as follows:- Astroturf pitches, walking tracks, community centres, B & B's, feasibility studies and community development plans, quad bikes, food incubation units.



Minister Heather Humphreys TD launching LEADER Project – Donaghmoynne Walking Track



LEADER Internal Projects (Applicant: Monaghan Integrated Development on behalf of Monaghan LAG)

- Introduction to Renewable Energy Technologies Training
- Tour Guide Training
- Strengthening Communities – Governance Code
- Migrant Integration Strategy
- Biodiversity Targeted Training

LEADER Co-operation Projects

- Development of Heritage Sites in Cavan, Louth and Monaghan to complement Ireland's Ancient East Initiative East, commenced in late summer.
- Nature of Innovation
- Innovating Communities – Designing our future

First Public Service-wide Innovation Week happens this December

The first Public Service-wide Innovation Week will take place from the 9-13th December 2019.

This initiative, under Action 6 of Our Public Service – the current framework for reform and innovation in the public service, will see Public Service organisations put a spotlight on innovation for the week.

Welcoming the initiative, Robert Watt, Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform said, “For the first time ever we will hold an innovation week across all sectors of our Public Service where organisations have been asked to put a focus on innovation through activities designed to engage and inspire their teams.

“Public Service leaders will have an opportunity to develop innovation activities that convey to staff not only the imperative, but also the opportunity for developing new and improved ways of working and delivering better services for the public.” Innovation Week will see organisations create ways to engage their teams in aspects of innovation. Workshops will explore design-thinking, user-centricity, prototyping, ideation, and collaborative working, among other topics. The week is designed to further deepen an innovation culture throughout the Public Service, a key action under the current Public Service reform and innovation framework.

Secretary General Robert Watt added, “Organisations may wish to run their own innovation weeks, organise innovation events, collaborate on initiatives or invite speakers to discuss aspects of innovation. The main goal is to create an awareness of, and convey the need to find new and better ways of doing our work and delivering for society. “Our Public Service needs to respond to a changing world with ever increasing complex problems, a faster pace of change, rising citizen expectations, changing demographics, and this is in addition to new and emerging technology and an exponential growth of data. Our Public Service has to become more innovative if it is to tackle these challenges and in order to meet society’s changing expectations.”

In addition to the Innovation Week initiative, a Public Service Innovation Network has been established to support the development of a culture of innovation across the Public Service. The Network will also form a mechanism to build skills in innovation and to provide the tools and resources to members.

An innovation fund was also launched earlier in the year which is providing support for innovative projects across the Public Service that aim to create new and better ways of doing things. Projects funded include: a project to create child distraction spaces in the courts; Sensors on ring buoys to address the issues caused by lost or stolen buoys; Hackathons in An Garda Síochána to look at organisational challenges and technology for policing; Innovative redesign of an occupational therapy rehabilitation facility; Development of an App to simplify capturing the impacts of climate events and trends; and the development of a programme on mobility solutions across the four Dublin local authorities. For more information on Innovation Week and other related initiatives see www.ops2020.gov.ie



Property Marking Scheme Wins Prestigious National Award

The initiative, which started in County Monaghan, continues to make headlines. The organisation which provides the signage for the scheme, Property Marking Ireland, received a Social Entrepreneurs Ireland award in the Mansion House on October 9th. The initiative has now spread to 12 counties and has been taken up by the Department of Justice, which intends to roll it out nationwide.

Following its pilot in Monaghan, there was an astounding 88% decrease in burglaries. Developed in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, Joint Policing Committees, Eircode, and local communities, Property Marking Ireland aims to create a safe zone for rural and urban communities across the island, helping not only to reduce crime but also to reduce the fear and anxiety it causes. Without organisations like SEI, organisations like Property Marking Ireland and other social enterprises might never be able to provide innovative responses to real-life problems. SEI provides vital funding and practical supports to help us achieve our mission. This recognition and validation means a huge amount, and will allow us to grow our work in communities all around Ireland. James O’Neill, Founder.’

Photo and words: <https://socialentrepreneurs.ie/awardees/james-oneill/>



Scotshouse Shines at IPB Pride of Place Awards

Scotshouse was honoured at the annual Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place awards in Kilkenny last Saturday night, 30th November, where they beat off stiff competition from across the whole of Ireland to take the runners-up spot in the 300-1000 Population Category. Sponsored by IPB, the Pride of Place competition was initiated 18 years ago through a Co-operation Ireland programme to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development.

It has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements on the island of Ireland, north and south, and is commonly known as the ‘Community Oscars’. Communities are nominated across a number of population-based and theme-based categories by their local authorities, in recognition of the excellence of their work. A judging panel then travels the country assessing the entries during the summer and carries out an in-depth adjudication of each bid. In Scotshouse’s case, the judges spent three hours looking around and speaking to the residents about life in the village in the middle of July, so it had been a very long wait to find out if all the hard work preparing for judging day had paid off.

Representing the Scotshouse community in Kilkenny on Saturday night were Lorraine Burns from the Tidy Towns Committee, Helen Burns from the Community Centre Committee and Martina and Stephen Beattie from the Community Alert Committee. They were of course delighted with the win, but even more delighted to be able to report that the village’s first childcare service, which consists of a Breakfast Club and a Homework Club, had opened its doors just two days earlier; this was an initiative that had just been in the early stages of planning when the judges had been in the village in July. Work has also since begun on the community park, and funding has been secured to upgrade the running track behind the school and join it to the new park. There is no doubt that Scotshouse is a community on the move!

Leas Chathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Seamus Treanor, travelled to the Pride of Place awards with the Co. Monaghan nominees last weekend. “We are so lucky in Co. Monaghan to have such strong communities, full of people who understand the value of giving back to the community and helping to build something for the benefit of everyone,” said Cllr. Treanor. “That Monaghan generosity of spirit is perfectly demonstrated by the people of Scotshouse, who are investing heavily in the future of their area. Monaghan County Council is very pleased to be able to support them in their work. We have been helping the community to develop a Community Plan, which is due to be published shortly, and already the community is starting to reap the benefits of collaborating with the Council in this co-ordinated way, with funding streams such as CLAR, Town & Village, and Outdoor Recreation all being accessed to help the community to realise their goals.”

Also representing Co. Monaghan at the Pride of Place awards were Castleblayney Faughs, whose Operation TransFaughsmaton wellness programme was nominated for recognition by Monaghan County Council in the Community Wellbeing Initiative category. Although not in the winner’s enclosure on this occasion, the quality of the Faughs’ project is such that it has previously received national awards, and inspired the GAA to start the Healthy Clubs initiative, and became the model on which that initiative is based.

Carol Lambe, Community Development Officer for Monaghan County Council said; “Operation TransFaughsmaton may not be coming away with a trophy tonight, but they are winners in the eyes of thousands of people who have passed through their programme over the last nine years. During the judges’ visit last July we heard inspirational stories of people from the youngest to the oldest whose lives have been transformed in so many ways by the OT Team. They spoke of the self-belief they developed, the kindness they were shown, the sense of acceptance they received from the other participants, the lack of judgement and the overwhelming sense of positivity around the programme. We learned about how people who have built their confidence through participating in OT have gone on to do tremendous things in and for the community of Castleblayney, and we heard how local businesses rally behind OT events, even stocking featured foods to support those trying to follow the menus and eating plans. This project has already changed the way GAA clubs interact with the wider community and is now inspiring primary schools to engage in exercise programmes, but the full impact of this project may not be truly appreciated for many years. In the meantime, on behalf of the people of Castleblayney and Co. Monaghan, I’d like to thank Tom Miller, Louisa O’Brien, Melissa Conlon and all the team for their vision and their dedication to what is a truly transformational initiative.”

The Pride of Place awards seek to recognise outstanding community spirit, where people are coming together to shape, change and improve daily lives in their communities. The competition is about showing respect and inclusion for every sector in our communities, young, old, rich or poor and creating communities to which the people are proud to say they belong.

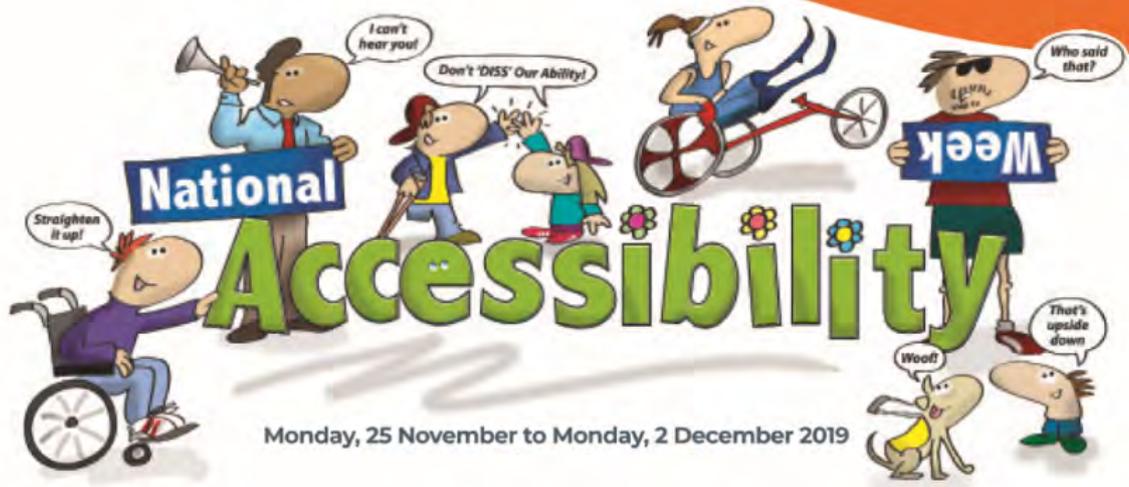
Pride of Place founder and Chairman Tom Dowling said; “These Awards continue to be as important as ever after all these years and the purpose of the awards has never changed. They are about recognising and celebrating the extraordinary, inspirational tireless work being done by communities all over the Island of Ireland as they strive to make their place a better place in which to live.”

Dr Christopher Moran, Chairman of Co-operation Ireland said: “Pride of Place deserves its position as one of the most prestigious community awards on the island of Ireland and Co-operation Ireland is delighted that it continues to go from strength to strength.” George Jones Chairman, IPB Insurance said; “IPB Insurance is proud to be title sponsors of Pride of Place and most importantly what these Awards represent. As a mutual insurer of local authorities and their communities, these awards are an excellent fit as they recognise how volunteerism at a local level delivers an all-island social impact creating better places to live, work and socialise.”



National Accessibility Week:
25th November to 2nd December 2019

As part of National Accessibility Week Monaghan County Council showcased some of its best practice policies and initiatives in universal design and accessibility.



Accessible Parking!

Our campaign to stamp out illegal parking in accessible parking spaces- A Minute Matters



Accessible Voting!

Your Vote Your Voice - An easy to read guide to voting was identified as a priority by Monaghan County Council in 2019 and part of its ongoing work in the promotion of equality and improving accessibility for all.



Accessibility in Procurement:

Our accessibility in procurement strategy focuses on embedding accessibility and universal design in the design, planning and procurement stages of all capital works.



Promoting Accessible Inclusive Play!

Inclusive Play is not just about recognising the needs of children with disabilities it's about meeting the needs of all children by understanding their need to play in a variety of different ways.

Monaghan County Council's award winning inclusive playground policy 'Everybody Plays' has been used in the development of new and upgraded playgrounds by Monaghan County Council. Rossmore Forest park play park and Ballybay town park playground were both designed using the Everybody plays policy and includes equipment that provides play opportunities for children with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

The play equipment has been carefully selected to ensure integrated and inclusive play opportunities where all children play together.

National Age Friendly Recognition & Achievement Awards

Monaghan County Council was delighted to be shortlisted in the Communication Category of the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards for 'Your Vote Your Voice - Easy to Read Guide to Voting'.

The Awards were hosted by Dublin City Council and took place on Thursday, 14th November 2019 in Croke Park Stadium, Dublin.



120th anniversary of the advent of the County Councillor on Ireland democratic landscape

2019 marks the 120th anniversary of the advent of the County Councillor on Ireland's democratic landscape. Monaghan County Council has been working throughout the year with National Women's Council of Ireland and Blayney Blades, Dochas for Women of the National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks to celebrate 120 years of Women in Local Government.



On Wednesday 23rd October 2019 an event was held with local elected representatives and local women in Monaghan to begin the discussion on making Local Government work for women. The event aimed to support the voice and participation of women in Local Government and ensure that policies and programme reflect the lived experience of women in Monaghan.



Funding of €35,000 for development of our Monaghan Community Alerts Initiative
A grant of €35,000 has been awarded to the project by the Public Service Innovation Fund, which will be used to develop the service further and to do some promotion.



1st October was International Day of the Older Person. Meeting of Age Friendly Alliance in Monaghan.

Monaghan County Council shortlisted in Europe for their work in the promotion of Human Rights.

Monaghan County Council was delighted to learn our project YOUR VOTE YOUR VOICE – An easy to read guide to voting has been shortlisted for an EU Innovation in Politics award 2019. Dublin City University's School of Law and Government is the Irish partner of the Innovation in Politics Institute who administer the Europe-wide Innovation in Politics Awards.

The Innovation in Politics awards recognise and support those politicians and their organisations who have the courage to break new ground, who are creative and achieve real results. The awards aim to bring the innovative work to the fore, so that it may serve as a source of inspiration to others across the European Union. Monaghan County Council is one of nine entries from Ireland to reach the European Finals of the Awards. 80 finalists were selected by a jury of more than 1,000 citizens from all European countries. YOUR VOTE YOUR VOICE has been shortlisted in the Human Rights category.

Monaghan's project Your Vote Your Voice - An easy to read guide to voting was identified as a priority by Monaghan County Council in 2019 and part of its ongoing work in the promotion of equality and improving accessibility for all. Following Ireland's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability in 2018 and with Local and European Elections taking place in 2019 Monaghan County Council felt it was an important time to focus on the rights of people with a disability in particular the right to vote. Monaghan County Council asked, "As an organisation are we really protecting a person's Right to Vote, if access to the opportunity to vote wasn't available to everyone?"

- Most frequently raised reasons why people typically didn't vote
- General lack of awareness or understanding of voting, elections and how government works
 - Not being on the register to vote and not knowing how to get on the register
 - Difficulties, reading, writing ballot papers and not knowing support was available
 - Not knowing if a polling station was accessible.

Monaghan County Council in conjunction with Monaghan Public Participation Network developed an easy to read guide to voting in Ireland, something that was not previously available within the local government sector. Your Vote Your Voice an Easy to Read Guide to Voting explains the voting process in Ireland and how you can exercise your right to vote. The publication responds to issues identified in several different public consultations. Consultations with older people, people with disabilities and migrant communities all highlighted the need for more simplified information on voting. Consultations identified a significant lack of awareness of the voting process among many people in the community.

Prior to this publication, all information relating to voting in Monaghan was not accessible. Information was complicated, located in numerous different documents or locations. Information about supports available to voters with a disability and information on the accessibility of polling stations were not available. This initiative collated all information relating to voting in Ireland into one easy to read information booklet. Each part of the booklet is written in easy to read language, and clear layout and spacing making the information easy to read and understand. The overall aim of Your Vote Your Voice is to increase voter participation and active citizenship among people of county Monaghan. This initiative was developed by the Social Inclusion and Corporate services department in Monaghan County Council, Monaghan Public Participation Network and Monaghan Disability Network. The project team worked closely with the Department of Housing and Local Government to ensure all our information was up to date and correct. They also linked with the Irish Human Rights Commission UN Disability advisory committee to review draft copies of the publication. Social Inclusion officer with Monaghan County Council Bernie Bradley stated "It was quite surprising the amount of people in the community who were unsure of the voting process and the supports that are available to assist people to vote. Many older people were unaware they could apply for a postal vote or have someone assist them at the polling station. Many people from other countries now living in Monaghan didn't know Ireland uses a secret ballot system of voting for many this was the reason they didn't vote."

Councillor Seamus Coyle, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council who put forward the project for the EU awards stated "The right to vote is a fundamental part of a democratic society, a human right that was fought for by many throughout history. This initiative enhances this right and supports and encourages more people to have their voice heard and take part the democratic process in their community. We in Monaghan County Council are very proud this project has received recognition at EU level and we hope our work here in Monaghan can support an encourage many more people not just in Monaghan or Ireland but right across the EU to exercise their right to vote."

The awards took place in Berlin on December 4th and the project was named as a finalist.

Copies of YOUR VOTE YOUR VOICE an Easy to Read Guide to Voting: <https://monaghan.ie/your-vote-your-voice-an-easy-to-read-guide-to-voting/>

Winter 2019



MONAGHAN FIRE AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Launch of the pilot phase of BFireSafe@School pilot phase

Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, along with 13 secondary schools nationwide will participate in the pilot phase of the "BFireSafe@School Programme" which was recently launched by Mr. Eoghan Murphy, TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government at the Custom House, Dublin. Pupils studying within the Junior cycle, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Cert Applied programmes, from 16 schools in Ireland, will be given the opportunity to learn about protecting themselves, their families and communities from fire. The project will also provide learning opportunities in fire science and potential careers in the fire service and other related industries. It is anticipated that, following this pilot run during the academic year 2019/20, the programme will be rolled out nationally and made available to all post-primary schools.

This Erasmus+ funded project has been led by Mr Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer, Leitrim Fire and Rescue Service, and he has assembled a core team drawn from the Irish Fire and Rescue Services, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, and the Irish Education System to produce a new fire safety education programme that will be pilot tested initially in post-primary schools in Ireland.

Dermot Brannigan Chief Fire Officer, Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection commented that he was delighted to have the Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, as part of the pilot phase and emphasised the importance of this very worthwhile project to increase fire safety education among post primary students. The project complements the primary school "Safety Team" fire education programme run by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in conjunction with Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection fire safety programme. This new post primary project will also involve local fire services in the education process.

The "BFireSafe@School Programme" involves a consortium of European partners, drawn from fire services and education development partners in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania and Spain to deliver the project at European level following the pilot. This collaborative approach has contributed to the development of this innovative education package and, following the pilot programme's roll-out in Ireland, it will be adapted and translated for use amongst post-primary students in Europe.

Photo: John Kerr, TY coordinator Patrician High School, Carrickmacross, Minister Eoghan Murphy, TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Finian Joyce, Chief Fire Officer, Leitrim Fire and Rescue Service and Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer, Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection.



Near Zero Energy Buildings

The construction sector is preparing itself for the introduction of new building regulations on energy efficiency

A nearly zero energy building (NZEB) future will mean:

- All new homes will be nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) and have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 compared with a current rating for new builds of A3
- New homes will be 70% more energy efficient and emit 70% less carbon dioxide than 2005 performance levels
- Typical A-rated 3-bedroom semi-detached house likely to be approximately €800 a year cheaper to heat than a similar house built before 2005
- Existing dwellings undergoing major renovations will be required to achieve a BER of B2 or equivalent.

All new dwellings commencing construction from the 1st November 2019 subject to transitional arrangements must comply with Part L Building Regulations. The new regulations aim to make all new residential dwellings 70% more energy efficient than the performance requirements in 2005.

Earlier this year, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy, T.D., signed into law amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations, giving effect to Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) Regulations and Major Renovation Regulations. In conjunction with this, amendments have also been made to Part F of the Building Regulations, which relate to ventilation. The NZEB standard is achieved, in part, through improved air tightness in a building. New builds will require more effective ventilation systems to achieve the improved air tightness.

NZEB is defined as a building that has a very high-energy performance, requiring that the nearly zero or very low amount of energy should be covered to a very significant extent by energy from renewable sources, including energy from renewable sources produced on-site or nearby. The new regulations will require that 20% of the total energy use of buildings is sourced from renewables. Article 9(1) of the Directive requires Member States to ensure that by 31 December 2020, all new buildings are NZEB.

In addition, all major renovations (defined as a renovation where more than 25% of the surface envelope of the building undergoes renovation) are carried on a building, the whole building or dwelling should achieve a cost optimal energy performance insofar as it is technically, functionally and economically feasible. The cost optimal energy performance level for a typical dwelling is equivalent to a B2 BER. The majority of existing housing stock is energy inefficient with 78% having a C2 BER or worse. EU statistics show 0.4 to 1.2% of housing stock are renovated annually.

The World Bank's recent Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) report stated that Ireland performed very strongly in the area of energy efficiency, achieving the highest score of 100 for Building Energy Codes. Ireland, therefore, is considered a role model for many other EU countries on how to effectively design and implement energy efficiency strategies for new buildings and building renovation (<http://rise.worldbank.org/scores>).

A report by the Global Buildings Performance Network in 2013 ranked Ireland first in an international comparison of energy efficiency policies for new dwellings.

A revised version of Technical Guidance Document L – Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings will be published shortly and available online at www.housing.gov.ie. A revised version of Technical Guidance Document F – Ventilation is available at www.housing.gov.ie. The software calculation methodology DEAP (Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure), for checking compliance for NZEB, has been published by the SEAI and is available on its website <https://www.seai.ie/energy-in-business/ber-assessor-support/deap/>.



Taste of Monaghan

This year the Taste of Monaghan Street Food Festival took place on Saturday September 28th and Fire personnel from Monaghan Fire Service were present, giving advice on Fire Safety in the Home and the importance of having a working smoke alarm.



Fire Safety Week

Fire personnel from Castleblayney & Clones Fire Service located in their respective towns during Fire Safety Week. This years theme was 'safer together'.

The campaign asked that members of our communities visit vulnerable relatives, neighbours and friends and ensure they are mindful of fire safety, have working smoke alarms and have an escape plan in the event of a fire.

Latest addition to Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection fleet is a VEMA TFL 333.

Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection have taken delivery of an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) to replace the existing Hydraulic Platform. The ALP provides a reach of 33 metres and has the dual ability to deploy an elevated master stream of water, or to provide a method of rescuing trapped persons



Latest addition to our fleet is a VEMA TFL 333. Pictured above: Instructor training currently being carried out in Monaghan Fire Service. This appliance will soon be operational and will give the fire service an aerial height of 33m

Do you manufacture or use CE-marked construction products as part of your work?



Check the CE marks of products to find out if a 'no deal' Brexit might impact you

Current Situation

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) requires that when certain construction products are placed on the EU market, the manufacturer must produce a 'declaration of performance' and place a 'CE' marking on the product.

Manufacturers, importers, distributors and authorised representatives have obligations and responsibilities in certain circumstances when placing a construction product on the market. Third parties called 'notified bodies' perform assessments of products and provide 'certificates of conformity'. They must be registered in an EU country.

Impact of a 'no deal' Brexit

UK 'notified bodies' (those registered in Great Britain or Northern Ireland) will lose their legal status as EU 'notified bodies' from the date the UK leaves the EU. Construction products relying on certification from a UK 'notified body' may not be placed on the EU market from the date the UK leaves the EU. This may affect supply chains and the availability of certain products.

An EU 'distributor' of UK construction products may become an 'importer' after the date the UK leaves the EU.

What to look for in the CE marking

How to know if a construction product is certified by a UK 'notified body'

Visit the Nando CPR database:

<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/>

Click "Body". From the CE marking find the Notified Body No.

On the Nando webpage use the "Country" column to identify the country in which the 'notified body' is registered.

How to find an EU-27 (EU country after the UK leaves the EU) 'notified body' for a product with a harmonised standard

On the Nando CPR database, click "Construction products", then click "Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 - Construction Products".

Click "Standard" (from the bar above the "Bodies" heading). Click "Harmonised Standards". Using the product's Standard, find and click on the correct Standard, found under the "Code" column on the webpage. Use the "Country" column to find a 'notified body' from an EU-27 country.

CE 19	
Anyco. Ltd, PO Box 123, Leeds, UK	
Product A1234 – DoP No. 5678	
EN123-5: 2009	
Notified Body No. 2511	
Internal & external use in walls & partitions	
Essential characteristic 1:	PASS
Essential characteristic 2:	50 MN
Essential characteristic n:	NPD
www.anycoltd.co.uk/dop	

What will a 'no deal' Brexit mean for me?

I am a manufacturer and my products are certified by a 'notified body' registered in the UK

Arrange for the transfer of files and the corresponding 'certificates of conformity' from the UK 'notified body' to an EU-27 'notified body'. OR

Apply for a new 'certificate of conformity' from an EU-27 'notified body'.

Either step should be taken before the UK leaves the EU.

I am a builder, a construction professional or an end user

To limit disruption on construction sites, check your supply chain to ensure the construction products you need will be available after the UK leaves the EU.

Check that the relevant product-related documentation is appropriate to demonstrate and ensure compliance with the Building Regulations.

I am an importer or distributor of UK CE-marked construction products

Contact the manufacturer to ensure they have updated the product's DoP, CE marking and have valid 'certificates of conformity' from the date the UK leaves the EU. Check for any additional responsibilities as an importer.

I am an authorised representative for a UK CE-marked construction product

Check with your client that the products will have valid 'certificates of conformity' and DoPs from the date the UK leaves the EU.

As a manufacturer, importer, distributor or authorised representative (where applicable) you must comply with your CPR obligations and responsibilities when placing a construction product on the EU market.

For more information, visit the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's webpage on Brexit and the Construction Products Regulation: www.housing.gov.ie/corporate/brexit/brexit-construction-products-regulation

If you plan on importing goods from the UK after Brexit, you, or a representative on your behalf, will need to complete customs formalities. For information on your customs responsibilities visit: www.revenue.ie/brexit

For support and guidance on standards and certification contact the National Authority of Standards of Ireland, which is an EU 'notified body': www.nsai.ie Email: brexitunit@nsai.ie Telephone: 01 8073800

Read the Brexit Preparedness Checklist to know the essential actions firms can take before 31 October 2019 to ensure they will still be able to trade with the UK after it leaves the EU: www.dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Brexit-Preparedness-Checklist.html

Learn More: www.gov.ie/brexit



Winter Ready Campaign

The series of severe weather events in recent times has demonstrated the necessity for ongoing preparedness for severe weather & flooding emergencies.

For good simple advice on how to be winter ready please visit www.winterready.ie

BÍ ULLAMH DON GHEIMHREADH BE WINTER-READY

www.winterready.ie @emergencyIE

Office of Emergency Planning, Department of Defence. LoCall 1890 25 1890 / 076 1001608



'STOP YOUR CHRISTMAS FROM GOING UP IN FLAMES'

Christmas Fire Safety Campaign

Make sure that all Christmas lights conform to the EN Standard & are turned off when leaving home. Never overload plug sockets & remember that a candle is a naked flame, so don't leave them burning unattended or near decorations. As most fires start in the kitchen, make sure the cooker is never left unattended.

It's also an important time of year to remember our 'STOP Fire' check list:

- Smoke alarms fitted on each floor;
- Test them on a weekly basis;
- Obvious dangers removed &
- Plan your escape route.

These easy to remember steps enable everyone to quickly decide what actions they need to take to help keep fire safe.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Carrickmacross Reverse Vending Project

On 1st October 2019, Carrickmacross Tidy Towns made history by installing the first reverse vending machine in Ireland. Users can take along their clean and dry plastic bottles for recycling and receive 10c per bottle returned (in the form of credit voucher for the Super Valu store in which the machine is located).

To date, almost 35,000 bottles have been recycled. Carrickmacross Tidy Towns will be hosting an information event on the project early in 2020 – if interested in attending, please contact Environmental Services or Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD, both of whom continue to support the project.



Launch of Water Filling Machines in Castleblayney and Clones

As part of National Re-Use Month 2019, the people of Monaghan were delighted to officially launch the new water filling stations in Lough Muckno Park, Castleblayney and Barry McGuigan Park, Clones. The units, which produce clean and filtered drinking water, were installed under the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) programme with the assistance of local Tidy Town volunteers and staff from Monaghan County Council.

Speaking at the launch, Pat Merrick of Castleblayney Tidy Towns said they were delighted to be associated with the project – "It is a great facility to have in the grounds of Lough Muckno and one that we hope will be utilised to the full, especially with the weekly Saturday morning park-run in Lough Muckno". Billy Flynn of Clones Tidy Towns mentioned the very positive steps water filling machines can make in tackling climate change -encouraging waste prevention through the re-use of water bottles, which will in turn reduce the amount of littering of plastic bottles in local areas.

Funding for the units was secured earlier this year from the LAPN, which is a co-operative programme between the Environmental Protection Agency's led waste prevention programme and local authorities in Ireland.

These new facilities in Castleblayney and Clones are a welcome addition to the units already located at Library Headquarters in Monaghan Town and Oakland Recreation Centre in Glaslough.





Christmas Tree Recycling

Don't forget to recycle your real trees after the Christmas season is over – trees will be accepted at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Recycling Centres up until the end of January 2020.

Check out the opening hours on www.monaghan.ie



Tidy Towns 2019

What a fantastic year it was for Tidy Towns groups from across Monaghan! Glaslough was named Ireland's Tidiest Village and was crowned the overall winner of Ireland's Tidiest Town.

The last time the overall award went to Glaslough was in 1978 and indeed this was the only other time the coveted overall prize was in Monaghan. Glaslough was judged to be the best from a record number of 918 entries from across the country.

23 entrants from across Monaghan took part in the 2019 competition, an increase from 19 in 2018.

Locally, the winners were as follows:

- Endeavour Award - Killeevan
- Category A (under 200 people) - Ardaghey
- Category B (201-1000 people) – Glaslough
- Category C (1001-2500 people) - Clones
- Category D (2501-5000 people) - Castleblayney
- Category E (5001-10,000 people) – Carrickmacross (Gold Medal Winner), Monaghan Town (Silver Medal Winner).



Environment Section Amnesty Days

As part of the national Anti-Dumping Initiative 2019, Environmental Services organised a series of amnesty days over the Summer of 2019.

At these events members of the public could dispose of specific waste streams for free – 2 armchair/sofa days (Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross), a mattress day (Clones) and a Garden Shed event (Scotch Corner).

Over 800 pieces of furniture and 400 mattresses were collected at the events.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Brought to you by the Department of Rural and Community Development

It's Not In our Nature – Is it in Yours? Let's tackle illegal dumping!

To continue to tackle illegal dumping, an integrated campaign 'It's not in our nature, is it in Yours?' using social media, local radio and press was delivered in 9 counties in the Connacht Ulster Waste Region over the summer. This campaign supported the ongoing efforts of Local Authorities in cleaning up illegally dumped waste material. The campaign is being coordinated by the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CU WERLA).

To date, numerous clean ups have taken place and speaking on behalf of the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority, Sean Scott, Regional Co-Ordinator said, 'Our overall aim is to eliminate unsightly illegal dumps and further protect our environment both in rural and urban settings as well as engaging with the public to ensure that areas remain clean once clean-ups have taken place'. 'Significant costs are associated with cleaning up illegally dumped waste and there is an onus on all citizens to dispose of waste in the correct manner. Going forward, it is hoped that the use of technology including drones as well as overt and covert surveillance equipment will become more effective and act as a deterrent' said Mr. Scott.

Mr Scott also pointed out that Byelaws are being introduced in every Local Authority across the region in relation to the regulation storage, presentation and collection of household waste. The bye-laws govern a range of issues, including obliging consumers to participate in an authorised waste collection service (or provide documentary proof on what alternative means they use to dispose of their waste) and encouraging greater segregation of waste to reduce volumes of residual waste collected.

The Connacht Ulster Waste Region campaign 'It's Not in Our Nature – Is it in Yours?' – creating awareness of the issues of illegal dumping is coordinated by the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority. It is supported by the Connacht Ulster Waste Region and funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

A dedicated website called mywaste.ie is available to assist householders with the management of waste, for example providing details on what can and cannot be recycled, recycling, bring bank locations, civic amenity site locations etc.

For further information please contact: litter@monaghancoco.ie or check out mywaste.ie



PLANNING

Clones Renewal Scheme picks up Esteemed National Award



Monaghan County Council enjoyed success on Thursday evening (28th November) at the KPMG Irish Independent Property Industry Excellence Awards at the Convention Centre in Dublin. The awards are endorsed by all relevant property professional institutes, representative bodies and State agencies, including Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, Irish Planning Institute, Engineers Ireland, Society of Chartered Surveyors, Construction Industry Federation, Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers, Industrial Development Authority, Dublin Institute of Technology, Office of Public Works and Enterprise Ireland.

Monaghan County Council beat off strong competition, including shortlisted Longford County Council to win the Excellence in Planning Award in the Public Sector.

Photo (l-r): Máire Cullinan, Regeneration Officer (Monaghan County Council), Paul Connolly, Housing Engineer (Monaghan County Council), Cllr. Pat Treanor, Cathaoirleach Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, Michele Connolly, KPMG.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

In October, International Wave of Light in honour of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Monaghan County Council lit up The Market House, Monaghan and Carrickmacross Civic Offices and Library for the Feileacáin #waveoflight to remember pregnancy and infant loss. For more information see: <https://feileacain.ie/>

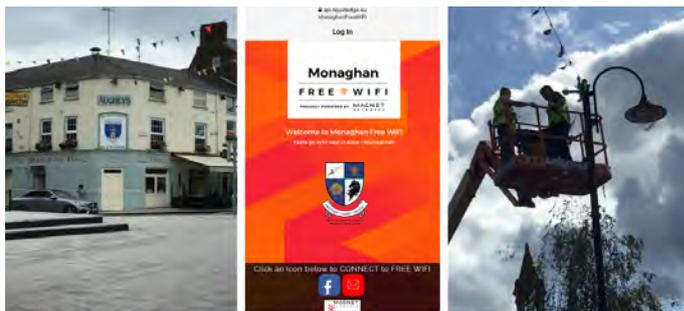


Monaghan Town Free Wifi extended

Monaghan County Council has completed the latest phase of its Monaghan Town wifi project in conjunction with Magnet Networks. In the past year, Magnet networks have installed 9 wifi units in two phases throughout Monaghan Town to offer a free wifi network to all visitors to the town. This free wifi will be available to all visitors to the town throughout the weekend for the festival.

Philip Clapperton, Director of Regional Sales on behalf of Magnet Networks explains that this is part of a large project to deliver free wifi to a number of significant towns across the country, including Monaghan, Westport, Carrick on Shannon and Sligo. He adds: "With each access point offering a high quality signal across a range of up to 150 metres, this allows users and visitors to each town free, safe internet access. Magnet Networks also hope to engage with local businesses to see about advertising special offers from Monaghan and other commercial offerings of interest to consumers. To join the network, users need to either add a few simple details and email address, or connect via Facebook. Following this users can then opt in to receive the special offers available from these businesses.

This project has been a collaboration between local business owners who have agreed to host the equipment required for the wifi network in order to help promote business and tourism within the town. The initial infrastructure was installed in Summer 2018, but in recent weeks, this has now been extended to cover the area around Peters Lake. Earlier in the Summer, the wifi network was extended along the full length of Dublin St. as far as Old Cross Square. Currently, the wifi network extends along Park St. from Rocks Stationery shop to Monaghan Museum; along the back of Glaslough St. car park (beside Peters Lake). It also covers the area from the Courthouse to the Diamond, extending on along both Glaslough St. and Dublin St. as far as Old Cross Square.



This project has been delivered by Monaghan Municipal District, together with County Broadband Officer, John McArdle.

John commented: "Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting the use of broadband and free wifi wherever possible. We have had free wifi available within all five of our towns since 2017, and this complements the services on offer through our public libraries with free internet access for users with their own phones or tablets, together with tablets and PCs available for use within each library branch.

It demonstrates our commitment to offering free and accessible wifi to visitors as part of our efforts to enhance the facilities available within our town centres."

CHRISTMAS IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS



Monaghan Town
Photo credit: Gregory Murphy



Carrickmacross
Photo credit: Jim Gartlan



Clones
Photo credit: Eileen McManus

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

CARRICKMACROSS-CASTLEBLAYNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Declan Gorman's Culture Night Street Theatre – The Streets of JJ Clarke.



The unveiling of the Paddy Cole mural at Mindszenty Park in Castleblayney on 21st September.



The launch of the Reverse Vending machine at Supervalu in Carrickmacross.



In September Carrickmacross Civic Offices supported Childhood Cancer Foundation Ireland's Awareness Campaign: Light It Up Gold.

MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Green Space Initiative

In July 2019 the Monaghan Town Team launched the Green Space Initiative in Monaghan Town Centre which focused on activating the space in front of the Courthouse in Church Square to encourage dwell time. This project was ably assisted by Fiona McEntee in the Community & Enterprise Section and the Healthy Monaghan Committee. The green space aimed to add colour and soften the public realm in the town centre and give a recreational focus to the town centre creating a welcoming area.

The team aimed to work with voluntary and community groups to run a series of events that would help build and enhance relationships between the local authority and voluntary organisations, with 12 different stakeholder groups activating the space during summer evenings and weekends with events such as the Pop Up Gaeltacht, Monaghan Library Services, Teach na Daoine, Foróige, Farmers Market, Monaghan Streetfood Festival using the area.



Taste of Monaghan Street Food Festival 2019

This year the festival was restructured to a one day event right in the heart of Monaghan Town. With around fifty exhibitors, top class chef demonstrations and family entertainment, it attracted a large crowd to our town and was an outstanding success. Well done to all involved!

BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards Rising Star

Congratulations to Clones Town Team on their submission to the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards in the Rising Star Category. The team feel humbled to be have been chosen as one of 10 finalists in this prestigious competition.

This honour is reflective of the enormous work been carried out locally by Clones Town Team in conjunction with Ballybay-Clones Municipal District in the realisation of a number of small, medium and long term initiatives rolled out in the town.

Exciting times ahead as we move forward through the cusp of this transitional and development period.

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWN AWARDS

Clones and Monaghan Towns were honoured at this year's Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards. The ceremony took place in Kilkenny on Thursday December 5th.

Now in its fourth year, the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards is a nationwide search to find Ireland's most enterprising community.

Clones was named a runner up in the Rising Star Category and Monaghan Town was named a runner up in the Regional Category.

The towns were visited by judges this summer, who rated them on community initiatives, leadership and diversity.



Pictured above with Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation and representing Clones at the 2019 Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards are Cllr. Pat Treanor, Cathaoirleach of Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, Eamonn McCaughey, Maureen McIntyre, Rory McMahon, Seamus McMahon, Marian Mullen and Anna Marie McCaul, Bank of Ireland, and Mark O'Connor, Head of County Monaghan for Bank of Ireland.



Pictured above with Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation and representing Monaghan Town at the 2019 Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards are Cllr. Seán Conlon, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan Municipal District, Alan Johnston, Chair of Monaghan Town Team, Donal McElwain, Trevor Connolly, Marian Mullen and Anna Marie McCaul, Bank of Ireland, and Mark O'Connor, Head of County Monaghan for Bank of Ireland.



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council