

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, Armagh Road, Monaghan, on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.**

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

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

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services  
Mr. Nial O'Connor, Oifigeach Gaeilge and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllr Kerr-Conlon

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach referred to the Standard Operating Guidance (SOG) for holding Council meetings that had issued the previous week and which had been circulated to each member. He stated that that the meeting would be held in strict conformance with that guidance. He further stated that the meeting would conclude at 12.55 sharp and if the agenda had not been completed by that time it would be adjourned to another date.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that an amended set of minutes had been circulated to take account of a motion passed by this Council regarding a motion from Derry City and Strabane Council in relation to an All Ireland Public Health Strategy.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, as amended, be confirmed.*

**(ii) Minutes of Council meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2020**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Charlie McConalogue T.D. regarding TB herd risk.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Charlie McConalogue T.D. regarding the strategy for Agri-environment policy.
- Email from Peter Monaghan, Department of Agriculture regarding meeting to discuss TB situation in Co. Monaghan.

- Invitation from Lord Mayor of Manchester City Council regarding the commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the second world war in conjunction with the Mayors for Peace organisation.
- Letter from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government regarding adjustments to members representational payment from 1 October 2020.
- Email from the Office of the Garda Commissioner regarding Emyvale Garda Station.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Disabilities, Ms. Anne Rabbitte regarding funding for Carrickmacross Group Home.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D regarding the withdrawal of Bovine TB Herd History Risk Statement and Report.
- Email from the Office of Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D regarding the withdrawal of Bovine TB Herd History Risk Statement and Report.
- Email from the Office of Mr. Joe O'Reilly, T.D regarding the withdrawal of Bovine TB Herd History Risk Statement and Report.
- Resolution from Kildare County Council regarding request from Féileacáin to waive fees for family grave plots where a baby will be buried and that the stillbirth register and certificate be removed and replaced with a birth certificate and death certificate for babies who are stillborn.
- Resolution from Meath County Council regarding  
Motion 9.1 The proliferation of bogus waste collectors advertising on Facebook,  
Motion 9.13 calls on Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to conclude the baseline review of LA funding models and include findings as part of the Departments submission to the 2021 Budget discussions.  
Motion 9.14 calls on Ministers for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to immediately fund the LPT Equalisation fund from the Exchequer and leave 20% that is currently withheld from LA's in the areas where the LPT is generated.

The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued, was also circulated:

- Acknowledgment email from the Office of the Minister for Finance, Mr. Pascal Donohoe, T.D. regarding Carrickmacross Group Home Costs.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D regarding parliamentary question and reply to withdraw of Bovine TB Herd History Risk Statement and Report.
- Acknowledgment email from the Office of the Minister for Finance, Mr. Pascal Donohoe, T.D. regarding VAT which was forwarded by Minister Catherine Martin, T.D
- Email from the Office of the Minister for the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D regarding extra funding for the Local Improvement Scheme in County Monaghan.
- Resolution from Louth County Council regarding Council financial concerns as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.
- COVID-19 Standard Operating Guidance document - attendance at Council meeting by Elected Members and Council Officials/Others (Media & Public) and attendance at other meetings or Council Buildings.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council writes to the Executive Director, Finance & Services, Garda Headquarters requesting an update in relation to Emyvale Garda Station.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Truell, it was agreed that this Council expresses serious disappointment at the response of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding new TB Reports and requests that the Minister, Charlie McConalogue TD to immediately withdraw same, as they are clearly a breach of GDPR and also place major questions over the state approved testing programme, for example where an animal purchased onto a farm tested over a number of years, passing clear in the test and now the Department are advising that animal be slaughtered as soon as possible.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council supports the motions from Kildare County Council as follows:*

*That this Council supports the request from Féileacáin to waive the fees for family grave plots where a baby will be buried and that we write to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to request that all local authorities waive the fees for family grave plots where a baby will be buried and that the Department should instruct all local authorities to waive the fees for planning permission for headstones where a baby will be buried and that a Children's Funeral Fund be established in Ireland*

*That this Council requests that the Minister ensures the stillbirth register and stillbirth certification be removed and be replaced with a birth certificate and death certificate for babies who are stillborn, so that babies that are stillborn can be registered on the birth and death register and can receive the same state records of their existence as everyone else. Parents whose babies who are currently listed on the stillbirth register should be given the opportunity to have their babies placed on the birth and death register and to receive a birth and death certificate for their babies.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Bennett seconded by Cllr Gilliland it was agreed that the Council supports the motion from Meath County Council calling for engagement with Facebook about the proliferation of bogus waste collectors advertising on the platform, with a view to ensuring that such advertisements must in future contain a permit number, be reportable by members of the public and should be removed by Facebook where illegal services are being offered. The Council commends on-going efforts by legitimate waste collectors and members of the public to address this issue and will continue to support and complement these efforts, where possible.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council pursue a meeting with Department of Agriculture officials in relation to the serious incidence of TB in Co. Monaghan. The following items to form part of the agenda for the meeting:*

- *21% increase in incidents of TB outbreaks in past 12 months 2700 herds restricted nationally.*
- *TB herd history risk statements and report.*
- *Effective implementation of the Wildlife control programme – badger and beer capture and control programme*
- *Assessment of the impact of deer on bovine TB control programme*
- *Cross border control programme.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Campbell it was agreed that Monaghan County Council notes there is a real need for Local Authorities to work together in solidarity to promoting more peaceful and safer communities at the local and the global level. There*

also remains over 13,000 nuclear weapons which have the explosive content to create 280,000 explosions of the size that destroyed the city of Hiroshima on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945.

The Council also notes the rapid development of the Mayors for Peace organisation, which campaigns for a more peaceful and nuclear weapons free world. It now has 7,921 member towns and cities from 164 countries (as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020), representing over a billion people worldwide.

The main charter of Mayors for Peace calls for “closer cooperation among towns and cities, strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contributes to the realisation of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protect the environment, and solve the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family.”

The Council hereby resolves –

- To join the Mayors for Peace and consider the approval of a voluntary donation of £120 to assist development of the UK and Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter and the international campaigning work of Mayors for Peace led by its International Secretariats in Hiroshima and Ypres.
- To consider, along with the Mayor, a permanent representative for the Council to attend twice yearly meetings of the UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter.
- To engage with the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace as it develops.
- To consider holding on August 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> an annual commemorative peace ceremony to remember all innocent civilians killed in all conflicts over the past 75 years and / or an annual ceremony to commemorate International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**3. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to the disposal of Right of Way at 1, Annalore Street, Clones**

The members noted the report which had been circulated recommending the proposed granting of a Right of Way (pedestrian access only) at 1 Annalore Street, Clones

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Right of Way at 1 Annalore Street, Clones in accordance with the terms of notice dated 8 September, 2020 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

**4. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1/1/2021 - 31/12/2021**

Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to Overdraft Accommodation in the amount of €10m for the year 2021.

*On the proposal of Cllr McElvaney, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.*

**5. To fix a date for the Statutory Budget 2021 Meeting**

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Statutory Budget 2021 meeting would be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.*

Cllr Connolly proposed that where a monthly meeting is adjourned, that the meeting would be held on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.

Cllr Carthy suggested that the proposal would be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration. This was agreed.

**6. To consider Scéim Teanga (Irish Language Scheme) 2020-2023**

Nial O'Connor, Oifigeach Gaeilge, outlined the main element of the Scéim Teanga (Irish Language Scheme) 2020-2023 which had been circulated with the agenda.

He stated that the Official Languages Act 2003 provides for the preparation by public bodies of a language scheme detailing the services which they will provide:

- through the medium of Irish,
- through the medium of English, and
- through the medium of Irish and English

The Council must continue to improve the level of services it provides to the public in accordance with the Scéim Teanga. The Draft Scéim had come through a public consultation process and six submissions had been received.

In accordance with section 14(3) of the Act, language schemes remain in force for a period of 3 years or until such time as a new scheme is confirmed by the Minister for the Gaeltacht, whichever is the later.

Cllr Treanor thanked the Coiste Gaeilge and the Oifigeach Gaeilge for their work on the preparation of the Draft Scéim Teanga.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McElvaney, It was agreed to recommend the Draft Scéim Teanga (Irish Language Scheme) 2020-2023 to the Minister for the Gaeltacht for approval.*

**7. To note the NOAC Local Authority Satisfaction Survey 2020**

The members noted the results of the NOAC Local Authority Satisfaction Survey for 2020 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

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

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr Campbell, seconded by Cllr Coyle it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**10. To receive the Management Report – September 2020:**

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

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

*Cllr Coyle proposed, Cllr O’Hanlon seconded - that this Council immediately renews its marketing of County Monaghan as a great place to live, do business, work, learn and play, as many people are re-examining their location in cities etc in the ‘new normal’ and living in a pandemic. With the roll out of broadband, town centre regeneration, etc., Monaghan is a great place to live – let this be a central message of marketing County Monaghan to attract new families to live in our county sustaining our towns and rural villages.*

*Cllr P. Treanor proposed the following amendment – that Monaghan County Council collaborates with other agencies that have an economic development role in the county – eg LEO; CMETB and the HSE. The amendment was seconded by Cllr McKenna.*

The amendment was accepted by Cllr Coyle. The Cathaoirleach put the substantive motion to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllr. Truell in relation to his attendance at the following conferences/training events:

- AILG – Module Training - The Development Plan making process – Waterford – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- AILG Spring Seminar – Climate Action - Longford – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- AILG – Module 3 (Moorhead Report) – Sligo – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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

The Chief Executive informed the members that Monaghan County Council had accepted a tender for the refurbishment of Gate Lodge No. 2, Hope Castle, Castleblayney. The signing of the contract for the project was taking place later that afternoon.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council immediately undertakes an audit/count of the numbers of adult persons/ children with disabilities, who are living with elderly parents, who will in time, need adapted housing as the UN Convention on the rights of people with a disability includes the right to independent living. This work to be completed in consultation with the HSE and service providers to people with disabilities.*

**13. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were responded to by the relevant officials.

**14. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

There was no discussion on this item.

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

The members noted the following correspondence which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Email from Jamie Moore, Eirgrid regarding the Eirgrid Group Strategy 2020 – 2025 confirming that the EirGrid Group Strategy 2020-2025 Regional Roll Out will be rolled into a separate programme – Pathways to 70% Renewable Energy by 2030. This programme will be launched in December with engagement to commence in Spring 2021. Eirgrid expect to re-engage on this specific programme then.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Eamonn Ryan regarding meeting with Monaghan County Council to discuss the North South Interconnector.

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

There was no discussion on this item.

**17. Questions:**

**Cllr P. Connolly asked:**

1. In relation to the recent Public Notice request for "Expressions of interest in Purchase of houses and/or land for Social Housing from developers, contractors, home owners, landowners for the purchase of Houses/Land for Social Housing purposes", What response has Monaghan County Council received to this public request from the areas listed i.e. Monaghan town, Clones, Carrickmacross, Ballybay, Castleblayney, Emyvale and other villages in the county where there is a housing need?

**Reply: The "Expression of Interest in the Sale of Houses and/or Land to Monaghan County Council" relates to the Rebuilding Ireland Programme and remains open for**

submissions until 10 March 2021. There are three closing dates for submissions dependent on the predicted completion year of the proposal as follows:

2020:	4pm on 10 September 2020
2021 / 2022:	4pm on 10 November 2020
2022 / 2023:	4pm on 10 March 2021 (Final Closing Date)

Monaghan County Council may also source houses and/or land by directly approaching property owners, estate agents, online property websites and by other appropriate clear and transparent means.

Monaghan County Council has received a good response and is proceeding with assessment and inspection of properties offered for sale and has agreed the purchase of a number of properties offered for sale under the Expression of Interest process. Exact details of the numbers and responses to date are not provided at present as some assessments and negotiations have not concluded. The initial closing date of 10 September 2020 was for properties that will potentially be substantially completed before year end and in line with the Government's "Call for Housing 2020" these properties are being prioritized.

Monaghan County Council has received positive enquiries from Developers regarding the Expression of Interest process and expects to receive further submissions regarding new build proposals on or before the closing dates for properties that will be completed in 2021 / 2022 and 2022 / 2023.

Developers who are interested in building social housing on privately owned land directly for Monaghan County Council are encouraged to visit [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie) to view the following Request For Tender (RFT): RFT 174453-Expression of Interest Housing -Expression of interest for the Sale of houses /and or land for Social Housing to Monaghan Co Council or request an information pack from:-

Ms. Deirdre Power, Housing Department, Monaghan County Council, Glen Offices, Monaghan, County Monaghan or email [dpower@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:dpower@monaghancoco.ie) or by phone at 047 30577.

**CLlr C. Carthy asked:**

2. How many social housing applications have been added to Monaghan County Council's Housing List over the last 12 months (with a MD breakdown), and what percentage of the total figure do new applicants (within last 12 months) make up?

**Reply: For the period October 2019 to September 2020, 214 New Applications have been processed which is 16.9% of the total Waiting List figure of 1263.**

3. How many cases of homelessness have been presented to Monaghan County Council over the last 12 months?

**Reply: Year 2019 - 65 adults and 36 children presented as homeless.**

**January 2020 to August 2020 - 104 adults and 44 children presented as homeless.**

**Of those who presented less than 10% are homeless. Those who present are assisted with support and advice which assist them. It should be noted that the main aim is to prevent households from becoming homeless and this is a huge part of Monaghan County Councils response through our Housing Section and Focus Ireland Support.**

4. Can the Housing Section give a breakdown of the length of time people have been waiting on the housing waiting list with a breakdown from each MD, house size etc?

**Reply:**



### Monaghan Municipal District -590 applicants

Time on List	Qualifying for 1 / 2 bed property	Qualifying for 3 bed property	Qualifying for 4+ bed property	% of total waiting list per municipal district by waiting time
Over 5 years	85	17	7	18.47
1-5 years	268	108	25	67.96
Less than 1 year	55	19	6	13.55

### Clones/Ballybay Municipal District – 185 applicants

Time on List	Qualifying for 1 / 2 bed property	Qualifying for 3 bed property	Qualifying for 4+ bed property	% of total waiting list per municipal district by waiting time
Over 5 years	35	8	2	24.32
1-5 years	86	27	11	67.03
Less than 1 year	14	1	1	8.65

### Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District - 488 applicants

Time on List	Qualifying for 1 / 2 bed property	Qualifying for 3 bed property	Qualifying for 4+ bed property	% of total waiting list per municipal district by waiting time
Over 5 years	64	9	5	15.98
1-5 years	265	64	23	72.13
Less than 1 year	47	9	2	11.89

#### Cllr C. Carthy asked:

5. How many insurance claims for damage to vehicles, as a result of the County's road network, has been received by the council over the last 12 months and how much money has been paid out to these claimants?

**Reply: Over the 12-month period (July 2019 - June 2020) a total of 51 claims have been received resulting in €6,298 paid out.**

6. When is it expected that works will commence on the Gate House II project in Castleblayney?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are currently awaiting submission of relevant information from the preferred tenderer required under the contract. Once all information is received satisfactorily, it is anticipated that the contract will be formally awarded in early October and construction works will commence before the end of October 2020.**

#### Cllr S. Coyle asked:

7. Can Monaghan County Council outline in detail for the years 2015,'16,'17,'18 & '19, the numbers of houses delivered in County Monaghan and now occupied, under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme i.e. Home Loan, Repair & Lease etc?

**Reply: Home Loans - The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme opened for applications in February 2018, to date Monaghan County Council has drawn down and completed 12 Rebuilding Ireland Home loans for 2018/19**

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Repair and Lease	0	4	1	1

Delivery	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020-2021
Totals	30	56	103	108	144	250+

**Please note - these figures are inclusive of AHB, Part V, Acquisitions, Long Term Leasing, Repair & Lease, New Build and Turnkeys. The housing authority has allocated all the units secured under the Rebuilding Ireland funding for the years 2015/16/17/18/19. In respect of more recent projects and specifically referring to projects which are not completed we will ensure they are allocated as soon after completion as possible.**

**Clr S. Coyle asked:**

8. Can Monaghan County Council outline the numbers of Social Housing Units, allocated (New & Reallocation) for the years 2015,'16,'17,'18 & '19 in each M.D., Town & Village and the type of Housing Unit delivered i.e. single person dwelling, 3 bedroom etc. and also the numbers directly owned by Monaghan County Council or an Approved Housing Association?

**Reply: Figures below outline the total number of properties allocated (new and relocated) by year.**

Year	No. of Properties Allocated
2015	123
2016	114
2017	190
2018	149
2019	254
Total	830

**These figures are not available by Municipal District, Town or bedroom size**

9. Can Monaghan County Council outline the current Waiting List Figures as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in each Village, town etc in County Monaghan for Housing and the Category of Application i.e. single person, 3-bedroom etc?

**Reply:**

**Monaghan Municipal District 590**  
**Clones/Ballybay Municipal District 185**  
**Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District 488**

<b>1 Bed</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>4 Bed</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>2 Bed</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>5 Bed</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>3 Bed</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1263</b>

10. Can Monaghan County Council outline in detail the number of Septic Tank inspections carried out in County Monaghan in the years 2015,'16,'17,'18 & '19, the number of Pass and Failure and the number of Grants drawn down for Septic Tank Upgrades by those whose Septic Tank failed Inspection and the average amount claimed per application?

**Reply:**

Year	Number of Inspections	Passed	Failed	Cancelled	Grants	Average Claim Per Applicant €
2015	33	10	23	0	4	3,266.00
2016	34	10	20	4	4	3,209.00
2017	35	10	25	0	0	-00
2018	29	23	5	1	4	3,171.00
2019	28	16	12	0	1	2,500.00

11. How many 'Farm Homes' have Monaghan County Council constructed in each of the past 10 years and are applications open for this type of Housing Accommodation?

**Reply: There have been no Farm Homes provided within the past 10 years. Applications can be submitted for assessment.**

**ClIr N. Keelan asked:**

12. In relation to the business restart grant and restart grant plus what is the uptake on this grant aid to date across the county, how does this figure compare to those Businesses that may be eligible (paying commercial rates etc) what efforts are been made to promote this scheme to insure the maximum uptake?

**Reply: Because more businesses are eligible for the restart grant plus the answer is based on applications for this grant. Excluding vacant properties Monaghan County Council estimate that there are approximately 1,170 businesses eligible for the restart grant plus. 906 businesses were paid restart grant plus. This represents 77% of eligible businesses. A national campaign was used to promote the grant. Locally Monaghan County Council promoted the grant on it's website, on social media, on Northern Sound and in the Northern Standard. Also the Council's Revenue Collectors contacted all businesses that the deemed eligible for the grant.**

13. In relation to the various private house grant aids available including mobility aids / housing aid for older people and housing adaptation grant aid, how many grants have been paid out to date how many grant aid applications are outstanding and what is the current financial position regarding same?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council currently has an allocation for 2020 in the amount of €1,818,513.**

**Of this allocation, Monaghan County Council has to date made recoupments in the amount of €1,497,841 applications which were paid and drawn down from DHPLG. These comprise of 42 HGD's, 106 HOP's and 31 MAG's. The balance remaining to be recouped in 2020 is in the amount of €320,672.**

14. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading and improving of the very dangerous junction at Tullyvaragh on the N2?

**Reply: TII Safety have requested further information on the proposals for the upgrade of the junction and specifically regarding the proposals for Right Turn Lanes on the N2. A**

**Traffic count & camera survey is being undertaken on Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> & Fri 25<sup>th</sup> to ascertain the level of usage.**

**The Feasibility Report and preliminary design may need to be amended pending the results of the survey. The plans to submit a Part 8 Application are presently on hold.**

15. What is the up to date position in relation to the rollout of the national broadband scheme across the county and in advance of high-speed broadband been available to every home and business etc, what is the up to date position in relation to the rollout of WIFI facilities at community centres, schools, GAA clubs etc?

**Reply: Please refer to monthly management report under Information Systems for update.**

16. Given that the hedge cutting / trimming season is now open, in the interest of road safety what efforts or actions will the council take in the time ahead against the small minority of landowners that will not comply with the council's hedge cutting notices?

**Reply: The Roads Section published adverts in the local press and on the internet earlier this month reminding landowners of their obligations under Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act. Municipal District staff contact any landowners who have hedges that are deemed to be a hazard, or potential hazard and request that these are trimmed during the cutting season (September to the end of February). If the landowner fails to comply with this request, the matter is referred to the Roads Section to issue a 14 day Notice. Failure to comply with this notice will result in enforcement action being taken in the District Court.**

**Clr A. Campbell asked:**

17. In relation to the Hope Castle and the Annex in Castleblayney. What is the current update in relation to progressing this project?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council is working with Failte Ireland in relation to identifying the potential of Hope Castle and the Annex as a visitor attraction centre.**

18. With the recent announcement of funding under The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) under Category 2 of €300,000 for working up plans, public consultations and drawing up detailed designs for the Market Square in Castleblayney including the Market House.

- (a) When will this process start?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council have recently completed the preparation of tender documents for the engagement of consultants to carry out a public/stakeholder consultation exercise define potential future uses of the Market House building. It is proposed to advertise the tender before the end of September with tenders due back by the end of October. A tender evaluation will then be conducted before formal appointment of the consultants.**

- (b) What stages will the plan involve?

**Reply: The public/stakeholder consultation study report will be used to inform a design brief for the appointment of a design team to prepare a detailed design for the refurbishment of the Market House and Market Square public realm. The report will include an assessment and recommendations of potential uses, reflecting the input from the community and stakeholder consultation and participatory engagement exercise.**

- (c) With Covid-19 restrictions when and what plans has the council in place for public consultation?

**Reply: The consultants appointed will be required to draw up a consultation plan which will identify the relevant interests and ensure that a clearly defined and structured consultation process is designed, implemented and documented, while having regard to the latest up-to-date Health Service Executive public health guidance around COVID-19.**

19. In regards to the “Climate Action Delivery Plan for Monaghan County Council”

(a) What are the key actions to be delivered under this plan?

**Reply: The Climate Action Delivery plan is an internal plan prepared by Environmental Services with the input and buy-in from senior staff across all directorates. The plan sets out the actions from the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 that have been prioritised for delivery or part delivery in the next 18 months by each Council section. Whilst the actions have not been ranked in any order of priority as such, all actions are deemed important as we strive to achieve climate resilience in Monaghan County Council.**

(b) How are these actions being measured?

**Reply: To ensure that there is a consistent approach nationally in monitoring progress in delivering climate action, the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) has developed a standard reporting template to be used by all local authorities to report on progress in the implementation of the Climate Change Strategies which all local authorities have now adopted. Monaghan County Council staff met with the CARO on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September in relation to the new template. Using the new reporting template, Monaghan County Council will be submitting its first progress implementation report to CARO by October 16<sup>th</sup>**

(c) What funding is being used to drive these necessary changes to improve our environments particularly when we see the immediate consequences of Climate Change?

**Reply: No specific national funding has yet been made available specifically to drive the necessary changes, either for specific climate action staff to drive climate action or for the implementation of specific climate related projects. To date any climate actions that have been progressed have been done so through existing staff resources and through existing work programs.**

(d) How is Monaghan County Council performing compared to other Local Authorities with our targets?

**Reply: Although the CARO has not carried out any performance assessment of local authorities to date, Monaghan County Council does compare very favourably with other local authorities. For example, Monaghan County Council in conjunction with CARO has piloted a number of climate related training programs with further training programs and modules proposed for Q4 2020. In addition, from an energy performance Monaghan County Council is among the best performers nationally. Every public service organisation is required to achieve a 33% energy efficiency improvement by the end of 2020 and Monaghan County Council is currently ranked 8<sup>th</sup> best performing local authority in the country, having already achieved a 37% energy improvement by the end of 2019.**

20. In relation to funding for the realignment of the Ballynacarry Bridge on the N53 between Castleblayney and Cullovilla.

(a) What is the current update on this project?

**Reply: TII (Bridges & Structures) have given approval to MCC proceed with procurement of design services for the replacement of the N53 Ballynacarry Bridge.**

(b) What are the exact plans for this realignment of this dangerous Bridge? (Giving the fact that there was work carried out for the realignment of this bridge some years ago)

**Reply: MCC Roads are currently preparing Project Appraisal Plan/ Strategic Assessment Report and this report will be submitted to TII and DTTAS for approval. Following approval, MCC and TII Bridges intend to develop the project in accordance with the necessary phases of the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG) for Minor Projects.**

(c) Has there been engagement with Newry Mourne and Down District Council in progressing this project?

**Reply: MCC had a meeting with representatives of the Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland (Southern Division) in March 2020 and engagement is ongoing.**

(d) What is the time scale for this project?

**Reply: Without TII and DTTAS approval for the Project Appraisal Plan /Strategic Assessment Report it is not possible to give a timescale for implementation of the project at present.**

#### 19. Votes of sympathy/congratulations

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

- Scotstown Minor Girls football team on winning the Minor Girls Division 2 Championship final.
- Emyvale GFC on winning the U-17 Division 2 Football Championship.

#### 20. Conferences

There was no conferences approved at the meeting in view of Covid 19 travel restrictions.

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

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

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