

Monaghan Matters

Monaghan County Council
Newsletter
Winter 2020



Thank you from our Chief Executive Eamonn O'Sullivan

As 2020 draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting not only on what has been a difficult year, but a year that has also brought out the best in us. As Chief Executive, it is uplifting to reflect on the enormous commitment and dedication of our staff in responding to the needs of individuals, communities and businesses in our county. We have witnessed the tremendous community spirit throughout our county and I wish to thank all those who have reached out to help others. In helping others and overcoming challenges we strengthen not only our will but our confidence to overcome future challenges.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas Season and a New Year filled with good health, peace and prosperity.

*Eamonn O'Sullivan,
Chief Executive*



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Keep Well



Monaghan Sports Partnership



Environmental Services



Climate Action

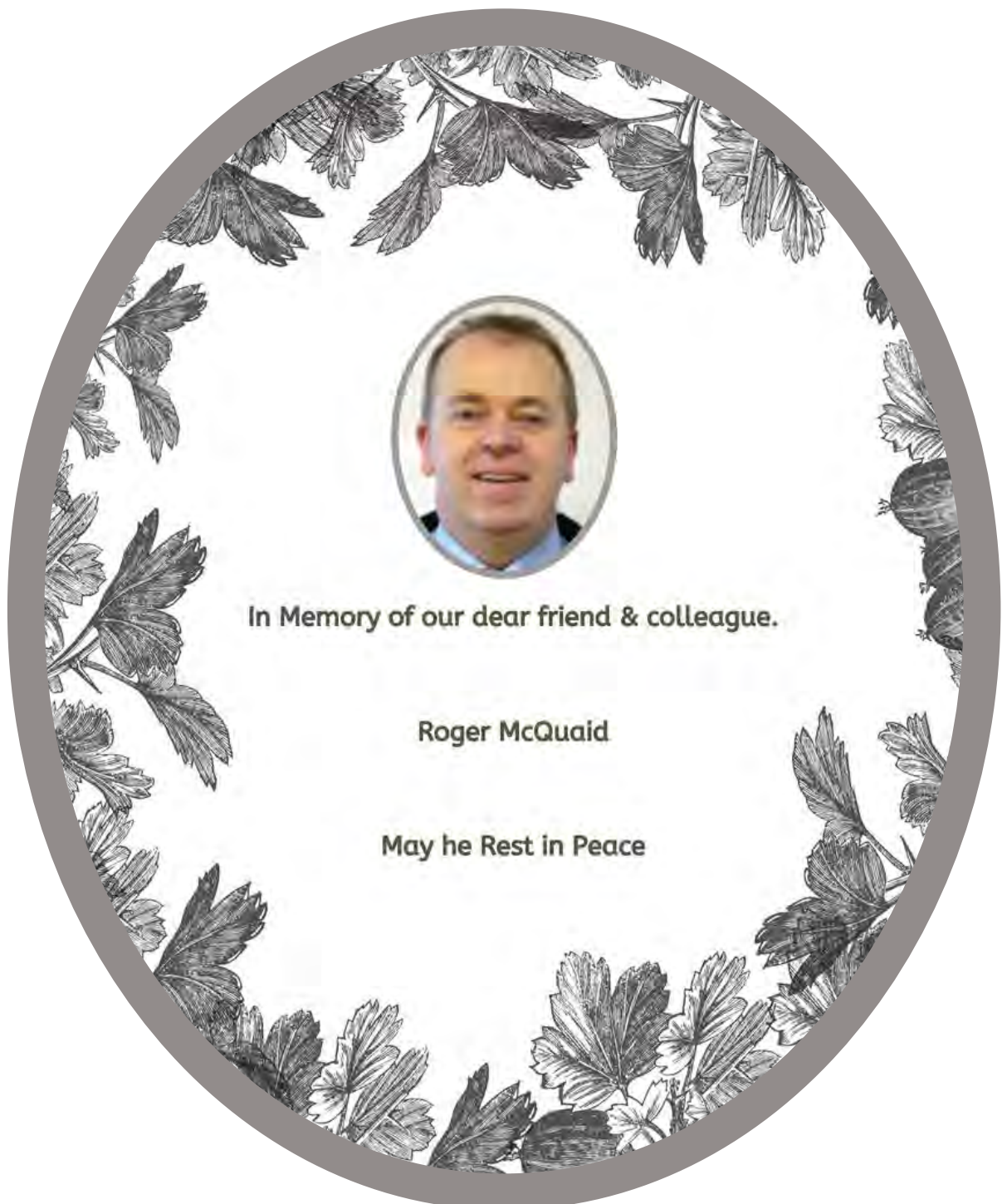
**Roger McQuaid, Environmental Patrol Warden, Environment Section, Monaghan
County Council**

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the sad and untimely passing of our work colleague and friend, Roger McQuaid on Wednesday 25th November 2020 after an illness bravely borne. Roger was appointed Environmental Patrol Warden in 2004 to the Environmental Services Unit.

Roger was a very popular member of staff and his contribution will be greatly missed by all his colleagues in Environmental Services and the wider organisation.

Our deepest sympathies are offered to his wife, Ann-Marie, sons Ciaran and Brendan and his daughter Hannah and Roger's extended family at this difficult time.

May his gentle soul Rest in Peace.



KEEP WELL



The Government Plan for Living with COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 highlighted the important role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to COVID-19.

The "Keep Well" campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. It will provide guidelines, information, and tips on how we can make a plan to do things that will help us keep well through the coming months.

"Keep Well" builds on the "In This Together" campaign which happened earlier in the year.

The "Keep Well" campaign is focussed on five main themes:



Keeping active – keeping active and being outdoors, even during the winter, is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing.



Keeping in Contact– staying connected with people, addressing isolation, supporting volunteerism and initiatives that support person-to-person connection is important to our wellbeing.



Switching off – switching off and being creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax can help our general wellbeing.



Eating well – by nourishing our bodies and minds, we can develop a better connection between the food we eat and how we feel and positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.



Managing your mood – equipping people with information on where to go if they need support. This will also be linked with the local community helpline to ensure that people can access the support they need.



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

BÍ SLÁINTIÚIL

Plean an Rialtais don Saol faoi COVID-19: I dTeacht Aniar agus Téarnamh 2020-2021 leagadh béim ar theacht aniar agus téarnamh don duine aonair agus an pobal mór maidir le cur lenár bhfreagairt do COVID-19.

Díríonn an feachtas Bí Sláintiúil ar léiriú dúinn go léir, cuma cén aois atá againn, gur féidir leas ár sláinte a dhéanamh idir chorp agus meabhair trí nósanna sláintiúla in aghaidh an lae agus na seachtaine. Beidh treoir, eolas agus leideanna ar fáil don phleanáil ar son na sláinte go ceann na míonna atá amach romhainn.



Tógann Bí Sláintiúil ar an bhfeachtas 'Ann le Chéile' a tharla ní ba luaithe sa bhliain. Díríonn an feachtas "Bí Sláintiúil" ar chúig phríomhthéama mar a leanas:



Bí Gníomhach – bí ag bogadh timpeall lasmuigh, fiú le linn an gheimhridh ní mór bheith ag cur lenár leas idir chorp is meabhair.



Déan Teagmháil Linn– tabhair aghaidh ar bheith id aonar ach fós féin déan teagmháil le daoine eile. Tacaigh le hobair dheonach agus le beartais a mholann an teagmháil chéanna mar tá sé sin rí-thábhachtach.



Lig Do Scíth Agus Bí Cruthaitheach – lig do scíth agus déan beart éigin cruthaitheach, foghlaim ábhar nua nó téigh amach sa dúlra chun sos a ghlacadh. Déanfaidh na rudaí san maitheas duit.



Ith Bia Sláintiúil – féadfar ár gcuid bia a fheabhsú, arís sin gníomh dearfach a dhéanfaidh maitheas dúinn idir chorp agus meabhair.



Tabhair Aird ar an gCineál Giúmair atá ort – scaip eolas faoi thacaíochtaí a bhíonn ar fáil. Bain leas as an líne cabhrach pobail sa chomhthéacs úd.



Tá réimse iomlán tacaíochtaí ar fáil ar líne ag gov.ie/healthyireland

COMMUNITY CALL



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE
ON HAND TO HELP YOU

KEEP WELL

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

It's important that we're all ready to face the coming months. And connecting with others is really important for our mental wellbeing. If you need help with a range of practical supports like having your shopping, medication or fuel delivered, or if you need someone to talk to, your council Community Call is here for you.

Contact Monaghan Community Call
Call 1800 804 158
or email covidsupport@monaghancoco.ie



Sláintecare.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

CORPORATE ASSETS AND ENERGY

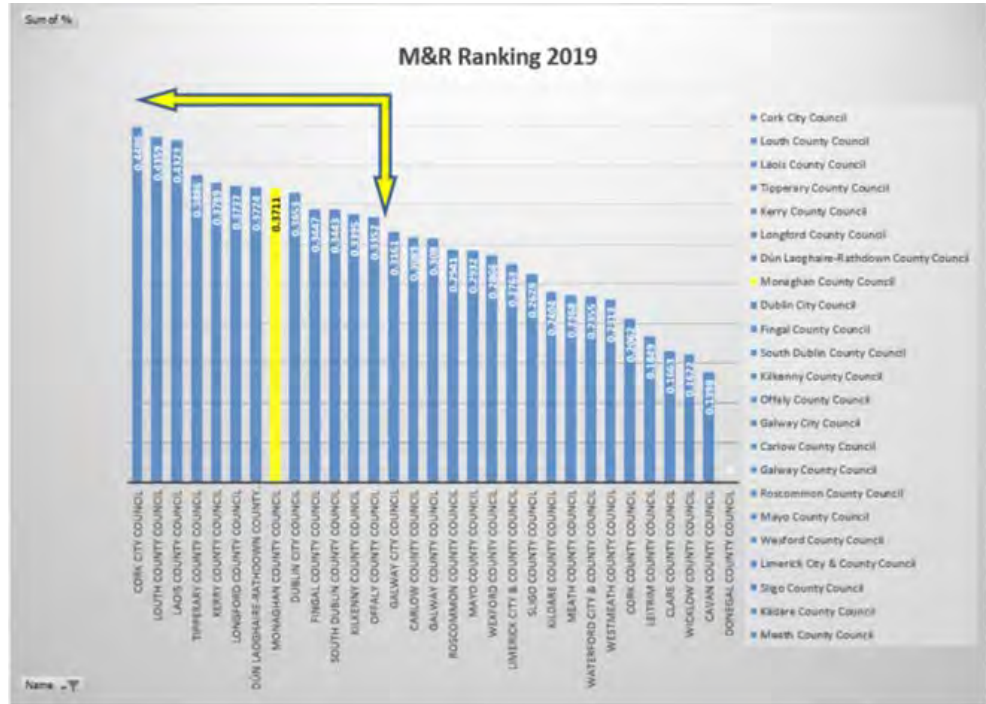
Energy in Monaghan County Council

All Public Bodies, including Local Authorities, are required to report their annual energy consumption through a national energy reporting system managed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, on behalf of the Government.

Local Authorities are obliged to reduce their energy consumption and/or improve their energy efficiency by 33% by end of 2020, based on a 2009 baseline.

Monaghan County Council has been actively pursuing this target by carrying out energy upgrades, installing renewable energy generation and retrofitting its lighting with LEDs, and has reported on its energy usage each year. As at the end of 2019, Monaghan County Council has achieved a 37.11% reduction in energy usage or improvement in energy efficiency, which means we have exceeded the 33% target one year ahead of time.

We rank in 8th place of the 13 Local Authorities to have reached this target as at end of 2019. As result of the recent Climate Action Bill (2019), all Local Authorities are now focussing on the newly established targets of 50% energy reduction for 2030 and Carbon-Neutral by 2050.

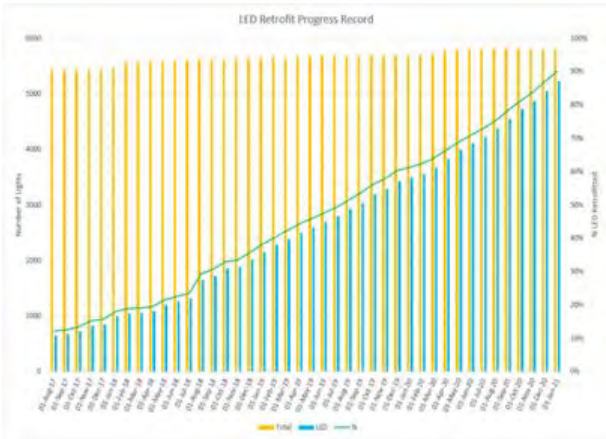


Graph showing performance of Local Authorities performance towards the 2020 target, as at end 2019.

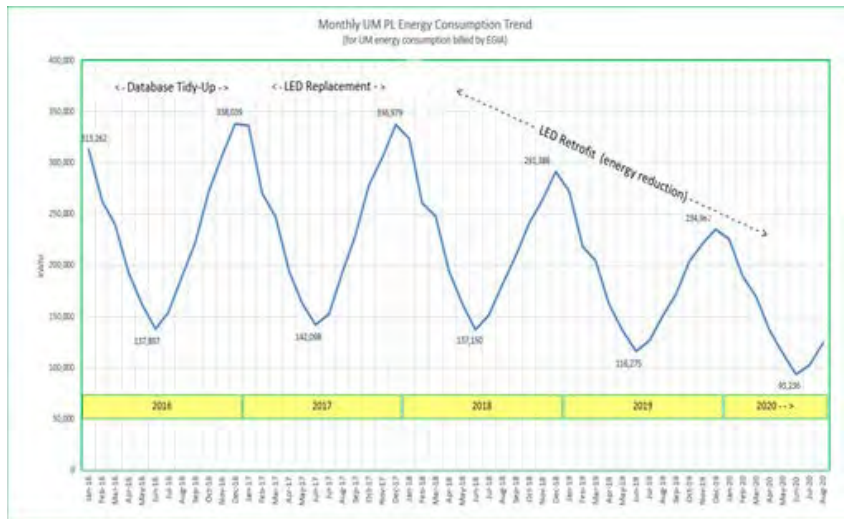
Public Lighting

In order to reduce its energy consumption, Monaghan County Council, in 2017, commenced the retrofit of its now almost 6000 public lights with high efficiency LEDs. In 2017, Public lighting in County Monaghan used approximately 2.9 GWhr [2,900,000 Whr] of electrical energy per year.

This will be significantly reduced by the end of this year. As at the end of 2020, we will have 90% of these retrofits completed and the remainder done in early 2021.



Graph showing progress of LED retrofits



Graph showing reduction of energy consumed by public lighting

This LED retrofit project has led to a significant reduction in our energy consumption and will also lead to reduced public lighting maintenance, as LED lights are longer lasting and more reliable than traditional sodium lights.

Smart Meters

ESB Networks is currently rolling out the national project for the removal of old analog ESB meters and replacing them with new digital Smart ESB Meters.

Monaghan County Council has elected to become an "early adopter" for the installation of the new Smart Meters, and currently there are 50 of our low-usage old analog meters being changed.

Benefits of the new Smart Meters include more accurate monitoring of electricity usage, allowing for greater control of usage, reducing the frequency of estimated readings & bills, allowing consumers to avail of variable tariffs where consumption can be moved to off-peak times and permitting end users to feed-in electricity to the grid when the new feed-in tariffs become active in 2021.



Photo of old analog meter



Photo of new Smart meter

CORPORATE SERVICES

6 Monaghan County Council Projects Shortlisted for Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020

Following on from successfully picking the award for Heritage and Built Environment for 'The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War' Exhibit at the 2019 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, Monaghan County Council was delighted to be shortlisted in 6 award categories in the 2020 Awards.

The Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020 (ELG Awards), sponsored by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government showcase best practice in local government and recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government that can often go unrecognised.

The Awards highlight the important work that is carried out by local authorities for the benefit of local communities.

Monaghan County Council was shortlisted in 6 of the 16 categories:

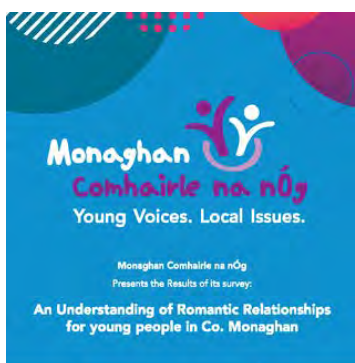
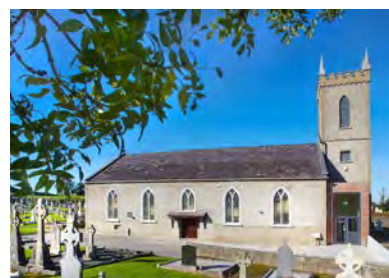
The 6 shortlisted projects were:

- Promoting Sustainable Communities Category: Clones Town Team
- Best Practice in Citizen Engagement Category: Council & Community Collaboration in Scotshouse Village
- Health & Wellbeing Category: An Understanding of Romantic Relationships in Young People in Co Monaghan
- Supporting Tourism Category: Sliabh Beagh Masterplan
- Sustaining the Arts Category: The Patrick Kavanagh Exhibition & Multipurpose Performance Venue
- Initiative through the Municipal Districts Category: Recreational Developments at Rossmore Forest Park

Councillor Colm Carthy, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, commented, 'Monaghan may be a small county but we punch way above our weight when it comes to community involvement and initiatives. The work carried out by the people of this county, supported by the staff and elected representatives of Monaghan County Council, continues to impress me on a daily basis and, to get national recognition for that work is icing on the cake. We have some very strong entries in this year's competition and I look forward to, hopefully, welcoming news of an award or two coming our way at the end of November.'

Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, added, "Following on from our success at the 2019 Awards and indeed in previous years, Monaghan County Council has again performed very well in this year's awards scheme and we are delighted to have six separate initiatives shortlisted for the 2020 Excellence in Local Government Awards. The projects nominated highlight the diverse range of services provided by the Local Authority to the people of Monaghan and the proactive engagement with our communities and citizens. These projects help to strengthen our communities and support businesses and individuals."

This year, the awards ceremony was held online and was hosted by Mary Kennedy on Thursday, 26 November 2020. Awards were presented for excellence in 16 different categories and Mayo County Council was named Local Authority of the Year 2020.



COISTE GAEILGE

Sceim na Gaeilge/ Irish Language Scheme

Tá Scéim Gaeilge ullmhaithe ag Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin de réir Alt 11 d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003. Moltar go leanfaidh an Scéim go ceann trí bliana go 2023.

Go príomha is í cuspóir Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla ná a chinntiú go mbeidh teacht ar sheirbhísí poiblí ardchaighdeán as Gaeilge. Táthar ag súil go dtógfaidh an scéim nua ar an dul chun cinn déanta ag Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin ónár gcéad scéim a sholáthraigh seirbhísí as Gaeilge.

Faoi láthair tá an scéim os comhair an tÁire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán chun an scéim a glacadh.

Beidh an scéim ar fail ar an suíomh idirlín www.monaghan.ie nuair a glacadh é.

Monaghan County Council has prepared an Irish Language Scheme in accordance with Section 11 of the Official Languages Act 2003. It is proposed that this Scheme will run for three years until 2023.

The primary objective of the Official Languages Act is to ensure better availability and a higher standard of public services through Irish. It is anticipated that the new Scheme will build on the progress made by Monaghan County Council from the first language scheme delivering services through Irish.

Currently the Scheme is before the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Communications for approval. Once approved it will be available on the www.monaghan.ie



HERITAGE

Holy Wells Project

Many Holy Well sites have been lost in recent decades and the traditions associated with them are often no longer practiced, but some knowledge about them remains in Monaghan communities.

Holy Wells are bio-cultural sites, where water chemistry characteristics often lended themselves as cures for particular illnesses, where traditional rituals became established and a longevity of usage through various cultural contexts occurred. They are very much associated with local landscapes, with local saints and are held dear by local people.

They are of cultural, archaeological, ecological, folklore, spiritual, religious, geological and hydrological significance.

In order to safeguard oral traditions associated with these places relating to patterns, prayers, cures etc. it is timely to start this project now. Some of the practices and traditions could be remnants of a social memory of ritual actions across thousands of years as described by Ray in Sacred Wells across the Longue Durée.

It is crucial to the project that we work with communities and other stakeholders from the outset of the project.

Questions such as these can only be answered with your participation:

- Do you have information to share about the Holy Wells of Monaghan?
- Are there wells still frequented but not officially recorded?
- Are there customs, rounds, traditions, stories or cures associated with your local holy well that you would like to share?
- Do you know what day the well was visited and what prayers were said?
- Were offerings left at the well, stone or at a nearby tree?
- Is the well under threat from changes in usage or development?

We'd love to hear from you.

Please download the form and fill in as much detail as you can from here: <https://monaghan.ie/heritage/2020/11/05/holy-wells-project/>

Alternatively, you can send us an email at heritage@monaghancoco.ie

or write to us at:

Heritage Office, Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan, H18 YT50.

This project is supported by Monaghan County Council and the Heritage Council.



Photo Credit Mary Kerley

INNOVATION/IS

National Public Service Innovation Week 19th to 23rd October 2020

National Public Service Innovation Week took place from 19th to 23rd October. The purpose of Innovation Week is to promote innovation across the Public Service and to help foster a culture of innovation throughout the sector. This year we, as a sector, have demonstrated the enormous capacity we have for being innovative in both our rapid response to the many challenges presented by COVID-19 and in delivering new services such as Community Call, Business Re-Start Grants and Library Delivery Service to ensure the well-being of our communities during the global pandemic.

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) innovation team ran a series of live events which included presentations from leading thought providers on the topic of innovation and also held a sector-wide hackathon where representatives across the public service came together in a virtual environment to work on complex problems facing the sector.

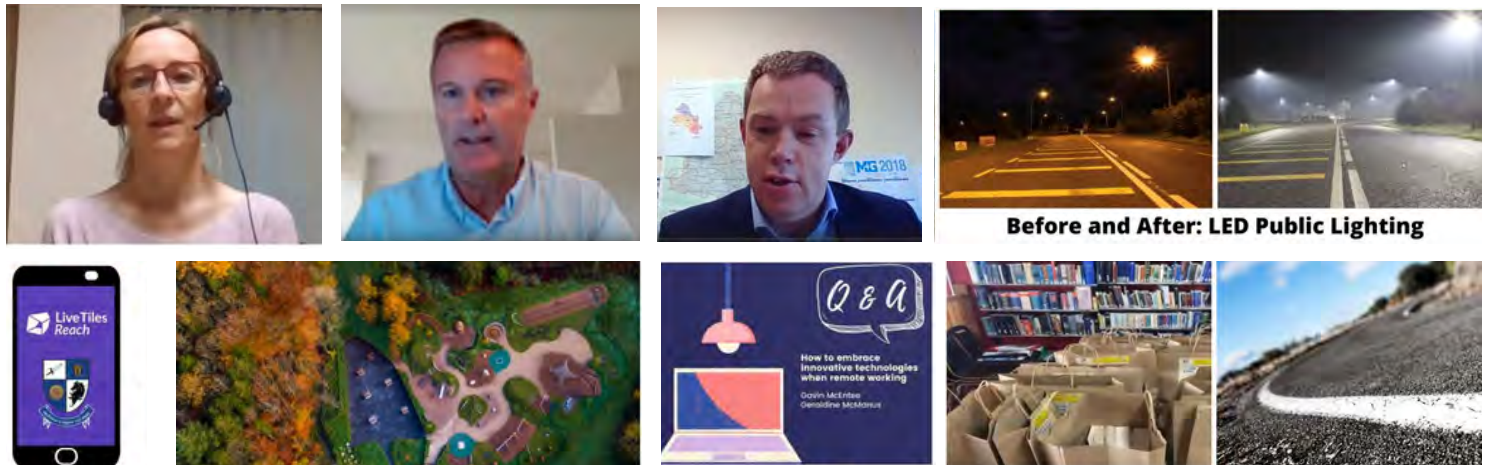


Here in Monaghan County Council we also ran a series of live events to showcase the innovation taking place in our organisation. Staff from IT, Corporate, Finance, Libraries and Community & Environment were among those who provided interesting, engaging and interactive presentations on innovations taking place in their sections.

On Monday 19th Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive and Carmel O'Hare, Head of Information Systems and Innovation opened Innovation Week and set the context for the week, and Lisa McBride launched our new Employee App called LiveTiles Reach. Reach enables two-way mobile communication helping employees stay connected and informed regardless of their role, or location via an App on their smart phone.

In addition to the new employee App, we also launched a small innovation fund. The purpose of the fund is to encourage employees to be creative and innovative in solving work related challenges or improving processes. Any member of staff could apply using the online application form.

The deadline for receipt of applications was Friday 4th December.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHOP LOCAL

Support Your Community This Christmas and Shop Local

Check out: <https://monaghan.ie/shop-local/>

For Town Vouchers Information, to find Monaghan Local Enterprise Office's directory of eCommerce businesses in Monaghan and the #MyMonaghanChristmas from Monaghan Tourism to support local artists, producers and tourism businesses



TOURISM

Patrick Kavanagh Centre Wins European Cultural Heritage Award

The recently opened Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Monaghan has triumphed in the Film and Video category at the Heritage in Motion Awards 2020.

A joint initiative of the European Museum Academy and Europa Nostra, the Awards are a celebration of the best examples of innovative multimedia and digital projects in cultural heritage in Europe. This year's winners were announced at an online ceremony on 20th November, 2020.

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre is set in a deconsecrated early 19th century church in the poet's hometown of Inniskeen, and was designed by Martello Media, in association with MakeDot, to work as a museum, resource centre, cinema and performance space.

The centre re-opened in July this year, following a €1m restoration, and tells the story of one of the best-loved poets of the 20th century, through an immersive, multimedia experience. The award has been given to the centrepiece of the exhibition, a triple-projection titled 'The Pincer Jaws of Heaven', designed to "envelop visitors with a cinematic flying journey", and connect them with the raw power of Kavanagh's words, and the landscapes that inspired them; key works are read by Kavanagh, plus an eclectic selection of local friends and fellow poets including Oliver Callan and John McArdle.

Speaking of the win, Brian O'Flynn Head of Ireland's Ancient East, said: "Failte Ireland is delighted to see the creative team behind 'The Pincer Jaws of Heaven' recognised for their work with a Heritage in Motion Award for best Film and Video. Fáilte Ireland proudly contributed over €200,000 to the restoration of the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Ireland's Ancient East. 'The Pincer Jaws of Heaven' with its innovative combination of cultural heritage, creativity and technology truly captures the essence of Patrick Kavanagh and the rural landscape which inspired his poetry."

Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council warmly congratulated all involved: "It is a beautifully directed film which perfectly captures the atmosphere and tone of Patrick Kavanagh's wonderful poetry. As the centrepiece of the Patrick Kavanagh visitor experience, the film has been acclaimed by visitors young and old."

Meanwhile, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Councillor Colm Carthy, paid tribute to the innovative project team that delivered the film: "It is fantastic to see a small rural project sharing the same award stage as internationally renowned museums such as the Victoria & Albert museum in London," he said.



#MyMonaghan Christmas Campaign 2020

The #MyMonaghan Christmas Campaign was recently launched on all Monaghan Tourism social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and website: www.monaghantourism.com/my-monaghan-christmas/

This is to run alongside and complement the countywide Shop Local Campaign in its aim to support small local businesses in Monaghan over the festive season.



The campaign will provide lots of gift inspiration, be it a beautiful hand-crafted gift made in Monaghan that will last a lifetime, or a voucher for an amazing dining, accommodation, activity or experience in the county, via a series of themed blog posts and curated gift guides promoted across local and national media.

In addition to this, the campaign will feature a fantastic opportunity to win the ultimate Monaghan Christmas hamper, containing an incredible selection of gifts and goodies from makers throughout the county.

Be sure to follow Monaghan Tourism on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and search for the #MyMonaghanChristmas hashtag for all the latest Monaghan-made gift ideas and updates.

MUSEUM

Culture Night at Monaghan County Museum

Culture Night at Monaghan County Museum went online this year for a night of 70's and 80's hits that was held on Facebook Live with the amazing Song Sisters on Friday September 18th.

Check it out on the Monaghan County Museum Facebook here:
<https://www.facebook.com/129685287104166/videos/609440429725624>



Monaghan County Museum Calendar 2021

In March 2020, the museum staff were faced with the challenge of continuing to provide a service to the community from behind closed doors.

As we moved much of our programmes online, we also knew we needed to keep interacting with the public we serve. We decided to launch a new project entitled 'Recording Our Experience'.

Monaghan County Museum asked the people of Monaghan to send us images and stories, which reflected their experience of Covid 19. The response was tremendous, and the museum is building up a memory archive of life in Monaghan during this challenging and historic time, which generations to come will study and learn from. It is the intention of the museum to mount a major exhibition reflecting this archive but as the crisis continues, we decided to feature some of the images in our calendar for 2021.

Monaghan County Museum is still actively collecting for the archive, so please send your image(s) and/or story to:
comuseum@monaghancoco.ie

Monaghan County Museum looks forward to welcoming you all back to the museum and in the meantime please enjoy this glimpse in our collective experience of life in a pandemic. Monaghan County Museum would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the project so far, your continued support is invaluable to us.

The calendars are available free of charge from the museum from Thursday, December 10th. Numbers are limited however to one copy per person. The museum is operating on limited opening hours at present of Monday to Friday 12pm to 4pm.

The calendar is also available to download at the museum website from here:
www.monaghan.ie/museum

Monaghan's County Museums Horrible Histories

On Halloween Night Monaghan County Museum hosted 'Monaghan Horrible Histories' on Facebook live with Fiona Keenan O'Brien telling spooky tales about Samhain including Banshee, Fairies and the Puca, Mary Anne McConkey, Aogh Rua McMahon and Mary and Emily Wilde.

Watch it again here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=366799741229858>



ROADS

Roads Review December 2020

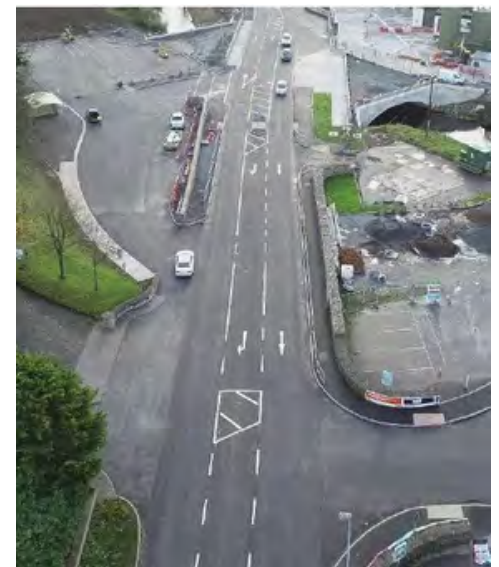
The Roads year in numbers:

- 33.1km of Local and 12km of Regional roads were completed as part of Monaghan County Council's Restoration Improvement Works.
- 5.1km of Local roads have been completed as part of Monaghan County Council's CIS Schemes in 2020.
- 85.6km of roads were completed as part of our annual maintenance programme.
- 13 bridges Bridge Rehabilitation have been completed.
- 12 lanes were completed as part of the Local Improvement Scheme.
- 9 road safety schemes completed across the county and included junction re-alignments, and enhanced pedestrian safety works in towns and schools.
- 6 local roads were surfaced as part of the CBGM pilot scheme: the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, funded scheme saw Monaghan County Council trial the use of the Cement Bound Granular Materials an alternative to the conventional bitmac road surfacing. The product is a cost-effective way of resurfacing local roads with a 25% savings achievable over bitmac alternatives.
- 3 Local roads have been surfaced as part of the Reclaimed Asphalt trial. Monaghan County Council is reusing 100% of the milling material to create the Low Energy Bound Material (LEBM) by screening an existing stockpile of millings located in Glenmore Quarry. This material is then mixed with bitumen and binder rejuvenators to produce a low-cost product for use throughout Monaghan County Council's local road network.



Blackwater Bridge:

The Blackwater Bridge Replacement Scheme is due for completion in December. The project involved the demolition of the old Blackwater Bridge which carried the N2 National Road over the Blackwater River at Coolshannagh. A temporary bailey bridge was installed before the single span precast BEBO bridge was lifted into place in July. Associated works included the re-alignment of approximately 300m of the road on either side of the new bridge, new road drainage, street lighting, the provision of a new bus lay-by and accommodation works at St. Macartans's College and works at Lakeland Dairies. The project was funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



Ulster Canal Greenway

The Draft Part 8 Planning documentation for the Monaghan Town to the Border section of the Ulster Canal Greenway is currently being reviewed by key stakeholders, and it is expected that the application will be submitted before the end of the year.



Climate Action Schemes.

The Roads Section obtained €310k in funding for bridge repair works to protect the bridge structures from and to help mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



ROAD SAFETY

Government National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030

The new Government National Road Safety Strategy covering the period 2021-2030 is currently under development by the Road Safety Authority.

Road users were asked to share their ideas on what Ireland's road safety priorities should be for the next ten years and how these should be addressed.



World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims: Sunday 15th November 2020

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims took place on Sunday 15th November.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, memorial events nationwide had to be cancelled. An online memorial event was held by the RSA to remember all those affected by road traffic accidents.

Mobility Matters

Mobility Matters is an awareness programme on road safety for older people which will be rolled out to older people's groups in County Monaghan as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.



PLANNING

Built Heritage Grant Schemes 2020

The Planning Section of Monaghan County Council administered 3 grant schemes last year for Built Heritage in the county, funding was provided by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Monaghan County Council was allocated funding of €60,000 under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. The aim of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme is to leverage private capital for investment in a significant number of small-scale, labour-intensive conservation projects throughout the country and to support the employment of conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment.

Five projects in total received funding under the scheme, they were;

- Monaghan Methodist Church, Dawson Street, Monaghan.
- St. Salvator's Church, Glaslough.
- Andersons Pub, Drum.
- Creighton Hotel, Clones.
- Station Master's House, Kilnacloy, Monaghan.

Two Projects were funded under the Historic Structures Fund 2020, the primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is for the conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the broader benefit of communities and the public.

- Two projects each receiving €20,000 were funded under this scheme;
- Bessmount Park House, Drumrutagh.
 - Monaghan Railway Station, Kilnacloy.

In addition to these projects, St. Macartan's Cathedral completed the project funded under Stream 2 of Historic Structures Fund 2019, €100,000 was awarded over two years for repairs to the roof, rainwater goods and stonework.

In August 2020, the Department announced an additional investment in Built Heritage called the July Jobs Stimulus Package with the aim to "expand existing built heritage funding schemes in response to significant demand from communities, to progress actions under Climate Change Action Plan in relation to the built heritage estate and to ensure completion of projects interrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic"

The Department invited all local authorities to apply for supplementary funding for two projects through one of two routes

- Support for Urgent Works

Additional support for existing grantees €51,000 was awarded for two projects:

- Bessmount Park House.
- Carrickmacross Workhouse.

Despite the challenges faced this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the projects were satisfactorily completed within the timeframe of the grant schemes. The grants awarded under these schemes provide much needed assistance to the owners and custodians of the architectural heritage stock in County Monaghan to ensure the survival of these structures into the future.

The projects involved the work of skilled conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons.

A sample of some of the works completed this year are set out to the right.



Conservation and repair works to the Music Room of Bessmount Park House (Historic Structures Fund and July Job Stimulus Package)



Stained glass window repairs and storm glazing at St Salvator's Glaslough (Built Heritage Investment Scheme)



Windows at the Station Master's House, Kilnacloy (Built Heritage Investment Scheme)



Announcement of Historic Structures Fund and Built Heritage Investment Schemes for 2021

Monaghan County Council is inviting applications for the Historic Structures Fund 2021 and Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021.

Closing date for applications is the 29th of January 2021.

For further information and details on how to apply see: <https://monaghan.ie/planning/2020/11/23/announcement-of-historic-structures-fund-and-built-heritage-investment-schemes-for-2021/>

MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Community Activity - Nature Walks, Get Out and Get Active

In August, Monaghan Sports Partnership launched the Nature Walks Programme.

The aim of the Programme was to provide a setting for people to get back outdoors after the COVID-19 restrictions, to explore beautiful local amenities and see the benefits of this on both physical and mental well-being.

The walks consisted of different trails at Lough Muckno, Castleblayney and Rossmore Park, Monaghan.

Each session consisted of a guided three kilometre walk and some flexibility stretches and exercises at the end of each session. These sessions were part of our proposed Programme of walks supported by Healthy Ireland.

In total, 52 people registered across both locations.



Primary Schools—Playground Marking Stencils

As part of a suite of initiatives to encourage children's participation in sport and physical activity and as a response to Primary Schools' requests regarding support for playground markings, Monaghan Sports Partnership secured funding through the Healthy Ireland Fund for the purchase of a set of stencils which allows a variety of activities to be lined out on playgrounds of any size.

The stencil kit is provided on loan to schools who commit to purchasing required paints and providing the labour required to lay down the markings.

The playground marking stencil kit was delivered to Monaghan Sports Partnership at the beginning of March. Our initial plan was to complete 2 School playgrounds by end June 2020 and an additional 2 more by year end (as per our targets for Healthy Ireland).

Due to the school closures and subsequent measures that came into place in March, our timeline targets were affected. However since end of School Summer recess, we have successfully accommodated 3 Primary Schools— namely, Coracrin NS, Emyvale, St. Tiernach's, Clones and St. Mary's Boys School (currently in progress).

Photos below of some of the work completed received from St. Tiernachs NS, Clones.



Community Participation - Women's Virtual Mini Marathon

While restrictions played havoc with our plans for Women in Sport activity in 2020, we re-invented some of our planned programming and to celebrate the European Week of Sport (23rd—30th September) and the 20x20 Women in Sport campaign, Monaghan Sports Partnership launched the first ever Women's Mini Marathon.

As a virtual event, we invited females of all ages to register to complete a 5km or 10km distance by walking, jogging, running on a route of their choice during the European Week of Sport.

200 women took part and each received a specially designed t-shirt and participating medal.

Some quotes from participants:

- "Great idea organising the virtual run, loved it!"
- "Thank you so much, and well done for organising this event - really enjoyed it in all the madness that we're currently living through"
- "Just about managed first timed 5k run (some walking) since having my baby 9 months ago, really enjoyed it. Will try and get out again before the week is up"
- "Thank you for a great event—I really enjoyed it"
- "I completed my first ever 5km run today—I'm so proud of myself!"



**THERE IS NO IMPOSSIBLE...
SIMPLY JUST I'M POSSIBLE**



SEEING IS BELIEVING!!

National Bike Week

Monaghan Sports Partnership, on behalf of Monaghan County Council, was tasked with coordinating and delivering a variety of cycling events for 2020 National Bike Week (an initiative of the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport) in County Monaghan.

While the original dates for National Bike Week were proposed for 6th-14th June 2020, the national initiative was subsequently postponed due to the severe COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.

As summer progressed and restrictions were relaxed, the Department of Transport reviewed the initiative and it was rescheduled for September (with consideration for restrictions still in place).

A number of events were organised to promote cycling and to encourage use of the Greenway in Monaghan.

This year we concentrated on the promotion of electric bicycles and employed the services of Drumlin Trails Bike Hire to provide guided cycle tours by e-bikes and facilitators from Killylough Cycling Club to oversee the family based guided cycles.

- Guided cycle tour by e-bike of Sliabh Beagh (x 2 events)
- Guided cycle tour by e-bike of Glaslough village and surrounding areas (x 2 events)
- Guided cycle tours by e-bike along the Greenway from Monaghan Town to Rossmore Park (x 2 events)
- Guided family cycle along the Greenway to Rossmore Park (x 2 events)

National Bike Week is an initiative of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport supported by Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Sports Partnership



Working in conjunction with the Road Safety Officer, Monaghan County Council and County Library Service

One of the initiatives carried out during National Bike Week was to collate 125 'Bike Packs' for children to encourage them to look after their bikes and to reward them for cycling. The pack contained items such as hi-viz vest, lights and reflectors, RSA Cycle safety tips booklet, puncture repair kit and pump, Bike week certificate and sticker.

The packs were publicly advertised and in conjunction with Monaghan County Library Service, were distributed via the 5 Library branches in County Monaghan.



Monaghan Sports Partnership COVID-19 Sports Club Small Grant Scheme

The COVID-19 Club Small Grant Scheme was announced as part of a series of COVID-19 related funding schemes from Sport Ireland, following the announcement of funding by the Government to support the sports sector in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The COVID-19 Club Small Grant Scheme was implemented by Sport Ireland's network of Local Sports Partnerships to provide assistance to local clubs with covering costs associated with the reopening of sports clubs. This scheme is separate to the Sports Club Resilience Fund, which was delivered through National Governing Bodies.

This scheme was designed to support sports clubs that do not have the finances to implement COVID-19 related hygiene and social distancing protocols. The COVID-19 Club Small Grants can be used to support COVID-19 related expenditure dating from 2nd May 2020 onwards (Date of publication of Government roadmap to recovery).

Monaghan Sports Partnership advertised the call for applications through its Facebook page, via advertisement in the Northern Standard and email to all registered sports clubs.

- Call for applications - 7th August (online) and 13th August (print media)
- Closing date for applications—1st September 2020
- Monaghan Sports Partnership sub-assessment - 14th September 2020
- Referred applicants to Sport Ireland—16th September 2020 and awaiting results.

At the closing date, 52 applications were received. Of those 52 received, 48 were deemed eligible for sub-mission to Sport Ireland and 4 were deemed ineligible.



Recycling and Restoring old bicycles

Working with the County Council Environment Officer and local Recycling centres at two locations, a public call out was advertised and we received a stock of bicycles that were repairable.

The restoration workshop was provided by a local facilitator to members of Monaghan Men's Shed who continue to work towards restoring and repairing a stock of bikes to put back into use.



Get Active with Monaghan Sports Partnership

To help keep the people of Monaghan as active as possible through the Level 5 Restrictions, Monaghan Sports Partnership launched the Get Active Programme at the beginning of November.

Monaghan Sports Partnership organised a full suite of online classes facilitated by a number of highly skilled and specialised local fitness instructors across Monaghan. The classes are being delivered via the platform Zoom.

The Programme of activities was designed with something in mind for everybody, all ages and all abilities. In total we have 672 registered participants taking part, this includes pre-school children as young as 3 years old to older adults in their mid-70's.

Children's classes include Rinka for pre-school children, Zumba for primary school children and specific classes for teen boys and girls. We also have morning classes specifically for new/recent mothers, low impact classes for men and women and also evening classes which are men only and women only.

GET ACTIVE

with MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!

Monaghan Sports Partnership has teamed up with our expert local instructors to bring you specialist online fitness classes to your home via Zoom

All classes will commence on week beginning **Monday the 2nd of November** and will run for 6 weeks

CLASS LIST:

- Active Adults:** €20 + booking fee
- Pilates:** Tue @ 11:30am - All ages & abilities
- Move & Tone:** Thur @ 11:30am - All ages & abilities
- Active Mothers:** €20 + booking fee
- Mother & Baby:** Mon & Wed @ 10:30am - specialised class for new mothers
- Active Kids:** FREE
- Kids Zumba:** Mon & Wed @ 4.00pm for children 4-12 years
- Active Teens:** €10 + booking fee
- Teen Girls:** Zumba Mon @ 5:30pm BLT Wed @ 5:30pm
- Teen Boys:** Strength & Conditioning Tue & Thur @ 6pm
- Active Men:** €20 + booking fee
- Men's Circuits:** Tuesday & Thursday @ 7:00pm
- Active Women:** €20 + booking fee
- Zumba:** Monday @ 6:30pm
- Home HIIT:** Wednesday @ 6:30pm

Places are limited and pre-registration is essential. For more information and to register visit: <https://monaghansportspartnership.eventbrite.ie/>

ACTIVE ADULTS

12 classes for **€20** + booking fee

ACTIVE TEENS:

12 classes for **€10** + booking fee

ACTIVE KIDS:

12 classes **FREE**

ACTIVE WOMEN:

12 classes for **€20** + booking fee

ACTIVE MOTHERS:

12 classes for **€20** + booking fee

ACTIVE MEN:

12 classes for **€20** + booking fee

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

Make Way Day 2020: Friday September 25th 2020

Monaghan County Council supported National Make Way Day 2020 on Friday 25th September 2020.

Make Way Day is a campaign that brings the disability and wider community together to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share.

A great virtual meeting hosted by the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr. Colm Carthy took place in Monaghan for #MakeWayDay2020. Lots of issues raised and discussed. At the meeting Monaghan County Council agreed to conduct quarterly access audits of the streetscapes in the county to identify and address issues impacting on accessibility for people in the county.

A checklist has been drawn up and agreed by the participants at today's meeting that will support Monaghan County Council to carry out the accessibility inspections.

Many thanks to all our participants



Monaghan Age Friendly Programme is inviting Older People's clubs and groups to join our new Monaghan Older People's Council

Keep up to date with information and supports available during COVID-19

Get involved in the activities and events of Monaghan Age Friendly Programme

Raise any issues or concerns that are impacting on older people in your community.

To register your group contact:

Bernie Bradley
Age Friendly Programme Manager
087 6443332 or bbradley@monaghancoco.ie

Monaghan Older People's Council

Monaghan Older People's Council

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme is inviting Older People's clubs and groups to join our new Monaghan Older People's Council. To register your group contact: Bernie Bradley, Age Friendly Programme Manager, 087 6443332 or bbradley@monaghancoco.ie

We Belong- a Migrant Integration Strategy for County Monaghan

The County Monaghan Migrant Integration strategy was launched on November 16th 2020 by Minister for Social Protection, Community and Rural Development, Heather Humphreys.

The three year strategy sets out Monaghan Local Community Development Committee's plan to ensure the integration of all those who live in County Monaghan. The vision for Monaghan is one that celebrates the diversity of our communities. A county where everyone who lives, works and visits are valued, respected and supported to fully participate and contribute to their communities. We aim to achieve this goal through collaboration, inter-agency working and promoting values of equality, dignity and inclusion. We can all support integration and belonging in many other simple ways, by welcoming people from diverse backgrounds into your community, your organisation, your sports club, your school, your home.



By being friendly and by being ourselves, you will be making County Monaghan a better place for all. Check out 'We Belong- a Migrant Integration Strategy for County Monaghan' here: <https://monaghan.ie/communitydevelopment/monaghan-migrant-integration-strategy-2020-2023/>

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme is asking people to check in on their older neighbours during these challenging times.

Monaghan has almost 8,000 older people living across the county.

There are many of our older people living alone.

You can check in to say:

- Hello
- Leave your number so they can call you if needed.
- I can go to the shops for you
- I baked these goodies for you
- I picked these flowers for you
- I can take out/in your bin
- I can walk your dog
- I can help you with your garden

Please ensure to adhere to the current level of COVID-19 Restrictions.

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Check in on your older neighbours

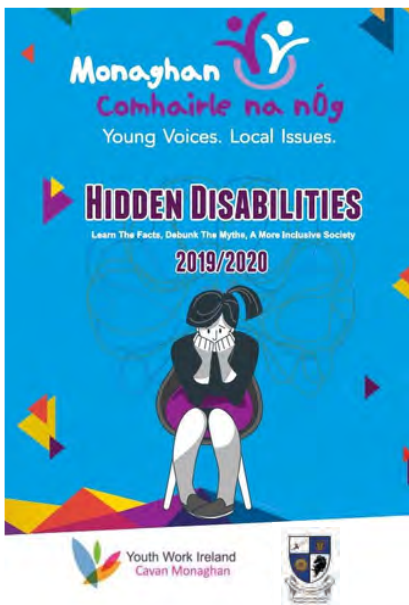
KEEP WELL

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg Hidden Disabilities Booklet

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg developed a youth friendly booklet, "Hidden Disabilities. Learn the Facts, Debunk the Myths, A More Inclusive Society."

The group selected 7 common disabilities and researched them. The booklet includes the 7 disabilities, what the disability is, statistics, myths, challenging stereotypes, how society can help and a famous face living with the hidden disability. It also includes personal stories from young people in the community living with a hidden disability.

The booklet was launched at their AGM on 21st October with copies also circulated to schools, youth organisations and statutory bodies who support young people and families.



Send some love to our nursing home residents!

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme is encouraging people to send a letter, card, photo, picture, to the residents in our nursing homes. Postage is free until January 31st, 2021.



- o Write FREEPOST where the stamp would normally be.
- o Put the address of the nursing home or care home on the envelope
- o Put the address of the sender on the envelope
- o You can post it in post box or at your local Post Office.
- o An Post will deliver, letters large envelopes and packets weighing up to 2KG without a postage stamp.



Monaghan Age Friendly have been encouraging childcare services and schools in the county to take part in An Post free post to nursing homes scheme. The children and staff of the creche created a gift box of artwork, messages and treats for the residents of St. Anne's Nursing Home in Ballybay. Local postman Michael Keenan delivered the package. (Pictured Above)

Property Marking

The Property Marking Machine is available to all community groups, sports clubs and businesses at no cost. It stamps items with the owner's Eircode, making it difficult for thieves to pass on your stolen items and therefore making them less desirable targets for theft.

Stickers are placed on the item to draw the thief's attention to the fact that it is marked, in the hope that they will walk away. Signage for premises gates/ van windows etc. is also available, again to act as a deterrent.

The machine can be borrowed from the Monaghan County Council through the Community Department.



Monaghan Community Alerts

The country's first county-wide text alert service continues to go from strength to strength. Less than two years in operation, the service now has over 4,600 subscribers, and has sent out over 2.2 million alerts.

A recent upgrade to the Komeer App means that users can now opt to turn on weather alerts in their 'settings'.

Over 650 of our subscribers have signed up to receive COVID-19 Alerts from Komeer.

We have received enquiries from other County Councils about the service, and have provided information to Meath County Council and to Kildare County Council, the latter of whom went to tender for the provision of their own county-wide service in October.



Active Travel

Following the success of our trial initiative during last September's EU Mobility Week, when we made a number of electric bikes available to Council staff, funding was secured from DTTAS under the Jobs Initiative Active Travel Scheme to purchase outdoor Cycle Lockers, so that we could buy a fleet of electric bikes for staff use on a permanent basis. The good news is that the Lockers and bikes will be here before Santy, just in time to help County Council staff beat the Christmas car park chaos as they nip in to collect their turkeys and spuds before the break.

The purchase of electric bikes for staff use was an action under Monaghan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan, adopted earlier this year.

The bikes are fitted with GPS computers, which will enable us to track the kilometres covered by the bikes, and compute the carbon savings made by staff in the performance of their duties over the course of each year.

A Walking and Cycling Strategy for the county is in the final stages of preparation, and is due to be presented to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee early in 2021.



Community Plans

During 2020, three communities came to the end of their community planning journeys, and produced Community Plans, supported by the staff of the Community Department. Two of these, Oram and Scotshouse, held socially distanced launches of their plans back in the spring, coinciding with launches of significant projects which first took shape during the community planning process. In Oram, the community presented the CLAR-funded car park re-design at the social centre, whilst Scotshouse proudly showed off their brand new community park.

A third community, Aughnamullen/ Lough Egish, completed their plan during the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, for publication in the autumn. Funding has already been secured for a number of roads-related projects in the area on the back of the community's hard work. Work is progressing on a plan for Ballinode. Whilst COVID-19 restrictions prevent many meetings, community leaders have been innovative and distributed an interim report detailing the findings from the community needs survey along with some key statistical data about the area to all the local groups, and asked them to review the information and comment on how their group plans to respond to the needs which the report revealed. The groups' responses are now being carefully studied and will form the basis for a draft Plan, which it is planned to complete before the end of 2020.



O'Neill Park Playground

Funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, combined with a contribution from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, is enabling the Monaghan County Council to do something a little different in playground provision over in Clones. As the science behind child development evolves and we begin to know much more about how young brains grow, we are gaining a much greater understanding of the role that play – and by extension, playgrounds – have in the development of a child into a properly functioning adult. For example, one of the last areas of the brain to mature is the area that deals with weighing up risks and making decisions. We now know that a child must be exposed to some level of risk at a very young age, so that they begin to develop an understanding of consequence, choice, reward etc. and so that they learn how to make good decisions. We know also that the brain of a child who isn't provided with the opportunity to move their body in irregular ways (big steps, little steps, jumping up, jumping down, climbing etc.) will develop very differently to that of a child who is. What the research means for playgrounds is that the days of providing level, rubber surfaces under play equipment than can only be used in one way is gone.

The workplace of today – and tomorrow – requires flexible, creative people, and that ability to create is learned in play. So our playgrounds must respond to this and provide spaces where children can create. Today's playground enables children to build their own world, use apparatus in multiple ways, manipulate their surroundings and engage with the environment around them.

On October 22nd, Monaghan County Council staff held an online consultation with the residents of O'Neill Park. Monaghan County Council staff displayed the proposed layout for a new play area on the sloped site adjacent to the existing playground, and explained the science behind the concept. The new amenity was designed in-house and follows the principles of 'natural play'. It will be the first playground to be designed in-house, and Monaghan County Council is very proud to have the capacity to do so. The design is based on the concept of Clones' motte & bailey, which lie close to O'Neill Park. The contours of the site are used to create a high area to defend, various approaches for raiding, and an escape slide to lower ground, as well as hiding spots and tunnels for added intrigue, and a giant sanded area for those who just want to dig. The new playground will be complete before the end of the year.

O'Neill Park Playground Upgrade



**Tell us
What YOU
Think about it**

Friday 22nd October

A Consultation with Children and Parents
Organised by Monaghan County Council



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES

Children's Book Festival

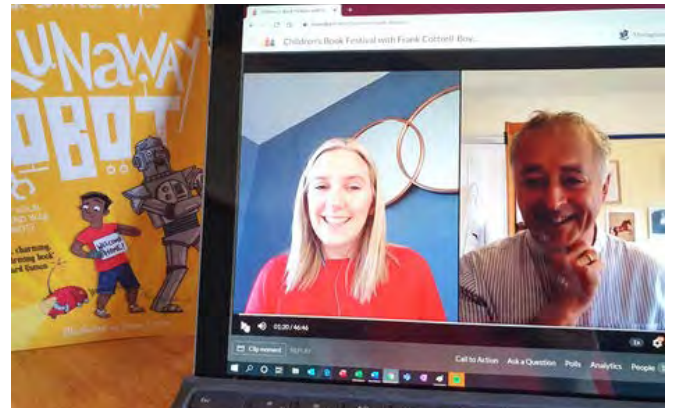
Our libraries are usually a hive of activity in October for the annual Children's Book Festival.

This year, our computers were working overtime as we went 'virtual' and streamed authors and illustrators into 137 Classrooms across the county reaching around 3,500 children. Whilst it's hard to beat meeting your favourite author in real life, the virtual visits were a close second as they allowed us to reach more schools than ever before.

We were delighted to be able to host some amazing Irish Authors like Alan Nolan, Sadhbh Devlin and Gerard Siggins as well as top UK authors Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Tom Palmer, Andy Shepherd and the amazing Onjali Q. Rauf.

Not only did we have author visits, we also ran a 'Big Book Quiz' using the online quiz platform MyQuiz.org. 25 teams from across the county battled it out to win Book Tokens to update their school library.

It was a very close competition, with nothing separating the top 3 teams except the 'Fastest Finger First' bonus points. In the end it was Ms. Daly's 6th Class from Urbleshanny N.S who came out tops, closely followed by Lisdoonan N.S and St. Enda's N.S, Scotshouse.



Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2020

Can you believe the Cavan-Monaghan Science Festival was celebrating 5 years this year? Before COVID-19 arrived we had big plans to make it the best ever with fantastic Family Science Days, hands on workshops and a wide range of lectures. Whilst some of the elements couldn't be moved online, we were able to roll out an online programme which reached far and wide across both counties. In fact, over 15,000 children & adults from Cavan and Monaghan attended at least one of our online science events over the 2 week festival which ran from the 8th – 20th November. We were joined by Prof. Sam Mc Conkey, Dr. Eddie Murphy, Daniel Davey, Maria Lucey, Maria Macklin, Joanna Donnelly, Norah Patten, Dublin Zoo, Belfast Zoo and many many more! Hopefully we can get back to the Hands-On science for Cavan-Monaghan Science Festival 2021!



Monaghan Folk Tales with Steve Lally

We are delighted to team up with Storyteller Steve Lally for our 'Monaghan Folk Tales' series. Every Friday morning at 11am we've been using 'Facebook Live' to share some of the amazing stories which have been collected around Monaghan for generations.



CREATIVE MONAGHAN

This year has presented a challenge to delivering the Creative Ireland Programme differently. A total of 18 projects and the National Cruinniú na nÓg Programme will be supported by Creative Ireland funding of €201,000, with additional funding being provided in July for Job Stimulus projects and Positive Ageing and Creative Wellbeing.

What is Creative Ireland?

It is a Programme which connects people, creativity and wellbeing. It is an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme that inspires and transforms people, places and communities through creativity. Through our focus and co-ordination, Creative Ireland will forge an eco-system of creativity.

Festival in a Van,

This is a unique response to COVID-19 where it brings culture to audiences in a safe environment. It came to Monaghan on three occasions visiting our care homes and centres who care and work with adults with intellectual disabilities. We partnered with Music Generation Cavan Monaghan and their musicians to bring a profound experience to the residents.



Music Generation Cavan / Monaghan, in partnership with Creative Monaghan and Festival in a Van, are proud to host a series of performances during December outside care homes in Co. Monaghan, bringing Christmas cheer to residents!



Projects during 2020 included: Digital Upskilling Course

During November Michael Fortune facilitated an online digital upskilling course for creative practitioners and community groups. The course covered topics such as how to use your phone to make images and film for your online community; how to use various free online apps to film and produce films; broadcasting and making documentaries; how to record stories; how to utilise social media more effectively.

Digital Upskilling Workshops
An online training programme for Co. Monaghan delivered by artist/folklorist Michael Fortune from folklore.ie

November and December
10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th + Dec 1st

Do you want to learn how to use online digital tools to expand your practice and connect with fellow peers? If so, Creative Monaghan is delighted to announce a unique online programme developed to support practitioners working remotely in the county.

- Session 1: Tuesday 10th November (11am-12midday)
Learn how to create quality images and film using your mobile phone
- Session 2: Tuesday 12th November (11am-12midday)
How to edit, add text and sound to videos using the free cross platform App 'iShot'.
- Session 3: Tuesday 17th November (11am-12midday)
How to produce stop-motion animations and time-lapse videos on your mobile phone
- Session 4: Tuesday 19th November (11am-12midday)
Learn how to broadcast and host events using Facebook Live and Zoom.
- Session 5: Tuesday 24th November (11am-12midday)
Learn how to research, create and produce documentaries using online footage and archives
- Session 6: Tuesday 26th November (11am-12midday)
How to record presentations and films using screen-recording techniques on computers and phones.
- Session 7: Tuesday 1st December (11am-12midday)
Learn how to record stories and folklore by using your phone and remotely using Zoom, Facetime and Phone.

Space is limited to just 20 people so early booking is advisable.
Please book before 5pm on Monday the 26th of October and you will be sent password and login details.
Email: creative@monaghancoco.ie

MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES

Would you be interested in an Online Creative Writing Course or a once off Video consultation with our Writer in Residence??

If so, please email writing@monaghancoco.ie

Writer in Residence Programme

Over the year our writer in Residence Deirdre Cartmill has delivered a series of online writing workshops and talks whilst also working with inspiring individual writers to harness their writing skills. Deirdre will continue to work with groups and individuals on the creative writing practice.

Complimenting this programme Steve Lally the author of Monaghan Folk Tales will be delivering a series of online sessions telling the stories from our first compilation of folk tales relating to county Monaghan and he will deliver a programme of workshops to schools and groups.

Tradoodle Festival

Tradoodle is about children and young people, community engagement, and it is about providing opportunities for children and young people to access the traditional arts in innovative, interesting, and meaningful ways. Like all cultural events, it moved to a virtual world and created a wonderful programme of musical and drama engagement for children and young people, with over 150 bookings of the programme.



Song Ties Project

As part of this year's Tradoodle Festival and funded under the Positive Ageing and Creative Wellbeing fund, Song Ties, a beautiful intergenerational project that harnesses the power of music and song to connect children in Lisdoonan National School with residents in Castleross Nursing Home.

Led by musicians Brioni Gallagher and Thomas Johnston, the children and adult participants each week receive a creative pack that includes a link to an interactive online workshop, activity pack, as well as a range of sensory resources.

Live Zoom sessions bring the participants together on a weekly basis over October and November, and a special event is planned for December 2020 to celebrate everything the project participants have achieved.



DECADE OF CENTENARIES

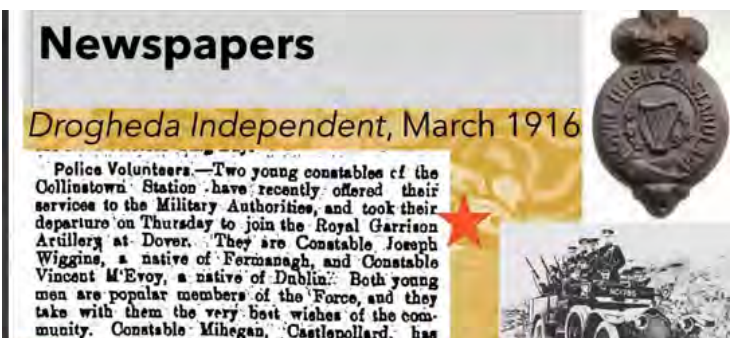
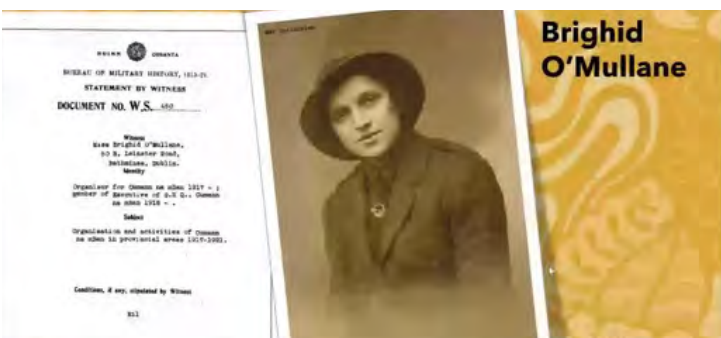
The Decade of Centenaries

The Decade of Centenaries Programme commenced in 2012 and focused initially on the many significant centenaries occurring over the period 2012–2016. The Programme complements the on-going Programme of annual State commemorations with special centenary commemorative events on the anniversaries of key historical events. The objective of the State centenary commemoration Programme for the years from 2019 – 2023 is to ensure that this complex period in our history, including the Struggle for Independence, the Civil War, the Foundation of the State and Partition, is remembered appropriately, proportionately, respectfully and with sensitivity. A key objective of the initiative is to promote a deeper understanding of the significant events that took place during this period and recognise that the shared historical experience of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories.

Decade of Commemorations

For a number of years now the library and museum have been delivering projects as part of the national Decade of Commemorations. The Library Service runs the One Book One County each year with the primary schools, where the children and teachers read a chosen novel based on the period of Irish history, discuss the book, engage in an arts or digital project. After a particularly unusual 2020, it was unclear whether we would even be able to run with the project this year, but thankfully, after looking at it from a new perspective, everything eventually worked in our favour. With more than 25 schools and over 700 children engaging in the project this year to date, it has been a huge success and schools have embraced the challenges thrown up by this year's online aspect. Their eagerness in engaging with the new way of approaching our project whether through Podcasts, conducting workshops and Q&A sessions online, has been nothing short of highly commendable. Schools were also provided with a teacher guidebook, both hard copy and online versions, to help with understanding the themes and context of the story. This year the book being read is the recently published *The Sound of Freedom* by Ann Murtagh. It's spring 1919. Ireland's War of Independence has just begun. In a cottage in County Westmeath, thirteen-year-old Colm Conneely longs to join the local Volunteers, the 'Rainbow Chasers' who dream of an independent Ireland. Caught up in republican fever, he smuggles guns, stands up to the RIC during a house raid and raises the tricolour on a lake island. But Colm is also chasing another rainbow — he dreams of a life in America working as a fiddle player and involved in the republican movement there. The arrival in the area of spirited Belfast girl Alice McCluskey is a new development in Colm's life. She speaks Irish, shares his love of Irish music and is also committed to the 'cause'. Will Colm stay in Ireland and join the Volunteers or will he fulfil his dream of working as a musician in America? A long-held family secret comes to light, rocks Colm's world and shows him the way to go.

Ann has engaged with us from start to finish. She has shared her knowledge of history and storytelling and made it accessible for the school children in Monaghan. She has produced introductory Podcasts, facilitated several workshops and Q&A sessions online thus providing the schools taking part with a real insight into the themes in this novel. Her continual support throughout was much appreciated.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Repairmystuff.ie

RepairMyStuff.ie is an online directory developed by Monaghan County Council of over 800 authorised repair professionals across Ireland who can repair everything from watches to washing machines, mowers to mobile phones.

The directory aims to make the whole process of repair and reuse easier by connecting consumers with repair businesses. People can search the Repairmystuff.ie website by category to find repair businesses in their area, as well as the business's website and contact details.

Monaghan County Council is delighted to announce that WEEE Ireland, in conjunction with the White Goods Association, is supporting the initiative with a new 2020 drive to register more authorised repair engineers for popular electrical brands used every day in households across Ireland.

As well as electrical products like PCs, mobile phones and appliances, RepairMyStuff.ie lists repair professionals for clothing and shoes, furniture and upholstery, watches and jewellery, musical instruments, garden equipment, sports and bicycle repairs.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment's new Waste Action Plan 2020-2025 focuses on the development of a Circular Economy and encourages more repair and reuse.

This is part of an increased drive to prevent waste arising in the first place as well as further improving recycling and recovery rates in all sectors.

The RepairMyStuff.ie website is operated by local authorities, with Monaghan County Council the lead authority on the project and funding from the EPA through the National Waste Prevention Programme.

Free to use, registration is also free for any business that offers repair services in their local community. Details can be easily submitted for inclusion through an online form.

Consumers who choose to engage repair agents are advised that it is their responsibility to check all credentials and agree costs directly with the supplier before engaging in any repair work.

Authorised Repair status is provided through validation by the WEEE Ireland Compliance Scheme and the registered Producers in Ireland.



World Clean Up Day 2020

September 18th was World Clean Up Day, but due to public guidelines, the day was marked by volunteers hosting low key events in accordance with HSE guidelines.

These community clean up events were financially supported by Monaghan County Council with the provision of skips, litter pickers and bags.

Participants included:

- Groups from Beechgrove Lawns, Cathedral Walk, Mullaghmat, Cortolvin, Rossmore, and Drumhowan.
- Tidy Town groups including Inniskeen, Monaghan Tidy Towns and Emyvale Tidy Towns,
- Scouts and volunteers from Killanny/Inniskeen scouting brigade,



Recycling at Christmas

Real Christmas trees may be dropped off for recycling at either of our Recycling Centres in both Scotch Corner & Carrickmacross. Real trees will be accepted until the end of January 2020. Normal gate fee charges will apply. For more information on opening hours during the festive period, please visit <https://www.mcelvaneywaste.com/>

Over the Christmas period, if bottle banks are full, please take your recyclables home and return on another day. Also remember that CCTV is in operation at all bottle banks and leaving an empty box or bag, may lead to a €150 fine.

Thank You for Recycling this Christmas.
If bottle banks are full do not leave bottles, bags or boxes on the ground at banks. This is littering and is a health and safety hazard for other users.

CCTV IN OPERATION

GREEN GLASS
Bottles & Jars only
REHAB
RECYCLING

Monaghan County Council
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin

TAKE YOUR BAGS AND CARDBOARD BOXES HOME

KEEP THESE FACILITIES CLEAN AND TIDY

Green Schools Update

Congratulations to the 13 Green Schools throughout the County who received their Green Flag in September. Maith sibh!

These schools were:

- Corcreagh National School, Raferagh
- Killeevan National School, Newbliss
- St. Daigh's National School, Inniskeen
- Beech Hill College, Monaghan
- Edenmore National School, Emyvale
- Monaghan Model School, Monaghan
- Scoil Phadraig National School, Tyholland
- St. Comgall's National School, Clones
- Scoil Rois National School, Carrickmacross
- Knockconan National School, Emyvale
- Scoil Mhuire National School, Latton
- Scoil Mhuire National School, Smithboro
- Scoil Mhuire National School, Glaslough



BHC Green Schools Committee 2nd Green Flag!



Musical Instruments Repair

Environmental Services with funding received through the National Waste Prevention Programme have been working on a musical instrument repair project over the last number of months.

Instruments that have been donated to Environmental Services by very generous members of the public and Piano Centre, Ballinode have been assessed by Danny O'Mahony from Monaghan Music Factory and where feasible these have been repaired.

Instruments have been distributed out to younger musicians taking lessons and to Cavan Monaghan Music Generation who are using them in their school's music programme.

Environmental Services are still looking for instruments of any type or condition for the project, if you have something that you would like to donate please get in contact at repair@monaghancoco.ie

Community Environment Action Fund.

In 2019 and 2020, 29 groups received grants under the Community Environment Action Fund. To date 14 groups have completed their projects, which is testament to the brilliant volunteer effort during a difficult year. Some of the projects completed include:

- Carrickmacross Toy Library
- Carrickmacross Community Allotments
- Mullaghmat/Cortolvin Community Garden
- Tydavnet Tidy Towns landscaping project on new Church Car Park
- Landscaping at Cluain Alainn Carrickmacross by Residents Association
- Doohamlet Community Garden
- Doohamlet Tidy Towns
- Glaslough Village Green Residents
- Glaslough Tidy Towns
- Clones Development Association
- Beechgrove Lawns Residents Association
- Oram Community Development Association
- Scotstown Tidy Towns
- Forest School Ireland



Pictured above: Mullaghmat/Cortolvin Community Garden Open Day 2019

Purchase of Drone

Seven members of Environmental Services recently undertook theory training on the use of a drone. It is intended that Environmental Services will now register with the Irish Aviation Authority as a competent operator of the drone. All seven members that have received the training will now undertake a final practical assessment and be registered pilots of the drone. Once this is completed the drone will be used by Environmental Services as a tool to assess compliance with Environmental Legislation.



The purchase of the drone and training was funded through the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020 at a cost of €8844.

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns Reverse Vending Machine

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns hosted an online seminar on Wednesday 11th November 2020 which was open to all who were interested in learning more about their initiative. Guest speakers included Minister Heather Humphreys, Rita Shah, Director Shabra Recycling, Mark McKenna, Quinn Packaging and Mark Brills, Tomra.

This event was excellently attended and those who attended, would have gained a fantastic insight into the operations, benefits and pitfalls of this fantastic national pioneering initiative, which Carrickmacross Tidy Towns undertook. Approx. 100 attendees participated; local, regional and national Tidy Town community groups from Cork to Donegal.

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns provided some amazing statistics including 25,000 bottles were received in the first 5 weeks of the machine being in operation. By 13th March 2020, just before the machine closed due to COVID-19, an amazing 113,000 bottles had been processed, which had surpassed all expectations of the Tidy Towns 12-month target of 50,000.

There was a facilitated question and answer session where groups got the opportunity to ask questions to the speakers, which proved highly informative for participants. Numerous follow up queries have since arisen from interested groups, who would like to participate in a similar initiative.

Well done to all involved.



CLIMATE ACTION

Lough Muckno Picnic Area

This project has recently been finalised at Lough Muckno, Castleblayney. This is the redevelopment and upgrading of a picturesque picnic area adjacent to the lake. No concrete was used in this new picnic area, only low carbon footprint materials sustainable urban drainage system materials– gravel and natural materials.



Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District

Pictured to the left, this new solar powered compacting bin initiative, recently installed at Lough Muckno, Castleblayney was purchased by Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District and funded by Climate Action and Environmental Services. This solar compacting bin, compacts coffee cups and other litter related items, and once full, sends an email to the Area Foreman advising that it needs to be emptied, usually every 7-10 days.

Linear Park in Carrickmacross

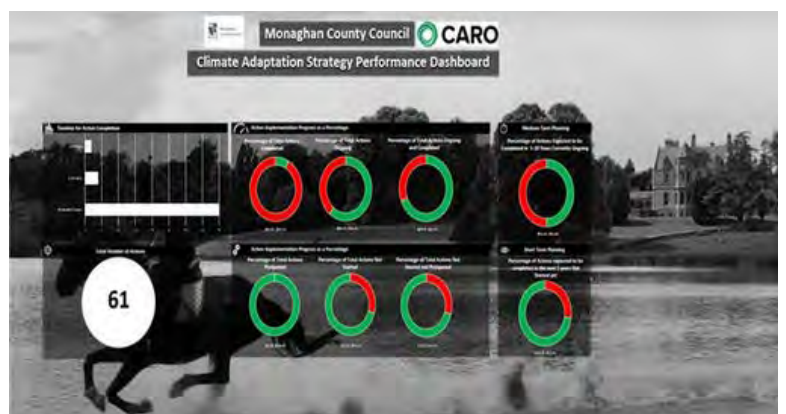
A new Linear Park in Carrickmacross has been designed by the Horticulturist, for Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District, which is currently awaiting funding under the Neighbourhood Scheme. This area will include trees and fruit trees native to Monaghan and also wildflower meadows. This project is due to commence in quarter one 2021.



Climate Action Reporting Template

The Climate Action Steering Group, which comprises of representatives from all departments within Monaghan County Council, recently completed Q4 2020 Reporting Template which was issued by the Climate Action Regional Office.

This reporting template monitors and reports on how Monaghan County Council is progressing on the delivery of their 61 actions contained in the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Strategy 2019 – 2024.



Planting of Bulbs and Wildflowers

On Castle Road, Monaghan, the existing grass was removed and planted with pollinator friendly wild bulbs at a rate of 150 per metre squared and covered with a low nutrient soil, which was then sowed with wildflowers.



Green for Micro Programme Phase II– Local Enterprise Office

The aim of the Green for Micro Programme is to help businesses identify cost savings and market opportunities.

Improving environmental performance through greater resource efficiency can help businesses' achieve competitive advantage. Projects may vary in scope from looking at energy costs, waste costs, guidance with environmental system, or the greening of products or business to adapt to the changing market place.

The Programme will help businesses to make more informative decisions to assist in reducing costs, lowering carbon footprint as well as improving the environmental profile of businesses in the marketplace. This is achieved by looking at businesses from an environmental and Green perspective.

More information may be found at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Monaghan/>



Housing

Some images showing air to water heat pumps installed, external insulation and triple glazing in housing stock owned by Monaghan County Council.



MONAGHAN FIRE AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Winter Ready Community Resilience: You, Your Community and the Winter

AVAILABLE SUPPORTS

Sensors Alert Scheme (SAS)
Are visitors in your area aware of the Sensors Alert Scheme? The SAS supplies emergency alarm pendant for visitors.
For further information, please visit www.sasol.ie

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

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

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

GENTLE REMINDER: CHECK ON YOUR OLDER RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS



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

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

BE WINTER-READY



You Your Community and the Winter



You can get more information from:

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

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

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

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

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

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCDD) has a unique role to play in helping the Irish who live in communities together. Our mission is to 'enable rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland.'

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

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

BEING PREPARED

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

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

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

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

Remember

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

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fill in your contact numbers below

Keep your contact numbers on display

In the event of an emergency, dial 999 or 112

Eircode:	
Electrician:	
Emergency Contacts:	
Family GP:	
Hospital:	
Local Authority:	
Neighbour:	
Pharmacist:	
Plumber:	
Resident's Association/Community Alert Group:	

You, Your Community and the Winter

Fire Safety at Christmas

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection would like to wish everyone a safe Christmas and a happy New Year. We wish to remind members of staff and public to brief themselves with our safety tips to ensure that their holiday period is not ruined by fire incidents.

- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm installed on all levels of your home. Test your smoke alarms weekly and never remove batteries to power presents
- Never leave cooking unattended and avoid cooking whilst drunk. The majority of fires start in the kitchen so this is a high risk area. Always turn off kitchen appliances when you have finished cooking.
- Never leave candles unattended. Keep decorations, cards and wrapping paper away from candles, fires, lights and heaters.
- Ensure you switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed, or leave the house. Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the BS EN 60598.
- Always use an RCD (residual current device) on outdoor electrical equipment (This safety device can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault and can be found in any DIY store).
- Don't overload sockets – ensure only one plug per socket. Always turn off plugs when they are not in use, except those that are designed to be left on, like freezers.
- Make sure cigarettes are extinguished properly and never smoke in bed.
- Check on older relatives and neighbors' this Christmas to ensure their safety at this time of year.
- And finally, in the event of fire: get out, stay out and call 999.

- Smoke alarms:** Make sure you have at least one on every floor.
- Test your smoke:** alarms weekly, or ask someone to check it for you.
- Obvious dangers:** Look for fire risks like overloaded sockets, candles and unattended appliances.
- Plan your escape route:** Keep access routes clear and have your keys at the ready.

Fire & Building Control Webinar Event:

This event would normally be held locally, however this year the webinar broadened the number of attendees and increased the quality of speakers, covering several very topical issues influencing change within the construction sector such as:

- The new and extending role of the National Building Control Office and specifically the migration from paper BCAR applications (e.g. Fire Safety Cert's) to electronic applications via BCMS.
- The generating of a Part L Compliance Report for those constructing a single or multiple dwellings.
- Impact of Brexit on construction industry and achieving compliance post 1st January 2021.
- New fire safety guidance on open-plan apartments and timber roof truss design.

Fire & Building Control Autumn Webinar 26th November 2020



Impact of Brexit on construction industry

Of immediate importance was the influence Brexit will have on specifying and using products from outside the EU-27. Micheal Smith (NSAI) provided a very informative and detailed presentation, and outlined that from 1st January 2021 manufacturers, importers, distributors and authorised representatives will need to ensure they comply with their obligations and responsibilities, as set out in the Construction Product Regulations, and that both authorised representatives and importers must be established in the EU-27.

For construction products currently reliant on a UK 'notified body', the manufacturers, importers, distributors or authorised representatives may need to either: arrange for a transfer of their files and the corresponding certificates from the UK 'notified body' (a 'notified body' registered in the UK) to an EU-27 'notified body', or apply for a new certificate with an EU-27 'notified body'.

The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, which forms part of the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK, applies from 1st January 2021. As a result, certain EU rules in respect of goods, will continue to apply in Northern Ireland. Here are some of the implications of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in relation to the Construction Product Regulation when the transition period ends:

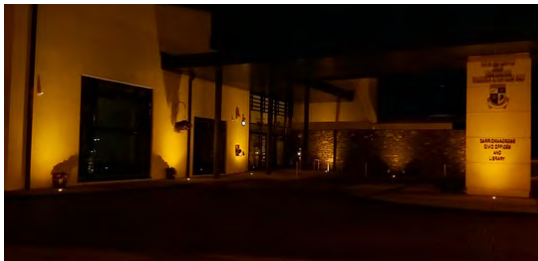
- Construction products placed on the market in Northern Ireland have to comply with applicable EU legislation.
- A construction product manufactured in Northern Ireland, certified by an EU-27 Notified Body and shipped to the EU, is not an imported product for the purpose of labelling and identification of economic operators/responsible persons'.
- Importers, authorised representatives and other 'responsible persons' may be established in Northern Ireland.
- Certificates issued by a conformity assessment body in Great Britain are not valid in Northern Ireland or the EU. A Notified Body in Northern Ireland, however, can continue to certify products in certain circumstances.

For more details go to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage website at <https://www.housing.gov.ie/corporate/brexit/brexit-construction-products-regulation>

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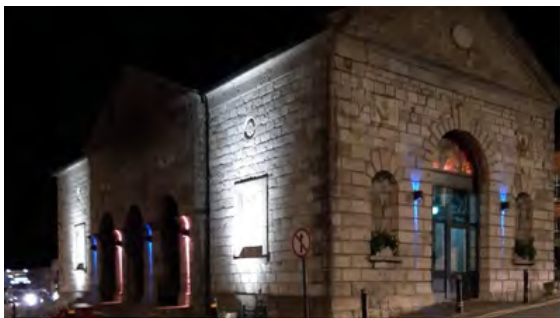
LIGHT UP INITIATIVES

September was Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Monaghan County Council joined other landmark buildings across Ireland to #LightItUpGold to show support for Childhood Cancer Foundation Ireland Childhood Cancer Foundation Ireland and the hundreds of families living with childhood cancer in Ireland

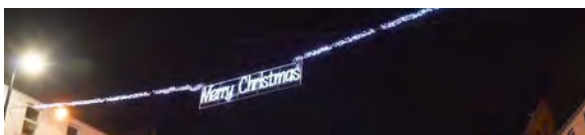


The Civic Offices in Carrickmacross were lit up green to show support for World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th 2020.

In October Monaghan County Council buildings were lit up pink and purple to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week as part of a Council wide initiative.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Castleblayney

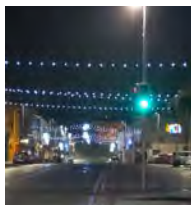
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District and Castleblayney Fire Service assisted a very special visitor to Castleblayney on 20th November to officially switch on the Christmas lights in the town. Check out Castleblayney Regeneration - Town Team's Facebook page and see Santa's message for all the boys & girls in Castleblayney!

Watch the full video on Castleblayney Regeneration - Town Team's Facebook page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/castleblayneyregeneration/videos/916548903404648>

Monaghan

Christmas Lights Switch on event took place on Sunday November 29th in Monaghan Town. Make sure you get your family together and look back on the special evening with music from Gaelscoil Ultain and Scoil Bhríde Tyholland

Check out the full video on the Monaghan Has It on Facebook here:
<https://www.facebook.com/monaghanhasit/videos/374544580270185>.



Christmas Lights in Carrickmacross

SHOP SAFELY THIS CHRISTMAS

Ireland is at Level 3 (with some variations) throughout December and into January, with additional special measures for Christmas. For full details of Level 3 and special arrangements for Christmas go to <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ad569-level-3/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/level3/>

December & Christmas Arrangements

Level 3 (with variations) applies from **Tuesday 1st December** into January (with special measures for Christmas).

All shops will reopen.

Personal services, including hairdressers, will reopen.

Travel within county boundaries will be permitted.

Cafes, Restaurants, and Pubs operating as restaurants will reopen on **4 December** with max. 6 persons per table.

Indoor cultural venues will reopen, with protective measures in place.

Attendance at religious services will be permitted with protective measures in place.

Special Arrangements for Christmas
18 December – 6 January

We may have visitors in our homes from up to two other households.

We can travel outside our own county.

More information at gov.ie/SafeChristmas

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Shops have now reopened across County Monaghan. At this busy time of year, we need to be mindful of safety and take every step we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and enjoy a Safe Christmas. For more advice on how you can Shop Safely visit: <http://gov.ie/safechristmas>

Try to shop at off-peak times and keep a 2m distance from other shoppers

Prepared by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

You must wear your mask instore for your safety and for that of other shoppers and staff

Remember to use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the shop

Prepared by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

At this busy time of year, you can still shop online or over the phone

Prepared by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Local Enterprise Office

#LookForLocal in Monaghan
& Support Local Businesses

#LookForLocal
& support businesses in your area

Supported by

ENTERPRISE IRELAND

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Udairis Aitúla Éireann
Local Authorities Ireland

European Union
Investment for Growth and Jobs

Shopping Online and Locally

At this busy time of year, remember you can still shop online or over the phone. 'Look for Local' and check out Local Enterprise Office Monaghan's directory of eCommerce Businesses in Monaghan: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Monaghan/Enterprise-Development/Shop-Local/>



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Monaghan County Council