

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held via Microsoft Teams, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 11.00 a.m.**

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

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Conlon, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McKenna, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, and Truell.

Mr. E. O’Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Clifford, A. King, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllrs Coyle and McElvaney

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of 2021 and wished the elected members, officials and members of the media a happy new year.

He also highlighted the fact that this was an historic occasion as it was the first time the full Council had held a virtual meeting – the meeting being held via the online platform Microsoft Teams.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

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

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- TII 2021 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D. regarding the reporting of Covid-19 cases.
- Letter from the Office of the Secretary General to the President, regarding the Irish Soldiers of A Company 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion who served at the Siege of Jadotville.
- Letter from the Minister for Defence and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. regarding Jadotville.
- Letter from the Office of Minister of State for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media regarding the third scheme under the Official Languages Act which had recently been forwarded to him.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of Public Works regarding Edenmore NS.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Minister for Special Education and Inclusion, Ms. Josepha Madigan, T.D regarding Edenmore NS.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Mr. Roderic O’Gorman, T.D regarding the creation of a Government White Paper to replace the current system of International Protection accommodation.
- Resolution from Waterford City & County Council regarding the former Debenhams workers.

- Resolution from Galway County Council regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence.

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

- Project Approvals – 2020 Standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- Resolution from Wexford County Council calling on Higher Education Institutions/Bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council supports Tearmann Domestic Violence Services Support in their work and further calls on Ministers Helen McEntee and Roderic O’Gorman to address the absence of refuge accommodation in County Monaghan by providing the necessary resources to establish this humanitarian need.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett it was agreed that the Council welcome the confirmation of the new Scéim Gaeilge 2020-2023 and publicise it as widely as possible.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council collaborates with the Department of Infrastructure - Roads Section, in relation to works planned for the N54 / concession road.*

*Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr McKenna seconded that this Council supports the Motion from Wexford County Council calling on the Department of Education and the Higher Education institutions/bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions for the academic year 2020/2021.*

*Cllr Bennett proposed that the motion be amended to include provision for a rebate to students on all types of college accommodation. Cllr P. Treanor accepted the amendment.*

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

*On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Connolly it was agreed that the Council supports the motion from Waterford County Council expressing solidarity and support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer; reaffirms the Councils support for workers rights, the principle of collective bargaining and fairness and dignity at work and calls on the Government to implement the Duffy-Cahill report to legislate to protect workers from strategic liquidations and asset stripping by companies and to protect collective bargaining agreements. We also call for KPMG and the Government to immediately engage with the workers and their representatives in the Mandate Trade Union.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McKenna it was agreed that Monaghan County Council welcomes the response from Minister Simon Coveney regarding to proposed updated report on the Siege of Jadotville and calls on his Department to furnish Monaghan County Council with a copy of the findings when it concludes its work*

**3. To consider the Report on the Proposed Deletion of No.10 Dublin Street, Monaghan Town from the Record of Protected Structures**

The members noted the report which had been circulated in relation to the proposed deletion of No 10, Dublin Street, Monaghan Town from the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

Mr T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner outlined the background to the proposed removal of No 10 Dublin Street from the RPS. He stated that Consarc Conservation were retained by the Council to undertake an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) on the property. In summary, the report found that the façade of the building had been altered over time, with replacement windows, amended shopfront and fascia's having been installed. Whilst noting that the carriage arch remains, the report notes that the architectural significance has been eroded by the subsequent loss of the shopfront, the windows and any original materials. The report concludes that the building cannot be regarded as having artistic merit due to the loss of most of the historic detail. Having regard to the report and recommendation by Consarc Conservation it is recommended that the structure (10 Dublin Street) be deleted from the Record of Protected Structures for County Monaghan. A public consultation process will be initiated during which the public will be able to make submissions and the matter will be brought back to the Council for final decision in April 2021.

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Aughey, it was agreed progress the deletion of 10 Dublin Street from the Record of Protected Structures and that a public consultation be initiated.*

Cllr Aughey requested that notice of the proposed deletion of the structure would be published online in addition to the press notice. Mr. Gourley confirmed that this would be done.

**4. To consider entering into Section 85 Agreements with Cavan and Louth County Councils (LEADER projects)**

Mr. P. Clifford, Director referred to the report circulated in relation to this item. He explained that Monaghan County Council (on behalf of Monaghan LCDC) has applied to LEADER under the Co-Operation Measure (with Louth and Cavan LAs as partners) to secure funding to further develop access and interpretation at key heritage sites in the three counties. A partnership agreement between the 3 Councils is required.

This is the second phase in the initiative. Phase one involved technical assistance and resulted a report prepared by Abarta Heritage Consultants. This second phase project is now seeking to deliver on certain recommendations of the report. Specifically, the applications to LEADER are for the following elements:

**(1) Design and Installation of Interpretative Signage at the following sites:**

Rossmore Forest Park	Monaghan (Lead Partner)
Deerpark	Cavan
Castletown Motte	Louth
Hill of Faughart	Louth

Total Monaghan Costs = €89,751.75      Grant Aid of €67,313.81 sought

## **(2) Masterplan & Conservation Management Plans (No Louth Involvement)**

Rossmore Forest Park	Monaghan (Conservation Management Plan)
Black Pig's Dyke	Monaghan (Conservation Management Plan)
Dun a Ri	Cavan (Masterplan)
Deerpark	Cavan (Conservation assessment)

Total Monaghan Costs = €47,795      Grant Aid of €43,015.50 sought

It is a requirement of LEADER that a Partnership Agreement is formed for the duration of the project which will set out the parameters for delivery in terms of resources, project management and financial management.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council (on behalf of Monaghan LCDC) enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with Cavan and Louth County Councils in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, in respect of the projects outlined above.*

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

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

### **6. To fix a date for special meeting to consider the Capital Programme 2021-2023 and Civic Offices Project**

It was agreed that a special meeting to consider the Capital Programme 2021-2023 and Civic Offices project would be held in late February and that the fixing of the date would be listed on the agenda for the February Council meeting.

### **7. To receive the Management Report – December 2020:**

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

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

*Cllr Truell proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that Monaghan County Council add the L3403 to the winter Maintenance programme, the road from Ballybay to the Monaghan GAA Centre of Excellence at Cloghan, as the traffic on this road has increased by staff and patients travelling to the HSE testing centre to work and to be tested for Covid 19.*

A discussion took place on this proposal during which a number of members expressed concern that adding extra routes to the Winter Maintenance Programme would need to be done on a fair basis. Members acknowledged that the road in question has seen very high traffic in the past few weeks due to Covid 19 testing and that it was important that people

could access the testing facility at Cloghan safely during icy road conditions. Members suggested that the proposed salting of this particular road would be undertaken until the end of March 2021.

In response Ms. P. Monahan Director of Services stated that the Winter Maintenance programme was in place until the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and she suggested that this date would be used instead of 31<sup>st</sup> March. She said that she would discuss the proposed change with the MD Co-ordinators.

*On Cllr O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded that this Council writes to the Minister for Transport seeking additional funding for salting of the L3403, due to additional traffic movements arising from Covid 19 testing.*

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Truell's and Cllr O'Hanlon's proposals to the meeting and they were both agreed, with the time limit of 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 being added to Cllr Truell's proposal.

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

The members noted the report from Cllr. Maxwell in relation to his attendance at the AILG Moorehead Report Briefing in Wexford on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

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

The Chief Executive updated the members in relation to measures being taken by the Council to address the significant increase in Covid 19 in the county. He stated that staff were being encouraged to work remotely where possible. There was an increase in the number of positive cases among employees and he assured the members that the level of positivity is not impacting on the delivery of Council services. Business Continuity Plans are in place across the organization and these are working well.

He noted that County Monaghan has the highest number of positive Covid 19 cases in the country in terms of 14 days incidence rates at 2525 per 100,000. He encouraged all members of the public to reduce their number of social contacts in an effort to suppress the transmission of the virus in the community.

**10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Councils meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 and were responded to by the relevant officials.

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

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services informed the members that the update on this item had been included in the Management Report.

## 12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

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

- a. Letter & transcript from Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D. regarding North South Interconnector.
- b. Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding North South Interconnector.
- c. Email from Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding North South Interconnector.

## 13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that Waterways Ireland had agreed to give a virtual presentation to the Council on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 2pm.

## 14. Questions:

**CLlr S. Coyle asked:**

1. Can Monaghan County Council outline in full details the following in relation to Housing Estates in County Monaghan
  - (a) The number and names of Housing Estates of 4 or more houses, in each M.D., currently not Taken in Charge by Monaghan County Council?

**Reply: Carrickmacross / Castleblayney: 29**

**Ballybay / Clones: 15**

**Monaghan: 23**

- (b) The number and names of Housing Estates in County Monaghan per M.D., where the developer or residences have applied to Monaghan County Council for their Estate to be Taken in Charge but where the process has not yet been completed with the date that the application was received by Monaghan County Council?

**Reply:**

<b>Development Name</b>	<b>MD Area</b>	<b>Date Application Received</b>
<b>Drumakelly</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Carrowbarra Island</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>The Alders</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Lios A Ghoirtin</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Scotshouse Close</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Rock River View</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Ardveagh</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Gola Crest</b>	<b>Ballybay - Clones</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Crann Nua</b>	<b>Carrickmacross - Castleblayney</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Bramley Crescent</b>	<b>Carrickmacross - Castleblayney</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Church Heath</b>	<b>Carrickmacross - Castleblayney</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Conabury Close / Conabury View</b>	<b>Carrickmacross - Castleblayney</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Alderwood</b>	<b>Carrickmacross - Castleblayney</b>	<b>2015</b>

Sliabh Dubh	Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	2010
Glaslough Village Green	Monaghan	2020
Mullagh Glas	Monaghan	2020
An Crannog	Monaghan	2018
Cois Chnoic	Monaghan	2018
Millbrook	Monaghan	2017
Oisin Vale & Oisin Briain	Monaghan	2017
Annahagh Close	Monaghan	2010

It should be noted that the process of Taking in Charge involves ensuring that all shared/public infrastructure services have been completed to a satisfactory standard. Standards are clearly set out in the Council's Taking in Charge Procedures published in 2010

<https://monaghan.ie/planning/wpcontent/uploads/sites/4/2016/11/TakinginChargeProcedures2010.pdf>

Prior to Taking in Charge, a comprehensive consultation process is carried out both with the relevant local authority sections and external bodies, such as Irish Water, to establish a satisfactory standard of services, and delays can often occur while the developer resolves issues raised by the consultees. Developers are required to remedy any defects, or in default of this drawing down security bonds by the local authority to enable it to carry out the works, both of which can take a protracted time period to resolve. In some cases, problems can also be encountered with proper title of lands.

- (c) List the names and number of houses in Estates in each of the M.D.s, where the County Council are identifying them as unfinished Estates or where the Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) is defective or not to a standard to allow the Local Authority to take the estate in charge?

**Reply: There are currently four developments in Monaghan which are classified as unfinished as per Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government definition. Construction work is actively taking place on three of these (Bothar Na Mullan in Scotstown, Drummond Ross in Carrickmacross, and Corr na Ghlass to rear of Main Street Ballybay) and they are likely to be removed from the list in the near future. The other development is Forest Walk Monaghan.**

**At present the following cannot be taken in charge due to either Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) being defective or not to standard, land ownership issues, or Irish**

**Water concerns:**

**Cois Cnoic, Monaghan**

**Millbrook, Monaghan**

**Bramley Crescent, Castleblayney**

**It should be noted that there are a number of other developments in the County which contain DPI but which are not currently the subject of a taking in charge application.**

4. Can Monaghan County Council give a full update on the applications by the residences to have the following Estates Taken in Charge

- (a) The Alders, Clones Road, Ballybay

**Reply: The Planning Authority have been in active discussions with Irish Water on progressing a Site Resolution Plan. Following on from correspondence**

received from Irish Water in November 2020, a draft site resolution plan is nearing completion and it is hoped that this can be sent to Irish Water in January 2021 for their agreement.

(b) Carrabarra Island, Scotstown Rd., Smithboro?

**Reply: The Planning Authority are progressing this matter with Irish Water. On foot of a request from Irish Water for further information in September 2020, the required information has been sent to Irish Water and we are awaiting their response.**

5. Will Monaghan County Council give an update on the CFRAM Study completed a number of years ago, on flooding in Monaghan Town, Ballybay, Inniskeen etc, are there any indications from government as to when funding will be awarded towards the much needed flooding alleviation works in each of these locations in County Monaghan?

**Reply: In May 2018 a total of €1 bn funding over the next ten years was announced by OPW for 118 flood alleviation schemes across the State. The first tranche of €257m was released to fund fifty flood alleviation schemes which were given priority based on a cost benefit analysis ratio. Although the Areas for Further Assessment in Monaghan Town, Ballybay and Inniskeen studied under the CFRAMS are listed within the 118 flood relief schemes, none fell within this first group of fifty schemes. Funding for flood alleviation schemes in County Monaghan will be sought when further funds are released. In addition to the Major Flood Mitigation Works scheme, funding can be sought under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works scheme which funds 90% of the works costs up to €750,000. Monaghan County Council actively seeks funding for flood alleviation works through this scheme and was recently awarded €0.5m for flood alleviation works in Monaghan Town.**

6. Can Monaghan County Council outline in full detail the criteria, amounts of grant available names of grant schemes and areas of the County, where a residence wishes to have a defective septic tank upgraded to comply with environmental standards of the area, can access grant/financial assistance to have these works carried out?

**Reply: The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government revised the grant scheme towards remediation, repair, upgrading or replacement of a domestic waste water treatment system (Septic Tank) introducing three separate grant schemes in June 2020, under the Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020.**

**Overview of the three grant schemes:**

(i) **Septic tanks inspected under the National Inspection Plan (NIP) – existing grant scheme whereby a household is chosen for inspection by Local Authority (L.A.) staff under the Department guidance and criteria for the NIP.**

**Grants are available to fix septic tank systems that fail inspection under the NIP and require upgrading or replacement. The homeowner will receive an Advisory Notice from the L.A. detailing remediation/upgrades required. The L.A. also handle the grant application.**

(ii) **Septic tanks situated in High Status Objective Catchment Areas (designated areas in the RBMP 2018-2021) – new grant scheme**

**Grants are available to fix septic tank systems in these areas that are or may be causing a threat to the environment and require upgrading or replacement. Households can check if they are in such an area by inputting their eircode on a mapping system available on the DHPLG website, if eligible they can then apply to the L.A. for a grant.**

County area – Mountain river area, Bragan, North Monaghan.

**(iii) Septic tanks situated in Priority Areas for Action (designated in the RBMP 2018-2021) - New grant scheme**

Grants are available to fix septic tank systems in these areas that are or may be causing a threat to the environment and require upgrading or replacement. These systems will be identified by Local Authority Waters Programme Office (LAWPRO) staff who will issue a letter to the homeowner confirming eligibility to apply. The homeowner can then apply to the L.A. for the grant. These areas are available to view on a map on [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie) website.

County areas – Mountain river Bragan & Emy Lake Emyvale  
Maghery river, Smithborough  
Lough Avaghan, Latton  
Kilroosky lakes, Clones  
Glyde & Proules rivers, Carrickmacross

**Revised level of grant:**

A uniform grant rate of 85% of the eligible costs of remediation, repair, upgrading works, or replacement of a domestic septic tank applies or €5,000 whichever is the lower amount.

**General terms and conditions for the three grant schemes:**

(Note: Specific/detailed terms and conditions - refer to relevant scheme Circular)  
Costs associated with the routine maintenance, servicing or desludging of a septic tank do not qualify for grant aid.

A minimum expenditure amount of €750 applies to the two new schemes.

- The house must not be connected to and cannot be reasonably connected to an Irish Water public sewer or a group sewerage scheme.
- The owner of the septic tank must have registered the system by the prescribed date of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 to qualify for a grant. ([www.protectourwater.ie](http://www.protectourwater.ie))
- The house must be occupied by the applicant as his/her normal place of residence.
- The house must be been fully constructed for more than seven years, with no grant paid under the scheme within the previous seven years.
- Works must not commence before a pre-works assessment visit by L.A. staff and written approval has been issued to the applicant by the L.A.
- Detailed receipts and tax clearance certificates are required from competent contractors for all works completed.

**CLlr S. Conlon asked:**

7. With €50,000 funding being made available to all Local Authorities for the purpose of implementing the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme during 2021, what plans are being considered regarding the establishment of a committee similar to preparations involved with the 2016 Easter Rising centenary commemorations?

**Reply:** The Decade of Centenaries programme has been delivered by the Library and Museum sections of Monaghan County Council since 2013. Prior to 2016 the programme was financed by resources provided by the Council. Since 2016 the Department has contributed €10,000 per year which has been added to from the Council's own resources and also funding from Creative Ireland. The programme is

now led by the Cultural Team and working in partnership with the community and key stakeholders a programme of activities has been developed that will conclude in 2023. The programme output to date has been received well by the Department and it is intended that the current format will be continued until the Decade of Centenaries is concluded in 2023.

8. For the purpose of ensuring broadband connectivity in rural areas provided under the WiFi4EU scheme is available on a 24 hour basis at community centres and clubs, are external booster points being installed that will extend WiFi onto adjoining car parking facilities?

**Reply: Under Wifi4EU, there is a mixture of internal and external access points being installed at community centres and clubs. The first priority was about giving internal access to wifi within community settings, facilitating meetings, delivery of training courses and opening these facilities up for remote working access etc. So internal Access points were installed as a priority In many cases, external Access Points have also been installed to offer external wifi within car parking areas, subject to safe car parking and subject to available budgets. All wifi content is filtered and logged by user.**

**All Broadband Connection Points or BCPs being installed under the National Broadband Plan also include external Wifi Access Points.**

**Clr C. Carthy asked:**

9. The Carrickmacross Fire Station will be opened 25 years in 2021; while it has served the people of south Monaghan very well over the years, it needs an upgrade to bring it up to the same standards as other stations in the county. When is it envisaged that funding will be made available to bring the Carrickmacross Fire Station up to the highest standards required?

**Reply: Carrickmacross Fire Station has been identified by Monaghan County Council for provision of an additional 2 No. Appliance bays (standalone building), and upgrade works to improve thermal capacity and energy efficiency of the existing building. Both projects have been submitted for inclusion on the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management's 'Fire Station Priorities' programme 2021-2025.**

10. What is the current level of rental arrears in Monaghan County Council's housing units (with a Municipal District breakdown) and have all tenants been engaged to bring their accounts out of arrears through a payment plan?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has one of the highest rent collections in the Country. At 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the collection rate was 96%. The level of arrears at 30<sup>th</sup> November was €206,851. Rent collection is constantly monitored and engagement with all tenants in arrears is on-going. Rent collection details are not available at MD level.**

11. What plans are in place to deliver sufficient two-bed housing units (Council and AHB) throughout Co. Monaghan over the next two years?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council plans to continue to deliver increased numbers of 2-bedroom dwellings in response to the increased demand. In 2019 Monaghan County Council constructed 8no 2-bedroom houses in Castleblayney and 29no 2-bedroom houses as part of a 43-house development in Monaghan town. In 2020 additional 2-bedroom dwellings were completed in Carrickmacross (6) by Monaghan County Council and (11) by Clanmil Housing Association in Rockcorry.**

**Additional 2-bedroom dwellings are under construction and due for completion in 2021 and onwards into 2022 at the following locations Liseggerton Clones (19), Clones**

town centre (10), Carrickmacross (12), Scotstown (16), Gortakeeghan in Monaghan town (5). Also, 4no 2-bedroom apartments are to be brought into use in Ballybay in 2021 by North & East Housing Association and Tuath Housing Association is working on proposals that will deliver additional 2-bedroom houses and apartments in Monaghan town in 2021/2022.

Monaghan County Council also has further plans to increase the provision of 2-bedroom accommodation in other own build and turnkey projects and in collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies at other locations throughout County Monaghan in response to Housing Need.

12. What is the up-to-date situation with the Carrickmacross Group Home for persons with Sensory and Physical Disabilities and when is it expected to be open and operational?

**Reply: No further update with regard to opening and operating the Carrickmacross Group Home is available. The HSE will continue to seek the resources required to open the facility through the estimates process. The HSE is acutely conscious of the needs of the prospective residents and will continue to liaise with them.**

13. When is it expected that the first phase of Droimain Close housing estate, Magheross, Carrickmacross, will be open to tenants who have already been offered the units over a year ago?

**Reply: Tuath Housing has advised that it is expected that the first phase of seven houses will be occupied in Quarter 1 of 2021.**

**Cllr A. Campbell asked:**

14. The amount of illegal dumping still continues along all our main roads and bye roads and the ongoing costs in cleaning this up to Monaghan County Council where this funding could be used for other very important services and the blight that it causes on our society. With the recent launch of the national communication campaign on "Your County Your Waste" which is creating awareness and information.

- (a) How many adverts have Monaghan County Council placed?

**Reply: Four adverts will run in the Northern Standard newspaper.**

**Social media posts will continue weekly for the month of January.**

**Campaign information and links have been forwarded to the Tidy Town Network.**

**The EAO also met virtually with Tidy Town groups who attended the December Tidy Town meeting, to promote and inform them of the suite of documents available for their use.**

**Promotional materials included in the "Your Country Your Waste" campaign have also been circulated to PPN Network**

**Information is available on [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie) and [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie) advising where to access this suite of promotional awareness documents.**

- (b) How long will this campaign go on for?

**Reply: Campaign is proposed to run for the month of January but resources may be utilised at any stage throughout 2021.**

- (c) Have Monaghan County Council any processes in place to monitor the impact of this campaign

**Reply: MCC record all complaints made in relation to illegal dumping throughout the county. At present it is too early to ascertain the impact of the campaign.**

- (d) What other plans has Monaghan County Council in relations to creating awareness of illegal dumping and indeed following up with enforcements and fines?

**Reply: All illegal dumping complaints are recorded and investigated. If there is evidence detected of an alleged person being responsible for illegal dumping, a Section 18 and/or Section 55 Notice may issue under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. Relevant enforcement proceedings commence, with recoupable expenses, if this notice is not complied with. Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, if there is illegal dumping on private lands, the registered owner may be issued with a Section 9 Notice and a litter fine in the sum of €150. Failure to comply with this Section Notice, may result in enforcement proceedings commencing with the person responsible being also liable for associated costs. Monaghan County Council has further resources to assist in the detection of illegal dumping including CCTV at bottle banks, use of private aerial surveillance and the recent purchase of a drone.**

15. In welcoming the recent announcement by Minister Heather Humphreys in relations to the transitional LEADER programme of €690,247 and also the news on some flexibilities in relation to the finalization of the current LEADER programme. With the grant rate now with for the transitional funding now increasing from 50% to a maximum of 75% for enterprises and commercial projects to support job creation in rural areas.

(a) How will this new funding be now rolled out?

**Reply: The transitional LEADER programme will be delivered through existing arrangements. The Local Action Groups (LAG) in each area will deliver the extension in the way the original programme was delivered. The LAG in Monaghan is the LCDC, with Monaghan County Council as the Financial Partner and Monaghan Integrated Development as the Implementing Partner. The programme will be delivered utilizing the existing Local Development Strategy, (LDS), which sets out the priorities for LEADER during its delivery. The LAG may, if it needs to, amend the LDS for the transitional programme. It will be a matter for a LAG to decide on the appropriate rate of aid it awards to each project, as is currently the case, and the LAG may award a rate lower than the maximum permitted. The Deadline for project commitments under the 2014-2020 programme has been extended by 3 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

(b) When will the call for this funding begin?

**Reply: The Transitional Programme will open from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, but animation can start from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Enquiries can be accepted by the Implementing Partner from the beginning of January. Approvals of projects under the transition programme can be made until the end of 2022, to be completed by the end of 2023. Only projects approved on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 will be eligible for funding under Transitional programme. There will also be a new call for LEADER Food Initiative in 2021, funded from €5m to €8m Nationally.**

(c) What is the process for recommitted an un- used fund due to underspent or projects not going ahead.

**Reply: LAGs must have all their 2014-2020 project funding allocated to be eligible to receive new Transitional Programme funding from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. In addition, for the duration of the Transitional Programme, LAGs will also be permitted to reallocate any funds approved under the 2014-2020 LEADER Programme which are subsequently decommitted from a project as a result of an underspend, or non-progression of a project. Projects availing of this reallocated funding must be approved by the LAGs on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.**

16. What is the update on the “The Green for Micro programme” which is being rolled out by the Local Enterprise Office. This programme is to help the environmental performance of companies.

**Reply: The Local Enterprise Office is delivering the ‘Lean for Micro’ Programme and as part of this consultants are required to incorporate the First Steps to Green Competitiveness in all projects. These steps are in line with Enterprise Ireland’s initiative to drive Environmental Best Practice in client companies.**

**The Lean Service Provider will be required to guide the company through the First Steps to Green Competitiveness, this will involve the introduction and implementation of the introduction of a basic Environmental Policy Statement & the introduction to & use of a small number of Environmental Management Templates as per the “First Steps to Green Competitiveness Guidebook” or “First Steps to Green Competitiveness Guidebook for Service/Office based companies”. Companies should be advised of availability of further environmental supports if they are interested in progressing environmental sustainability, <https://www.enterpriseireland.com/en/Productivity/Build-a-green-sustainable-Business/>**

**Monaghan LEO has undertaken four ‘Lean’ projects during 2020. In addition, under the forthcoming Green Programme, funded by the Border Stimulus Fund, small businesses employing less than 50 people will be invited to drive an environment sustainability agenda focused on issues such as improving water management, implementation of energy management systems and reducing carbon footprint.**

17. With the ongoing work by the Broadband officer in Monaghan County Council around the installation and commissioning of the Broadband Connection Points which are providing high speed broadband up to 150MB to communities areas under the National Broadband roll out plan which will enable people living in the rural areas to go to the selected location and access broadband for daily use including remote working, general access and even keeping in touch with family and friends abroad through video calling. And with the recent announcement of an acceleration of the role of BCPs for primary schools.

- (a) How many of the Broadband Connection Points are now up and running?

**Reply: Nine currently have broadband services up and running:**

- **Latton Resource Centre**
- **Mullyash Community Centre**
- **Corcaghan Community Centre**
- **Carn Resource Centre**
- **Saint Alphonsus Community Hall , Connors**
- **Tannagh Outdoor Education Centre**
- **Ballybay Wetlands**
- **Monaghan Gaa Centre Of Excellence**
- **Corduff Community Centre**

- (b) When will the remaining Broadband Connection Points be commissioned and in use?

**Reply: Three further sites are expected to be completed by the end of Q1, 2021:**

- **St. Patrick’s Accommodation Centre**
- **Tullycorbett Parish Hall**
- **Drumhowan Community Group**

**In recent months, two additional sites have been approved as BCPs**

- **Clara Community Hall**

- **Latton GAA Centre**

**As yet, I do not have dates for surveys and installations for these buildings.**

- (c) In regard to the primary schools: What schools will be getting these Highspeed Broadband Connections Points?

**Reply: Schools with broadband deemed to be less than 10 Mb/sec are being prioritised under the BCP rollout for schools. Drumgossatt NS was the first to receive 150 Mb/sec broadband in Autumn 2020.**

**The following schools will receive new High speed broadband in 2021:**

- **Drumcorrin NS**
- **St. Marys NS, Latton**
- **St Brigids NS**
- **Annalitten**
- **Connons NS**
- **Scoil Eanna, Ballybay**
- **Ballinagearn NS, Magheracluone**
- **Corcreagh NS**

- (d) What is the update on the installation and switch on for the primary schools?

**Reply: The following schools are expected to be completed by the end of Q1 2021:**

- **Drumcorrin NS**
- **Drumgossatt NS**
- **St. Marys NS, Latton**
- **St Brigids NS**
- **Annalitten**
- **Connons NS**

**No specific dates in 2021 have been indicated yet for Scoil Eanna, Ballinagearn NS or Corcreagh NS**

- (e) Has the digital screens and video conferencing facilities which was funded Under the Town and Village renewable scheme funding package for Broadband Connections Points been delivered?

**Reply: This project is ongoing and most of the equipment will be installed by the end of January 2021, subject to any restrictions because of Covid-19.**

## **15. Notices of Motion**

In the absence of Cllr Coyle, consideration of Notice of Motion 15(1) was deferred to the February Council meeting.

**Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded:**

- 2 *That this Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham Gaol. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National Invincibles lie beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix*

*Park assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham Gaol and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.*

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

**Cllrs Bennett proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded:**

- 3 *That this Council calls upon the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D, the Minister of Finance, Paschal Donohoe T.D and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath T.D to urgently enact the private members' motion previously passed in November 2016 by the previous Government regarding the future of the Post Office Network. This is a matter of urgency to ensure the sustainability of our existing community Post Office Network.*

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

**Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded:**

- 4 *That Monaghan County Council writes to Coillte enquiring what forestry plantation schemes have occurred over the past three years, and what plans are in place for future schemes throughout County Monaghan for native woodland species such as oak, birch and rowan.*

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

## **16. Votes of sympathy/congratulations**

It was agreed that a vote of sympathy would be extended to the following:

- Dominick Mahon, Council employee on the death of his mother Mary (Rose) Mahon RIP.
- Vincent McKenna, Council employee on the death of his mother Maura McKenna RIP.

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations would be extended to the following

- Pauric McBride & Oisín O'Neill from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney who won the Institute of Physics Award - Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences Category of the BT Young Scientist of the Year 2021.

## **17. Conferences**

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

Members were circulated with details of an online Webinar relating to the Planning function on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021, which had been organised by AILG.

**February Council meeting:**

It was agreed that the February Council meeting would be held on Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 and that if the number of positive cases in Co. Monaghan was still high, the meeting would be held online.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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