

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in the Boardroom, MTek1 on Monday, 14th December 2020 at 10.00am.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Treanor presided.

Present: Cllrs. Brian McKenna, Paudge Connolly, Cathy Bennett, David Maxwell and Sean Conlon

In Attendance: John Murray, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Bernie McElvaney, Senior Staff Officer, Siobhan Sherry, Monaghan Business Support Executive

1. Confirmation of minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. McKenna, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District of Monaghan meeting held on 16th November 2020 be confirmed. On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that the minutes be amended to read as follows: Cllr Treanor proposed that a letter of solidarity be sent to Clones Ballybay MD in relation to the recent violence incident in the Diamond, Clones. All members condemned this attack and supported the proposal. Also, that Emyvale Cycling Club be amended to All Cycling Clubs.

2. Matters arising:

Cllr McKenna asked for an update on Tullyherm Lane to which Mr McElwain responded that we had sought information on, ownership and right of ways but this information was not available from the current owner's solicitors.

Cllr Maxwell asked that we write to the residents informing them of the current position in relation to taking in charge of the lane.

3. Town Team Report:

Siobhan Sherry, Monaghan Business Support Executive outlined her Report which had been circulated to the members via Minute Pad.

Cllr Connolly welcomed Ms Sherry and wished her the best of luck in her position. All members concurred with his sentiments.

Cllr Conlon asked that she discuss with the businesses/retailers in the town as to where might be an appropriate place for the Event Space.

Cllr Maxwell asked about the footfall counters to which Mr McElwain responded they are currently being checked and info down loaded.

4. Report from Municipal District Co-ordinator:

Mr McElwain outlined his report to the members.

Cllr Connolly asked for an update on the HGV restrictions to which Mr McElwain responded that the main hauliers had been contacted for receipt of submissions by the end of this week.

Cllr Connolly asked could a few pull-in spots be provided on the Sliabh Beagh loop. Cllr Bennett asked would we consider doing the complete road at Sliabh Beagh to which Mr McElwain responded that he will come back to the members when he gets the allocation for next year.

Cllr Bennett asked for an update on the Scotstown and Tydavnet houses to which Mr Murray responded that he will email the members with details of the developments.

5. Questions:

Cllr Bennett asked:

1. Can Monaghan Municipal District please investigate the possibility of installing ramps in the vicinity of Scotstown Complex / St Mary's Hall? Traffic calming measures have been requested due to the use by Creche and School users daily. There have been numerous close accidents at this location.

Response: In accordance with the Traffic Calming Policy adopted by MCC in 2018, The MD will commence the appraisal for traffic calming measures on this road and place the request on the central database for prioritisation.

2. In relation to the Sliabh Beagh and the road from Knockbalaroney to the Penal Cross and beyond, the road upgrades there are very much welcomed and appreciated. Can Monaghan MD please consider upgrading the remaining road that extends to the Rock Bridge and back to Knockbalaroney?

Response: The work carried out to date in this location was part of the recycled asphalt pilot project. The remaining roads referred to are not included in the current three year multi annual roads programme as adopted. The MD can include them for consideration in future programmes.

3. In relation to the possibility of a footpath extension between Scotstown and Kilmore football grounds/ Hollywood. Have Monaghan Md did any preparatory work into the possibility of having this project paper ready for when funding may become available?

Response: This stretch of road is over 1.1km in length, with steep banks and no grass verge in places. It would take significant finance and earthworks to provide a footpath connecting Scotstown to Kilmore football field. There is no current funding of this significance to construct this footpath.

4. In relation to Footpaths in the Knockatallon and Sliabh Beagh areas, have Monaghan MD did any preparatory work in planning for footpaths in this area? These would encourage the use of walking trails promoted in the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan.

Response: Due to the current workload and the resources available, the MD are not in a position to carry out any preparatory works for projects where funding is not available. A funding application has been submitted to ORIS for funding in the Sliabh Beagh area.

5. In relation to footpaths, can Monaghan Municipal District please investigate the possibility of installing a footpath from Connolly's Bridge, Ballinode to Lemaculla? This is a much walked road but it is extremely dangerous.

Response: This location is outside the current reduced speed limit for Ballinode village. It is 900m long and would take substantial funding and construction works to complete. It is currently not suitable for walking.

Cllr Conlon asked:

1. In regard to the Clones Rd Tullybryan Realignment Scheme, has any further responses issued from Transport Infrastructure Ireland indicating progress on this essential and overdue road safety scheme? What is the timeline projected for the commencement of works on the ground?

Response: The N54 Clones Rd Tullybryan Realignment Scheme is progressing through the Phases of a Minor Project in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines. In November 2020 TII gave approval to MCC to progress to Phase 3 - Design & Environmental Evaluation Stage. The publishing of a CPO is programmed for March 2021 with the final confirmation of the CPO is dependent on whether an Oral Hearing with An Bord Pleanala is required. The commencement of the Construction stage of the project is expected to be in Quarter 1, 2022.

2. With the continuing delays in the construction of the 22 km Ulster Canal Greenway from Middletown to Smithborough, can the already substantially completed greenway link along the Monaghan by-pass open up to enhance pedestrian safety along this busy route?

Response: There is no substantially completed Greenway along the Monaghan By-pass. The foundation for a path was constructed between the Old Armagh Road and the Annahagh Roundabout as part of a Water Services project a number of years ago, but this section still requires significant further works to be fit for purpose and must be extended to connect to the Corlat Roundabout to the south and the Coolshannagh Roundabout to the north. This will be done as part of Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal Greenway project which is currently in the Pre-Planning Stage.

3. In ensuring the Council's housing inventory categorised as Older Persons Dwellings maintain a high Building Energy Rating (BER), please outline what works have been undertaken, or are scheduled to occur, that will result in lower heating bills for these tenants?

Response: Phase 1 works have been completed to approximately 1,650 Local Authority houses. Generally, under this suite of works cavities in walls have been pumped with insulation, attic insulation has been upgraded, pipes and tanks in attics have been lagged and draught-proofing has been completed. These works have been completed to Older Persons Dwellings.

Regarding current and planned works Monaghan County Council is availing of funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) via the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to complete Phase 2 Energy Efficiency Works. The aim of these works is to upgrade the fabric and heating systems of older and poorer performing housing stock to improve Energy Efficiency and reduce Carbon Emissions with the added

benefits of improved air quality, improved fire safety and reduction or elimination of fuel poverty.

Monaghan County Council, along with consultants in Retrofit Energy Ireland Limited (REIL), have identified that the most effective measures that can be completed to the older housing stock in County Monaghan, subject to funding, are as follows:

- Installation of an energy efficient air-to-water Heat Pump to provide central heating and direct hot water (a Heat Loss Indicator of 2.0 is required to allow this).
- Installation of new external or internal insulation if necessary to achieve the Heat Loss Indicator required to allow the installation of an air-to-water Heat Pump.
- Installation of new windows and doors if necessary to achieve the Heat Loss Indicator required to allow the installation of an air-to-water Heat Pump
- Closing existing chimneys and vents to allow the installation of an air-to-water Heat Pump.

The above items have improved properties with a Building Energy Rating of “E” to a “B2” Building Energy Rating. The works when completed on the properties have been shown to improve the performance of the house and reduce the effort and cost to the tenant of heating their home to a comfortable temperature.

The external insulation and triple glazed windows create an altogether warmer home by reducing the U-value of the building fabric, the lower the U-value the better insulated the property is.

It should be noted that the funding from the ERDF is available if significant improvements in Energy Efficiency and Carbon Emissions are achieved in compliance with the requirements of the Energy Efficiency programme developed by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

To achieve the best results and to eliminate/reduce fuel poverty the installation of an air-to-water Heat Pump is recommended in most cases.

Using software from Sustainable Energy of Ireland Authority (SEAI) the improvements listed above can provide a cost saving of circa €700 per year to a tenant in an OPD this saving is based on engineered calculations based on a set of assumptions within the software. In reality, not all tenants will heat their home as per these assumptions however the combination of Heat Pumps and improved energy efficiency potentially allows tenants to achieve a comfortable constant temperature in their home while reducing their heating costs by approximately 50%.

Home Energy Reports that are prepared prior to commencement of works and the BER Certification, after the works have been completed, show that the energy performance of the older housing stock can be improved by closing existing chimneys and associated vents.

Closing chimneys provides cost and health benefits including:

- Draught proofing in the home is improved and draughts generated by the chimney are eliminated
- Tenants no longer have to purchase solid fuel and light and maintain fires
- The risks associated with carbon monoxide are removed from the property
- Costs associated with waste disposal of ashes have been removed
- Costs associated with chimney maintenance are removed, e.g. cleaning chimneys
- The risk of chimney fires is eliminated

- The risk of house fires is reduced
- Cardiovascular and respiratory conditions are not exacerbated as the source of smoke has been removed
- The health benefits of the wider community are improved by reducing smoky atmospheres
- Carbon emissions are reduced.

When combined, all of the individual elements complete in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the energy efficiency programme will have an impact on fuel poverty. The fabric and insulation upgrades will create an easier home to heat, the inclusion of a heat pump will allow tenants to heat their home using an efficient system, the improved draught proofing will allow tenants to feel warmer and the removal of the chimney and solid fuel systems will reduce the tenant's outgoings. Tenants suffering from fuel poverty at present will still have heating costs, but these costs will be reduced and tenants will feel the benefits of the upgrades as their house will remain at a warmer more constant temperature which in itself has health benefits.

Regarding future works, Monaghan County Council review the Building Energy Rating of properties on an ongoing basis with an aim to address the poorest performing housing stock. When selecting properties, a desktop study is completed followed by a County Council inspection. Stock being identified as performing poorly will be further inspected by Retrofit Energy Ireland Limited (REIL) to create a comprehensive report of action required. At present under consideration is the option to complete a package of Energy Efficiency works to OPD's. Throughout the process, Monaghan County Council is mindful that ERDF funding is conditional on strict adherence to the requirements of the Phase 2 Energy Efficiency Programme including meeting minimum BER criteria. Properties in this programme must achieve a minimum 'B' rating.

It is intended that Older Persons Dwellings that have already received Phase 1 Energy Efficiency upgrades as mentioned will be included in Monaghan County Council's Energy Efficiency programme subject to ERDF/Department funding. Technical reviews of the condition and Building Energy Rating of Older Persons Dwellings will determine the properties to be prioritised for funding. It should be noted that the Energy Efficiency funding allocation for each Local Authority is set by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and technical reviews determine the order in which properties are to be targeted.

Appendix 1

Heating cost savings to properties completed in 2019 according to SEAI software, as noted, savings are based on assumptions within the software, actual savings will potentially be in the order of a 50% saving in heating costs.

Estate	Existing BER Rating	Improved BER Rating	Annual Cost Savings (€) *Based on DEAP Analysis
Devin Reilly Terrace	E2	B2	€786
Mall Road	G	B2	€1,230
Plantation Terrace	E1	B2	€700
St Patricks Terrace	E1	B2	€760

Cloughvalley	D2	B2	€636
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Cllr Aughey asked:

1.Can the MD Fix the Greenway Fence- Close to the old cross square entrance adjacent to Harps in at least 3 places it has subsided, bowed or sunk down into the embankment.

Response: The river embankment has slipped below the fence posts in these locations and there is no longer a footing in which to install the fence posts. The MD are investigating funding streams to design riverbank stabilisation works, and in the meantime, we will investigate moving the fencing closer towards the Greenway path.

2.Can the MD update the members on the Traffic calming measures at Canal View and Clones Road?

Response: Two traffic counts have been carried out recently in this estate over two separate weeks, and the 85th percentile speed logged was 33.5kph and 27.5kph respectively. The speed limit within the estate is 30kph. The MD have therefore recommended the installation of additional safety signage and road markings in accordance with the Traffic Calming Policy adopted by MCC in 2018.

3.Can the MD investigate the dangers of the Bridge at the top of Mullagh Glass & Crocus Garden especially with more larger vehicles on that road?

Response: The MD have removed vegetation from this bridge earlier this year to improve footpath widths. The MD will investigate the current situation at the bridge and the need for additional signage or hedge cutting.

4.Can the MD update the members on the progress of CCTV, state the current position of same and what are the next steps in the process, and an estimated timeline for delivery and completion?

Response: The Garda representing the National Advisory Group has responded to the local Garda station request additional information on the application. The Monaghan Municipal District and the local Gardai will provide this information and it is planned that this information will be submitted this week. As soon as approval is obtained from the National Advisory Group, Monaghan Municipal District will go to tender for a contractor to complete the scheme.

5.Can the MD investigate the matter of Dog Fouling- and provide members on new possible strategies to stop it/ punish it or deal with it?

Response: Monaghan County Council are currently preparing a New Litter Management plan for the County. It is expected that strategies to deal with dog fouling will be included in this plan Environmental Services will arrange a meeting with the MD during the consultation phase in 2021 to discuss any issues of concern. All complaints in relation to dog fouling are investigated.

6. Correspondence:

Letter from Killylough Cycling Club dated 20/11/20.

Email from Catherine Flood thanking the members for their letter of congratulations.

7. AOB:

Cllr Treanor wished the members, Executive and Media a Happy Christmas.

Dated this 14th day of December 2020

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator