



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Monaghan County Council

# Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2019 Annual Report 2019





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## Foreword

We welcome the publication of Monaghan County Council's Annual Report for 2019. The annual report presents an opportunity to present the activities and achievements of Monaghan County Council in delivering public services and infrastructural projects during the year. Throughout 2019, Monaghan County Council provided high quality, sustainable public services aimed at enhancing the economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of our people and county. Our services were delivered efficiently, in line with the objectives detailed in our Corporate Plan, to ensure the county remains an attractive place to live, work, do business and visit. Much of what we do can only be achieved by working in partnership with our various stakeholders and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for their on-going support and co-operation.

In 2019, Monaghan County Council has advanced the delivery of significant building projects. The *Monaghan PEACE Campus project*, launched on 29 April 2019, will commence construction in Quarter 2 2020 delivering enhanced cross community shared space for all our citizens. Other projects successfully completed in 2019 (excluding the housing and roads programme), include the Clones Post Office, the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, playground facilities in Rossmore Forest Park, landfill capping works at Scotch Corner and the refurbishment of No. 1 Dublin Street (formerly Town Hall), into a modern purpose-built Planning Department.

Monaghan County Council continued to make significant progress in delivering the Rebuilding Ireland programme. We have secured more than €100 million investment in housing under the programme over the period of 2016 - 2021. The accelerated provision of social housing has been possible through a combination of delivery mechanisms; new build developments by Monaghan County Council; turnkey construction of houses by contractors, the acquisition of individual houses in response to specific needs; additional development of houses by Approved Housing Bodies; and other initiatives incorporating the renewal of vacant properties in our towns and villages. It is anticipated that investment in social housing in County Monaghan will exceed €25million in 2020. In excess of 150 additional homes will be provided for people in need of social housing in County Monaghan before the end of 2020.

Our work to progress major road infrastructure continued throughout 2019. The N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to the Border Road schemes, both of which are major schemes in Project Ireland 2040, advanced to public consultation in conjunction with Jacobs Ireland. Construction of the N2 Blackwater Bridge, at a cost of c. €6 Million continued throughout 2019 and work was completed on the final phase of the realignment of the road between Monaghan and Emyvale.

Elections for the local electoral areas of Ballybay-Clones, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney and Monaghan were held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019. 33 candidates contested the elections – 6 candidates in Ballybay-Clones, 11 in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney and 16 in Monaghan. Sixteen outgoing members were re-elected to Monaghan County Council. Two new Councillors were also elected – Mary Kerr-Conlon and Aoife McCooey, in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney electoral area.

The Council has continued to support communities and advance the economic development of the County. Glaslough's achievements on winning of the overall title of Ireland's Tidiest Town in the 2019 Supervalu National Tidy Towns competition was remarkable. Success in the National Tidy Towns competition requires year-round dedication across a wide range of areas. These are not limited to caring for the physical appearance of the village through daily litter picking, weeding and maintenance; the competition also looks for communities who are actively taking steps to promote environmental responsibility. Monaghan County Council will continue to promote the importance of looking after our wildlife, our biodiversity and of sustainable resource management to quality of life improvements to other towns and villages throughout the county.

There is no doubt that climate change is the single biggest challenge facing the country. Monaghan County Council is committed to playing a lead role in the protection of the environment and the enhancement of Monaghan's natural and built environment. Monaghan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy represents a proactive step in the process of adaptation planning to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change. We will continue work throughout 2020 to mitigate against the causes of climate change by striving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase our resilience in adapting to the impacts of climate change and associated extreme weather events.

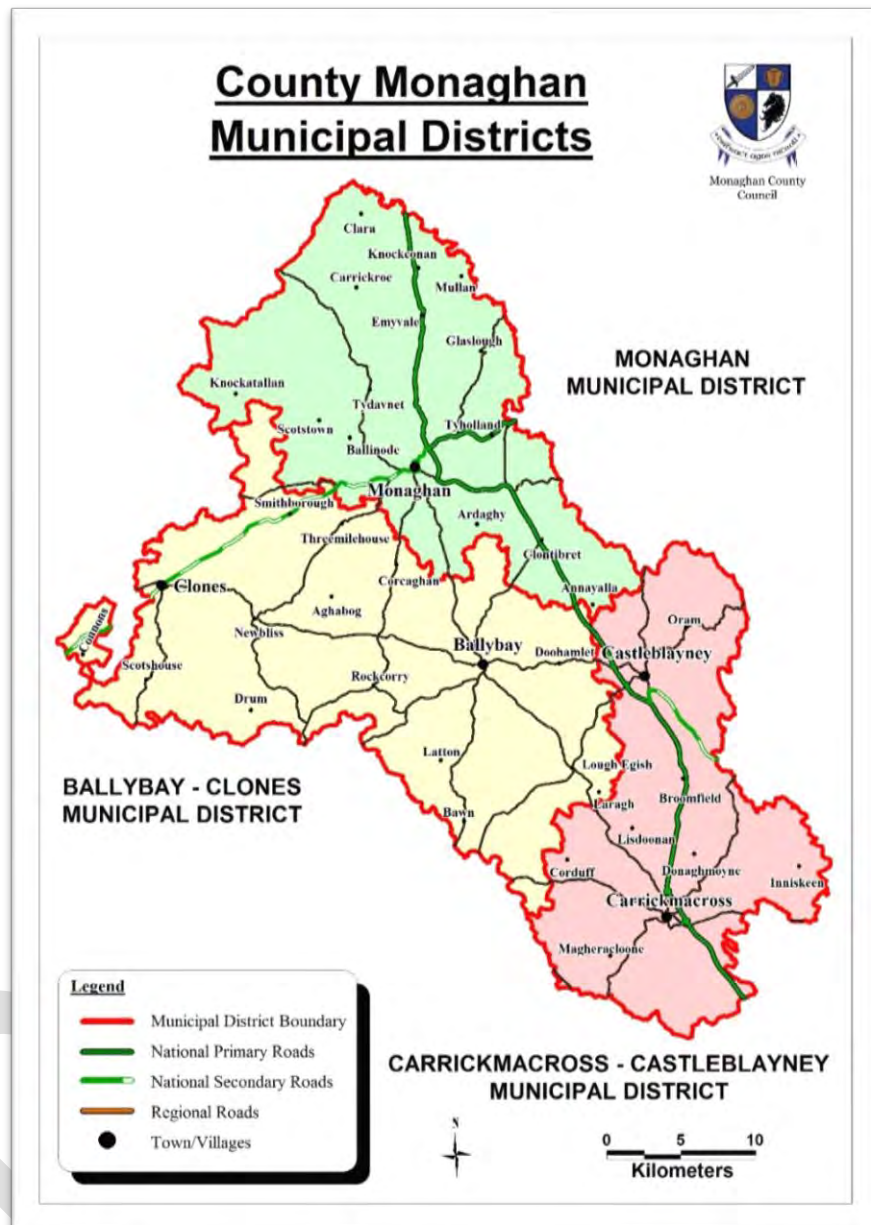
Finally, we would like to acknowledge the support, dedication and co-operation of all staff, throughout the organisation - the Directors of Services, and Monaghan County Council staff, both indoor and outdoor. We would like to thank the elected representatives for their ongoing co-operation and support throughout the year.



Eamonn O'Sullivan  
Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council



Seamus Coyle  
Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council



***Mission Statement***

*Monaghan County Council provides  
High Quality, Sustainable Public Services  
to enhance the  
Economic, Environmental and Cultural Wellbeing  
of our People and County.*

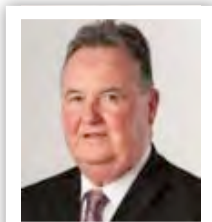
## LIST OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The following are the Elected Representatives for the County of Monaghan:

### BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



**Cllr Seamus  
COYLE (FF)**



**Cllr Pat  
TREANOR (SF)**



**Cllr Sean  
GILLILAND (FG)**

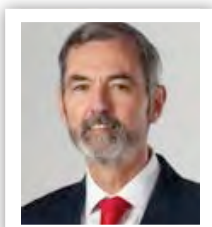


**Cllr Hugh  
MCELVANEY (IND)**

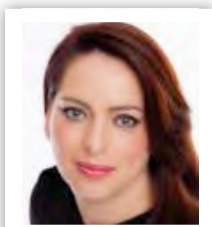


**Cllr Richard  
TRUELL (FG)**

### MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



**Cllr Sean  
CONLON (SF)**



**Cllr Cathy  
BENNETT (SF)**



**Cllr Brian  
MCKENNA (SF)**



**Cllr Raymond  
AUGHEY (FF)**



**Cllr David  
MAXWELL (FG)**



**Cllr Seamus  
TREANOR (IND)**



**Cllr Paudge  
CONNOLLY (IND)**

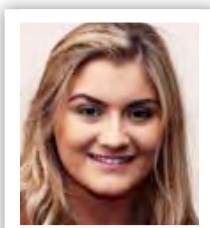
### CARRICKMACROSS-CASTLEBLAYNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



**Cllr Aidan  
CAMPBELL (FG)**



**Cllr Mary  
KERR-CONLON (FG)**



**Cllr Aoife  
MC COOEY (FF)**



**Cllr PJ  
O'HANLON (FF)**



**Cllr Noel  
KEELAN (SF)**



**Cllr Colm  
CARTHY (SF)**

# Finance

## **Rates Revaluation 2019**

The revaluation process is part of a national programme to modernise the rateable valuation of all commercial and industrial property in Ireland. The revaluation process took place in Monaghan and some other counties during 2019. New Valuation Orders for properties in Monaghan were signed following the completion of a statutory consultation between the Commissioner of Valuation, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and Monaghan County Council. The purpose of revaluation is to bring increased transparency and more equity to the local authority rating system. Due to the revaluation there is a much closer and uniform relationship between the current annual rental values of commercial properties and their commercial rates liability. The new valuations have become effective for rates purposes from 2020.

## **Statement of Financial Position (SoFP) review**

The Finance section carry out regular reconciliations and reviews of balances on the SoFP, thus adhering to best practice recommendations. This ensures that debts are collected as quickly as possible, funding for capital projects is identified, monitored and reviewed on a timely basis, loans are reconciled to statements and fixed assets are reconciled to other available registers such as iHouse and the Property Asset register.

## **Treasury Management**

From April 2017, Bank of Ireland have applied negative interest charges to Local Authorities with deposits over €1m. In order to eliminate these interest charges, Monaghan County Council monitor the bank balance and transfer excess funds to an Investment Bank where it can earn interest on deposits.

## **Reduction of cumulative deficit**

Due mainly to the abolishment of the town councils in 2014, Monaghan County Council recognised a cumulative deficit in excess of €3m. Monaghan County Council are committed to reducing the deficit on an annual basis. This reduction is achieved by attaining a revenue surplus in the annual accounts. The surplus is achieved through accurate budget preparation, cost reduction awareness and careful monitoring of actual spend versus budget. The cumulative deficit has reduced from the highest level of €3.3m in 2013 to €2.3m by 2018 year-end.

## **Superannuation**

With effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, the superannuation function of the Council is shared between the Council and Mypay. All requests for estimates of retirement benefits, purchase of notional service and pension queries should be made by employees to Mypay Superannuation Shared Services Centre. Future retirees should contact the HR department at least three months prior to retirement for a Retirement Application Form.



## Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides support to Senior Management, the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members. It is also responsible for the organising and managing of monthly Council Meetings, Corporate Policy Group Meetings, Strategic Policy Committee Meetings and Joint Policing Committee Meetings. The section is responsible for the collation of the Corporate Plan, Annual Report, Annual Service Delivery Plan and review of Risk Register.

Corporate Services also co-ordinates the compilation of the annual NOAC Performance Indicators for the Council and deals with the implementation of Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Access to Information on the Environment legislation.

### Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is compiled annually so as to ensure that members of the public can exercise their democratic right to vote in any elections/referendum that arise during the year. The Register is published every year on 1<sup>st</sup> February and comes into effect on 15<sup>th</sup> February of that year. In compiling the Register we liaise with the Councils' Revenue Collectors who act as fieldworkers and undertake the necessary enquiries to ensure an accurate document is produced. Members of the public can check if they are registered at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie). The total number of Electors in the County for the 2019/2020 Register of Electors was 50,944:

- Monaghan Electoral Area = 18,562
- Ballybay – Clones Electoral Area = 14,919
- Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Electoral Area = 17,463

### Local Elections 2019

Elections for the local electoral areas of Ballybay-Clones, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney and Monaghan were held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May. 33 candidates contested the elections – 6 candidates in Ballybay-Clones, 11 in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney and 16 in Monaghan. The candidates included 17 outgoing members of the Council. The local election count took place in Sean McDermotts Sports Centre in Threemilehouse and commenced at 6pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May, following the segregation of ballot papers and the counting of the Divorce Referendum papers. The count concluded on Sunday evening with all 18 candidates being deemed elected. Sixteen outgoing members were re-elected to Monaghan County Council. Two new Councillors were also elected – Mary Kerr-Conlon and Aoife McCooey, in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney electoral area.

### Revision of local electoral area boundaries – 2019 local elections

Mr John Paul Phelan, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has signed the County of Monaghan Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2018. The effect of this Order is to amend the division of County Monaghan into local electoral areas, to fix the number of members of Monaghan County Council to be elected for each such area and to determine the Municipal Districts for County Monaghan.

County Monaghan shall have the following Municipal Districts for the purposes of section 22A (inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (No. 1 of 2014) of the Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001):

- (a) The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Ballybay-Clones;
- (b) The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney



- consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney;
- (c) The Municipal District of Monaghan consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Monaghan.

Municipal District	No of members to be elected
Ballybay – Clones	5
Carrickmacross – Castleblayney	6
Monaghan	7

### Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 members of the public have a legal right of access to records held by the Local Authority. 59 applications were received by the Council in 2019, from members of the media, Oireachtas and the general public.

### Protected Disclosures

There were no protected disclosures received during 2019.

### Twinning

Monaghan County Council is officially twinned with the following areas –

- Geel, Belgium (the parish of Tydavnet in North Monaghan is also twinned with this area)
- Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Peterboro, Canada
- Miramichi, Canada

### St Patrick's Day in New York

At the invitation of the Monaghan Society of New York, Cllr David Maxwell and Chief Executive Eamonn O'Sullivan attended the St Patrick's Day celebrations in New York.

### Internal Audit

As part of good governance arrangements, Monaghan County Council maintains an appropriate and independent Internal Audit Unit. This assists with improvements in

control systems, procedures, greater levels of accountability and confidence in the processes. It provides a level of assurance to the Council, Chief Executive, Management Team and the Audit Committee.

### Meetings in 2019

The following is a summary of the meetings held in 2019:

Council meetings (including AGM & Budget meeting):	13
Corporate Policy Group:	14
Monaghan Municipal District:	11
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District	11
Ballybay Clones Municipal District	11
Joint Policing Committee:	5
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	11
Crime Prevention Working Group:	1
Policing Working Group:	1
SPC – Social, Cultural & Community Development:	1
SPC – Economic Development and Enterprise Support:	2
SPC – Housing, Fire & Civil Protection:	2
SPC – Transport & Environment:	1
Coiste Gaeilge:	2
Twinning Committee:	0
Audit Committee:	5

### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. It was given further affect in Ireland by the Data Protection Act 2018. The GDPR emphasises transparency, security and accountability by data controllers and processors while at the same time standardising and strengthening the right of European citizens to data privacy. For the purposes of the Data Protection Acts 1988 – 2018 (as amended) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) the Data Controller is Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council is committed to the protection of personal data and respects the fundamental rights and freedoms of



individuals. It collects and processes a significant amount of personal data and Special Category personal data in various multiple formats on a daily basis in order to provide the most effective and targeted range of services to meet the needs of the citizens, communities and businesses within the County.

Its commitment is to ensure that the personal data supplied is:

- Obtained lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Collected for only specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained
- Recorded, stored accurately and where necessary kept up to date
- Kept for no longer than is necessary and in a form which permits identification of the data subject
- Processed in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing of the data

In 2019, Monaghan County Council continued to achieve compliance under GDPR and data protection while demonstrating commitment to respecting the individual privacy of the citizens of Monaghan. Monaghan County Council has created several data subject notifications in respect of the services it provides. These notifications (*privacy notices*) set out the basis on which personal data is collected and processed in accordance with GDPR data protection principles.

## Ethics

Section 19 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 requires each elected member to furnish to the Local Authority, not later than January 31<sup>st</sup>, a donation statement indicating whether during the preceding calendar year, the member received a donation

exceeding €600. 18 completed forms were received by the closing date of 31 January 2019. A Nil Return was received from each member.

Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 obliges each member of the council and relevant staff to complete a form in respect of their declarable interests held during the prescribed period and furnish the annual declaration to the Ethics Registrar no later than the last day of February. 18 completed forms were received from elected members. 75 relevant staff were requested to complete a declaration form.

In 2019, one possible Part 15 contravention was reported to the Ethics Registrar. Following consideration, the matter was referred to SIPO by the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach for attention.



# Corporate Assets

## Capital Projects

Corporate Assets Section leads the delivery of capital projects as identified in the three year Capital Programme. It also seeks to bring a consistency of approach to the procurement, management and delivery of projects in line with the Public Spending Code and the improved procurement structures embedded into the organisation in recent years.

Public Spending Code - All public bodies are obliged to treat public funds with care, and to ensure that the best possible value-for-money is obtained. The council uses the principles of the Public Spending Code as a set of guidelines and procedures to ensure appropriate standards are applied and to ensure value for money, openness and transparency.

The Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) approach is employed by the Council in procurement and consists of a suite of best practice guidance, standard contracts and generic template documents that form the four pillars that support the Framework. A number of major capital projects have been progressed in 2019:

## Key Projects

**Monaghan PEACE Campus** – Following confirmation of funding in early 2019, the project has been progressed through procurement process to tender for construction. It is planned to start construction in early 2020 with a 21 month construction period.



**Office Refurbishment to 1 Dublin St.** – Redevelopment of Old Town Hall building as modern office facilities. Progressed through construction in 2019. Planning Section are scheduled to relocate to new building in early 2020.



**Monaghan Urban Regeneration Scheme** - Design process has commenced; separate procurements for Design Team Consultants for South Dublin Street and Urban Planning Consultants for more detailed planning and public consultation on North Dublin Street was completed in late 2019.



**Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration** – Monaghan County Council were delighted with the announcement of Category 1 Grant Funding of €2.6m under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for the Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Scheme in late 2019. The scheme proposals consist of the refurbishment and extension to the Hope Castle Gate Lodge No. 2 to provide a modern 21<sup>st</sup> century public library, public realm streetscape works and undergrounding of existing overhead cables in Market Square area. The Design Team Consultants are progressing detailed design for the scheme and it is hoped to proceed to



tender stage in early 2020.



**Clones PO (Arts Centre)** - Redevelop Arts Centre. Design team appointed, construction completed in 2019.



**New Civil Defence HQ** - Proceeded to construction in 2019.

**Castleblayney Fire Station** –Proceeded to construction in 2019.

The Council continues to review its buildings portfolio to identify opportunities to carry out restoration works to buildings currently in use and also seeks a strategic alignment of use and funding opportunities for conservation of our older buildings to maximise our facilities.

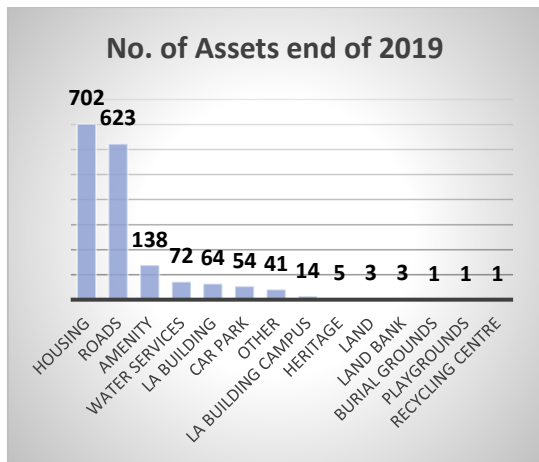
## Property Asset Management

The Council Property Management Software System has been further developed and embedded into the organisation in 2019 to enable effective management of our property portfolio and to link it to the Financial Assets Register (FAR). The Council has worked closely with the national property database and the National Property Management Network to put in place modern and efficient systems and procedures to ensure that property assets are managed in a professional, co-ordinated and effective manner and to ensure value for money.

As of December 2019, Monaghan County Council currently has 63 buildings and 1,722 parcels of land in the Property Interests Register. The table below shows breakdown of these Property Assets.

### Number of Assets by Type

Asset Type	No. of Assets end of 2019
<b>Housing</b>	<b>702</b>
<b>Roads</b>	<b>623</b>
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Water Services</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>LA Building</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Car Park</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>LA Building Campus</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Heritage</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Land</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Land Bank</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Burial Grounds</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Recycling Centre</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1722</b>



### Buildings Asset Management

The Council continues to work towards maximising the use and condition of the Council's buildings.

A significant challenge is the provision of suitable offices facilities for the effective delivery of services and the Capital Projects section are currently undertaking works to create additional office space in existing buildings to cater for current and expected demand. For derelict buildings the Council seeks to identify a strategic use and to secure funding to bring them back into sustainable use.

Building improvement and upgrade works continue to be undertaken to; improve their energy efficiency, improve facilities to customers and staff and to maintain them in suitable condition.

### Monaghan Leisure Complex



Coral Leisure Ltd manages Monaghan Leisure Complex on behalf of Monaghan County Council.

Coral Leisure has operated the facility since 2006 and are one of Ireland's leading service providers - managing nine publicly owned leisure facilities.

### Energy Efficiency

Monaghan County Council has made good progress towards achieving energy efficiency targets of 33% by 2020. An energy reduction of 29.1% up to end 2018 (provisional) has been achieved, with a further 3.5% planned in 2019 and 2020. The Council is on target to reach targets by 2020.



### SEAI M&R Report 2019

Energy Section compiles, records and monitors all energy usage on a yearly basis used by the Council and reports this to SEAI for monitoring. The information is used to identify Significant Energy Users (SEU's) within the organisation and these are targeted for action to reduce energy usage. Projects in the past year and into 2020 have targeted Council buildings and public lighting. The Council have worked closely with our energy partners to identify energy reduction projects to Council buildings and through the SEAI's Better Energy Community (BEC) scheme to secure funding to assist in these works.

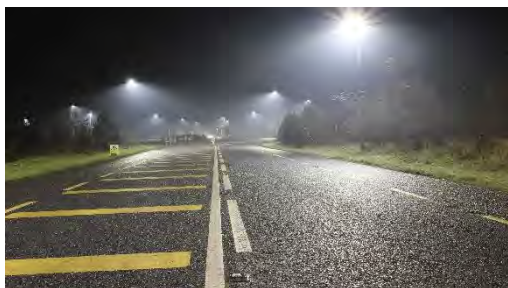
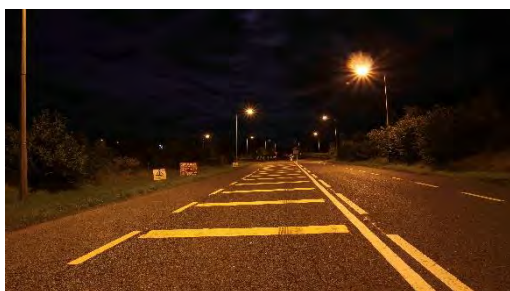
The **Climate Action Plan 2019** sets new targets after 2020 and the new **Public Sector Energy and Climate targets** sets new targets for **2030 of 50% improvement in public sector energy efficiency and 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>**. Monaghan County



Council actively continues to improve its energy performance and carbon footprint.

### Public Street Lighting

Public Lighting is the single biggest energy user in Monaghan County Council, equating to 35% of total energy usage. The Council has an ongoing programme to convert all public lights in the county to energy efficient LED lights by early 2021. This is funded directly by the Council for Non National Roads and paid back through energy and maintenance cost savings. TII have also provided funding to upgrade public lights to energy efficient LEDs on the National routes at a number of locations in 2019. 60% of lights were converted to LED by the end of 2019.



## Information Systems

The Information Systems (I.S.) department leads innovation and digital transformation throughout Monaghan County Council and provides modern and secure ICT infrastructure and services to enable efficient service delivery.

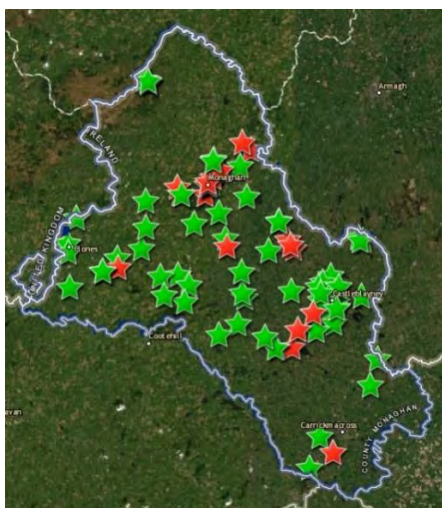
### Business Applications and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

The I.S. department is responsible for the acquisition, development, support and maintenance of software applications and GIS.

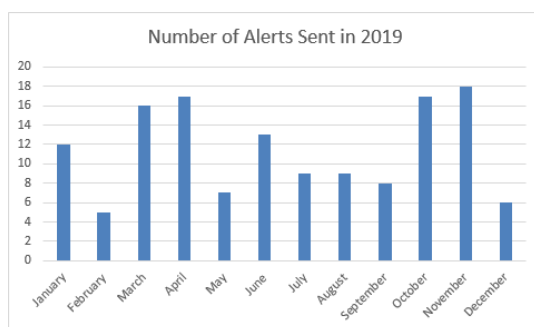
As part of its digital transformation, Monaghan County Council is continuing to streamline and automate internal processes. In 2019 the I.S. department initiated the implementation of Laserfiche ECM in Planning and Human Resources. 15 new Playground Inspection forms were developed for use by the Municipal Districts. The Public Web portal went live, and planning application documents are available via the Planning Portal.

In 2019, the GIS section was heavily involved in the development and production of mapping for the County Development Plan 2019-2025. Eircodes were added to the Register of Electors and Housing Management Systems.

New mobile Apps were developed for tracking and managing the treatment of Japanese Knotweed in the county. GIS staff support and promote the Road Incident App and Monaghan Alerts service which serves as an important communication tool particularly during severe weather events.

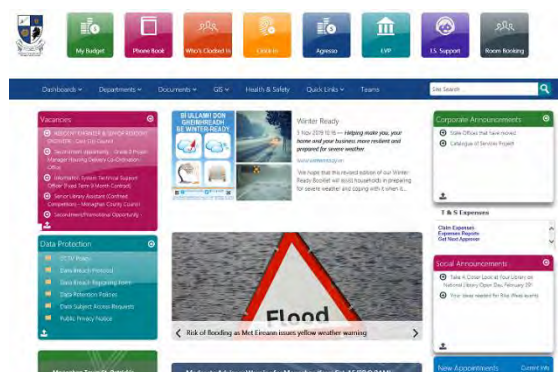


**Map showing locations of treated (green) and untreated (red) Japanese Knotweed**



**Monaghan Alerts - number of alerts issued in 2019**

A new County Monaghan tourism App was developed highlighting the selection of activities, accommodation options and visitor attractions within the county. Available in Apple and android format, this project was supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Digital Innovation Programme. A new Staff Portal was developed which acts as a central hub for staff for accessing corporate news and events, job vacancies, corporate policies and procedures, and for accessing frequently used applications.



**New Staff Portal**

The I.S. department assisted with the implementation of a customer rents mobile app which allows customers to access their account and transactions and pay their rent. We also assisted with the procurement and implementation of Komeer, our county wide community and garda alerts system.

## Infrastructure and Security

The I.S. department is responsible for the Council's network infrastructure. In 2019 the I.S. department migrated the phone system in Head Offices and the Fire Station from traditional primary rate telephone lines to SIP resulting in cost savings for the Council. We assisted with the design, planning and implementation of network services for new buildings and refurbished buildings including the Planning Office, Dublin Street, Monaghan and the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen. I.S. staff were also involved in the design and planning stages for the new Peace building, Civil Defence building and Castleblayney Fire Station.

2019 was a very busy year for Monaghan County Library service. Library spaces are being transformed into digital hubs and I.S. staff worked closely with library staff on several digital developments throughout the year. In May 2019, Monaghan County Council opened its first Open Library building in Carrickmacross Civic Offices. This allows members to access the library out of hours and use all the available library resources. The facility to take tablets and iPads out on loan within the library buildings was implemented in additional branches.



The I.S. department continues to maintain and support public WIFI. There were over 80,000 visits recorded in 2019.

The I.S. department is responsible for ensuring the availability and security of ICT systems and services. Multiple layers of security are maintained to protect the Councils systems and data. 2019's focus was to get users into a mindset of **"Think before you Click"** and to instil in them that security is everyone's responsibility. A staff newsletter was created to educate users on password best practise. Simulated phishing campaigns were carried out and users that clicked on links were redirected to a training portal to learn about the **dangers of phishing and social engineering** and how to recognise these types of threats.

Additional security measures implemented include Multi-Factor Authentication, Mobile Device Management, Windows 7 PC upgrade/replacements and PC power management.

### I.S. Service Desk

The I.S. department allocates signification resources to providing technical support and assistance to staff, Elected Representatives and citizens. 3808 support calls were logged in 2019.

Call Statistics	2019	2018
Total Calls Logged	3808	4092
Avg. Calls per Month	317	341
Avg. Calls per Day	15	16
Resolved within 24 Hours	55%	51%

*Service Desk Statistics*

I.S. staff provided support to Franchise section and Courts Service for the Local Elections in 2019.

We also manage the Council's vast mobile phone estate. With the award of the mobile phone contract to Three in 2019, additional time and resources went into porting users to new devices and to the new network.

### Shared Service initiatives

The I.S. department achieves efficiencies and cost savings by working with neighbouring local authorities on areas of common interest such as policy development, staff training and procurement.

In 2019 Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Longford and Louth County Council jointly tendered for the provision of mobile phone and data services. The same group along with Meath County Council joined forces to procure a new regional cloud hosted Geographic Information System.

In response to the EU Directive on e-Invoicing in public procurement which obligates all local authorities to be able to accept and process e-Invoices by April 2020, Monaghan County Council along with Consortium Members Sligo IT, LGMA, Kildare County Council, Fingal County Council, Tubbercurry Software Limited and Celeris Group Limited applied for, and were successful in getting, European funding under the Connecting Europe Facility. Monaghan County Council will receive €60,000 of this funding. Monaghan County Council piloted the end-to-end solution on behalf of the local government sector and was the first local authority in Ireland to receive and process e-Invoices.



*Tim Willoughby, Head of Innovation, An Garda Síochána presenting to I.S. Staff from Monaghan, Cavan, Longford, and Leitrim at the 2019 Annual Regional I.S. Staff Development Day*

# Human Resources

## Recruitment

The Human Resource Management Section processed 295 applications in relation to 23 recruitment competitions during 2019.

As a result of the competitions held in 2019, 94 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 26 posts were offered and as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, 18 staff were appointed. At the end of 2019 there were 33 panels in place.

**In 2019 a total of 31 In-House Training Courses were delivered to staff. This figure included 15 relevant In-house Health and Safety Courses**

- Competency Based Interviewer Training
- Effective Use of E-Tenders
- Playground Inspection & Maintenance Training
- General Data Protection Training
- Prioritisation and Time Management Training
- Technical Report Writing
- Competency Based Interviewee Training
- Lunch and Learn Sessions
- Pre-Retirement Seminars
- Health & Well Being by Professor Niall Moyna
- Age Friendly Seminar
- School Warden Training
- Credit Management Training
- Designing & Developing Inclusive Playgrounds
- Managing Difficult and Aggressive Behaviour
- Irish Language Classes

### Courses of Further Education

- Nineteen staff members were approved assistance for courses of further education.
- Six staff members were eligible to avail of grant funded courses.

## Managing Wellbeing in the Workplace

To mark Workplace Wellbeing Day on April the 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 a very successful presentation was delivered by Professor Niall Moyna to all employees and Councillors. This presentation focused on optimising physical and mental health through making and sustaining small lifestyle changes with particular focus on physical activity.

## Health Screening

As a follow on from Professor Niall Moyna's Wellbeing presentation, it was agreed by the Council's Management Team that Health Screening would be offered to all employees and Councillors. The Health Screening service was provided by Health & Fitness Ireland Ltd and consisted of a comprehensive one to one 30-minute health checks which was subsidised by Monaghan County Council.

The following list of tests were available at the time of screening:

Blood Pressure/Cholesterol/Blood Glucose/Urinalysis/Lung Function/Body Composition/BMI  
Visceral Fat/Metabolic Testing/Age/Body fat percentage/Bone Mass/Lean Muscle/Body water analysis/Mobility test / (Optional Tests also offered)/Thyroid /Prostate /Nutrition Intolerance Test

The results of tests undertaken were made available by email and health advice offered where necessary. Employees requesting further assistance in the areas of physical and mental health, nutrition or exercise were afforded an additional appointment with recommendations given on how to improve all health markers.

The Health Screening programme generated a lot of interest within the organisation with a total of 207 availing of the service.



The staff complement for Monaghan County Council at 31st December 2019 was

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial	5	5
Clerical/Administrative	173	159.40
Professional/Technical	85	83.75
Outdoor	142	132.50
<b>Total Core Staff</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>380.65</b>
Contract Posts	10	8.67
Temporary/Seasonal	9	8.29
Retained Firefighters	49	N/A
Non DoEC&LG	7	4.15
<b>Total Other Posts</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>21.11</b>

#### Retirements during 2019

The following staff Retired during 2019:	Name	Grade
1	EJ Grimes	Plumber
2	Noel Calvert	Driver
3	Rosemary McManus	Senior Executive Officer
4	Ann Durnin	Senior Staff Officer
5	Anna May McCarron	Library Assistant
6	Hugh McKenna	Driver B
7	Noreen Baldwin	School Warden
8	Hugh Pat McGinnity	Foreman
9	Thomas Murray	General Operative



Rosemary McManus's Retirement presentation on 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2019



E.J. Grimes's retirement presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019

# Corporate Procurement

## Procurement Officer

In July 2019 Monaghan County Council appointed a new Procurement Officer. This appointment ensures the continued implementation of Monaghan County Councils Corporate Procurement Plan and continuity in the provision of procurement advice and support to Council personnel to help ensure that goods, services and works are procured in compliance with all relevant legislation and guidelines, while managing risk and achieving value for money.

## Procurement Steering Committee

Following the appoint of the new Procurement Officer, the Procurement Steering Committee has reconvened. This committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and will take a proactive role in the new areas of procurement and the preparation of procurement policies and templates.

## Procurement Team

Through a combination of a focused programme of training and learnings from the management of numerous procurement competitions over the past two years, the Procurement Leads and Admin Leads in each department have developed significant expertise in procurement. Together with the Procurement Officer this team continues to lead, guide and support all procurement operations and ensure consistent starts for both technical and administrative aspects of procurement.

## Public Spending Code

In accordance with the Public Spending Code, Monaghan County Council issued a Quality Assurance Report in May 2019 to NOAC for review to check compliance with Part A04 of the Public Spending Code. In this report Monaghan County Council must submit an inventory of all

projects/programmes costing greater than €0.5m distinguishing between capital and current expenditure and categorised by expenditure being considered, expenditure being incurred, and expenditure recently ended was met without exception. The PSC also requires Monaghan County Council to publish procurements more than €10m and to submit self-assessment checklist. NOAC reported that Monaghan County Council was compliant in all the above.

## Corporate Procurement Plan

The current Corporate Procurement Plan expires at the end of 2019. With 15 of 22 actions from the current plan now complete, work is ongoing on the drafting of the Corporate Procurement Plan 2020-2022, which will inform the work of the Procurement Officer over this period.

## Publication of Contracts – Model Publication Scheme

Monaghan County Council is obligated to report quarterly on public contracts (tenders) awarded, for the Model Publication Scheme, which is part of the Freedom of Information regime. The publication relates to goods/services contracts over €25k and works contracts over €50k.

All Sections have assisted in the compilation of contracts awarded for 2019 and this information has now been published on the Council's website and can be found on the following link:-  
<https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/procurement/>

## Procurement Procedures

Monaghan County Council's Procurement Procedures Rev 2 were adopted by the Management Team in January 2019 and circulated to all staff. The procedures ensure that procurement is conducted in line with the requirements of Public Sector Reform, the Office of Government Procurement, EU Directives and National Guidelines.



### Electronic Receipt of Tenders

Throughout 2019 all tenders were received electronically through e-tenders in accordance with the policy for the electronic receipt of tenders adopted by the Management Team. The policy is working well with no issues reported to date.

### Office of Government Procurement (OGP)

Monaghan County Council are using a number of OGP frameworks at present. Business & Management Consultancy, Franking Machine, Legal Services, Security Cash & Coin Collection, Stationery and office supplies and fuel cards have all been procured off these frameworks, either through mini competitions or direct drawdowns.

## Health & Safety Unit

### Operational Plan

Monaghan County Council provided a suitable environment, operations and work practices for employees in 2019. Promotion of safety, health and wellbeing of employees, councillors, contractors and visitors was conducted on a continuous basis throughout the year. The safety, health and welfare objectives of the Corporate Plan were achieved by completing the requirements of the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) 2019. The Health and Safety Unit developed and documented a programme of work in its Operational Plan 2019 to achieve the targets of the ASDP. The Operational Plan ensured that a suitable and current Corporate Safety Statement was in place by means of a six-monthly review required under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. Progress on the implementation of the Operational Plan was discussed and reviewed at each Health and Safety Unit MonStat Meeting and the Weekly Team Planning Meeting.

The Unit reviewed the Health and Safety Management System continuously through the year. The Unit also ensured that the Health and Safety Management System (held on the Staff Portal) was maintained with the most current documentation. This management system comprised of the Corporate Safety Statement, 13 Section Manuals, 54 Procedures and 25 Forms/Templates and Seven Registers.

A number of new procedures were developed and issued in 2019 as follows:

- HSP53 Emergency Preparedness and Response to Storm Procedure.
- HSP11 Employee Training Audit.
- HSP54 Abrasive Wheels Procedure.
- HSP12 Radiation Procedure.

### Inspection and Audit Programme

The Audit and Inspection Programme of Work was successfully completed (and exceeded) by the Health and Safety Unit. Two audits were conducted in 2019 with a positive level of compliance achieved in both. Audits were conducted using the National Template that has been adapted to the requirements of Monaghan County Council. Inspections were conducted using the relevant Inspection Template Form. The following table outlines the details of the 2019 Programme of Inspection:

Target Number of Inspections:	Actual Achieved:	% Achieved:
148	162	109%
Inspection Conducted:	Number Conducted:	
Road Works	120	
Water	14	
Housing	05	
Corporate / Capital	05	
Environment	04	
Library Service	02	
Planning Section	02	
Fire and Civil	02	
Other	08	

### Hazard and Risk Assessment

The following table outlines Hazard and Risk Assessments conducted 2019:

Assessment Type:	Number Conducted:
Pumping Points/Wells	105
Buildings/Yards/Plants and Playgrounds	65
Lone Working	27
Severe Weather	01

### Information and Training

14 Safety Briefings were developed and issued to employees and County Councillors as appropriate by the Health and Safety

Unit. The Unit provided training on Hazard and Risk Assessments to all employees during Q3 of 2019.

The Head of Health and Safety (HHS) was appointed as Vice Chair of the North Western LASOG Regional Group for 2019 and subsequently appointed as Group Chair in December 2019 for 2020. Monaghan County Council hosted a successful meeting of LASOG in February 2019. The HHS was appointed as a member of the National Health and Safety Operational Committee for 2019 and was appointed in December 2019 to the National Joint Union/Management Health and Safety Steering Committee

### Safety Committee

The Safety Committee met on a quarterly basis. Committee members were updated on the progress of the Operational Plan 2019. Each meeting a committee member delivered a health and safety update in relation to their section. This update proved to be very informative and useful and provided a better sharing of knowledge among sections. The committee shared information on matter of safety, health and welfare including learning from incident investigation. This valued resource provided a wider voice to employees in matters relating to workplace safety, health and welfare.

### Summary

The operation, information and knowledge undertaken and delivered by the Health and Safety Unit in 2019 enabled Monaghan County Council and its employees to meet the legal requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 and other applicable legislation.

## The Municipal District of Carrickmacross- Castleblayney

### Road Infrastructure

In 2019 this District managed an investment of €2.74M in the local and regional road network (a rise of €390,000 on 2018).

10 roads (3 regional and 7 local) were strengthened under the R.I. programme and a further 11 roads (2 regional and 9 local) were resealed under the Restoration Maintenance programme.

In 2019 we carried out a Low-Cost Safety Improvement Scheme on the R178/R179 Steadfast Junction within the town of Carrickmacross. The value of the grant was €75,000. The works included traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossings and new road lining.

In 2019 this district carried out 2 number lane improvements under the lane improvement scheme (L.I.S).

In 2019 this district carried out the resurfacing on 3 local roads under the Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S) the Cost of carrying out these works were €330,000.

On National Roads, 2.5Km of road resurfacing along the N2 at Aclint was carried out in Q4 of 2019.

### Buildings/Land

The Municipal District assists and supports other agencies in the investment and management of built assets, including the newly restored Market House in Carrickmacross and the recently acquired Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen.

Works to the central section of the Market House were completed in 2018 and now houses the new Carrickmacross Lace Gallery and a new Craft Shop. Phase 2 works, which entail the provision of three new craft

studios and a unisex public toilet, commenced in October 2019 and the new units will be available for occupation in March 2020.

Works to the Kavanagh Centre were substantially completed in 2019 and the centre will be operational in 2020.

In 2019, Monaghan County Council also invested funds into the Carrickmacross Workhouse to provide an enhanced visitor experience. These three projects combined will provide a cluster of tourism activities in the South of the County that will help to attract visitors and contribute to the local economy.

In Castleblayney, stabilisation works were carried out to the Market House and plans are being put in place to bring the Hope Castle and Annex buildings to the market, while a successful application for funding has been made under the Rural Regeneration fund for the Market Square and Gate Lodge 2 building.

Funding was received under the first round of Rural Regeneration funding for the development of a new Enterprise Hub at McGrath Road in Castleblayney. This project is a joint initiative with Enterprising Monaghan and Castleblayney Community Enterprise. 2019 saw a Technical Advisor team appointed to help manage the tendering and construction stages of this project with construction predicted to commence in Q2 of 2020.



Market House, Carrickmacross



### Public Realm Investment

The Public Realm Plan for Carrickmacross was used as the basis for the successful application for funding under the Rural Regeneration Fund for the development of a number of town centre and public realm investments. These include the development of two Local Area Action Plans for the backlands off Carrickmacross Main Street; the development of a car parking strategy for the town; and the development of a detailed design for Carrickmacross main street public realm. Procurement of the design teams for these projects commenced in 2019 with the main reports to be delivered in 2020.

### Recreational Spaces/Open Spaces

A significant grant under the Outdoor Recreation Fund was received for the redevelopment of outdoor recreation facilities at Lough Muckno in 2019. This project saw the existing lakeshore clubhouse renovated; the development of a new pedestrian path linking the clubhouse to the Dundalk Rd; and the development of an open water swimming area at the White Island. A new operator of the outdoor Adventure Centre has been obtained and the centre operated very successfully through the summer months.

### Community Actions

The Municipal District works closely with local groups to better target investment and improve service delivery. The MD part-funds and works very closely with the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce to help create a trade-friendly environment in the town. The Chamber assists in planning and provides valuable business feedback on proposed initiatives. The Chamber of Commerce also manages the festive lighting for the town and organises activities in the run up to Christmas.

In Castleblayney the Town Regeneration Committee has been very active in providing focus for the business and community sectors. The committee meets with the

executive on a regular basis and leads initiatives such as the Town Voucher Scheme; Christmas lights; and other initiatives. Following on from the very successful development of the Wall of Fame and Big Tom statue in 2018, the committee focused their attention on another well-known Castleblayney man with the commissioning of a mural of Paddy Cole at Mindszenty Park in Castleblayney.



**Paddy Cole at the unveiling of his Mural at Mindszenty Park**

### Tidy Towns

The Tidy Towns groups are vitally important for the towns and villages that they represent. In 2019 the towns of Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Inniskeen all increased their scores in the Tidy Towns competition with Carrickmacross once more winning a gold medal. The village of Oram also entered the competition for the first time in 2019 and the committee are keen to build on their initial success.

Carrickmacross brought forward an innovative initiative in 2019 when they put in place Ireland's first reverse vending machine for plastic bottles. This initiative was launched with great media fanfare in September 2019. The initiative was

financially supported by Monaghan County Council.

The Municipal District helps fund these groups with an annual contribution and also provides additional supports throughout the year in order to give them the best opportunity to achieve their goals.



**Gerry Hand of Carrickmacross Tidy Towns at the launch of the reverse vending machine**

### Local Groups and Festivals

In 2019, 97 local groups were provided with financial assistance through the Community Grants Scheme, while festivals such as the Carrickmacross Festival; St. Patrick's Day Parade; Muckno Mania; and the Halloween festival were also supported. The total investment in these activities was €88,195. For many of the groups supported the investment from the Council is the only public funding they receive and is therefore vital for their group activities. The grants are presented at an awards night in May each year.



**At the Community Awards Night May 2019**

In addition to financial support, the Municipal District provides logistical support to the festival organisers, arranging road closures, crowd control barriers, etc.



**Raising of the Tricolour on St. Patrick's Day, Carrickmacross**

### Carrickmacross Men's Shed

This Municipal District assisted in providing a new operating base for the Carrickmacross Men's Shed in 2019 with the group moving into a custom-bought facility in the Council yard to the rear of the Markethouse. This facility includes a workshop and canteen and was part financed by Monaghan Integrated Development and the MD. It was officially opened in the summer by Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Seamus Coyle.



**Official opening of the new Carrickmacross Men's Shed**

### Tourism Initiatives

Monaghan County Council and the Municipal District office provide ongoing financial and logistical support to tourism initiatives within the district. The investment in the Kavanagh Centre; the Lace Gallery; and the Workhouse in Carrickmacross reflects the core tourism strategy for the South of the county, namely

to develop a cluster of tourism products that, combined and alongside other existing offerings, will form a significant cultural tourism attraction for the district. The works to the Kavanagh Centre were substantially completed in December of 2019, while the work to provide new artist studios at the Market House will be completed in Q1 of 2020, as will the new visitor experience being developed at the Work House.



**3-D image of the Kavanagh Centre Exhibition Design**

In Castleblayney, the Council is seeking to develop Lough Muckno and the Hope Castle demesne as a significant regional attraction. Lough Muckno has seen significant investment in the match angling infrastructure along the lake shore, and in 2019 a grant of €105,248 from Inland Fisheries Ireland, with match funding coming from the MD, saw a further 40 fishing pegs opened at the South Lodge shore bringing the total number of pegs on the lake up to almost 1,000, thereby allowing the lake to host major match angling events such as the European Police Championships which were held at Lough Muckno in September of 2019. These activities generate significant income into the local community.



**The official launch of the new South Lodge stretch**

The potential of the Hope Castle and Annex buildings is clear to be seen, and the appointment of an estate agent will provide advice on the market options for the Hope Castle and Annex buildings.

The lakeshore clubhouse at Lough Muckno was refurbished in 2019 with grant funding coming from the Outdoor Recreation scheme and match funding coming from the MD. This facility will provide a base for outdoor land and water-based recreation pursuits. The facility is being managed under licence by Castleblayney Outdoor Adventure Centre Ltd. Who began operating in July of 2019.



**Launch of Lough Muckno Outdoor Adventure Centre**



# The Municipal District of Ballybay Clones

## Municipal District Roads Programme 2019

In 2019 Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertook a substantial programme of road infrastructural development. The Municipal District carried out drainage, bitmac overlay and surface dressing works on ten local roads and two regional roads in the district to the value of nearly €2.13million under the restoration improvement grants scheme. There were a further 50km of roads surfaced dressed throughout the Municipal District.

The Municipal District also undertook extensive general repairs/maintenance to the road network in the district such as gully repairs/cleaning, road patching, hedge cutting, sweeping and scavenging.

## Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

Low-cost safety improvement projects were completed in 2019 at junction (L7441) off the R183 Ballybay to Castleblayney Rd, Smithboro Village, Magherarney Village, Cloghan and Corrabofin Ballybay

## R189 Greenans Cross Road Realignment

Monaghan County Council secured funding of €250k through the Specific Improvement Scheme to upgrade the R189 between Newbliss and Threemilehouse to improve Road Safety. Subsequent to a procurement process the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones appointed contractor S Wilkins and Sons Ltd to carry out road realignment on the first section of these works at Greenans Cross. Works were completed in November 2019.

## Playgrounds

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones upgraded the existing playground facilities

at Cherry Park. This project was funded from the CLAR programme and Municipal District match funding. The project included site preparation, surfacing and the installation of equipment. The Municipal District undertook repairs and maintenance works in a number of other playgrounds in 2019.



## Clones Post Office

Through funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, SEUPB and Monaghan County Council's own resources, Ballybay/Clones MD undertook substantial renovation works at the former Clones Post Office by way of converting the building into Arts studio spaces. The building now offers 5 modern studios and 1 large Exhibition/Theatre space while still maintaining the integratory of the beautiful building. The studios are now available to Artists and to community groups engaging in the Arts.





LAYOUT FOR REDEVELOPMENT AT GAA STADIUM AND THE PEACELINK, CLONES

### Rural Regeneration Development Fund

As part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion towards a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund over the period 2019 to 2027. The Fund will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. Ballybay-Clones Municipal District prepared substantial applications for the towns of Ballybay and Clones and were successful in obtaining funding for both towns. In Clones the application included St. Tiarnach's Plaza, a Heritage project and a Fermanagh Street Business Hub. In Ballybay the application included developing a community/business hub, Ballybay Path Networks and Ballybay Courtyard Project. Consultants have been appointed for all 6 projects and it is planned to have some elements of these projects construction ready by Q2 2020.

### Outdoor Recreation Scheme – Mulladuff Cycle path

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones were successful in securing funding through the Outdoor Recreation Scheme for a cycle path at Mulladuff, Smithborough. This project was also funded through the Municipal District allocation and the path was officially opened in April 2019.

Also under this scheme the MD were delighted to complete works to upgrade the Kingfisher Cycle trail. Funding of over €100,000 was used to upgrade signage and resurface some of the road along the route. In conjunction with Clones Town Team works were completed to extend a footpath

at Teehill to the Famine Graveyard. Works under this programme were also used to provide parking at the nearby Church of Ireland graveyard.



### Town and Village Renewal Projects

**Shortt's Yard:** The MD has received funding to prepare a master plan and carry out some works at the former Shortt's Yard and Farmers Yard at Lower Fermanagh St, Clones. A consultant was appointed in November 2019 to prepare this masterplan and complete the planning process. This project is programmed for completion in Q2 2020.

**Latton:** The MD received funding to provide a dedicated footpath to provide safe connections between the school, creche, community centre and housing estate. These works were completed in October 2019.

**Scotshouse:** Funding was received to create a new Community Park within the village. The works involve the provision of walking trails throughout the site, and the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the river to serve as a route to the local primary school. Works are due to be completed in Q1 2020

**Ballybay – Courtyards Phase 1:** The 'O'Mathuna' site in Ballybay was acquired through the Derelict Sites Act. This project involved finishing out the existing access road and the development of car park to the

rear of the site. The works consisted of surfacing of the existing access road through the site and the provision of a footpath.

### Clones Tidy Towns

Clones Tidy towns with the assistance of MD and Monaghan County Council Environment Section Staff, held the 1<sup>st</sup> Ulster Final Day recycling campaign. This involved collecting and segregating all recycling waste to prevent it going to landfill. A huge effort was put in by all involved and assisted greatly by all supporters attending the match. On the day 22 full bins of bottles, cans and plastics was collected. This was a super achievement and will be continued next year.



### Ballybay Clones MD Community Grants

The Municipal District were delighted to award funding totalling nearly €60,000 to various Community groups within the Municipal District under Monaghan County Councils Community and Environment Funding Scheme for 2019. Scholarships to the Gaelteacht funded by the MD were awarded to students from Ballybay Community College and Larcy College.

### Ballybay Clones Erne East Partnership

After the successful launching of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan in 2018 the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District in conjunction with our partners in the Erne East District of Fermanagh/Omagh District Council and the local community were delighted to develop a brand for the area. Based on the legend of how the area got its name a bronze

sculpture of “Bith” was commissioned by Ballybay-Clones Municipal District. This is now located at the Penal Cross site in Knockatallon that will promote the area far and near.

With the threat of Brexit now a reality, the Municipal District are aware of the importance of cross border cooperation. After local elections both north and south a new BCEEPC committee has been formed. This committee is composed of 6 Erne East members, 5 Ballybay Clones MD members and 1 Monaghan MD member. The Ballybay Clones MD will continue to work with our partners in the North and Monaghan MD through the BCEEPC and look forward to developing further projects that will enhance the area both North and South.



### Clones Town Team

Clones Town Team continued to have great success in 2019. They successfully applied for funding from Healthy Ireland Fund for Exercise equipment at the Barry McGuigan Park. The Town Team developed a Heritage Map which has proven extremely popular with both locals and visitors to the town.

They have also launched a new community website for the Town.

[www.clones-ireland.com](http://www.clones-ireland.com). The teams latest project is the development of a new Interactive Heritage Tour, using the latest Geo Location software and QR codes this unique plan will offer self-guided tours of the historic Town of Clones. This is due to be launched in April 2020. They have also secured funding of €30,000 from Leader to develop a Heritage and Economic Plan for



Clones Town, with work to begin on that project in March.



Clones Town Team received national recognition for their hard work by achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Bank of Ireland 2019 Rising Star Award.

### Ballybay Town Realm Plan

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District in conjunction with Ballybay Regeneration Committee were delighted to launch the Public Realm and Economic Plan for Ballybay. This Plan will deliver a range of benefits for the Community and Council, providing a clear vision for the development of the town in the short, medium and long term. The Plan will ensure that the town of Ballybay is in a strong position to apply for various tranches of funding as they arise over the coming years. The Public Realm Plan captures a vision for Ballybay, which is distinctively rooted in its sense of place – its people, culture, and heritage.



### Annual Events

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District once again supported the local communities in the organisation of local events such as St Patricks Day and Christmas Events. The MD would like to thank all the volunteers, local community groups, Chamber of Commerce and those on the Community Employment Scheme for their hard work in making these events such a success.



# The Municipal District of Monaghan

## Retail Strategy for the Town/District - Town Team

The members of Monaghan Municipal District have committed to continuing to support the position of Town Centre Co-ordinator. The following was achieved in 2019:

### Monaghan Town Voucher

The Monaghan Town Voucher had sales of €777,800 during Christmas 2019. Redemptions for the year totaled €745,791.

### Green Space Initiative

The Green Space in front of the Courthouse was a new initiative for 2019. The project aimed to increase engagement with voluntary groups, activate town center space and encourage greater dwell time in the town center. During the project the team worked with 12 different groups to run activities on the space.

### BOI Enterprise Towns

Monaghan Town Team submitted an application to the BOI Enterprising Town Awards 2019. The judging was on 9<sup>th</sup> September and the team prepared a presentation highlighting how the local authority, community, education and business sectors work together to develop and deliver projects to enhance Monaghan Town and District.



National Enterprise Town Awards 2019

### Retail Committee Monaghan

Monaghan Town Retail team completed a variety of projects throughout the year focused on retention of economic spend.

A traders workshop was delivered that focused on getting ready for Christmas and Peak Trade. This proved to be a very worthwhile workshop with twenty traders attending.

### Monaghan Food Network

**Top Foodie Destination** - Once again, the Food Network has overseen Monaghan & Glaslough being designated as one of the Top RAI Food Destinations in Ireland. Monaghan Food Network has worked hard throughout the year to promote Monaghan as a Foodie Destination through the creation of a themed Calendar of Events called “**Monaghan Taste Club**”. The events are held to highlight locally sourced produce, increase footfall into Monaghan town and surrounding areas midweek and to build Monaghan’s Reputation as a Food destination.



Foodie Destination Judges visit Rossmore Forest Park 2019

### Cottage Market

The Cottage Market is now a permanent fixture in the town held on the last Friday of every month.

### Rossmore Giants Trial

A second giant, Big Ross and his feet, were put in place this year in the new play park. The vision is for a trial of nine giants throughout the park. The third and fourth giants will be installed in early 2020. This project is being supported by Monaghan Tourism Section and Monaghan MD in a collaborative effort to develop a regional

visitor attraction for the town, district & county.



Big Ross, Rossmore Forest Park 2019

#### Year-round Promotion via numerous platforms

Activities included:

- General town promotion and coordination of events.
- Maintaining the 'Monaghan Has It' Web Site and promoting Monaghan in the digital marketing world.
- Creation of social media profile for the Food Network through the Taste of Monaghan website which has been redesigned and branded.
- Promotional videos for the town and district have proved very effective with large hit numbers noted.

#### Grow Remote

Monaghan Town Team are working in collaboration with Enterprising Monaghan and Grow Remote (National organisation) to deliver a certified Remote Working training course. This course completed its inaugural intake and finished on the 4th October. It is hoped that Enterprising Monaghan will be moving forward with a new intake in the new year.

#### Car Parking

The Municipal District continues to operate the pay parking for Monaghan Town. The Municipal District operated a free Christmas parking campaign, which commenced after 12 noon each day, from 9<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

## **Community**

#### Tidy Towns

Again, the local villages and town achieved high results in the National Tidy Towns awards 2019.

A super year for Glaslough as they scooped the overall award as Ireland's Tidiest Town and Village. Monaghan Town again increased their marks and are just a few points short of the gold.

#### Mural/ Wallart

This was another new initiative led by Tidy Towns and the Town Team. Work was completed on the Wallart at St Enda's, Broad Road that highlights local Flora in Sliabh Beagh and act as a Gateway to one of Monaghan's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is the first art piece that is part of a long term project to put a wallart trail around the town.

#### Ulster Canal Greenway

Public Meetings took place on the proposed 22km extension to the Ulster Canal Greenway in October in various locations. The Municipal District continues to maintain and trim verges on the existing Greenway.

#### Community Grants

The Municipal District held the annual Community Grant Awards presentation evening on 29<sup>th</sup> April. 84 grants were issued to groups in the Monaghan Municipal District.



Community Awards Presentation Night  
Historic Structures Fund 2019 - Belgium Park Football Field



### [Historic Structures Fund 2019 - Belgium](#)

#### [Park Football Field](#)

The MD secured a heritage grant of €15,000 and commenced works to restore the boundary masonry heritage wall along the football field, This is the first phase of works.



### [Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019](#)

The installation of Playground and Adult Gym Equipment at Oriel Park, Emyvale and Village Enhancement works at Glaslough will take place Q1 2020.

## **Events**

### [St. Patrick's Day Parade](#)

The theme for this year's parade was **Health & Wellbeing** which was led by St Patrick.

The Monaghan Municipal District set up the 2019 Committee and organised the Parade and the day's events. Many thanks to all who helped with the planning, promotion and management of the Parade.

### [Monaghan Stages Rally](#)

28<sup>th</sup> April 2019, A very successful stages rally drew a large crowd and participants to the Monaghan area, based in the courthouse car park.

### [Treanor Clan Gathering](#)

A very successful first Treanor Clan Gathering was held in Monaghan Town during May with over 130 travelling from overseas participating in events over four days.

### [Canada Day](#)

The annual celebration of Canada Day, 1st July was held in Church Square with a good crowd in attendance for the official Flag Raising Ceremony. Also, on the day Silverhill Farm hosted Monaghan's inaugural Fittest Company Day in Rossmore Forest Park and Blasta hosted the world record at Peter's lake for the longest line of Tacos in association with Jigsaw, Youth Mental Health Group.

### [Monaghan Town Country Music Festival](#)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sun 21<sup>th</sup> July. Another very successful country music festival held on the street in the Diamond that is organised by a voluntary committee that brought a great atmosphere to the town for the whole weekend.

### [Harvest Time Blues Festival](#)

The Harvest Time Blues Festival took place from the 6th to 10th September.

### [Taste of Monaghan](#)

Taste of Monaghan restructured this year from a 3-day festival to a one-day event held on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The event had Food Demonstrations throughout the day and 44 exhibitors spaced throughout the Diamond and Church Square.

### [Back to Back Marathon](#)

Monaghan Phoenix, Back to Back Marathons was a huge success with over 500 participating over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

### [Haunting of Rossmore Park](#)

The Friends of Rossmore Forest Park organised a very successful Haunting of Rossmore Park. This year's event was over two nights 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October, tickets sold out with over 2000 people attending.

### [Halloween Festival](#)

The annual free family event with a fireworks display was held at the shopping centre with a funfair in the Lower Courthouse carpark.

### [Christmas Lights Switch on](#)

This year's event took place on the 24th of November. The Christmas light switch on event is viewed as a family evening and the start of the Christmas period in the town.

## **Promotion & Town Enhancement**

### [Monaghan Town Heritage Walking Tours](#)

Walking Tours continued every Saturday at 11am from Easter through to the end of September. Walks were free to join and started from the Westenra hotel.

### [Dublin Street Regeneration](#)

Monaghan County Council lodged an Application for funding in respect of Dublin Street to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund. The Application is intended to develop Residential, Retail and Office Development together with Municipal Car Parking on both sides of Dublin Street. Decision is due at end of November.

### [Monaghan Town Dereliction](#)

The Municipal District is working with the Economic Development section to reduce dereliction in the town. A number of derelict sites have been acquired under the Derelict Sites Act.

### [Rossmore Forest Park](#)

Monaghan Municipal District continue to manage the recreational element of the Park.

- Annual maintenance works were carried out, grass cutting, path repairs and cutting back of vegetation along walks. Minor repairs carried out to the toilet block and a number of picnic benches replaced.
- The €301,000 Peace IV funded and €145,000 local authority match funded from the MD allocation, play park was completed in the Park with the official opening held on 20<sup>th</sup> May. This was managed by the Tourism Section and assisted by the

MD. This new regional play area has been attracting great crowds to the park all summer.

- An Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme grant of €426,000 and local authority match funding of €105,000 from the MD Allocation was secured to complete infrastructural works in the park. These works are currently at tender stage and are planned to be completed in Q1 2020.
- The Friends of Rossmore Forest Park continue to operate their Facebook page with a great interest in the park. The group organised a Spring Clean in April and organised the Haunting of Rossmore Park for the third time this October. The Municipal District work closely and assist the group with activities.
- The Park Runs are held there every Saturday at 9:30am from the main car park, organised by the Monaghan Town Runners.

### [Road Infrastructure Works](#)

- 11km of Local roads and 1.1km of Regional Roads were overlaid under the 2019 Road Restoration program.
- 16km of Local Roads and 4.5km of Regional Roads were surfaced dressed under the 2019 Restoration Maintenance programme.
- Approximately 1.5km of footpath was replaced/repared within the District.
- National Road drainage rehabilitation was carried out on the N12 at Tyholland.
- Verge Trimming on National Roads. Two verge grass cuts were completed included litter removal in 2019.
- The Municipal District also completed a program of hedge cutting works on their own property and in strategic locations within the District.
- Low Cost Safety Schemes.

- Hedges were removed to improve the sight visibility splays at a junction at Straghan on the LP1220 Monaghan to Glaslough Road.
- Local Link bus stop signs were erected at all stops on routes within the District. Additional 30km/hr Speed limit signs were erected in housing estates recently taken in charge.
- Re-alignment works were completed on a section of the R213 at Killyneill.
- Winter Maintenance program commenced on 14th October 2019 and will continue until 27th April 2020.
- Surfacing of N54 from Coolshannagh Roundabout to Glaslough St. (Flacks Garage) was completed.
- The old Blackwater Bridge on the N2 at Coolshannagh (beside the Creamery) was demolished and a new bridge structure is under construction. Expected completion in Q2 2020.
- Road overlay scheme for the Monaghan N2 was completed at Clontibret.
- Re-alignment works on the N2 between Corracrin and Emyvale is progressing well and expected to be completed in Q1 2020.
- The N54 Tullybryan re-alignment project appraisal report has been submitted to TII for approval.
- Consultants have carried out a preliminary appraisal report for safety improvement works at Margaret Skinnider Roundabout on the N54.
- Substantial tree pruning was carried out in Beechgrove Lawns Housing Estate to facilitate pedestrian and vehicular safety concerns.

## Municipal District Meetings

The Municipal District hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. At our AGM meeting in June Cllr Sean Conlon was elected Cathaoirleach for one year. There were a number of other subcommittee meetings to discuss roads, budgets and other issues and programs in the district. The Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented and approved at the March Meeting.



# Museum

## Noel Breakey Museum Conservator 1959 – 2019

Everyone associated with Monaghan County Museum were deeply saddened and shocked to learn of the recent, untimely death of our friend and colleague, Noel Breakey. Noel had worked at Monaghan County Museum for 41 years. Over his remarkable career, which was defined by a dedication and love for the history and heritage of County Monaghan, he was an integral part of the literal and figurative building of the service to what it is today. He was the heart and the memory of the museum. His loss has left a void which will never be filled but also a memory, which will always be cherished by those who knew and loved him.



## Chambers Ireland Awards

*The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War* has become Monaghan County Museum's most successful exhibition in its 45 year history. The success of this stunning display was added to recently when Monaghan County Museum was recognised for its ground breaking exhibition at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The museum won in a category which was loaded with numerous excellent projects from around the country focussed on our national heritage. Nonetheless, this multi award winning service beat off very stiff competition to reaffirm its credentials as

one of the finest cultural services in the country.



## Peace Campus

Monaghan County Council received confirmation in December 2018 from the SEUPB that they had been successful in their application towards capital funding for the new Peace Campus project in Monaghan Town. The Campus will include a new purpose built museum including staff offices and collection storage. The museum has been working with all of the relevant stakeholders, including the Ulster Scots Agency, as we begin the planning for the new museum displays and programmes. This will be a new page in the history of Monaghan County Museum and the new facilities at the Peace Campus will allow us to reach a much wider audience as well as facilitate a number of major joint projects with the other services within the Peace Campus including the Library and Youth Services.

## Museum Events Programme 2019

The events programme for 2019 was a huge success. Some of the highlights of this year's programme included the launch of the Monaghan War of Independence Files as a unique online resource with over five hundred pages of fascinating first-hand accounts of what life was like in Monaghan during those turbulent years. The stories were recorded for the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rising in 1966 and later donated to the museum.

Culture Night saw a very rare set of Uilleann

pipes which date to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and belonged to the third Lord Rossmore being played for the first time in over a century. The pipes, which were donated by the current Lord Rossmore were conserved thanks to funding from Creative Ireland and were played as part of a celebration of local musical culture on the night.

### **Presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht**

The Curator, in his role as the current Chair of the Local Authority Museums Network, which is the representative body for all of the local authority museums in the state, made a presentation recently to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht along with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland, The Chair of the Irish Museums Association and the CEO of the Heritage Council on the theme of developing the network of regional museums in the country.

### **P38 Lightning Excavation**

The museum maintained its working relationship with Queens University as another excavation linked to the nationally acclaimed and award winning exhibition; *The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War* took place in 2019. The exhibition, which has attracted recorded attendance figures for the museum was based on an earlier excavation when an RAF Spitfire crashed landed in North Monaghan. Another story from the display is that of an American Airforce P38 Lightning, which crashed landed just south of Castleblayney in 1942. Along with Queens University, the RAF Benevolent fund and aviation archaeologist Jonny McNee, the museum conducted a number of geophysical survey of the P38 crash site to determine exactly how much of the plane is still under the earth. These surveys, which were funded through the Creative Ireland initiative were carried out with the help of secondary students from schools in Monaghan and

across the border in Derry. The P38 Lightning was the most advanced warplane of its age, when it met its end in a field in County Monaghan. The excavation found a number of key components of the plane and they were added to the *Monaghan Spitfire* Exhibition.



### **Friends of Monaghan County Museum behind the scenes at the National Museum of Ireland**

The Friends of Monaghan County Museum are a very active organisation and along with supporting the museum, they also organise trips to sites or places of historical interest and importance. One such visit happened quite recently when members of the group visited the National Museum of Ireland. They were first treated to a guided tour of some of the remarkable riches of our archaeological past by the Keeper of Irish Antiquities, Maeve Sikora. Following this, they paid a visit to the conservation labs of the National Museum. As they moved through the various labs, they learned about the conservation techniques connected with everything from ancient bog butter to Spanish Armada siege cannons. The tour is part of a range of events organised by the Friends through the museum and aids with developing professional relationships with a whole range of museum related sites and organisations as well as an opportunity to meet new people and have some fun.

# Library Service

## Cultural Team

### Creative Ireland Programme



Monaghan County Council's Culture and Creativity Strategy programme continued throughout 2019. The strategy is based on a collaborative and partnership-based programme, which will enable greater awareness of and participation in the cultural life of the County. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht issued grants totalling €142,000 to Monaghan County Council to support the 2019 programme.

#### Highlights in 2019;

- JJ Clarke Photographic Exhibition and Lecture Series
- Black Pigs Dyke Project
- Appointment of Writer in Residence
- Free Market – Venice Biennale

### Culture Night 2019



This was the 4th year for the County Council to coordinate Culture Night,

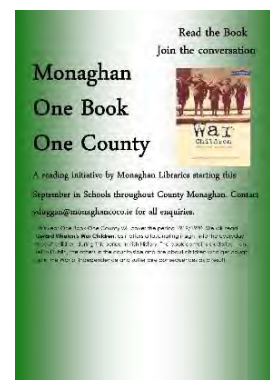
an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. This year, it took place on Friday 20th September with venues across County Monaghan opening late with a host of free events. The feedback from the attendees was extremely positive. The profile of Culture Night within the county continues to grow, with a wide range of cultural centres and organisations participating on the night. The County Council received €6,500 funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

### Library Services

#### One Book One County Programme

In 2019 the Library Service continued to coordinate the *One Book One County* reading programme as part of the Decade of Commemorations.

Each year, one book is chosen which relates to early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Irish History; schools and the general public are invited to read the book and participate in supporting events. Primary schools across the county participated in the programme,



which involved pupils reading *War Children*, by Gerard Whelan, set during the War of Independence. The students then discussed the themes of the book and took part in a series of workshops and re-enactments.



### Europe Direct Information Centre

In 2019 Clones Library completed its second year as the Europe Direct Information Centre, (EDIC), for the Cavan/Monaghan/Louth region.

EDICs give information, advice, assistance



and answers to questions about the EU and the rights of EU citizens, the EU's priorities, legislations, policies, programmes and funding opportunities. The service provided valuable information to citizens in advance of the European elections, which took place in May 2019.

The EDIC receives annual funding of €31,000 from the European Commission to support the service provided and to cover the cost of annual event programming.

#### **What services are provided at the Europe Direct Centre in Clones Library?**

- A selection of free EU publications and brochures covering a wide range of EU related topics.
- Free public computers to search for specific information about EU related matters.
- Free public telephone where you can call the Europe Direct Citizen's Helpline with queries on any aspect of the EU that are of interest to you: **0080067891011**.
- Promotional events, including the annual Soapbox debating challenge and a Citizens Dialogue event on Brexit in the Creighton Hotel.

You can email the EDIC at [eudirect@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:eudirect@monaghancoco.ie) or contact the service via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ClonesEDIC/>

#### **Monaghan Makers**

The roll out of the Monaghan Makers Project was completed in 2019. The project was funded through a grant of €100,000 awarded under Peace IV. This service was aimed at young people and provided access to a wide range of IT resources to assist in the development of digital literacy and design skills. This imaginative project was extremely successful, with all participants providing very positive feedback on their experience.



#### **Services for Marginalised Communities**

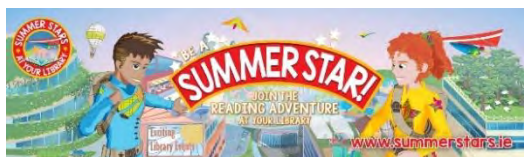
In May 2019 the Department of Rural and Community Development announced funding of €650,000 through the Dormant Accounts Fund, to support the development of service programmes tailored to the needs of marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities; as highlighted in the new public library strategy, *Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities*.

The strategy focuses on removing barriers to access and improving accessibility, with a specific focus on communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged.

Monaghan County Library was successful in its proposal to develop a programme of cultural events and learning opportunities for residents in St Patricks Accommodation Centre, which took place from September to December 2019.

The overall programme cost was €21,000, a grant of €15,750 was provided by the DRCD.

## Summer Stars Summer Reading Adventure



The annual Summer Stars Reading Adventure was launched in all five branch libraries in June 2019. The programme is open to all children and is designed for all reading abilities, encouraging children to continue to read over the period of the summer holidays. Participating children were awarded with a certificate and medal at presentation ceremonies held in each branch library. In all, 1,157 children took part in the reading adventure.

In addition, the library service coordinated an extensive activity-based programme of events for all children and young people to engage in; from the Big Bear Planetarium Visit, WeDo Lego workshops, BrickFlicks and Podcasting workshops, movie book clubs, Mad Professor workshop; to numerous creative and making workshops.

In all, 61 events took place over the summer, attended by 1,128 children.

## Monaghan/Cavan Science Festival

This award-winning festival ran for its 4<sup>th</sup> year from 9<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November across counties Monaghan and Cavan, led by the Monaghan County Library Service. The festival is supported by funding of €30,000 from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), to coordinate and organise events taking place across the two counties to promote science, technology, engineering and maths.



The festival steering Committee, chaired by Deirdriu McQuaid, Senior Executive

Librarian, and made up of staff from both Monaghan and Cavan County Councils, works tirelessly to ensure the success of this ambitious event, which showcases some of the best national and international scientists, researchers, speakers and artists. The festival programme was designed to stimulate interest, excitement and debate about STEM or indeed STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Maths) through accessible and entertaining interactions with the public.

### Website:

[www.cavanmonaghsciencefestival.ie](http://www.cavanmonaghsciencefestival.ie)

## Children's Book Festival

Monaghan County Library's annual Children's book festival took place in October 2019. Over the week of the festival, libraries hosted a series of workshops, facilitated by renowned authors, illustrators and storytellers. The aim of the festival is to inspire and engage children and young people in reading, writing, and the creative arts. Feedback from schools has been extremely positive, with requests for more similar programming to support the school curriculum.

## Right to Read Programme

The key objective of this programme to bring together the existing knowledge and experience of skilled staff in local authority services and other agencies to deliver literacy support in the County. Right to Read complements and supports existing national literacy strategies and initiatives, including the Department of Education and Skills' National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

The programme is focussing initially on support for children and families but will broaden year on year to cover all aspects of literacy need in the County.



*Mr. Seán Canney T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, presented Catherine Elliott, County Librarian, with the Right to Read Champion Award at a ceremony in Dublin on 17 October.*

The successful delivery of all elements of the Initiative resulted in Monaghan County Council qualifying for the title of **Right to Read Champion for 2018**. The Right to Read certificate was awarded to the service in October 2019

### Healthy Ireland Initiative

A grant of €3,000 was allocated in 2019 by Department of Rural and Community Development to Monaghan County Library to promote the Healthy Ireland Phase 3



Campaign through the library service network. €1,500 was for the purchase of book display units and €1,500 used for event programming. The programme is running from September 2019 to May 2020.

### 'My Open Library' Services

Monaghan County Council's first My Open Library service was launched in Carrickmacross in May 2019. The service provides adult customers (or those over sixteen with parental consent) with extended access to services from 8 am to 10 pm, seven days a week, through a combination of staffed and unstaffed hours. The extended service has proved to be

particularly useful for students preparing for examinations, providing day long access to self-service WIFI and printing/copying facilities.

Funding for the provision of additional My Open Library services across the country was announced in September 2019. Monaghan County Library was successful in obtaining €96,000 funding for Clones Library. The works on the branch are due to be completed in May 2020.



# County Heritage Office

In 2019, the Heritage Office continued to implement the County Monaghan Heritage Plan, and Biodiversity Plan, to advise the local authority regarding heritage policy and practice, and to liaise closely with the Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding national policy implementation at a local level.

There are three staff in the Heritage Office – Heritage Officer, Sliabh Beagh Site Co-ordinator, and an Assistant Staff Officer.

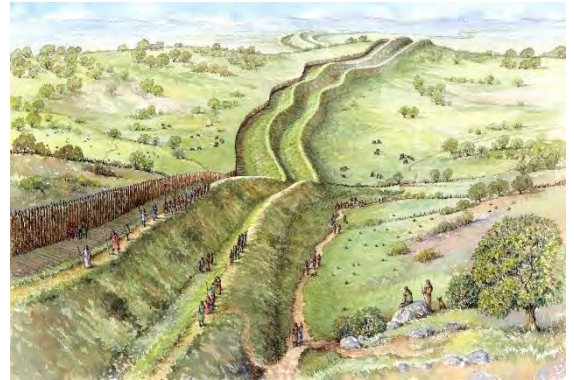
## 1. FUNDING

Funding was received from several sources - the Heritage Council, Creative Monaghan, National Parks and Wildlife, and Interreg V for the Collaborative Action for Natura Network project.

## 2. RESEARCH

[Black Pig's Dyke Archaeological Monograph](#) – the research archive from 1982 onwards has been assessed and catalogued, and the manuscript chapters drafted and submitted to the peer reviewer. This will be printed in 2020 by publisher Wordwell as an archaeological monograph. New reconstruction illustrations of the monument are completed. An archaeological geophysical survey discovered what appears to be a bronze age village in the vicinity of the Black Pigs Dyke.

Archaeologist Aidan Walsh led a guided walk “Digging up the past – the 1982 excavation” along the Black Pigs Dyke on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August, for Heritage Week describing the background and context to the 1982 excavation, and the more recent findings from 2015 onwards.



*By Philip Armstrong of Paint the Past*

The *Hidden Monuments – Black Pigs Dyke* show by Siobhan McDonald in the Market House, Monaghan ran through the Summer months including during Heritage Week. This mixed media installation included reference to the burnt palisade, charcoal remains, climate change and the iron age, hidden monuments below the surface that can appear like latent effects, and a sound recording and composition made on the section at Aghareagh West by composer David Stalling. Reviews for the show were excellent. The show was funded through Creative Ireland to complement the research project funded by the Heritage Council.

## 3. POLICY

### [Sustainable Cultural Tourism](#)

The Heritage Officer was chairperson of the European Union Open Method of Coordination group on Sustainable Cultural Tourism, where one specialist from each member state contributes to a report and recommendations on an emerging topic. The report newly defines Sustainable Cultural Tourism as “the integrated management of cultural heritage and tourism activities in conjunction with the local community creating social, environmental and economic benefits for all stakeholders, to achieve tangible and intangible cultural heritage conservation and sustainable tourism development”. The Tin Church in Laragh is one of the case studies examined as part of the process. The Heritage Officer presented the report to

the Council of the European Union Cultural Affairs Committee in Brussels in December 2020.

#### [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#)

The County Monaghan Heritage Forum recommended that the AIPP be adopted by Monaghan County Council. At the full council meeting on 13.05.2019, the elected members agreed that Monaghan County Council become an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner.

#### [Heritage Ireland 2030](#)

Public consultations were organised in Monaghan by the Heritage Office to enable submissions to the new National Heritage Plan. Submissions to the national plan were made by Monaghan County Council and the Monaghan Heritage Forum through the heritage office.

#### [Monaghan County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan](#)

The draft plan was presented to the Monaghan Heritage Forum for discussion in December. Public consultation on this draft will be held in early 2020.

#### [Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands book](#)

This book was published by the Heritage Office in 2019, as volume 1 of the new Monaghan Heritage series. It is a natural and cultural exploration of wetlands in the county, featuring art by local artists and written by Dr Peter Foss and Shirley Clerkin.

## **4. OUTREACH**

In 2019, we placed specific focus on biodiversity and pollination which has increased engagement and actions by the community in Monaghan in these areas.

#### [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#)

Since the adoption of the plan in May,

training activities have taken place for the public to promote the role and protection of pollinators. The various services with the council are changing management practices, including a ban on glycosphate and the selection of areas to convert to species rich meadows.

#### [Biodiversity Week, May 2019](#)

To promote public engagement with biodiversity and enable non-governmental groups to engage with new audiences, public events were organised. The Dawn Chorus event with Birdwatch Ireland at Rossmore Park, Monaghan introduced people to the early sounds of woodland and garden birds. An evening Bat Walk with Bat Conservation Ireland at Lough Muckno, Castleblayney brought people in close contact with the echolocation calls and movements of our protected bats. Butterfly training on Sliabh Beagh, north county Monaghan with the National Biodiversity Data Centre aimed to assist citizens to accurately identify butterflies and upload their records to the national database. A wildflower walk with the BSBI recorder for County Monaghan looked at species rich grasslands in the Carrickmacross area.

#### [Wonderful Wetlands Workshops](#)

Monaghan County Council Heritage Office was awarded funding through the National Biodiversity Action Plan to engage communities about the value of Monaghan's wetland biodiversity, to encourage the adoption of wetland sites by these communities. Three full-day community workshops, one for each municipal district were led by ecologists with experience of community engagement and education. The lead ecologist was Billy Flynn of Flynn Furney who worked with Olivia Johnson, artist for the interpretation element. 57 people attended the workshops. The workshops were conducted in a practical manner in the field, using techniques such as hand drawing maps, counting number of species, plant

identification using specially produced wetland species ID cards. Those present gained a good understanding of the ecological mechanics of their site, key species and interactions and broad conservation principles.



*Dragonfly identification at Ballybay wetlands*

**School workshops** were held with primary schools in the Castleblayney area to engage 150 pupils with the importance of bee species for pollination and how to deliver local Pollinator Plans for their schools. The Irish Wildlife Trust delivered these.

In August, we held a **Dragonfly identification workshop** in the Ballybay Wetlands Centre in conjunction with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Several dragonfly and damselfly species were identified and recorded onsite. These species are important water quality and habitat indicators as they spend their juvenile stages as water nymph.

#### [Biodiversity during Heritage Week, Monaghan](#)

Over forty events took place during Heritage Week. Key biodiversity events organised by the Heritage Section included the **Wild Child Day** in Rossmore Park. Over 250 children attended despite the disappointing weather and took part in macro-invertebrate sampling from the river, electrofishing, nature walks, bee workshops and art nature workshops.

A **Water and River Day** was held in Emyvale with the River Trust with our support where young people once again had the

opportunity to learn about this natural habitat and supported species.

A **Rare Bird identification** talk and walk was held with the Golden Eagle Trust on Sliabh Beagh, our Special Protection Area for the Hen Harrier.



*Birdwatching on Sliabh Beagh.*

#### [BIODIVERSITY EVENT STATISTICS:](#)

Number of biodiversity events/days held:  
10

NGOs engaged to build audience and volunteers: 6

Other agencies (LAWCO, NBDC, IFI): 3

#### [Heritage Week 2019](#)

Over forty events took place during Heritage Week. We printed a pocket-sized events programme using the Heritage Council Heritage Week branding. We assisted the public with online registration and logistics and organised 20 events through the heritage office.

The **Traditional Skills Day** in Monaghan town was specifically developed to tie in with the theme of Past Times, featured craft demonstrations – basket making, wood turning, blacksmithing, hay rope making, Carrickmacross lace and storytelling.



## HERITAGE WEEK STATISTICS

Attendance numbers at the following heritage week events:

Event	Venue	Participants
Mousewood Graveyard plaque	Belgium Square	300+
Poll na Aifrinn	Sliabh Beagh	22
Across Africa	Iontas/Garage	20
Bat Walk & Talk	Muckno Gate Lodge	46
History in 10 things	Libraries	90
Bragan Bus Tour	Bragan	30
Monaghan Rare Birds	Sliabh Beagh	23
Clones Beginners Lace	Muckno Gate Lodge	8
DVD Black 47	Workhouse	83
Wild Child Day	Rossmore Park	250+
Mullyash Cairn Walk	Mullyash	19
Drawing on Our Heritage	Museum	10
Old Traditional Skills Day	Old Cross Square	60
Mullan Factory Tours	Mullan	40
Corduff Ramble	Corduff	60
St Patricks Church Service	St Patricks Church	29
Graveyard Tour	Coolshannagh	32
Irish Traditional Cures	Carrickmacross Library	54
Bessmount House	Monaghan	102
Tyrone Guthrie Centre	Annaghmakerrig	42
Make a Splash	Emyvale Mountain Water	85
Laragh Savages	Laragh	140
Castle Leslie	Glaslough	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>1405</b>

Overall, more than 1705 people participated in heritage events organised by Monaghan County Council in 2019.

### [Local Authority Heritage Officer Network](#)

The Heritage Officer continued to chair this network in 2019 and gave presentations to the Heritage Council, national agencies, universities and others.

## 5. CONSERVATION

### Collaborative Action for the Natura Network

The Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) is an INTERREG VA funded project led by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. The consortium also consists of Monaghan County Council; the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI); Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust; Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council; East Border Region, Golden Eagle Trust; the Institute of Technology Sligo; Scottish Natural Heritage; Ulster University and Ulster Wildlife.

The project aims to strengthen cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected habitats and priority species and meet the targets of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. This will be achieved through development of Conservation Action Plans/Species Action Plans, direct conservation work at protected sites, development of best practice guidance and, communication and outreach programmes. The protected habitats as prioritised through INTERREG VA include alkaline fens, blanket bog, active raised bog, marl lakes, calcareous fens and transition mires/quaking bogs. The priority species include white-clawed crayfish, hen harrier, breeding waders (curlew, redshank, snipe), golden plover, and red grouse.

Sliabh Beagh is a large upland site contained within counties Monaghan, Fermanagh and Tyrone. Monaghan County Council is responsible for delivering direct conservation actions on this site. The actions include fire risk management, drain blocking, invasive species removal, and direct species actions. Conservation action plans (CAPs) are being drafted for the NI Special Area of Conservation and ROI Natural Heritage Area.

Monaghan County Council's partners AFBI have mapped Sliabh Beagh. This has allowed for the preparation of tenders to procure services to deliver these direct

conservation actions. These mapping exercises, along with considerable stakeholder engagement proceeded during 2019.

Sliabh Beagh was chosen as the location for a joint CANN-CABB project two-day event in September.

Nest protection activities were undertaken 2019 on the site, with an aim of improving the breeding success of the Hen Harrier. These activities have had a positive impact on the numbers of chicks produced.



***Devils-bit scabious, the food plant of the protected Marsh Fritillary Butterfly on Sliabh Beagh.***

# Arts Office

Monaghan County Council through its Arts Office supported and helped fund Arts projects in the County through The **Arts Partners Grant** scheme. A **total of €65,000** was invested in 2019 in the Projects listed below.

- The Garage Theatre
- Clones Film Festival
- Castleblayney Arts Centre
- Patrick Kavanagh Weekend
- Castleblayney Drama Festival
- Feile Patrick Byrne
- Scoil Cheoil na Botha
- Muckno Mania
- Ballybay Community Arts Programme

Many of the above listed Partners fulfill a year long programme of arts events while others run successful arts festivals that copper fasten the clear mandate that the council encourages in aligning community participation with the task of presenting high quality arts projects within their respective areas. **The Arts Council** also recognises the work and quality of programming our county partners achieve and fund 4 of them with a combined sum of around €45K.

Supporting Artists in their respective endeavors is a key feature of the council delivery of and support of the Arts in the county. Through our **Artists' support scheme** MCC awarded a total of **€6,550.00** to our native Artists in 2019. **9 Artists** were awarded sums ranging from €400 - €900 covering Arts practices in Filmmaking, Music, Literature and the Visual Arts from sculpture to painting and audio-visual.

Three mile stone projects of **international** and **national** standing that the council through its Arts office and in partnership with the **Arts Council** and **Creative Ireland** delivered in 2019: The primary creative force behind each one of these projects was

the respective Artist and all 3 of them are natives of the county.

**Declan Gorman's** *theatre artist in residence* in conjunction with **Iontas** and **Garage** arts centres - The artistic focus was the celebrated life and legacy of one of the town's greatest artists, the photographer **JJ Clarke**. Sites were reimagined by artists, actors and everyone of all ages joined in. Old photographs of **Castleblayney** came to life. Declan had been in residence over the previous 2 years where he scripted new work, piloted a community play and re-imagined the legacy of this historically significant artist.



<https://declangorman.com/>

**Siobhán McDonald** was commissioned in unison with the heritage section to delve deep into the creative and historically important site in the County called the **Black Pigs Dyke**. A truly inspirational response was created by the Artist which was titled "Hidden Monuments" the artist co-commissioned a filmmaker and composer to capture the sounds and feel of the area where this unique earthen works stands. The installation not only was housed in the Market House for 3 months where it captured the public imagination, but it also travelled to Limerick City Gallery where the conversation expanded beyond our county boundaries.





[www.suibhannmcdonald.com/commissions](http://www.suibhannmcdonald.com/commissions)

**Elsewhere** the self-titled project developed, composed and produced by one of Ireland's most imaginative composers **Michael Gallen**, a Castleblayney born artist. His composition was based on the historical incident of the "soviet style" lock-out led by Peadar O'Donnell at **St Davnet's** known as the Monaghan Asylum. This project had a germination period of a year which then led to both the French ensemble and the cast and crew from Ireland to a 2-week residency in **Castleblayney** where pupils and individual local musicians were granted both tuition and an audience with this world-class troupe.

We were very grateful to our **Music Generation** team who facilitated this part of the project. A final night to remember was staged on the 28<sup>th</sup> November at **Saint Maeldóid's Church** Castleblayney where the public got the opportunity to feast on the "world premier" of the performance piece.

<http://michaeljgallen.com/>



## The Market House

A venue owned and operated by Monaghan County Council, continues to be programmed hosting exhibitions, workshops, rehearsals, readings and concerts. It is used by a variety of groups both in the arts and civic purposes most evenings and over many weekends.

The space is also used by artists as a hub, assisting them with a place to develop their work and as a place to get administrative duties done.

### Some of the exhibitions we hosted in 2019:

Artist **Neal Greig** with his excellent Paintings entitled "A Portrait of Glaslough" - he had painted some local characters of this local Village. **Niamh O' Connor** together with other Visual Artists exhibited "Shifting Walls" in October/ November and the **Christmas exhibition** showcased here in for the month of December. Running alongside this Crafts Fair was the Fine Art Exhibition upstairs in the Gallery which included Paintings, Sculpture and Ceramics.



Great progress was done on the transformation of the "**Old Post office**" in **Clones** in transforming it into a working artist studio space. Artists collectives in the county will have a manageable and pleasant new working environment to deliver their creative practice. This project is being led and managed by the Clones/Ballybay MD.



Through this partnership we were fortunate to receive funding under the Peace IV programme in developing this project under the shared spaces element.

**Other projects** that we supported through the Arts Office included the workshops, rehearsals and the development of **Clan Lir Production** which were held here and then transferred to the Garage Theatre. This was a dance and movement production delivered by a young cast with mentoring from 2 creative directors from Monaghan. **Mná Muineachán** was a film and theatre production wholly developed and workshopped by TY students from Beech Hill College. Their final work was entered in Young Person's film festival.



Culture Night was on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September here in The Market House. It was great to be a part of this National Event and The Market House was certainly a great setting for it.



A truly engaging and international project visited **Castleblayney** in the summer in conjunction with the **Muckno Mania Festival**. The award winning FreeMarket architectural venture which was part of Ireland's Venice Biennale entrance had selected Castleblayney as one of the featured towns in Ireland. A celebration of Ireland's lost and significant rural town and their revival was the key message from this event.

<http://www.freemarket.ie/>

The **Music Generation** programme, successfully appointed a director and has started delivering on some of the early facets of the project in engaging children and young people through schools and existing music projects in the county as well as appointing a whole team of creative musicians who will deliver the programme. This will create increased access to high-quality, subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition for children and young people throughout the region and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of our young citizens.

[www.facebook.com/Musicgencavmon/](http://www.facebook.com/Musicgencavmon/)

Another pilot project we assisted was a few days of **filming on Bragan** where the storyline of the movie is Ireland's troubled past.



A joint feature project instigated this year which will culminate in a concert in the walled Garden of **Rossmore Park** in 2020 is entitled **Rossmore Pipes & Voices**, a music and heritage collaboration with the **Westenra Family** on the songs and music associated with the Rossmore Estate through the history of the **Uilleann Pipes** and their ownership of these UNESCO recognised instrument.

## Tourism Section

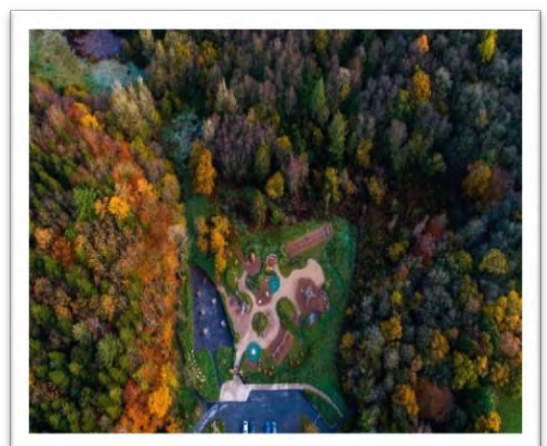
The Tourism Unit within Monaghan County Council implements the Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017 - 2022. The principal functions of the unit are:

- To raise customer awareness of the Monaghan area as a tourism destination
- To develop and contribute towards the development of the county's tourism product

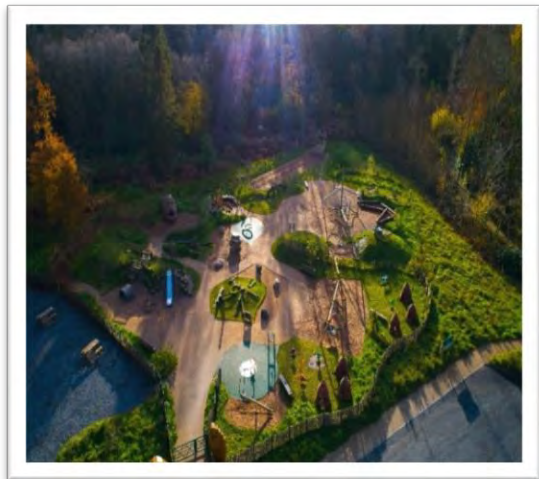
### 2019 Completed Tourism Development Projects

#### Rossmore Forest Park - Playpark

In May 2019, the new adventure playpark was officially opened in Rossmore. The playpark was funded under the PEACE IV Programme, with match funding from Monaghan MD. Footfall in the park has increased significantly since its opening and the park was shortlisted under 'Best Public Park' category in the LAMA and IPB awards. Collaboration with the Monaghan Town Team and a local sculptor resulted in the 'Big Ross' giant head and feet sculptures which add to the experience.







In January 2019, funding of €421K was received under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for the next phase of upgrade works. These will include:

- Improvements to the main car park
- Two new bridges
- A segregated footpath along the access road
- Digitising the trails for an app download
- Improvements to the Main Entrance
- Investment for 3 giant sculptures.

A Design team was appointed in March and after a tender process, a contractor was appointed for the works in November. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by end Q1 2020.

#### Patrick Kavanagh Centre

Under the Arts & Culture Capital Scheme, €188,000 was awarded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to completely refurbish St Mary's Church, Inniskeen where the Patrick Kavanagh Centre is based. In addition to this, funding of €198,645 was awarded by Failte Ireland to develop a new Visitor exhibition at the Centre. Works were completed at the end of December 2019 and the Centre is due to open in Q1 2020. The new exhibition uses interactive technologies to tell the story of Kavanagh and the heart of the exhibition is an evocative multi-media experience, featuring 10 key poems and highlighting the local landscape and sites that inspired him.



### **Tourism Development Projects progressed in 2019**

#### Carrickmacross Workhouse Interpretation

Under the Town & Village Renewal Funding 2018, MCC was awarded funding to develop a visitor interpretation experience at the Carrickmacross Workhouse. A Design team was appointed in June to deliver the project and several consultations and workshops have been held with the key stakeholders - Farney Community Development Group to agree the best approach to this sensitive project. Work is now well underway and the project is scheduled for completion by end April 2020.

#### Ulster Canal

The Tourism unit collaborated with Waterways Ireland in their pre-development works relating to the Clones Canal Terminus project.

#### Monaghan Destination Town Plan

The Paul Hogarth Company was contracted to develop a comprehensive report for Monaghan Town which sets out strategic plans for the development of Monaghan as a Destination Town. The plan's 21 Actions set out a broad range of opportunities for creative interventions across the town centre, including event spaces, interpretation and futureproofing strategies. Two priority actions were

identified and an application was submitted to Fáilte Ireland under the Destination Towns Funding Scheme which resulted in a grant offer of €497,962. The project will be progressed in 2020.

### Sliabh Beagh

The Tourism unit worked in collaboration with Ballybay-Clones MD and the Knockatallon Ramblers in working up key projects from the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan for submission under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme.

### **Tourism Promotion & Visitor Servicing**



### #MyMonaghan PR campaign

The **#MyMonaghan tourism campaign 2019** commenced in mid June and over the duration of the campaign, a total of 8 videos were released – 1 per week – highlighting key providers and experiences for visitors in the county. Tourism businesses that were featured included: Brehon Brewhouse, Swallow Studios, Irish Country Quads, Busy Bee Ceramics, Dromore River Canoes, Rally School Ireland, Blasta Street Kitchen and Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre.

The campaign was supported by interviews and ads on Northern Sound, Press Releases in the Northern Standard, mailshots to tourism trade, Monaghan alerts etc.

### Tourist Office

The Tourist office in the Market House in Monaghan was open from Easter to September 2019.

### Monaghan Literature/Promotional Material

The promotional suite of brochures for the county were all updated and redesigned with a fresh new look. These include the following:

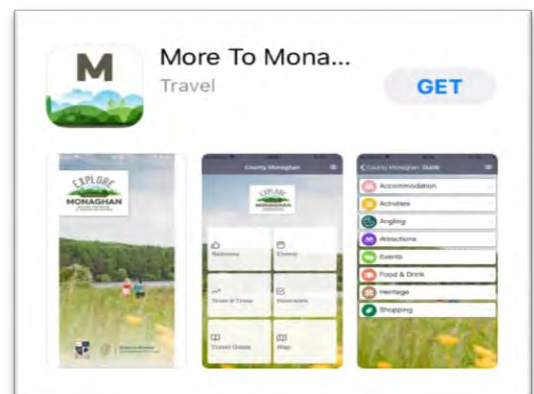
- Explore Monaghan A5 brochure
- Explore Monaghan Fold-out Map with listings
- Explore Monaghan Folder

In addition, a Calendar of Events 2019 was published and circulated (online & print).



### Tourism APP

A new tourism App for the County was officially launched in October 2019. This 'More to Monaghan' tourism App highlights all that is available to see and do in the county and will act as handy information tools for visitors looking for suggestions and recommendations.



### Trade Workshop

A *Developing Tourism Experiences in Monaghan* workshop, organised by the tourism unit and Monaghan LEO office was held in Concra Wood on 22 October. The main objectives of the workshop were to examine how to further enhance the tourism experiences and products currently offered in Co. Monaghan, and to explore where opportunities exist for businesses and tourism providers to network and work together to create new, visitor- focused experiences in the county.



## Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection

Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) Service provide a range of services for the citizens of Monaghan to ensure public safety. These services include Fire Safety and Building Control functions, that encompasses implementing the statutory requirements of the Building Regulations and Building Control Regulations, inspection of new and existing building stock for compliance with fire safety requirements, licensing of filling stations, inspection of licensed premises including pubs and clubs, advice and enforcement under the Fire Services Acts and the promotion of fire safety in the community. Operational services encompassing both Fire Service & Civil Defence include; responding to emergency calls, providing assistance to other emergency services, public safety and reviewing and enhancing Major Emergency Planning in consultation with the other Principal Response Agencies.

### Operations Section

Monaghan is served by five retained fire stations at Clones, Monaghan, Ballybay, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross providing an operational fire and emergency response service at all times.

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection were mobilised to 309 incidents in 2019 a 15% reduction on 2018. The reduction reflects the relatively normal weather.

The breakdown of total calls per station was as follows:

Fire Station	1 <sup>st</sup> Turn-out	2 <sup>nd</sup> Turn-out
Ballybay	23	6
Carrickmacross	61	0
Castleblayney	79	4
Clones	30	2
Monaghan	112	1



In 2019 the top five incident types attended by Monaghan Fire Service were road traffic collisions, fire alarm activations, domestic house fires, car/truck fires and tertiary fires (i.e. small fires/bin/skip).



**CFOA Conference 2019: Outdoor trade exhibition**

In May we hosted the Chief Fire Officers Conference for only the second time. The international guest speakers from Canada, Estonia, and UK offered an opportunity to broaden our knowledge.



**CFOA Conference 2019**

The Conference was opened by Heather Humphreys, TD, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation and also marked the launch of the Women's Fire Service Network In Ireland by Dany Cotton Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade.



**CFOA Conference 2019**

### Training

The 2019 training programme incorporated the completion of 'confined space' training and the first introduction to the new Hydra Command Development in Clonmel, offering a learning environment for reviewing and developing critical decision-making skills for fire personnel. Both Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT) and Emergency Service Driving Standard (ESDS) were also delivered in-house during 2019.



**Compartment Fire behaviour Training 2019**

The MoU with Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service for attendance to Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) in the border area has been substantially completed in 2019. The MoU sets out agreed geographical identifiers (townlands/roads) to secure the location of an RTA and the deployment of the nearest brigade.



**1916 Commemorative Medal Presentation in Monaghan**

### **Fire Safety - Fire Prevention**

Our Fire Prevention Section reviewed and processed all valid fire safety certificate applications received and provided advice on achieving compliance with Part B of the Building Regulations (Fire Safety). Fire safety inspections were extended to residential and carried out on a range of building types including; licensed premises, residential care homes, preschools, flats, petrol stations and community buildings.

A total of 198 Fire Safety & Building Control inspections were conducted in 2019, 51 planning referral reports completed. All notified licensing referrals for pubs, clubs, dances etc were assessed by a fire officer and recommendations provide to the Courts Service. Performance Inspections were carried out at 30 pubs/clubs by Station Officers and their crews locally at evenings/weekends around the county to check on fire safety management and ensure public safety.

### **Community Fire Safety**

A range of fire safety talks were delivered to schools and community groups. Smoke detectors were distributed as part of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and the key messages of Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and Fire Safety Week were promoted at local level and on social media. The Primary Schools Programme on home fire safety was delivered to all schools in the county. A fire safety awareness programme for the Traveller Community

was held in September 2019 in Gortakeegan, Monaghan.

### **Emergency Management**

Monaghan County Council completed a table-top and Live exercise in 2019. The exercise involved participation of local Principle Response Agencies (PRA's), PSNI, Municipal District, Roads, Environmental & Water Services, Fire Service & Civil Defence. The exercises tested the deployment of personnel, along with both on-site operational and off-site strategic control.



### **Major Emergency Management exercise November 2019**

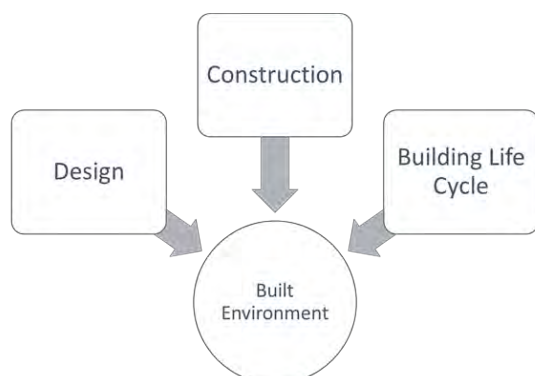
Major Emergency Management continues to be a priority item which requires inter-agency cooperation and continued education of the key stakeholders.

### **Building Control**

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 214 valid Commencement Notices in 2019, a reduction of 15% from 2018 and reflects both the uncertainty of Brexit and relatively low house building activity in Co. Monaghan. An inspection rate of 33% of new builds was achieved this year. In addition, there were 63 applications for Fire Safety Certificates and 28 Disability Access Certificate applications under Building Control legislation.

The level of one-off houses 'opting out' of statutory certification has remained relatively high. In opting out of the requirements for statutory certification the

homeowner is making the decision to refrain from having their dwelling included on the Certificate of Compliance on Completion register.



### Building Control Cycle

Building Control also held 1 No. workshops for local consultants and building contractors to provide information on the Building Control Management System, new Building Regulations and particularly the requirements for Near Zero Energy Buildings issued in 2019.

Surveillance of the Construction Product Regulations (CPR) in 2019 included a campaign on Wastewater Treatment works to promote compliance.

### Capital Investment

There was again significant Capital investment in MFCP during the year including:

- Delivery of a Turntable Fire-fighting Ladder (TFL) to replace the existing Hydraulic Platform.



### VEMA TFL Training

- Delivery of 2 No. 4x4 vehicles.
- Procurement of new Structural Fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The new PPE provides a significant increase in the level of protection to fire-fighters through its improved fabric against dermal absorption and dedicated care and maintenance program.

### Clones Crew with New PPE



- And the substantial construction of the new Fire Station in Castleblayney by Meegan Bros due for completion in April 2020.

### Personnel

In 2019 two fire-fighters were recruited to fill vacancies, maximising the fire-fighter compliment in Co. Monaghan.

### Health and Safety

The continuous annual auditing of our Safety Management System and securing OHSAS 180001 registration affirms Monaghan County Council commitment to Health & Safety. The migration process to ISO 45001 commenced in 2019 involving a review encompassing a more proactive and preventative approach based on remedying a broader range of risks before they materialise.

### Monaghan Civil Defence

In 2019 Civil Defence continued to build and develop a strong and responsive volunteer



Civil Defence Unit, providing assistance for local communities and supporting the front-line emergency services.

Monaghan Civil Defence is a volunteer-based organisation where members support the primary emergency services and the local community. Monaghan Civil Defence currently has 53 volunteers.



Civil Defence Search & Rescue 2019

### Training

Volunteers are multi-skilled and the main programmes of activities undertaken are:

- Casualty First Aid
- Search & Rescue
- Water & Flooding incidents
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Welfare and Communications
- Radiation Monitoring & Radio Communications



Civil Defence at Fire Aid Duty 2019

Courses were provided for volunteers throughout the year at Regional, local level and at Civil Defence Branch Headquarters in

Roscrea and Phoenix Training Centre, Phoenix Park, Dublin.



Civil Defence Boating Unit 2019

### Events

Monaghan Civil Defence assisted at 80 community and sporting events providing first aid cover, traffic control, stewarding. Monaghan Civil Defence also responded to other Civil Defence units who requested assistance during the year, (Slane Concert, Missing Person Searches & also community events.)

### Membership

The benefits of being a volunteer with Civil Defence include:

- High standard of training
- Personal development and teamwork
- Learning new skills such as Technical Rescue, Boat Training, Emergency First Responder
- Giving back to your community
- Getting involved in local and national events

### Capital Investment

The construction of the New Civil Defence HQ was substantially completed in 2019 by MOSS Construction Ltd and is anticipated to be officially opened in May of 2020.

## Fleet Procurement

Monaghan Civil Defence received delivery of a new Command & Control vehicle & also a new Ford Ranger 4x4 jeep.

## Water Services

Irish Water is responsible for the operation and maintenance of public water and wastewater services, including:

- Management of national water and wastewater assets;
- Maintenance of the water and wastewater system;
- Investment and planning;
- Managing capital projects; and
- Customer care and billing.

Monaghan County Council agrees a Service Plan each year with Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement. This Annual Service Plan commits both parties to deliver specific objectives and standards of performance against a budget covering headcount, goods and services and the Central Management Charge.

The Annual Service Plan ensures service continuity to the customer, provides value for money and meets targets set by the economic and environmental regulators - Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Initiatives necessary to achieve performance levels are dependent on capital investment by Irish Water and implementation by the Council of transformation initiatives. This performance is measured quarterly by Irish Water.

Under the Rural Water programme Monaghan County Council is the Water Services Authority in relation to the supervision of Group Water Schemes and small private water supplies under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014.

It also administers payment of grants and subsidies towards the running costs of Groups Water Schemes and grants to upgrade the assets of Group Water schemes, private water supplies - Well

Grants - and Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.

The section is also responsible for ensuring redundant water and waste water assets are supervised and maintained to ensure a clean, safe and sustainable environment. It also co-operates with the Council's Planning Section and government departments to supervise the upgrade and subsequent transfer to Irish Water of non-public water and waste water infrastructure within private developments.

In 2019, the Department announced a new scheme to invite funding bids for the sustainable resolution of any legacy Developer Provided Infrastructure issues in residential estates. Monaghan County Council has made an application in respect of four eligible estates under the terms of this scheme.

### Capital Investment Programme

The National Water Resources Plan is Irish Water's 25-year strategy to ensure a sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water supply for everyone. It sets out how the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term will be balanced. Local Authorities are integral to ensuring that the right data for water supply and demand is obtained. This is vital to enable supply of water to customers, and to plan into the future.

The National Water Resources Plan team met with Monaghan Local Authority staff from both water services and planning in 2019 to discuss future requirements in County Monaghan. Such feedback from Local Authorities is key to getting the most robust National Water Resources Plan possible based on the right data going in to the plan.

The Draft National Water Resources Plan shall go through a statutory public consultation process on the draft NWRP, associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS). This will be

published in 2020. For more information visit [www.water.ie/nwrp](http://www.water.ie/nwrp). Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme delivers improvements in drinking water quality, leakage, wastewater compliance, business efficiencies and customer service.

The following tables details projects currently ongoing and completed in Monaghan.

### Completed Projects 2019

Contract	Description of Works	Estimated Value
<b>Monaghan Import Upgrade Works</b>	The contract involves an upgrade to the existing inlet works for the delivery of water treatment sludges and landfill leachate and a new import facility for the receipt of primary wastewater sludges and domestic wastewater sludge for treatment within the plant	€574,000
<b>Monaghan &amp; Clones Watermain Rehabilitation Project</b>	Watermain Rehabilitation 9km	€6,100,000

### Mains Rehabilitation

In 2019, Monaghan County Council and Irish Water completed a significant program of mains rehabilitation throughout the county. The Water Services section liaised with the Municipal Districts to ensure these works were carried out to minimise disruption to



residents and local businesses. These works included:

- Replacement of 1145m of old pipe work on Main Street, Castleblayney to eliminate frequency of bursts. Together with installation of a new 360 m on Muckno Street, Castleblayney.
- Clones 613m on the Roslea water network was replaced.
- Cuchulainn Terrace, Carrickmacross – replacement of 270m of pipework.
- Tullynahinera, Castleblayney 657 m of poor quality 50mm Upvc pipe has been replaced.

### Monaghan Wastewater Treatment Plant Import Works Upgrade

The contract involved an upgrade to the existing inlet works for the delivery of water treatment sludges and landfill leachate and a new import facility for the receipt of primary wastewater sludges and domestic wastewater sludge for treatment within the plant. Along with improvements to screening facilities, the contract will enable the accurate logging of sludge volumes imported into the plant using automatic swipe card units at each of the discharge points.

Construction works were completed in 2019 at a cost of €574,000.



*Imports works upgrade Monaghan WWTP*

### Backyard Service Replacement

Irish Water replaced 82 lead service pipes in

O' Neill Park, Clones in 2019.

Back yard services in Magherarny, Smithboro have been replaced with new service lines and stopcocks in the footpath to the front of the properties. This work involved laying 100m of a new water supply line from the existing watermain to facilitate the new connections. Works are ongoing to replace similar back yard services in Belgium Park Monaghan Town.

### Projects at Substantial Completion

Contract	Description of Works	Estimated Value
<b>CBY WWTP Upgrade</b>	Full Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade of the existing plant. Installation of a new pumping station within the plant. Construction of a new picket fence thickener and construction of a new access road from Muckno St.	€4,400,000
<b>Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme – Kilkit Water Treatment Plant</b>	Upgrade works at the Kilkit Water Treatment Plant and Lough Bawn abstraction	€4,500,000

### Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant

The treatment plant servicing the Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme

completed construction at a cost of €4.5 million in 2019. The scheme supplies approximately 12,000 consumers in County Monaghan including Ballybay, Rockcorry and Castleballyne. This scheme is operated by Coffey Water and will be handed over to Irish Water Q1 2020.



*Upgrade works Killkitt Water Treatment Plant*

### **Castleblayney Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Construction of Castleblayney Waste Water Treatment Plant was completed at a cost of €4.4 million in 2019. The upgraded plant is fully compliant with EU Urban Wastewater Directives and ensures the continued protection of Lough Muckno.



*New Waste Water Treatment Plant Castleblayney – Cost €4.4m*

EPS Ltd will continue to operate the plant for a 12-month period until hand over to Irish Water in late 2020.

## **Future Capital Works**

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Description of Works</b>	<b>Estimated Value</b>
<b>Glaslough Mains Rehab Scheme</b>	Water mains renewal works carried out as part of Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.	€200,000
<b>CMX Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade</b>	Upgrade to intake works and installation of outfall pipe.	€1,500,000

### **Glaslough Mains Rehabilitation**

Works on upgrading water mains in Glaslough Village will commence in early 2020. Irish Water has undertaken significant consultation with residents and business owners to minimise disruption during works. Upon completion the local community will benefit from provision of a more safe and secure water supply, improved water quality and reduced leakage.

### **Carrickmacross Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade**

Construction of a new 3.3 km final effluent pipeline extending from the Waste Water treatment plant to the Longfield River. The works also involve upgrade to elements of the existing waste water treatment plant – including new final effluent and inlet pumping stations and new access road off Oriel Road. These upgrade works will improve operational performance and compliance with statutory legislation.

Construction is likely to commence in 2022.

### **Rural Water Programme**

The Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan is administered by Monaghan County Council. The programme provides measures to address deficiencies in:

- Group Water Schemes
- Group Sewerage Schemes
- Private Supplies where no alternative group or public supply is available.

Annual subsidies are administered by Monaghan County Council towards the cost of providing domestic water to Group Water Schemes. In 2019, €4.6M of subsidies were paid to Group Water Schemes in the County.

### **Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 - 2021**

In February 2019, Circular L1/19 invited bids for grant assistance under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021.

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme consists of measures which reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector - from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent water contamination and ensure that drinking water is safe and meets quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Through Circular L2/19 the Department allocated monies to various capital works to be undertaken by Group Water Schemes following the recommendation of an expert panel - projects totalling €2,283,314 will be funded in County Monaghan - this includes an allocation of €998,364 towards capital works undertaken in 2019.

### **Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021**

#### Well Grants

Twelve individuals submitted applications to the Rural Water section in 2019 to install

or upgrade existing individual water supplies to single domestic dwellings.

#### Inspection of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

Under the Waters Services Amendment Act 2012: - Monaghan County Council undertakes inspections of private waste water treatment systems. In 2019, 28 inspections were undertaken by Local Authority staff with 8 advisory notices issued.

Owners of properties which have been inspected and subsequently issued an advisory notice by Monaghan County Council can apply under the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2013 towards the costs of remedial works.

#### **Transformation Initiatives on behalf of Irish Water**

During 2019 Irish Water introduced several initiatives to standardise service across the sector for customers.

#### **Standardised Water & Waste Water Connection Charges**

The CRU (Water Utility Regulator) published its decision on Irish Water's Connection Charging Policy in 2018 - following public consultation. The new system ensures standard connection fees are applied nationally - currently these fees are based on those applied by Local Authorities before the establishment of Irish Water in 2014. It also standardises the scope of work involved in each connection.

This decision impacts customers wishing to connect to the public water and / or wastewater network and came into effect on the 1st April 2019.



## National Non-domestic Tariff Framework Review Project

In July, the Regulator published a final decision on future tariffs for non-domestic water users, which will see a new national set of charges go live on 1st May 2020.

From that date business customers across the country will benefit from standardised charges regardless of where they're located.

Irish Water have updated their website with a new, dedicated billing calculator so that customers can assess the impact of the changes on their bills and get more information, <https://www.water.ie/for-business/billing-explained/business-tariff-calculator/>.

## Leakage Management System

A new Leakage Management System (LMS) "Netbase" was introduced in 2019 to assist with leakage reporting and targeting of water conservation activities both regionally and nationally.

The system provides an integrated view of data across Maximo, Geographic Information System (GIS), Customer Care and Billing (CC&B), Meter Data Management (MDM) and Telemetry (ODS).



*Repair Crew fixing Leak*

This will enable Local Authorities to view their own water conservation activities and to run more efficient leakage reports.

Monaghan is an early adopter of this system.

Monaghan's UFW (Unaccounted for Water) at the end of 2019 was 21% - one of the lowest in the country due to a constant focus on water conservation to reduce our leakage levels. During 2019,

Monaghan County Council worked closely with contractors on behalf of Irish Water to reduce unaccounted for levels of water through both the 'find and fix' and 'first fix' initiatives.

## New Vehicle Fleet - Irish Water

Monaghan County Council received 8 new vans in February from Irish Water. Consultation was undertaken with Irish Water's Asset Operations and Local Authority staff to develop standard specifications to ensure these vans meet operational requirements.



*New Vehicles February 2019*

A safe, well managed modern fleet, with fewer breakdowns will lead to greater operational availability and ultimately improved customer service delivery.



### **EIMS AER Module**

Condition 6 of EPA Waste Water Discharge Licences requires Irish Water to prepare and submit an Annual Environmental Report (AER) for the previous reporting year that is to the satisfaction of the EPA. The AER must be submitted by the Local Authorities (LA) / Irish Water (IW) by the 28th February.

To make the process of preparing the report much simpler for Local Authorities, Irish Water have set up a central reporting module to manage the reporting process called EIMS which went live in January 2019.

The system is linked to the EIMS monitoring data system which populates all the sampling results for waste water treatment plants, and calculates treatment efficiencies etc.

Monaghan County Council will continue to co-operate with Irish Water to deliver further initiatives such as delivery of Standard Operating procedures (SOP's) in 2020 to ensure customers receive a standard consistent level of service throughout the water sector.

### **Asset Transfer**

Section 12 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 provides for the transfer of Water Services Assets to Irish Water, which is given effect by Ministerial Order. To date 105 folio numbers have transferred to Irish Water. There are approximately 88 folios yet to be transferred as some assets contain more than one folio.

Detailed work is ongoing preparing supporting material for the transfer of these assets which includes the subdivision of folios and associated mapping, the registration of unregistered sites, the establishment of legal rights of way and the resolution of outstanding title anomalies.

## **Housing**

### **Capital Building Programme**

A total of 144 social houses were provided in 2019 as new build projects became the main focus of the capital expenditure programme.

In 2019, 8 houses at Bree, Castleblayney and 43 social houses at Latlorcan, Monaghan Town were completed directly by Monaghan County Council. Through turnkey construction contracts 5 houses were also constructed in Smithborough, 4 houses at Killycard, Castleblayney and one apartment suitable for a person with a disability in Carrickmacross.

50 social houses were provided in conjunction with Respond! Housing Association at Coill an Rí in Carrickmacross. A further 10 social houses were constructed under Part V agreements - 8 at Coill an Rí and 2 at Castle Park in Castleblayney.

Through purchase and leasing arrangements in 2019 an additional 22 social houses were provided including 18 individual house purchases. 3 houses were added to Council housing stock through the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and one additional house through the Repair & Leasing Scheme.

### **Treatment of Vacant Properties**

Monaghan County Council dealt with 68 Casual Vacancies in 2019 at a cost of €1.4 million. The houses were prepared for re-letting at an average cost of €21,000 each in an average time of approximately 12 weeks. At the end of 2019 Monaghan County Council does not have any long-term vacant houses (Voids).

### **Partnership Working with Approved Housing Bodies**

Monaghan County Council supported funding applications from Approved Housing Bodies through the Capital Advance Leasing Facility and was successful in securing funding approval for the provision of 33 homes at Magheross in Carrickmacross (now named Drummond Ross comprising 14 houses and Drummond House - 14 apartments). Funding approval was also received for 38 houses at Bree on the Shercock Road in Castleblayney. Construction of both projects commenced in 2019 and are scheduled for completion on a phased basis in 2020.

Monaghan County Council also supported a funding application under the Capital Assistance Scheme for 16 single-storey accessible houses to be provided by an Approved Housing Body as sheltered housing at Liseggerton in Clones. Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in 2019 and construction is to commence on site in Quarter 1 of 2020 with a 12-month construction programme.

### **Regeneration Schemes**

The construction of 21 new homes on six derelict sites as part of the Clones Renewal Scheme commenced on-site in 2019 and approval was received for an additional 3 apartments as part of the same project. Stage 3 approval was received to proceed to tender for the use of a derelict site in Scotstown for the construction of 32 social houses in a development to be named “Luí na Gréine”.

In Quarter 4 of 2019 Monaghan County Council signed contracts for the construction of 26 social houses at Plás an Bhrí in Castleblayney which are due to commence on-site in Quarter 1 of 2020.

### **Remedial Works**

The Mullaghmat estate-wide Remedial Works Project is on-going and work

continued in 2019 to progress to the final stage of the scheme which will be completed in 2020.

### **Housing Assistance Payment**

The Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) was introduced in Monaghan County Council in October 2014 as a replacement for Rent Supplement which was administered by the Department of Social Protection. In 2019 233 additional households were supported through HAP and at 31st December 2019 there were a total of 551 active HAP tenancies in County Monaghan.

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continues to be an important mechanism for the delivery of social housing support in County Monaghan. The total number of properties providing social housing under the RAS scheme was 183 at year end 2019 with 99 households in private rented properties and 84 households in properties held by approved housing bodies.

### **Housing Grants**

There are three types of grants available for older people and people with disabilities to help make their home safer and easier to get around. These are the Housing Adaptation Grant, the Mobility Aids Grant and the Housing Aid for Older People Grant. They contribute to meeting housing needs by adapting existing homes to meet the needs of the occupant so that they can continue to live in their own homes.

In 2019 the Housing Section received a total of 321 Applications across these schemes.

### **Homeless Services**

Monaghan County Council is responsible for assessing people who present as homeless. Solutions in many of these cases in 2019 involved individuals sourcing private rented accommodation with HAP support. It should



be noted less than twenty percent of the total households presenting were deemed as homeless.

In 2019 there were 59 presentations comprising 65 adults and 36 children.

### **Traveller Accommodation**

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 was adopted by Monaghan County Council. Under the Traveller Accommodation Programme a pilot redevelopment of 3 houses were provided by the addition of bedrooms to halting site accommodation at Gortakeeghan in Monaghan Town and this will be progressed further in 2020. Accommodation was also provided to members of the Traveller Community in other forms of social housing such as Local Authority housing and HAP supported tenancies.

### **Tenancies**

Monaghan County Council continued to monitor and support tenancies through the Tenant Liaison Officer (TLO). Issues relating to anti-social behaviour and breach of tenancies are also dealt with by the TLO service.

The Council ensure that all new and transferring tenants are aware of their obligations under the tenancy agreement by making it compulsory to attend Pre-Tenancy Sessions. In 2019 there were 55 sessions for 162 households.

Under Part 2 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 2014 a Local Authority can take action against those who breach the conditions of their tenancy. In 2019 the Tenant Liaison section issued 5 statutory warnings (not rent related) to tenants under Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2014. 5 dwellings were voluntarily surrendered following the service of Statutory Tenancy Warnings. 1 Dwelling was re-possessioned following execution of a Court Order.

### **Housing Maintenance**

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the maintenance requirements of the Council's housing stock. In 2019 a budget allocation of €1,095,000 provided for reactive, planned and general maintenance of this stock. The Housing Section received and logged in excess of 1972 repair requests in 2019. The three key areas of housing maintenance include:

(1) Response Maintenance involves responding to tenant emergencies and reported repair requests. The Housing Maintenance Department continues to engage with tenants to provide appropriate information in relation to these responsibilities.

(2) General Maintenance includes required programmes and works on vacant properties, new purchases, rural dwellings and the traveller halting site.

In 2019, two number two bed apartments were converted into a 4 bedroom two storey in Oram to meet the demand and bring the property back into use.

(3) Planned Maintenance involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2019 targeted planned maintenance works were focused on improving the building fabric and ensuring the safety within properties. This included heating upgrades, electrical works and fascia and soffit replacements.

# Planning

## Development Plan

The Monaghan County Development Plan for the period 2019-2025 was adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. The adoption of the Development Plan was the cumulation of two years consultation with the public as well as local and national bodies to provide a spatial development plan for the county.

The Monaghan County Development Plan provides an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Monaghan for the next six years which is consistent with both National and Regional Spatial Planning policies and objectives.

The Monaghan County Development Plan comprises a written statement which includes strategic objectives and policies for the development and use of land within the county, and also supporting maps and appendices. Spatial planning through the development plan objectives and policies endeavours to achieve balance between the common good and the interests of individuals.

## New Planning Offices

Work continued throughout 2019 on the renovation and extension of the former Monaghan Town Council Offices which are to be the new offices for the Planning Section. The new premises provide for a more appropriate working environment for both staff and members of the public.

## Dublin Street Regeneration Plan

Work on the detailed design and compulsory purchase of lands for the Dublin Street South Regeneration Plan progressed in 2019 with the appointment of consultants to progress the detailed design.

## Development Management

Planning application numbers kept close to parity with the number received in 2018.

As in previous years the majority of applications received were for single dwellings and home extensions, followed by agricultural developments. Eight applications for housing developments were received.

Planning applications 2019	
Received	611
Invalid	25
Granted	511
Refused	29

Three development proposals which were contrary to the provisions of the Monaghan County Development Plan were granted planning permission in 2019 through the material contravention process.

31 Section 5 Declarations for exempt development and one entertainment licence for Monaghan Country Music Festival were issued.

## Unfinished Housing Developments

At the beginning of 2019 there were five unfinished housing developments in the county and the current status is as follows.

- Forest Walk, Monaghan Town: Planning permission was granted in September 2019 under reference number 19/1 to complete the existing development to provide 22 No. dwellings.
- Drummond Ross, Carrickmacross Town: Work continued in 2019 to complete this development and provide 33 No. residential units.
- Bothar Na Mullen, Scotstown: Part 8 Planning Permission for new reconfigured development layout of 31 social housing units on the site acquired under the Derelict Sites Act was approved in 2019.

- Corr na Ghlass, Ballybay: Discussions took place in 2019 with adjoining landowners and interested persons to determine the optimum way forward.
- Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet: Remedial works on the estate consisting of landscaping, kerbing, road surfacing and boundary treatments were completed in 2019.

### Taking in Charge

A total of four housing developments were taken in charge in 2019. In 2019 several developments were brought to an advanced stage of assessment in terms of the taking in charge process, and negotiations are underway on several developments with regards bond draw downs and negotiations with Irish Water.

### Planning Enforcement

When the Planning Authority becomes aware of a breach of permission or unauthorised development, discussions with offender(s) are often sufficient to ensure remedy. However, where issues are not addressed by the offender(s) then formal enforcement action is taken. Enforcement statistics for the year are set out below. Benefits continue to accrue from early invoicing and enforcement action in recovery of unpaid development contributions. Receipts in 2019 amounted to €745,446.

2019 Enforcement Statistics	
No. of cases subject to complaints	<b>109</b>
Warning Letters under Section 152	<b>65</b>
Enforcement Notices under Section 154	<b>15</b>

### Refundable Deposits Project

Work continued on the reconciliation of refundable deposits in 2019. An amount of €1,001,627 has been reconciled up to the end of 2019. Files from 2010 – 2018 have been examined and all receipts transferred to new customer accounts. By the end of 2019, €68,150 had been refunded to customers. Work also progressed on deposits associated with the 2009 files.

### Derelict Sites

At the end of 2019, there were 33 properties on the Derelict Sites Register. Development works commenced on the Clones Renewal Scheme, a social housing project that will deliver 21 units on sites acquired under the Derelict Sites Act on Fermanagh Street and Annalore Street.



**Contract signing to commence building works, September 2019**

At the KPMG/Irish Independent Property Excellence Awards in November 2019, the Clones Renewal Scheme was recognised with the Excellence in Planning Award (Public Sector).



**Property Excellence Awards, 2019**



### Public Realm and Economic Plans

Three Public Realm and Economic Plans were published in 2019 for the towns of Ballybay, Carrickmacross and Castleblayney. The Plans aim to improve the towns' function on a day-to-day basis with resulting long-term socio-economic, cultural and economic benefits for residents, businesses and visitors. The Plans have created a Shared Vision for each town and have identified a suite of projects fundamental to the future development, management and promotion of the towns.

Some of the projects identified in the Plans have been successfully funded under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, including the Ballybay Backlands Project, Carrickmacross Town Centre Renewal Project and Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration.

### Pilot Town Centre Living Project

Castleblayney, one of six towns nationally, has been selected by the Department of Rural and Community Development to look at innovative ways to encourage more town centre living. Shaffrey Architects and Space Engagers were appointed by Monaghan County Council in 2019 to engage with property owners, identify reasons for vacancy and dereliction, build capacity in owners, identify capacity within clusters of properties and provide recommendations for mechanisms to move forward to realise the potential of vacant properties.

### Free Market, Castleblayney

In July 2019, the 'Free Market' exhibition visited Castleblayney with a three day programme of free events. 'Free Market' is an architecture exhibition and ongoing research project that explores the importance and possible futures of small market towns in Ireland. The Free Market exhibition was installed both inside and outside the Hope Castle Gate Lodge.

The Free Market turned the street outside the Castle Lodge into a temporary pedestrianised public space, hosting a series

of public events helping to spark conversations around the future of our towns.

The exhibition described the historic and contemporary conditions as well as the potential future development of small towns across Ireland, including a proposal for the Market Building of Castleblayney.



Free Market exhibition, Market Square, Castleblayney

### Monaghan Town Centre Consumer Survey Report

In July 2019, Minister Humphreys launched the Monaghan Town Centre Consumer Survey Report, the results of which will help inform and guide plans for the revitalisation of Monaghan Town Centre. Robust baseline data is vital to ensure that our traditional town centres move with the times, to adapt to current trends and ensure that we offer a unique visitor experience in a quality historic place.



Monaghan Town Centre Consumer Survey Report, 2019

## Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019

In 2019, €569,536 in funding was approved under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme which will deliver improvements in eight towns and villages in 2020. The funding allocation was as follows:-

Settlement	Project	Funding
Annyalla	Provide a safe pedestrian footpath between Drumakelly housing estate and the village of Annyalla	€78,657
Ballybay	Extend existing public lighting, and enhancement of entrance to Ballybay Park	€80,000
Carrickroe	Develop a Playground	€73,594
Inniskeen	Public Realm Works	€20,000
Lough Egish	Installation of a new footpath	€100,000
Monaghan	Clean a section of the Ulster Canal, carry out appropriate planting and turn this section of Ulster Canal Greenway into a haven for wildlife	€57,600
Oram	Installation of a memorial garden	€60,246

Scotshouse	Construct a pedestrian bridge between Scotshouse Village Park and Redhills Road	€99,440
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## Built Heritage

Monaghan County Council's Planning Section administer two annual Heritage Grant Schemes, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

## Built Heritage Investment Scheme

The BHIS encourages the investment of private capital in small scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons.

In 2019 five projects received funding under the BHIS as follows:-

- Glaslough Railway Station
- St Dymphna's Church, Ballinode
- Ice House, Castleblayney
- Cahan's Meeting House, Stranoodan
- Old Railway Goods Shed, Carrickmacross



Removal of overgrown vegetation, brick repairs/repointing and new cast iron gate for the Ice House, Castleblayney

### Historic Structures Fund

The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. It aims to enable conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support.

In 2019 four projects received funding under the HSF as follows:-

- St Macartan's Cathedral
- Belgium Park Wall
- Monaghan Railway Station
- Bowelk House, Ballybay



Wall repair at Belgium Park

### Section 57 Declarations

Five Section 57 Declarations were issued in 2019.

## Environmental Protection

Environmental Services are responsible for implementing EU and National Environmental Policy and legislation to protect the Environment of County Monaghan

The primary objectives in the 2019 Annual Service Delivery Plan were

- Implement County Monaghan Litter Management Plan 2018-2020
- Implement Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021
- Operate Scotch Corner Landfill in accordance with EPA Licence requirements
- Implement the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and associated Water Framework Directive requirements
- Progress the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework

### Connaught Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2022

During 2019 Environmental Services implemented Policy Action C.2.1 of the Connaught Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan by reviewing and bringing forward for public consultation and adoption the County of Monaghan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) By-laws, 2019. The implementation of this plan is contained in objective 2 of Monaghan County Council's Corporate Plan *"promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable"*.

### Anti-Dumping Initiative

€123,000 was received under the Anti-Dumping initiative 2019. Projects funded included five bulky goods and household hazardous collections at €49,000.



Preventative, abatement and enforcement projects at €74,000. These included aerial surveys of problematic sites, clean ups and erection of fencing at litter blackspots, provision of temporary CCTV cameras on N2 and permanent CCTV at Lough Muckno, development of new CCTV system at bottle banks and an intelligence led enforcement project on the illegal disposal of tyres.



### Waste Enforcement and Inspection Programme

Circular No WP/11 outlined the National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2019. These included

- Tackling illegal activity and unaccounted for waste
- Construction and Demolition and Capacity Challenges
- Dealing with sites containing illegally deposited waste.

In February 2019 Monaghan County Council submitted a work plan to deal with these National Priorities and other legislative requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council providing for Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) in Member States (2001/331/EC).

During 2019 928 different waste related

environmental inspections were carried out. These included

- 505 Routine Waste Inspections
- 340 Non-Routine Inspections
- 97 Inspections for Producer Responsibility Initiatives
- 38 Planning inspections in relation to Waste Management
- 104 Waste Related Complaints

### Litter Management Plan 2018-2020

Litter Management has three relevant NOAC indicators

- E2: % Environmental pollution complaints closed
- E3: % LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution
- E4: % of schools that have been awarded green flag status

In 2019 the following work was completed

1. Total net spend on litter related activities in County Monaghan in 2019 was €908,506.
2. Total spend on street cleansing in 2019 was €749,995 an increase of 10% on 2018 expenditure.
3. 90 on the spot litter fines were issued in 2019, 53 of which were paid.
4. Monaghan County Council responded to 439 waste and litter related complaints during 2019. Each one of these was investigated and as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 all but 10 were closed.
5. The Environmental Patrol Warden completed 326 litter surveys as part of the National Litter Monitoring Programme (NOAC E3).
6. There were 53 visits to schools participating in the Green School Programme during 2019 by the Environmental Awareness Officer. Monaghan has 48.65% of schools with Green Flag status as per NOAC indicator.
7. The great work being undertaken by the Tidy Towns Committees in the county was recognised Nationally this year with Glaslough being named

Ireland's Tidiest Village and was crowned the overall winner of Ireland's Tidiest Town. 23 entrants from across Monaghan took part in the 2019 competition, an increase from 19 in 2018. Locally, the winners were as follows:

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

A fantastic achievement by all the volunteers involved.

### **Waste Infrastructure / Landfill**

During 2019 capping works were completed on the remaining uncapped landfilled areas of the Scotch Corner site. The value of the capping contract was €942,000 and was delivered on time and on budget. The landfill capping works, which was a requirement under our EPA licence, covered an area of 28,000m<sup>2</sup> and has resulted in significant environmental improvements on site such as a reduction in leachate generation, improved gas management, and odour minimisation. The contract works was delivered by Gibson Bros Contractors with consultancy services provided by Fehily Timoney and Company.



***Completed capping works at Scotch Corner***

Other works carried out at the Scotch Corner facility in 2019 included the commencement of landscape improvement works on site, progression of additional leachate collection infrastructure, as well as progressing discussions with the EPA to amend/review our site authorisation for Scotch Corner which if successful would facilitate for an increased range of waste related activities to be carried out at the Scotch Corner landfill and recycling facility.

In late 2019 we also commenced design work on a new site office at Scotch Corner which had been badly damaged by fire earlier in the year.

Under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008, Local Authorities are required to carry out an environmental assessment of closed landfills that were previously operated by Local Authorities during the period 1977 to 1997. An allocation of €40,000 in 2019 from the DCCAE assisted in progressing investigative works on the higher risk sites namely Killycard, Killycronaghan, and Scotch Corner. During 2020 it is intended subject to EPA approval to formally lodge Certificate of Authorisation applications to the EPA for these 3 sites. It is envisaged that significant remedial measures will be required on these sites funded through grant assistance from the DCCAE.

## Water and Air Quality

In December 2018, The National Water and Air Priorities were forwarded to each Local Authority through correspondence issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

These priorities included:

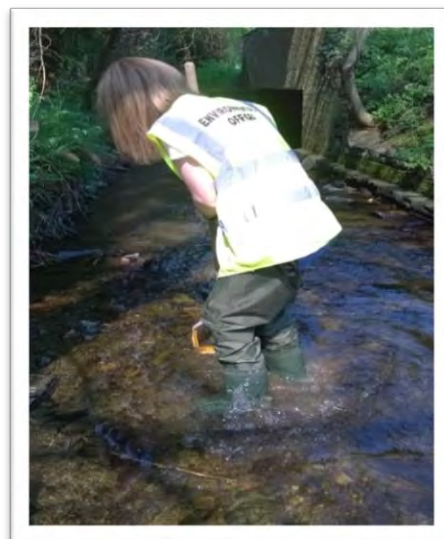
- Improving water quality in all water bodies.
- To protect public health and to improve and maintain air quality.

In February 2019 Monaghan County Council submitted a work plan to deal with these National Priorities and other legislative requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council providing for Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) in Member States (2001/331/EC). Under the 2019 RMCEI plan Monaghan County Council's water quality team continued its program of water quality sampling in conjunction with the EPA, carried out investigate assessment work on selected river and lake waterbodies, undertook a comprehensive farm inspection program, investigated a significant number of water pollution incidents, regulated effluent discharges through licensing, and worked with the recently formed Local Authorities Waters Program (LAWPRO) with the aim of improving water quality in areas designated as priority areas for action under the River Basin Management Plan which sets out the actions that Ireland is taking with the aim of improving water quality and achieving 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027.

During 2019 over 1,000 water quality related inspections were carried out including:

- 340 samples taken as part of Water Framework Directive monitoring on rivers and lakes.
- Investigation of 132 water pollution complaints/incidents.

- 106 Farm inspections and 90 farm surveys.
- 64 inspection of Section 4 effluent discharge licensed facilities.
- Assessment of over 270 planning applications from a water quality perspective.



**Environmental Staff assessing river quality**

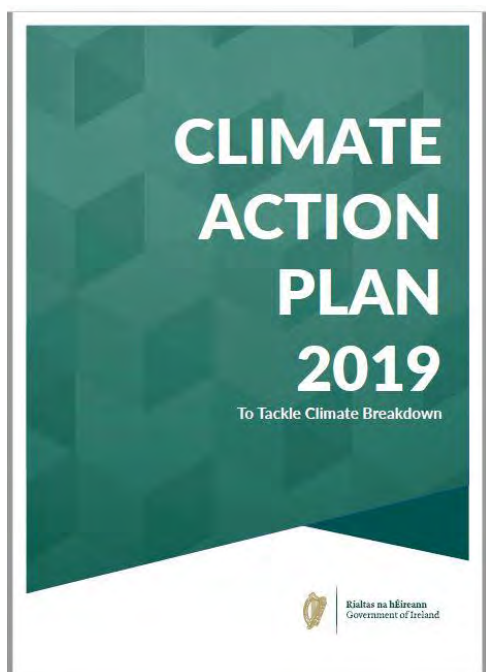
In relation to air quality over 60 routine air quality inspections were carried out under the Solid Fuels Regulations, the Petroleum Vapour Regulations, the Solvent Regulations and the Decorative Paints Regulations.

## Climate Action

The Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was formally adopted at the County Council meeting in September. The Strategy will assist Monaghan County Council in planning for, responding to and adapting to climatic events and will complement the national 'Climate Action Plan – To Tackle Climate Breakdown' which was released during 2019 also. The Adaptation Strategy aims to make Monaghan County Council and the communities that it serves more sustainable and climate resilient. It is expected that going forward, Department funding will be provided to assist local authorities in progressing measures aimed at



transitioning to a low carbon economy and becoming more resilient to climatic events. In late 2019 a Climate Action Steering Committee was set up with the aim of progressing climate action throughout all the functions and services of Monaghan County Council. In addition, in late 2019 Monaghan County Council piloted a Climate Action training program for staff in conjunction with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).



## Veterinary Services

### Food Safety

Monaghan County Council has a contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), to provide food safety control and support services to small food business operators in the county engaged in the slaughtering, processing and wholesaling of meat and meat products, ranging from fresh meat to ready-to-eat and ready-to-heat foods containing cooked meat. A list of approved food businesses is available on the Council's website. The Council employs veterinary inspectors to check animals before and after slaughter, audit the structural and operational hygiene standards in premises, and operate sampling and training programmes to assist owners and staff in attaining the required standards set out in National and EU legislation. The purpose of the service is to ensure the safety of the food produced by these food businesses, the welfare of the animals slaughtered and the safe and proper disposal of animal by-products. In 2019, a newly built slaughterhouse for cattle and sheep was opened by Charley Meats in Castleshane. This is the first new slaughterhouse built in Monaghan in well over 20 years.

### Dog Control Service

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. Shelter facilities for the detention and care of stray and unwanted dogs are provided on behalf of Monaghan County Council by Carrick Dog Shelter in Lisdoonan and MSPCA in Emyvale. In 2019, there was a significant drop in the number of dogs admitted to the Dog Pound, further extending the trend of reducing numbers of dogs being impounded by the Council. 377 dogs were impounded in 2019, compared to 475 in 2018. There were almost 900 dogs impounded in 2008. All except 5 of the 377 dogs were reclaimed by their owners or rehomed to members of the public or dog rescues. The number of dogs licenced in Monaghan in 2019 was 6,200.

This is the first time that the number of dogs licenced in the county has been over 6,000. The Council distributed its information leaflet on dog owners' responsibilities and continued its advertising campaign to highlight the danger of straying dogs to sheep.

The Council also supervises registered Dog Breeding Establishments within the county. The number of Dog Breeding Establishments reduced from 14 to 9 during 2019, as a number of dog breeders and hunt clubs reduced their numbers to levels at which registration is not required.

### Horse Control Service

The Council employs the services of Hungry Horse Outside, a horse charity based in Longford, to collect stray horses in the county. 2 stray donkeys were seized in 2018. The donkeys were subsequently rehomed. There were a number of other complaints of stray horses dealt with during the year, but seizure of the horses was not necessary. This continues the reducing trend of stray horse numbers, which peaked in Monaghan in 2013 when 96 stray horses were collected.



## Roads & Transportation

The road network in the county is funded from three main sources: Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funds the design, construction and maintenance of the National Roads while the Department of Transport and Monaghan County Council co-fund Regional and Local Roads. Road Safety is funded from the Council's own resources.

During 2019 the Transportation Section

- Completed Restoration Improvement works on 42km of the Regional and Local Road Network
- Completed Restoration Maintenance works (surface dressing) on 58km of Regional and Local Road Network
- Completed 11 Bridge Rehabilitation schemes as part of our Bridge Rehabilitation Programme



*Before and after Bridge Rehabilitation Works*

- Completed 47 Winter Maintenance callouts
- During the 2018/2019 season, the Winter Maintenance Plan routes cover 24% of the county's road network
- Delivered 7 Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes throughout the county on the local and regional road network
- Completed general maintenance repairs on the National Road Network
- Managed the Council's fleet of plant and machinery

- Surveyed 100% of the Local Primary & Local Secondary roads as part of the PSCI Road Condition Survey.
- Completed Specific Improvement works on the R189 at Grennan's Cross, which involved vertical and horizontal road realignment
- Ensured the safety, health and welfare of all employees in the workplace complying with Health & Safety legislation
- Conducted a Speed Limit Review for National Roads.
- Retro-fitted 2.5 kms of fencing on National Roads.
- Road Safety – The statistic for road fatalities remained static between 2018 & 2019 at two.



### Project Milestones completed on Schemes in 2019

N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3:  
Construction work continued on the final phase of the realignment of the road between Monaghan and Emyvale. The project cost €13.6 million for construction, design, land acquisition, archaeology and all ancillary surveys & studies.



### N2 Clontibret to the Border:

The development of new route for the N2 From Clontibret Village to the NI border with Aughnacloy. (Scheme length is approx. 28km)

### N2 Ardee to Castleblaney:

A scheme upgrade of the N2 Castleblaney to Ardee with an approx. distance of 32kms. Both of the N2 projects are listed as major infrastructural schemes in Project Ireland 2040 and are being progressed in tandem by Consultants Jacobs Ireland. Public consultation events to inform Route Corridor options were carried out and the consultants met with landowners and stakeholders at venues in Monaghan as part of the consultation process.



### N2 Blackwater Bridge Replacement:

The replacement of the bridge at Coolshannagh, Monaghan Town. The overall project costs including construction, design, accommodation works, archaeology and advance works total €6 million.





Construction Commenced in January and a temporary Bailey Bridge was installed to facilitate the replacement of the old stone arch bridge.

#### N54 Tullybryan:

A Project Appraisal Plan was prepared and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for the 3.1km minor safety scheme.

Local Improvement Scheme: 14 Lane Improvement Schemes were completed on private lanes throughout Co. Monaghan.

Community Involvement Scheme: 10 road schemes were completed including 5.6 kms of road and ancillary works at 5 community facilities throughout the county.

Pavement Renewals on National Routes: 2 major projects were completed with 3.5 kms of road renewed at locations on the N54 Clanooney and N2 Aclint.

## Community Development

The Community Development Section is responsible for implementing a wide range of programmes and initiatives within Monaghan County Council.

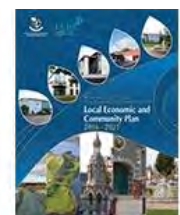
### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Monaghan Local Community Development Committee meets monthly to provide a strategic overview and to support community and economic development in the county. Working with key stakeholders and Agencies, the LCDC monitors progress on the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 (LECP) for the county and is responsible for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development.



### LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Monaghan LCDC and Monaghan County Council continues to implement the Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 which provides a road map



for collective actions in relation to local economic and community development in County Monaghan. The plan contains 127 economic and community actions for implementation by fifteen organisations by 2021. Progress is monitored bi-annually and the LCDC will be conducting a review of the plan in 2020. To date there has been significant progress in the delivery of the community elements of the plan.

## LECP Actions update at end of December 2020

<b>66 Community Actions</b>	<b>3 Yet to Commence</b>	<b>46 On-going</b>	<b>17 Completed</b>
<b>61 Economic Actions</b>	<b>5 Yet to Commence</b>	<b>14 On-going</b>	<b>42 Completed</b>

### Monaghan LCDC (Peace IV Partnership) Board

#### Monaghan LCDC Peace IV Action Plan

In 2019 the delivery of the Monaghan LCDC Peace IV Local Action Plan was largely completed with an extension granted for the delivery of one project. In total 12 projects were delivered through Partner Delivery and 13 through a Small Grants Programme. Just over €2.6 million was allocated to deliver projects including 'The Peace by Piece' (Lego Mindstorm) Project, a Youth Resilience and Anti-Bullying programme, the County of Sanctuary project and other cross community engagement programmes. For the first time in a Peace programme Monaghan County Council was allocated capital funding, and during 2019 two significant capital projects were delivered; the new playpark in Rossmore Park and the refurbishment of the former Post Office in Clones into arts studios and space dedicated to the arts.

Within the small grants programme there has been successful engagement of the Protestant and Catholic communities, cultural awareness programmes, and programmes to challenge perceptions and beliefs. There was also the development of a Peace Garden by Clones Town FC, the creation of a Cricket Pitch at St Macartan's College, Monaghan Town and the refurbishment of the Johnson Madden Memorial Hall also in Monaghan Town.



#### Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The objective of SICAP is to provide social inclusion support to disadvantaged individuals and groups throughout society. The 2019 budget for SICAP in Monaghan was €631,656. The programme targets for 2019 were to assist 34 groups and 428 individuals.

Mid-year and end of year reviews of the programme took place in 2019 and all targets set under the programme were either reached or exceeded.

#### Monaghan LEADER Programme 2014-2020



The Monaghan LEADER Programme continues to attract high levels of interest and demand for project funding. The Programme will run until 2020. A budget of €7.59 million was allocated for its implementation and delivery. Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of project applications. Monaghan Integrated Development CLG (MID) is the implementing partner and Monaghan County Council is the financial partner for the programme. Monaghan LEADER aims to develop sustainable rural communities throughout the county, by promoting social inclusion, economic development and stimulating Enterprise, Tourism, and Community Services while protecting the natural and built heritage of the county. The funding was awarded based on a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for Monaghan which sets out the priority areas for the programme.

At the end of December 2019, 54 projects had full approval to the value of €3m and 6 had provisional approval to the value of €670,000 with 64% of the budget

committed. Two co-operation projects were approved by Monaghan LAG for Preparatory Funding totalling over €11,000 and one of these is complete. The co-operation fund is additional to the LEADER allocation for Monaghan. One project has been approved under the LEADER Food Initiative to a grant value of €72,246.

Twenty projects to the value of €1.38m are at work in progress stage and there are a further 6 projects (€690k) at early EOI stage. Two calls under Basic Services and Broadband were launched in January 2020. €2m remains to be allocated in 2020.

In 2019 the responsibility for carrying out Article 48 Checks on project applications and claims passed to Monaghan County Council. Article 48 checks entail the checking and verification of all LEADER projects and claims.

#### **LEADER Programme 2014-2020 – Sample of Projects funded**



**Carrickmacross Lace Co-operative Society**



**Donaghmoyne walking track**

#### **Community Enhancement Programme 2019**

Monaghan LCDC implemented the Community Enhancement Programme in 2019. A total of €132,571 was approved to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. Eighty-seven applications were received and assessed with 61 receiving funding.

#### **CEP 2019 – Men's/Women's Shed Fund**

Monaghan LCDC also implemented the Men's/Women's Shed Fund under the CEP in 2019. Additional funding of €6,545 was made available to Sheds across the county.

#### **DRCD Rural Funding Schemes**

Funding was allocated in 2019 by the Department of Rural & Community Development under the following schemes:

**CLÁR** – is a programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. €287,955 was allocated under the CLÁR Scheme 2019 for 8 projects.

- 5 projects under Measure 1 – Support for Schools/Community Safety issues.
- 1 project under Measure 2 – Support for Play Areas (including MUGAs).
- 2 projects under the new measure which was introduced in 2019, Measure 3(c) – Sensory Gardens.



**Threemilehouse National School – MUGA funded under CLÁR 2018**

**Town & Village Renewal Scheme** – The aim of the Scheme is to support the revitalising of towns and villages, to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. €569,535 was allocated under the Town & Village Scheme 2019 for 8



projects. The Council will provide match funding for each of the projects bringing the total funding to just over €711,000. Delivery of a number of projects was completed in 2019 and others were commenced.

#### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

– The aim of the ORIS is to provide outdoor recreational infrastructure in countryside areas. €100,000 was allocated under Measure 1 for 5 projects under the scheme in 2019.

Funding was drawn down from the Department of Rural and Community Development in all of the schemes as required under the terms of the grants. An extension was granted in respect of one Measure 3 project at Rossmore Park, which will be completed early in 2020.

#### **Tidy Towns**

The 2019 National Tidy Towns Award was won by Glaslough, 41 years after first winning the title. Carrickmacross retained its Gold Medal and Monaghan retained its Silver. Killeevan achieved the Endeavour Award for County Monaghan having gained the most marks between 2018 and 2019. There were 23 entries in the competition from County Monaghan this year, an increase of four on 2018.



**Glaslough won the County and Regional titles, as well as the Tidiest Village and the overall title of Ireland's Tidiest Town**

The Community Department provides support to all Tidy Towns groups and Residents Associations through the Tidy Towns Network, organising training, study visits etc on topics of benefit to the groups in order to help them sustain progress.

#### **Pride of Place**

Monaghan County Council was represented in this year's IPB Pride of Place competition by the community of Scotshouse in the 300-1000 population category and Operation TransFaughmation in the Community Wellbeing Initiative category. Scotshouse was awarded runners-up spot in their very competitive category, proving once again how strong community development is in County Monaghan.



**Scotshouse group at Pride of Place Awards**

#### **Community Safety**

Monaghan County Council continues to work with Community Alert Groups, An Garda Síochána and businesses to assist them to make the county a safer place. The Property Marking Scheme which had its beginnings in County Monaghan, is now operating in 12 counties.

We launched Ireland's first county-wide Community Text Alert service in April 2019, with all 29 local community alert and text alert groups participating in the new initiative. The service enables An Garda Síochána to reach all subscribers with one simple message, rather than having to text the subscribers of each group separately. Monaghan now effectively has all-county coverage by community text alert – the first county in Ireland to do so.

#### **Community Plans**

Monaghan County Council is committed to supporting communities to develop services and facilities in their locality. In 2018, we carried out a mapping exercise which looked at where funding had gone in the county in the previous three years. We then

selected several areas which appeared not to be availing of the current funding opportunities. Monaghan County Council has been working with the local groups to build their capacity, identify local needs, and formulate a local plan for each area. In 2019, we facilitated four communities to prepare plans. These were:

- Scotshouse
- Emyvale
- Newbliss/ Killeevan
- Oram

We have started the planning process with a further two, namely Lough Egish and Ballinode.

### **Cycling Officer**

During EU Mobility Week (Sept 16-22), Monaghan County Council participated in an initiative involving making electric bicycles available to the staff in the Glen and MTEK II offices. The bikes proved highly popular over the week, for both leisure journeys at lunchtime, and work journeys throughout the day.



### **Age Friendly Programme**

#### **A new Age Friendly Strategy for the county**

In 2019, Monaghan Age Friendly programme focused on the development of a second Age Friendly Strategy for the county. An in-depth countywide public consultation process was carried out early in 2019. Over 400 submissions were received from older people throughout the county. The information from the public consultation was collated and analysed and informed the development of a new Age Friendly Strategy for Monaghan. This new

strategy builds on the success of our first strategy and incorporates actions to address some of the issues identified in the public consultation.

### **Age Friendly in Housing and the Public Realm Training**

Staff involved in housing and public realm capital projects participated in a training workshop on incorporating an age friendly approach to the design, planning and development of capital projects managed by Monaghan County Council.

### **Age Friendly Programme**

In 2019, the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD presented Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council and Chairperson of Monaghan Age Friendly Alliance Eamonn O Sullivan with a certificate of affiliation to the World Health Organisation global network of Age Friendly City and Counties programme.

### **Accessibility**

#### **Inclusive Playgrounds Workshop**

The Access Officer delivered training with relevant staff on the implementation of our Inclusive Playground policy. The workshop focused on the practical implementation of the policy in relation to planning, design and procurement of new playgrounds in the county and any works to upgrade existing playgrounds and play areas.

### **Promoting the Right to Vote**

To support our ongoing work in accessibility, Monaghan County Council developed an easy to read guide to voting in 2019. The purpose of this initiative was to ensure that all people in the county who have the right to vote have access to information on the voting process in a format that they can use and understand. The “Your Vote Your Voice” booklet provides clear user-friendly information on all aspects of voting and was produced in

conjunction with Monaghan PPN and Corporate Services. Six training workshops took place in the community in advance of polling day, over 400 people availed of the training including 300 people with a disability. The project was shortlisted for a number of awards during the year, including the EU Innovation in Politics award that recognises innovative work, so that it may serve as a source of inspiration to others across the European Union.

### **Make Way Day 2019**

Make Way Day is a National Public Awareness Campaign to highlight the issues people with disabilities face getting around their local communities. The event is co-ordinated by the Disability Federation of Ireland and is supported locally by Local Authorities. On Make Way Day 2019 members of Monaghan Disability Network took to the streets to highlight the barriers experienced by people with disabilities on the streets each day. Monaghan Disability Network presented their findings to members of Monaghan County Council in early 2020.

### **Public Sector Duty**

In March 2019, The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission launched Guidelines to Implementing the Public Sector Duty for all public bodies. The learning from Monaghan County Council's Public Sector Duty pilot project is incorporated into the national guidelines. Members of Monaghan Public Duty committee worked with Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to produce a case study video on the experience of delivering the project in Monaghan County Council. The video can be viewed by following this link. <https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/public-sector-duty/>. The next stage of this process is the development of a Public Sector Duty Plan for Monaghan County Council. This plan will aim to support Monaghan County Council in protecting human rights, promoting equality and eliminating

discrimination for all staff and service users of the organisation.

### **Migrant Integration Strategy**

Monaghan Equality sub group of the LCDC, in partnership with Monaghan Integrated Development have collaborated to develop a Migrant Integration Strategy for County Monaghan. Countywide consultations took place with migrants and service providers to inform the development of the Strategy which will set out a range of actions and initiatives for service providers, employers and community groups to support migrant integration across the county over the next five years.

### **Department of Justice Asylum Migration Integration Fund (AMIF)**

The Department of Justice, under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, has awarded Monaghan County Council €150,000 to deliver a migrant integration project in the county. In 2020 Monaghan County Council will appoint an Integration Officer to deliver a targeted programme of work in communities, schools and service providers to support the integration of the migrant communities between 2020 -2022.

### **Social Inclusion Week 2019**

Social Inclusion Week 2019 took place from June 10th - 17th 2019. The week long event aims to promote and highlight the work of community groups, service providers and agencies in the areas of social inclusion and equality. Over 40 different events took place during the week with almost 1,500 people participating.

### **Celebrating 120 years of Women in Local Government**

In May the National Women's Council of Ireland and Monaghan County Council hosted an event to celebrate 120 years of women in Local Government. Former and current female elected representatives for



Monaghan County Council and officials were in attendance on the night.

## Monaghan Public Participation Network



Monaghan Public Participation Network, with support from Monaghan County Council, continued to develop as the main link through which the Local Authority connects with Community, Social Inclusion and Environment sectors across the county. 527 groups were registered with the PPN by end of 2019, an increase of 21% on 2018.

### Some of the Key Activities for Monaghan PPN in 2019 included:

The PPN Steering Committee planned and implemented the 2019 programme of work. Three plenary meetings for members were held in 2019.

**Representation:** Forty-three community representatives represented the PPN across 13 committees. Five new PPN Representatives were elected in 2019.

**Consultations:** Written submissions were made to the following consultation processes:

- Monaghan County Council Strategic Policy Scheme
- Healthy Monaghan Strategy
- PPN User Guide
- National Volunteer Strategy

**Training:** We delivered free training to member groups on topics such as:

- Social Media Training
- Supporting and Motivating Volunteers
- Helping groups to achieve charitable status
- One to one support for PPN Representatives

**Communications:** The PPN continued to ensure through its dedicated website, email and Facebook page that registered groups were kept up to date on information about funding, training, consultation calls and community initiatives.

**Events:** Key speakers were invited to some of our meetings to inform members on important issues such as: LEADER, Monaghan County Council Climate Change Strategy, issues groups face around insurance and how to achieve community wellbeing.

**Staff Resources:** In a partnership approach the Department of Rural and Community Development and Monaghan County Council provided additional funding to the PPN to recruit a PPN Support Worker.



## Youth Development

### Presentation to Joint Policing Committee

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg were invited by the Joint Policing Committee to research approaches to promoting safe socialising practices among young people. They made a presentation to a sub - committee meeting of the JPC. They presented on findings from a consultation held with the wider youth population entitled "Perspectives of young people on how to get a safe socializing message out to 12 & 13 year olds." Subsequently a proposal was submitted to Monaghan CYPSC and Monaghan LCDC for a proposed Peer to Peer programme to be funded through Healthy Ireland funding. The funding has been secured for the delivery of this programme to all 12 secondary schools in the county.

### [“Prove it’s Me” campaign launched](#)

The “Prove it’s Me” campaign was launched in March 2019. In partnership with the local Gardaí, Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Safe Socialising Committee, 500 posters were distributed throughout the county aiming to reduce the use of false ID among young people, by getting the support of licenced premises and appealing to them to only accept 3 accepted forms of identification. The valid ID that will be accepted are garda age card, full driving licence or passport.

### [Let’s Talk 2019](#)

Comhairle na nÓg hosted a public event in Ballybay Wetlands Centre in the lead-up to the local elections. Candidates and young people were invited to attend. Young people participated in discussions on topics such as youth employability, the environment, mental health, LGBT rights and transport. Following round table discussions participants had an opportunity to direct questions to candidates.



### [Summer fun on the Green](#)

Monaghan County Council and Monaghan CYPSC provided funding to support young people who are disengaged and from disadvantaged backgrounds to use the green space in front of the Courthouse in June & July 2019. A variety of specific programmes were targeted at this group which included outdoor cinema evening, caged football and graffiti workshops. This programme was co-ordinated by Teach na nDaoine Family Resource Centre and Foroige’s Garda Youth Diversion Project.



### **[Launch of Healthy Monaghan Strategic Plan](#)**

The Healthy Monaghan Strategic Plan was launched in November at Ballybay Wetlands Centre. This 3-year strategic plan provides the Health and wellbeing sub committee of the LCDC with a clear roadmap and has identified priorities and proposed interventions which will increase and improve the health and wellbeing for all living in our County.



### **[Healthy Ireland Funding 2020-2021 secured](#)**

Monaghan LCDC has secured funding to implement proposals under Round 3 of the Fund. A wide range of actions across the county will now be implemented from January 2020 to June 2021 with a budget of €246,050. Within this programme there will also be actions delivered under the Community Mental Health Fund. In addition, the fund will allow the roll out of a small grants scheme to community, voluntary and sporting organisations. The value of the small grants scheme is €30,000.

## **Monaghan Sports Partnership**

Monaghan Sports Partnership, funded by Sport Ireland, delivered a wide range of projects during 2019 in line with its Service Delivery Plan.

### New Strategic Plan 2019-2023

A significant development in 2019 was the publication and launch of the Monaghan Sports Partnership's new five-year Strategic Plan for increased participation in Sport & Physical Activity.



### Supporting National Events/ Initiatives: Operation Transformation National Walk

Monaghan Sports Partnership worked with 3 Communities to host walks in Jan 2019. Two areas developed follow-on 'Community Transformation' programme for an 8-week period.

### National Bike Week

The Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport initiative was targeted at a number of primary schools in 2019.

### National Play Day & Recreation Events

Department of Children & Youth Affairs initiative delivered in partnership with the following local community organisations; Muckno Mania Festival (Castleblayney) for the purposes of Circus themed acrobatics and play activities and Friends of Rossmore Park (Rossmore Park, Monaghan) for the purposes of the inaugural 'Rossmore

Games' (non-competitive games and activities) for children.

### Targeting low participation Groups Active Adults 50+

Monaghan Sports Partnership, working with partner groups, coordinated a programme of activities aimed at the 50+ age group.

### Women in Sport

Monaghan Sports Partnership developed a new 'Social Basketball' programme for females in two areas. Follow on independent activity continued post programme in both areas.

### Sport & Physical Activity for people with a disability

A wide range of activities were delivered including Soccer, Outdoor Bowls, Yoga, Line Dancing, Horse Riding (Adults) and Swimming and Cycling (Children).

### The Value of Sport and Physical Activity for People with a Disability

A breakfast briefing was held in March as an opportunity to bring local stakeholders and National Governing Bodies together to highlight the work of the sports inclusion programme and identify key priorities going forward in relation to disability sport.

### Supporting Early Years and Primary Schools throughout programming

Monaghan Sports Partnership worked with Pre-Schools and Primary Schools, promoting sport and physical activity. Activities included Volleyball, Cycling, Tug of War, The Daily Mile, Active Homework Challenge

### Supporting Sports Clubs and Communities Education & Training

Twenty-seven workshops with 340 participants were delivered in 2019



### Sports Club Grant Programme

Monaghan Sports Partnership administered a Small Grants programme for sports clubs in the county under two strands; Club Supports and Club Development. A total of €11,675 was allocated to 18 clubs.

## Local Enterprise Office

### Financial Supports & Job Creation

In 2019 circa €400,000, was approved in grant aid with a potential to create an additional 54 jobs.

### Training

We delivered 63 programmes to 1,137 participants. This includes 6 Start Your Own Business Programmes to 78 participants. Dedicated programmes were designed and run to support target groups such as the food and construction sector, retail, craft, tourism, women in business, etc. 2019 also saw Monaghan's bright young entrepreneurs participating in the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Programme and Monaghan had the pleasure of hosting the regional final, pictured below.



### Mentoring

Throughout 2019, there was a significant demand for our mentoring programme, especially Brexit specific mentoring which was offered to businesses with specific fears ahead of the UK leaving the EU. During 2019, 109 businesses availed of our mentoring service. The LEO's mentoring service is designed to complement the enterprise training and management development supports it offers. The areas of Mentoring are Business Planning, Finance, Sales & Marketing, IP, HR and Brexit related.

## Local Enterprise Week



A hugely successful Local Enterprise Week ran from 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March. Over 500 individuals & students attended 9 enterprise orientated events during the week. This national initiative seeks to encourage nascent entrepreneurship and foster an entrepreneurial culture in County Monaghan.

## Women's Programme



Monaghan Women in Business (MWIB) is an informal network which aims to provide information, support, promotional and networking opportunities to all who take part. Participation in MWIB continued in 2019 with over 330 attending a number of events through the year. This included a very popular 'Made in Monaghan - Fashion Showcase' event which closed off the year.

## eCommerce Cluster

Local Enterprise Office Monaghan, in association with Monaghan IT Forum, developed a pilot 'eCommerce Cluster' programme to assist local businesses get to the next level of online selling. It provided a website audit, education and practical support that included mentoring, training and expert case studies to help Monaghan companies make a success of the online aspect of their business; and to make sure that they were getting a return for the investment of having an eCommerce website. The Cluster launched on 9th September with 19 companies taking part in this new initiative.



As a result of the successful pilot programme, funding has been awarded through Enterprise Ireland's Competitive Fund to run a Regional eCommerce Cluster which will launch in early 2020.

## Student Enterprise Programmes



With an aim to foster and develop enterprise awareness, LEO Monaghan continues to work with the local secondary schools through the Student Enterprise Programme. This provides second level students with practical knowledge and experience of what it is really like to run a business including: finding the business idea; doing the market research; preparing the business plan; selling the products or services; managing the business; maintaining proper books of accounts; and hopefully making some money and having fun along the way. It also promotes entrepreneurship as a viable career option. 289 secondary school students participated from 8 Co. Monaghan schools.

New additions to the programme in 2019 included a Bright Ideas Day held in September and Trade Fairs held in December. These additions to the programme received a great response from participants.



Following on from a successful pilot Primary School Enterprise Development Programme in 2018, the programme ran again in 2019. Once again, the feedback from the teachers and participating students was extremely positive and included enhancing skills in creativity, problem solving, team building and leadership. No doubt this will assist them as they pursue their chosen careers or develop their own businesses in the future.

## Brexit

LEO Monaghan is committed to supporting SMEs to continue growing their business

against this backdrop of uncertainty as the terms of the UK's new relationship with Europe evolves. We held several customs workshops throughout the year to help businesses prepare for potential checks with which they must comply. Information was imparted to clients regularly through our newsletter on all relevant Brexit supports including the Brexit Loan Scheme, Brexit Mentor Programme, Lean for Micro, Co-Innovate Programme and the Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters among others.

## Trading Online Vouchers

In 2019 LEO Monaghan approved 20 Trading Online Vouchers supporting our drive to get more businesses engaged in ecommerce.

## Co-Innovate Programme

Monaghan LEO is a partner on Co-Innovate, an innovation programme supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. The aim of the Programme is to develop the innovation capability of the local businesses and increase the number actively participating in cross-border research. This is one of our main Brexit proofing supports although not a LEO core programme. By December 2019, we had put through 68 Co. Monaghan companies from the Manufacturing, Traded Services and ICT sectors, through the programme. 61 companies received a Business Status Review and 15 of those, went on receive an Innovation audit. To date 10 Co. Monaghan SME's have identified a viable project and been approved to get 50% grant support towards 1-year salary costs of an in-house project manager and additionally receive 30 days academic support to further aid the development of an innovation project. It is estimated that this project, has to date leveraged an additional €300,000 in capability development in Co. Monaghan.



## PLATO EBR

LEO Monaghan, in conjunction with Louth, Meath and Cavan LEOs has established a collaborative partnership, providing a dedicated business support network for entrepreneurs in the region. The programme offers owner managers a business support forum where they can network and discuss business ideas with established large 'parent' companies. These 'parent' companies are leaders in their industry sectors and support the programme by sharing their skills and experience within the network. In 2019, PLATO EBR has established four clusters in ROI, including Cavan/Monaghan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath. In Northern Ireland, a cluster has been established with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

## Strategic Policy Committees

The role of Strategic Policy Committees is to formulate policy proposals, evaluate and report on policy implementation for consideration. Provide policy centred committees which can harness the experience of external bodies in the formulation of policy. The Committees are not designed to deal with routine operational matters in relation to the delivery of services.

The SPCs which consists of elected members of Monaghan County Council and others who are nominated by / or representative of the sectors relevant to the work of the particular SPC. Monaghan County Council has 4 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):

SPC 1 - Housing, Fire and Civil Protection

SPC 2 – Social, Cultural and Community Development

SPC 3 – Economic Development and Enterprise Support

SPC 4 - Environment and Transport

## Report of Strategic Policy Committee Activities during 2019

### Housing, Fire & Civil Protection SPC (2 meetings held 2019)

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2019:

Traveller accommodation programme 2019-2024

The SPC committee received Presentations on:

- Bring Back Homes
- Brexit Implications on Building Control
- Solicitors Charges – Housing

- Service charges on Local Authority dwellings
- Underoccupancy in Local Authority dwellings
- Unmanned Filling Station Policy
- Gortakeegan halting Site alterations
- Housing 4.0 Energy
- Draft Scheme for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements

Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland Planning Authorities and the Regional Enterprise Plan. Both of which promote cross border working initiatives to develop the region through interaction with neighbouring counties both North and south of the border.

#### **Environment & Transport SPC (1 meeting held in 2019)**

The committee discussed the following strategic policy documents:

- Pre-draft Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaption Strategy
- Draft County of Monaghan Presentation of Waste Bye Laws

#### **Social, Cultural & Community Development SPC (2 meetings held in 2019)**

Regular reports were received from the Cultural Team and the Community Development team in relation to projects underway in these areas.

The committee received presentations on:

- The All Ireland Pollinator Plan
- Demonstration of the new Digital Resources available in a Library Service Branch walk-through to highlight My Open Library Service

#### **Planning and Economic Development SPC (2 meetings held in 2019)**

The issues of Brexit and rural Broadband continued to dominate discussions.

The committee was informed of the Statement of Common Ground between

## **Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees**

### **Cathaoirleach 2019/2020 (June 2019-June 2020)**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

### **Leas-Chathaoirleach 2019/2020 (June 2019-June 2020)**

Cllr. Seamus. Treanor

## **Municipal Districts**

### **Monaghan Municipal District**

Cllr. Sean Conlon (Cathaoirleach 2019/2020)

Cllr. David Maxwell (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2019/2020)

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

### **Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District**

Cllr. Noel Keelan (Cathaoirleach 2019/2020)

Cllr. Aidan Campbell (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2019/2020)

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon

Cllr. Aoife McCooey

### **Ballybay-Clones Municipal District**

Cllr. Pat Treanor (Cathaoirleach 2019/2020)

Cllr. Seamus Coyle (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2019/2020)

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Cllr. Richard Truell

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

## **Corporate Policy Group**

Cathaoirleach of the Day

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Pat Treanor



## **Strategic Policy Committees**

### **SPC for Housing, Social and Cultural**

Cllr. Pat Treanor, Chair  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Aoife McCooey  
Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon  
Candice Moen  
Eimear McCarthy  
Noeline O'Neill  
Teresa Carolan  
Tom Freeman

### **SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support**

Cllr. Sean Gilliland, Chair  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Noel Keelan  
Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Alan Johnston  
John Tobin  
Patrick McCormack  
Karen Jeffares  
Peadar Black

### **SPC for Transport and Community**

Cllr. Raymond Aughey, Chair  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Deirdre Kelly  
Eileen Riddell  
Michael Connolly  
Packie Boyle  
Lorraine Cunningham

### **SPC for Climate Action and Environment**

Cllr. Noel Keelan, Chair  
Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Bernard Treanor  
Patrick McCabe  
Brian Duffy  
Liam Murtagh  
Pat Tierney  
Michelle Mayne

### **Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee**

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Noel Keelan  
Cllr. Aoife McCooey  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

### **Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge)**

Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. H. McElvaney

### **Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme).**

Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

**Muckno Development Committee**

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Aoife McCooey  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. PJ O Hanlon

**Twinning Committee**

Cllr. Aoife McCooey  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Sean Conlon

**Clones Erne East Partnership**

Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

**Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.**

Cllr. Aoife McCooey  
Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

**Local Community Development Committee**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Cllr. David Maxwell

**Audit Committee**

Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. David Maxwell

**Museum Advisory Committee**

Cllr. Cathy Bennett  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. David Maxwell

**Monaghan Leisure Complex Management Committee**

Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey



### **Monaghan Local Sports Partnership Board**

Cllr. Sean Conlon

### **Road Safety Committee**

Cllr. Richard Truell

### **Speed Limits Committee**

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Richard Truell

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

### **County Monaghan Heritage Forum**

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Aoife McCooley

### **Local Improvements Scheme Committee**

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. PJ O Hanlon

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cllr. S. Gilliland

### **Appointment of members to witness the affixing of the Official Seal**

All Members of Monaghan County Council appointed to witness the affixing of the Official Seal

### **Cavan/Monaghan Education and Training Board.**

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Cllr David Maxwell

### **Peace IV Partnership Board (nominees)**

Cllr. Aidan Campbell	Carrickmacross-Castleblaney M.D.
Cllr. Pat Treanor	Ballybay-Clones M.D.
Cllr. Aoife McCooley	Carrickmacross-Castleblaney M.D.
Cllr. Cathy Bennett	Monaghan M.D./LCDC

### **Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)**

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Cllr. David Maxwell

**East Border Region Members Forum**

Cllr. P.J. O’Hanlon  
Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. Aoife McCooey  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

**Management Board of ICBAN Ltd., (Irish Central Border Areas Network)**

Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle

**Regional Health Forum – Dublin and North East**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. David Maxwell

**Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances**

Cllr. Richard Truell

**Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)**

Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

**Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)**

Cllr. Sean Conlon

**An Coiste Logainmneacha**

Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Aoife McCooey  
Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

**Standing Orders & Procedures Committee**

Cllr. Richard Truell  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

**North Eastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force**

Cllr. Colm Carthy

**Peace Campus Steering Committee**

Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly

**Directors to the East Border Region Ltd**

Cllr. Sean Conlon  
Cllr. P. J. O'Hanlon (changed at June 24 meeting from Cllr McCooey to Cllr O'Hanlon)  
Cllr. Aidan Campbell

**Connecting to Life Suicide Prevention Working Group**

Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey

**Board of the Garage Theatre**

Cllr. Pat Treanor  
Cllr. Richard Truell

**Offices Working Group**

Cllr. Brian McKenna  
Cllr. Colm Carthy  
Cllr. David Maxwell  
Cllr. Paudge Connolly  
Cllr. Raymond Aughey  
Cllr. Seamus Coyle  
Cllr. Seamus Treanor  
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

## Conferences/Training Attended by Members in 2019

<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Venue</u></b>	<b><u>No.'s attended</u></b>
AILG -Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	9
Celtic Conferences-Understanding the Asylum Process in Ireland	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	3
Celtic Conferences-Retirement Entitlements & Taxation Benefits for Councillors	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	3
AILG-120 Years of Irish Local Government 1819-2019	Longford Arms Hotel, Longford	7
Celtic Conferences- Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
LAMA-Councillors Promotions through Social Media	The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	8
AILG-The Marine Spatial Planning Strategy & Met Eireann, Forecasting Services and Local Authorities – A briefing for Elected Members	Radisson Hotel, Sligo	2
AILG-Induction training for Councillors	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co Westmeath	8
AILG-Induction training for Councillors	Horse & Jockey Hotel, (off the M6), Kilnoe, Thurles, Co Tipperary	3
AILG-2019 Autumn Seminar Climate Change and Planning – A new Challenge for Local Authorities	Hillgrove Hotel Monaghan	12
Eastern & Midland CARO & LEO Offlay Creating Economic & business Opportunities from climate Change	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, County Offaly.	1
Celtic Conferences-A Practical Guide to Budget 2020	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	9
AILG-The office of the Planning Regulator	Crowe Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	6
AILG -Climate Change – Local Authorities in the front line	Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	8
Celtic Conferences-Emerging Threats and Persistent Conservation Challenges for Freshwater Biodiversity	O Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	2
AILG-Climate Action – The Local Authority Response	Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone	3
AILG-Climate Action – The Local Authority Response	Radisson Hotel, Little Island, Cork	1
Celtic Conferences-First-Time Home Buyers Incentives	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1
Environmental Pillar-Local Government Climate and Biodiversity Action Workshop	Wood Quay Venue, Dublin 8	1



# Appendix I Members Expenses

## Payments to Monaghan County Council Members in 2019 from 01 January – 31 January 2019

	Travel &				Cathaoirleach	Leas	Chair of MD		Foreign Travel		
Name of	Subsistence	Annual	Mobile	SPC Chair	Allowance	Chathaoirleach	District	Allowance	Cost of	ALLOWANCES	Representational
Councillor	(Cross border	Allowance	Phone	Allowance	(Subject to	Allowance	Allowance		Flights &	& EXPENSES	Gross subject
	Meetings		Allowance		PAYE, etc)	(Subject to	(subject to		Expenses	ETC	to
	Conferences		claimed			PAYE, etc)	PAYE,etc)				PAYE/PRSI/USC
	& Training)										
P. McNally	€ 961.00	€ 2,404.95	€ 0.00	€ 2,500.00				€ 416.67		€ 6,282.62	€ 7,519.97
M. Kerr Conlon	€ 0.00	€ 3,522.12	€ 0.00					€ 583.33		€ 4,105.45	€ 9,638.76
N. Keelan	€ 2,246.48	€ 5,888.08	€ 600.00	€ 3,500.00			€ 3,350.00	€ 1,000.00		€ 16,584.56	€ 17,093.34
C. Carthy	€ 1,041.85	€ 5,754.52	€ 522.76			€ 1,999.98	€ 3,167.00	€ 1,000.00		€ 13,486.11	€ 17,093.34
P.J. O'Hanlon	€ 250.00	€ 5,624.55	€ 0.00					€ 1,000.00		€ 6,874.55	€ 17,093.34
A. Campbell	€ 295.00	€ 4,685.32	€ 0.00					€ 1,000.00		€ 5,980.32	€ 17,093.34
J. Crowe	€ 1,019.80	€ 1,931.65	€ 123.56					€ 416.67		€ 3,491.68	€ 9,638.76
A. McCooey	€ 353.67	€ 3,249.26	€ 0.00					€ 583.33		€ 4,186.26	€ 7,519.97
H. McElvaney	€ 0.00	€ 4,270.92	€ 0.00					€ 1,000.00		€ 5,270.92	€ 17,093.34
R. Truell	€ 3,599.06	€ 4,685.32	€ 0.00					€ 1,076.71		€ 9,361.09	€ 17,093.34
S. Coyle	€ 4,488.01	€ 4,974.38	€ 165.38		€ 11,333.96			€ 1,000.00	€ 882.09	€ 22,843.82	€ 17,093.34
S. Gilliland	€ 55.00	€ 5,353.48	€ 0.00	€ 6,000.00			€ 2,500.00	€ 1,000.00		€ 14,908.48	€ 17,093.34
P. Treanor	€ 2,396.99	€ 4,618.48	€ 0.00	€ 6,000.00			€ 3,285.00	€ 1,000.00		€ 17,300.47	€ 17,093.34
D. Maxwell	€ 3,132.55	€ 4,235.92	€ 600.00		€ 13,722.20			€ 1,000.00	€ 2,971.93	€ 25,662.60	€ 17,093.34
S. Treanor	€ 115.56	€ 4,235.92	€ 129.19			€ 1,744.65		€ 1,000.00		€ 7,225.32	€ 17,093.34
P. Connolly	€ 4,603.61	€ 4,235.92	€ 600.00					€ 1,000.00		€ 10,439.53	€ 17,093.34
C. Bennett	€ 1,239.29	€ 4,235.92	€ 571.07					€ 1,000.00		€ 7,046.28	€ 17,093.34
R. Aughey	€ 0.00	€ 4,235.92	€ 0.00	€ 3,500.00				€ 1,000.00		€ 8,735.92	€ 17,093.34
S. Conlon	€ 2,842.96	€ 4,235.92	€ 152.03				€ 3,350.00	€ 1,000.00		€ 11,580.91	€ 17,093.34
B. McKenna	€ 1,868.44	€ 4,585.00	€ 432.63	€ 2,500.00			€ 3,167.00	€ 1,000.00		€ 13,553.07	€ 17,093.34
Totals	€ 30,509.27	€ 86,963.55	€ 3,896.62	€ 24,000.00	€ 25,056.16	€ 3,744.63	€ 18,819.00	€ 18,076.71	€ 3,854.02	€ 214,919.96	€ 307,810.90

### **Gratuity Payments 2019**

Padraig McNally	€75,673.16 (subject to PAYE, etc)	34 years service
Jackie Crowe	€67,480.91 (subject to PAYE, etc)	24 years service

## Financial Statement 2019

### Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2019 accounted for a turnover of over €110 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €47,492.928 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County. The major areas of activity were Housing and Roads.

### Capital Account

Activity by Programme Group	2019 Expenditure	2019 Income	2019 Net cost
Housing & Building	21,572,710	18,973,333	(2,599,377)
Roads Transportation & Safety	15,446,315	15,169,681	(276,634)
Water Services	356,539	597,094	240,555
Development Management	2,342,790	2,057,603	(285,187)
Environmental Services	3,025,674	1,971,682	(1,053,990)
Recreation & Amenity	1,393,692	1,398,061	4,369
Miscellaneous Services	3,355,208	3,407,362	52,154
<b>Total Expenditure / Income</b>	<b>47,492,928</b>	<b>43,574,815</b>	<b>(3,918,113)</b>
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1</b>		<b>2018 8,402,005</b>	<b>2019 6,223,151</b>
Expenditure		27,168,033	47,492,928
Income		24,419,652	43,574,815
Transfers to Revenue		(1,052,799)	(845,702)
Net Transfers from Revenue Account		1,622,327	1,846,511
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31</b>		<b>6,223,152</b>	<b>3,305,848</b>

### Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2019 Expenditure	2019 Income	2019 Net cost
Housing & Building	8,118,291	8,455,992	337,701
Roads Transportation & Safety	21,611,919	15,233,893	(6,378,025)
Water Services	8,904,548	8,713,021	(191,527)
Development Management	10,276,919	5,892,294	(4,384,626)
Environmental Services	6,495,313	1,115,130	(5,380,183)
Recreation & Amenity	4,476,166	311,537	(4,164,630)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	482,535	326,110	(156,425)
Miscellaneous Services	4,847,378	2,183,920	(2,663,458)
<b>Total Expenditure / Income</b>	<b>65,213,069</b>	<b>42,231,897</b>	<b>(22,981,172)</b>
<b>Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>(22,981,173)</b>
			<b>€</b>
Rates			13,047,421
Local Property Tax			11,238,572

Pension Related Deduction	
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	1,304,820
Transfer to Reserves	(1,227,954)
Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)	76,867
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January	(2,300,474)
<b>Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December</b>	<b>(2,223,607)</b>

## Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Account	2019		2018	
<b>Income</b>				
State Grants and Subsidies	27,873,035	41.9%	24,448,812	39.6%
Contributions from other LAs	359,670	0.5%	273,665	0.4%
Goods and Services	13,999,193	21.0%	13,546,916	21.9%
Local Property Tax	11,238,572	16.9%	11,238,572	18.2%
Rates	13,047,421	19.6%	12,281,534	19.9%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>66,517,890</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>61,789,499</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Payroll Expenses	26,299,947	43.4%	26,437,942	43.4%
Operational Expenses	31,731,675	44.5%	27,082,048	44.5%
Administration Expenses	2,527,584	3.9%	2,381,895	3.9%
Establishment Expenses	1,045,890	2.1%	1,276,128	2.1%
Financial Expenses	3,212,609	5.3%	3,246,547	5.3%
Miscellaneous	395,364	0.8%	478,232	0.8%
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>65,213,069</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>60,902,792</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Surplus for Year before Transfers</b>	<b>1,304,821</b>		<b>886,707</b>	
Transfers to Reserves	(1,227,954)		(809,835)	
<b>Overall Deficit for Year</b>	<b>76,867</b>		<b>76,872</b>	
<b>General Reserve at 1st January</b>	<b>(2,300,474)</b>		<b>(2,377,346)</b>	
<b>General Reserve at 31st December</b>	<b>(2,223,607)</b>		<b>(2,300,474)</b>	