

Agenda

Notice of Meeting

 *Meeting Notice.pdf*

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1.0 Statement by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Colm Carthy on the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes

Statement by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Colm Carthy on the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- Minutes of Council meeting held on 11th January 2021

 *Minutes 11 January 2021.pdf*

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3.0 Correspondence

 *correspondence.pdf*

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 *Additional Correspondence - Feb.pdf*

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4.0 To consider Section 183 Notices relating to disposal of the following property:

- sale of lands at Carn, Clones
- sale of lands at 25 Old Cross Square, Monaghan
- sale of lands at 2/3 Thomas Street, Castleblayney

 *section 183 carn.pdf*

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 *map.pdf*

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 *Old Cross Sq.pdf*

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 *25 Old Cross Square, Monaghan.JPG*

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 *2_3 Thomas Street.pdf*

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 *2 & 3 Thomas St., Castleblayney.JPG*

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5.0 To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of former Council Offices Newbliss

To consider the Chief Executive's Reports prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of former Council Offices, Newbliss (Ref 20/8007)

📄 *20 8007 report.pdf*

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6.0 To approve newspapers for publication of planning notices

📄 *Approved Newspapers 2021.pdf*

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7.0 To approve the Monaghan County Council Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021

Deferred to March Council Meeting pending consideration firstly by the Corporate Policy Group.

8.0 Audited AFS 2019

(i) To receive the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement 2019 and the Local Government Auditors Report 2019 on the Accounts of Monaghan County Council for year ended 31st December 2019.

📄 *MCC AC Rept on AFS & LGA 2019.pdf*

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📄 *Audited AFS 2019.pdf*

Not included

9.0 Audit Committee:

(i) To receive the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2020 which includes Performance & Effectiveness.

(ii) To approve the Draft Audit Committee Charter for 2021

(ii) To approve the Draft Audit Committee Work Programme for 2021

📄 *AC Annual Report 2020 which includes Performance & Effectiveness.pdf*

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📄 *DRAFT Audit Committee CHARTER for 2021.pdf*

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📄 *Audit Committees Work Programme 2021.pdf*

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- 10.0 To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 26 January 2021**
📎 *CPG 26 Jan 2021.pdf* *Page 83*
- 11.0 To receive Management Report - January 2021**
📎 *January Management Report.pdf* *Page 86*
- 12.0 To fix a date for special meeting to consider the Capital Programme 2021-2023 and Civic Offices Project.**
- 13.0 Business submitted by Chief Executive**
- 14.0 Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 11th January 2021**
Attach minutes of previous meeting - Item 1 above
📎 *Minutes 11 January 2021.pdf* *Not included*
- 15.0 To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**
- 16.0 To receive update on North South Interconnector project**
📎 *NSInter.pdf* *Page 124*

📎 *North South Interconnector - addit corresp.pdf* *Page 125*
- 17.0 To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**
- 18.0 Questions**
📎 *Questions Feb2021.pdf* *Page 132*
- 19.0 Notices of Motion**
📎 *Notices of Motion.pdf* *Page 136*
- 20.0 Votes of sympathy/congratulations**



01 Feabhra, 2021
01 February, 2021

Do gach ball den Chomhairle
To Each Member of the Council

A Chomhairleoir,

Iarrtar ort freastal ar chruinniú den Chomhairle a thionólfar go cianda trí Fhoirne **ar an Luain 08 Feabhra, 2021 at 11:00 i.n.**

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Council to be held remotely via Teams, on **Monday 08 February, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.**

Mise, le meas,

Carmel Thornton,
Meetings Administrator.

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

Chair: Cllr C. Carthy, Cathaoirleach

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

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

Apology: Cllrs Coyle and McElvaney

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

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 7th December, 2020

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

2. Correspondence.

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

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

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

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

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

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

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

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

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

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

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

The motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. To receive the Management Report – December 2020:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Business submitted by the Chief Executive.

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

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

10. Matters arising out of the minutes of Councils meeting held on 7th December, 2020

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

11. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

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

12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

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

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

13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

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

14. Questions:

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

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

Reply: Carrickmacross / Castleblayney: 29

Ballybay / Clones: 15

Monaghan: 23

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

Reply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Water concerns:

Cois Cnoic, Monaghan

Millbrook, Monaghan

Bramley Crescent, Castleblayney

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

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

- (a) The Alders, Clones Road, Ballybay

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overview of the three grant schemes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revised level of grant:

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

General terms and conditions for the three grant schemes:

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

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

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

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

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

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

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

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

Reply: Under WiFi4EU, there is a mixture of internal and external access points being installed at community centres and clubs. The first priority was about giving internal access to wifi within community settings, facilitating meetings, delivery of training courses and opening these facilities up for remote working access etc. So internal Access points were installed as a priority. In many cases, external Access Points have also been installed to offer external wifi within car parking areas, subject to safe car parking and subject to available budgets. All wifi content is filtered and logged by user.

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

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

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

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

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

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

Campaign information and links have been forwarded to the Tidy Town Network. The EAO also met virtually with Tidy Town groups who attended the December Tidy Town meeting, to promote and inform them of the suite of documents available for their use.

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

Information is available on www.monaghan.ie and mywaste.ie advising where to access this suite of promotional awareness documents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reply: Nine currently have broadband services up and running:

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

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

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

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

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

- Clara Community Hall

- **Latton GAA Centre**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. Notices of Motion

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

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

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

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

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

Cllrs Bennett proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded:

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

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

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr Carthy seconded:

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

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

16. Votes of sympathy/congratulations

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

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

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

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

17. Conferences

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

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

February Council meeting:

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine



18

15th January 2021

Ms. Carmel Thornton
Monaghan County Council,
Council Offices,
The Glen, Monaghan
Ireland

Monaghan Co. Council

18 JAN 2021

Corporate Affairs

Reference No: DAFM-MMO-00081-2021

Re: occurrences of T.B in Co. Monaghan

Dear Ms. Thornton,

I would like to acknowledge your recent correspondence dated 04/01/2021 to Charlie McConalogue TD, Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine.

I will bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention as soon as possible. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,


Aiden Kelly
Private Secretary



Seirbhís Sláinte | Building a
Níos Fearr | Better Health
á Forbairt | Service

Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1
(An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich, Tír Chonaill F93 YV9R
Head of Service Disability
HSE Area 1 (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan & Sligo)
The Isacc Butt Building, Ballybofey
Co. Donegal F93 YV9R
Tel+353(0)74 9189028 Email: HOSDISABILITY.CHO1@hse.ie

19

22nd January 2021

Senator Robbie Gallagher
18 Glaslough Street
Monaghan
Co Monaghan

Re: Enquiry to Mr John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO Area 1 regarding Bóthar Oirialla Group Home, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan

Dear Senator Gallagher,

I refer to your recent contact with Mr John Hayes, Chief Officer in relation to Bóthar Oirialla Group Home, the residential Group Home for persons with a disability at Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

This matter has been referred to my office for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that Bothar Oirialla Group Home, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan developed by Respond Housing Agency is to provide five residential placements to people with a physical and sensory disability.

The HSE provides supports and services within the context of the National Service Plan and within a defined budget allocation. CHO1 Disability Services received funding of €600k in its 2021 budget allocation to progress an additional residential service in the CHO1 area and this funding will be used to support the opening of the Bothar Oirialla Group Home, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. Full year funding will be required in the 2022 budget allocation.

The Bothar Oirialla Group Home requires completion of remedial works which have been identified and costed. Funding to progress these works will be provided by CHO1 Disability Services from within its allocated budget and these will be progressed with the HSE Estates Department.

CHO1 Disability Services will be progressing the necessary requirements and arrangements to have the Bothar Oirialla Group Home operational in the latter half of 2021.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Senator Robbie Gallagher

FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
CAVAN - MONAGHAN



Bothar Oirialla Group Home, Carrickmacross will open in 2021.

Dear Members,

I have received confirmation that the Bothar Oirialla Group Home in Carrickmacross for persons with a disability will open in the latter half of this year.

I would like to acknowledge the work done in this matter by all political representatives from all parties and none.

"CH01 Disability Services has received €600,000 in its 2021 funding budget allocation to progress additional residential service and this funding will be used to support the opening of the Bothar Oirialla Group Home in Carrickmacross."

"The group home requires completion of some remedial works which have been identified. Funding to progress these works will come from CH01 Disability Services allocated budget and will be progressed by the HSE Estates Management. When complete the home can then be put into use".

"The home was developed by the Respond Housing Agency on land provided by Monaghan County Council to provide Residential Placements to people with physical and sensory disabilities. The home has been lying idle since 2018.

We are delighted and heartened by this response. We will continue to monitor the situation until the home opens successfully. Ultimately the opening and permanent use of the home for persons with physical and sensory disabilities will be most welcome for the families who have been waiting a long time for this facility."

ENDS
Robbie



CAVAN-MONAGHAN



SENATOR Robbie Gallagher

SEANAD SPOKESPERSON FOR JUSTICE
URLABHRAÍ Dlí AGUS CIRT AN TSEANAID

Monaghan Office,
18 Glaslough Street,
Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.
☎ 047 75050

Seanad Éireann,
Leinster House, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2, Ireland.
☎ 01 618 3087

Carrickmacross Office,
70 Main Street,
Carrickmacross,
Co. Monaghan
☎ 042 966 3876

☎ 086 816 1929
✉ robbie.gallagher@oireachtas.ie
🌐 www.senatorrobbiegallagher.org
📱 /Senator Robbie Gallagher
📱 @SenRobGallagher



Monaghan Office,
18 Glaslough Street, Monaghan,
Co. Monaghan. ☎ 047 75050

☎ 086 816 1929 ☎ robbie.gallagher@oireachtas.ie
🌐 www.senatorrobbiegallagher.org
📱 /Senator Robbie Gallagher 📱 @SenRobGallagher

Carrickmacross Office,
70 Main Street, Carrickmacross,
Co. Monaghan. ☎ 042 966 3876

SEANAD SPOKESPERSON FOR JUSTICE URLABHRAÍ Dlí AGUS CIRT AN TSEANAID

Carmel Thornton

From: Minister Rabbitte Office <minister_rabbitte@health.gov.ie>
Sent: 19 January 2021 15:18
To: Carmel Thornton
Subject: Ref:LC251

Ref:LC251

19th January 2021

Carmel Thornton,
Meetings Administrator/
A.O. Corporate Services,
Monaghan County Council
cthorton@monaghancoco.ie

Dear Ms Thornton,

I refer to your representations to Minister Anne Rabbitte, T.D, Minister for Disabilities, regarding the Respond premises at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross, Co.Monaghan. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in response.

The need for more residential supports for people with a disability is recognised and the Minister fully acknowledges the concerns of Monaghan County Council in relation to the project undertaken by Respond to establish a residential centre for people with a physical / sensory disability in Carrickmacross.

This Minister is aware of the project and is told that the HSE continue to liaise with Respond, in their capacity as developer and landlord of the property, on the matter of some minor outstanding works to be carried out. The HSE have also provided assurances to the Department of Health of their continued efforts to engage with all stakeholders and prospective service providers, and their commitment to explore all avenues to make this facility operational as soon as possible in the context of available resources.

The HSE National Service Plan for 2021 is currently being prepared. This is a detailed operational planning process, which when concluded, will outline the key commitments in relation to the delivery of services in this coming year. This plan is currently being finalised, however the Minister is not yet in a position to provide details of any commitments in relation to developments in particular locations at this stage in the process.

On behalf of the Minister, I will undertake provide you with a further update regarding this matter at the earliest opportunity. I hope that this information is of some assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely

PP Luke Crealy
Adrian McLaughlin
Private Secretary to Anne Rabbitte T.D.
Minister for Disabilities

An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Carmel Thornton

From: Minister <Minister@enterprise.gov.ie>
Sent: 19 January 2021 17:02
To: Carmel Thornton
Subject: RE: Letter from Monaghan County Council *Debenhams Workers .*

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar, T.D. acknowledges receipt of your correspondence which has been referred to officials for advice.

If the issue raised is more appropriate to another Government Department I will arrange to transfer your correspondence to that Department for attention and direct reply to you.

The Tánaiste has asked me to thank you for your email.

Yours sincerely,

Éamonn McCormack,
Private Secretary to the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015. You may need to assess whether any particular communication with him requires to be registered in accordance with the Act. If you are unsure of the requirements, more information is available at <https://www.lobbying.ie/>

Is Oifigeach Poiblí Ainmnithe faoin Acht um Brústocaireacht a Rialáil, 2015 í an Aire Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta. B'fhéidir go mbeidh ort a mheas cé acu an gá nó nach gá aon chumarsáid ar leith léi a chlárú de réir an Achta. Mura bhfuil tú cinnte faoi na riachtanais atá ann, is féidir leat teach tar a thuilleadh eolais ar <https://www.lobbying.ie/>

Email Disclaimer / Séanadh Ríomhphoist:

<https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/Disclaimer/Email-Disclaimer.html>

Carmel Thornton

From: Defence Minister <Minister@defence.ie>
Sent: 20 January 2021 10:10
To: Carmel Thornton
Subject: Letter from Monaghan County Council/Jadotville

Dear Ms. Thornton,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to the office of the Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Simon Coveney TD.

The Minister's officials are looking into this matter and will revert back to you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Cliona O'Sullivan
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Defence
Mr. Simon Coveney TD

Fógra faoi Rúndacht: Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda. Is leis an duine / nó daoine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chucu a bhaineann siad agus ní ceart iad a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí gan cead roimh ré ón Roinn Cosanta.

Notice re Confidentiality: This e-mail and any attachment transmitted with it are confidential. They are intended solely for the use of the intended recipient and should not be read or released to any third party without the prior consent of the Department of Defence.

Carmel Thornton

From: Ministers Office <no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 20 January 2021 16:02
To: Carmel Thornton
Subject: DJE-MO-00554-2021
Re: Tearmann - Domestic Violence Services Support

cthornto@monaghancoco.ie

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-00554-2021

Dear Ms. Thornton,

I write to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 19th January 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McCabe
Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Coiste Chontae Mhuineacháin

CATHAOIRLEACH
 Déaglan Ó Flanagáin
 Scotch Corner, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan
 087-2510957
chairperson.monaghan@gaa.ie

RÚNAÍ
 Micheál O'Cearbhaill
 Glen, Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan.
 086-1041165
secretary.monaghan@gaa.ie

24 Eanáir 2021

Ms. Carmel Thornton - Meeting Administrator
 Monaghan County Council
 County Offices
 The Glen
 Monaghan Town
 Co. Monaghan
 H18 YT50



Carmel, a chara,

Your letter dated 15th December 2020 (Ref CT/POB) refers.

I was delighted to receive your letter and I really appreciate your kind words of support and encouragement with regards my new role as Cathaoirleach of Coiste Chontae Mhuineacháin.

I am excited about the future and I'm looking forward to continuing our long-term relationship with Monaghan County Council.

Again, please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation and I look forward to working with Monaghan County Council during my tenure as Cathaoirleach.

Is mise le meas,

Déaglan Ó Flanagáin

Déaglan Ó Flanagáin
 Cathaoirleach
 CLG Mhuineacháin



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council**

www.ccdhunnangall.ie www.donegalcoco.ie

11th January, 2021

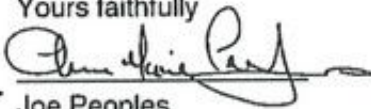
To: Each Local Authority

I write to inform you that the members of Donegal County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution:-

"That Donegal County Council writes to the Taoiseach requesting that a rail link from Letterkenny to Derry be examined given the news that the Shared Island Unit in his Department are already examining Speed Rail from Derry through Belfast and onto Dublin and that we write to the other Local Authorities along the route seeking their support for this project".

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities along the route for their attention and consideration.

Yours faithfully

p.p. 
Joe Peoples
Meetings Administrator



Culr freagra chulg: Áras an Chontae, Leifear, Contae Dhún na nGall, Éire F93 Y622
Please reply to: County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal, Ireland F93 Y622

Guthán/Tel: 074 9153900 | Facs/Fax: 074 9172812 | Ríomhphost/Email: info@donegalcoco.ie

Áras an Chontae,
Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh
H91 H6KX

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway,
H91 H6KX

Fón/Phone: (091) 509 000
Facs/Fax: (091) 509 010
Idirlián/Web: www.gailimh.ie
www.galway.ie

📧 @GalwayCoCo
📞 GalwayCounty

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
Corporate Services
☎(091) 509 225
✉corpserv@galwaycoco.ie

Tíocht
Housing
☎(091) 509 300
✉housing@galwaycoco.ie

Timpeallacht & Tréidliacht
Environment & Veterinary
☎(091) 509 510
✉environment@galwaycoco.ie

Bóithre, Iompar, Cúrsaí Mara
& Seirbhísí Ginearálta
Roads, Transportation, Marine
& General Services
☎(091) 509 309
✉roads@galwaycoco.ie

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
☎(091) 509 303
✉hr@galwaycoco.ie

Mótarchóin
Motor Taxation
☎(091) 509 099
✉motortax@galwaycoco.ie

Clár na dToghthóirí
Register of Electors
☎(091) 509 310
✉electors@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
☎(091) 509 505
✉water@galwaycoco.ie

Pobal & Fiontar
Community & Enterprise
☎(091) 509 521
✉community@galwaycoco.ie

Pleanáil
Planning
☎(091) 509 308
✉planning@galwaycoco.ie

Leabharlann
Library
☎(091) 562 471
✉info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0025

Our Ref: MO/CD/SE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

26th January 2021

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the January Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council, the Members passed the following motion:

“That Galway County Council circulate the “Agri Kids Be Farm Safe Presentation” to all 31 Local Authorities and invite each local authority to join in this imitative of Farming Safety and Safety Measures in Council Awareness Programs at a local level”.

It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils.

Mise le Meas


PP **Michael Owens**
Meetings Administrator

2021



ENGAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER



FARM-SAFE SCHOOLS



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

The outcome of this pilot will potentially form the basis in determining the viability of an all-inclusive and interactive farm safety educational programme for primary school children as set out under the requirements of the SPHE curriculum. Participating schools will also be encouraged to create their own activities and asked to share these activities so we may build a bank of resources that can be replicated by schools in the future.

Class Levels

Age Groups:

1. Infants
2. First - third class
3. Fourth – sixth class

Curriculum Links:

- Social, personal and health education (SPHE)
- Social, environmental and scientific education (SESE): Science, Geography
- Language: The lesson plans to be available in both English and Irish.

Calendar Suggestion

February - May

Relevant content suppliers / stakeholders:

- 31 Local Authorities
- Health & Safety Authority (HSA)
- Road Safety Authority (RSA)
- Teagasc
- ESB Networks
- Farm Relief Services (FRS)
- Irish Water Safety (IWS)

Modules and Content:

A series of farm safety themed activities will be designed and made available to each school involved in the pilot:

Module 1 - Machinery & Vehicles

- Tractor safety
- Know the blind spots
- PTO safety
- Quad bike safety
- What machines farmers use
- Tractor checklist

Learning outcomes:

- Tractor Safety (Blind spots, legal age, PTO, Seat and Seatbelt needed for children.)
- Quad Bike Safety (Legal age, Rollovers, their use on Farm)
- Fertilizer/Slurry Spreading (what is fertiliser? Agitation process and dangers)

Module 2 - Animals

- Know the warning signs
- Bulls
- Cows & calves
- Horses
- Zoonoses
- Animal care & wellbeing

Learning outcomes:

- Animal Welfare



"Essentially, the project would whether and how reading the books at school as part of a class will affect safety culture at home and in school. There are a few basic research questions that it would address

- Can kids can be employed as a vector to transmit safety practices into farms via the farm family?
- Can school-based interventions change home culture (there's evidence of this, but not specific to farming)?
- Are there modifications of the product that would enhance home transmission?
- Are there additional products that might supplement this strategy (the company already sell hi-vis home clothing)?

We believe that children are one way that we get messages about what our community values. We need messages that farming is valued and messages that farming safety is valued.

There's evidence that social norms are powerful in changing behaviour ("that's the done thing") and in preventing behaviour change ("Nobody in their right mind would do that").

These talks are at a preliminary stage.



School Reviews

AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Runnamoat N.S. (optional)

Please circle your answer

| Activity | No | Some | Yes | Very much |
|---|----|------|-----|------------|
| Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Content was relevant to topic and subject matter? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Delivery was appropriate for audience? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Were the tools and props used relevant to the content? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Engagement | | | | |
| Was there engagement with the children throughout? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Learning Outcome | | | | |
| Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Were the worksheets used that were left behind? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |
| Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 5 |

Excellent

Can you explain your answer?
Parents reported back to class teacher how their child had thoroughly enjoyed alma's visit & had informed them of important farm safety messages e.g. do not enter a field with a bull.

Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?
 1 2 3 4 **5**

Any additional feedback would be great! 😊
 * This organisation should visit every school in the country. It is equally as important as road safety, especially for children from farming backgrounds.
 * It is reassuring to know the children have had farm safety explained to them by alma.
 * Keep up the good work alma!



AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Gowran NS, Co. Kilkenny (optional) Please circle

your answer 1-5.

| Activity | No | Some | Yes | Very much | |
|--|----|------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 x |
| Content was relevant to topic and subject matter? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 x |
| Delivery was appropriate for audience? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5x |
| Were the tools and props used relevant to the content? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5x |
| Engagement | | | | | |
| Was there engagement with the children throughout? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5x |
| Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5x |
| Learning Outcome | | | | | |
| Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5x |
| Were the worksheets used that were left behind? | 1 | 2 | 3x* | 4 | 5 |
| Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4x | 5 |
| Can you explain your answer? The teachers asked the children to chat to their parents as part of their homework, using the poster you gave them and followed up on parents' reactions the following day. | | | | | |
| Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 x | 5 |
| Any additional feedback would be great! | | | | | |
| The workshop was excellent – it certainly was among the best we've had in terms of engagement and real relevance to rural children. Your material was so appropriately pitched for each age group and you had their attention from start to finish with your stories and props. Your love of all things farming shone through and the children really appreciated that. Keep up the good work! | | | | | |
| *The poster went down well. The worksheet for the older children is probably best suited to 3 rd and 4 th . | | | | | |



AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: St Teresa's NS (optional)

Please circle your answer 1-5.

| Activity | No | Some | Yes | Very much | |
|--|----|------|-----|-----------|---|
| Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Content was relevant to topic and subject matter? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Delivery was appropriate for audience? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Were the tools and props used relevant to the content? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Engagement | | | | | |
| Was there engagement with the children throughout? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Learning Outcome | | | | | |
| Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Were the worksheets used that were left behind? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Can you explain your answer? <i>Parents came to compliment us on having you here to talk to the children</i> | | | | | |
| Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Any additional feedback would be great! ✨ <i>Alma was a joy to have in our school. She had fantastic engagement with all of the children. It was a very useful exercise - Louise Lavin,</i> | | | | | |





By email to: cthorno@monaghancoco.ie

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-00554-2021

Dear Ms. Thornton,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Justice Ms. Helen McEntee TD, in relation to the resolution passed by the members of Monaghan County Council. The Minister has asked me to reply to you on her behalf, and to provide you with the following information, which it is hoped will assist in addressing the concerns outlined in your correspondence.

Tackling domestic abuse and providing supports for victims is a priority for the Minister and for Government. She is working with her colleagues and partners to ensure we have an appropriate national response that supports victims and holds perpetrators to account.

The Minister would outline that whilst funding for refuges is under the responsibility of her colleague, Minister O'Gorman, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, by virtue of his responsibility for Tusla, she can assure you and your members that as part of their continuing interdepartmental collaboration, they are working to ensure supports and resources are provided to victims of domestic abuse. Both Minister's and the Minister for Housing Daragh O'Brien met with Safe Ireland in December to discuss what is needed going forward and are committed to working collectively to address this issue.

Additionally, further consideration around the provision of emergency domestic violence accommodation is being undertaken by Tusla as part of the review of domestic violence accommodation provision, which is due to be completed in April 2021.

The Minister would emphasise that we are not just looking at addressing immediate challenges, but also at improving how we deliver our services collectively going forward. She is working closely with partners, including Minister O' Gorman in that regard;

- The Department of Justice is reviewing the outstanding actions under the whole of Government approach set out in the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. The outcome of the review will inform the 3rd National Strategy to be agreed before the end of 2021.
- The Minister is committed to deliver on the Programme for Government commitment to audit how responsibility for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence is segmented, which will provide valuable guidance for designing our systems to best meet the needs of victims.
- Increased funding has been secured for 2021 for combatting domestic abuse and sexual violence and increased funding for supporting victims of crime, which includes victims of domestic abuse.
- An additional €2.3 million in funding has been ring-fenced to implement Supporting a Victims Journey which the Minister published last October. This ambitious plan sets out a detailed roadmap for giving effect to the O'Malley recommendations in order to introduce important changes to support and protect vulnerable victims at every point throughout the

criminal justice system. Minister McEntee chaired the first meeting of the Implementation Oversight Group in early December and is pleased to report that all actions are progressing in accordance with the plan.

Gardaí continue to develop their specialist services in this area and Divisional Protective Services Units have been rolled out nationwide. This will ensure that when vulnerable victims of crimes, such as domestic abuse and sexual violence, present to Gardaí they are met with specialist professional, sensitive and expert assistance.

The Minister would like to assure you that she is continuing to prioritise all aspects of our work to combat domestic abuse and address the needs of victims, both through short terms measures and by evaluating and improving how we do this better in the longer-term and is committed to working with all relevant sectors, agencies and departments to ensure our response is comprehensive and holistic.

Lastly, the Minister has asked me to pass on her appreciated to frontline services such as Tearmann Domestic Violence Services support, who provide invaluable support to victims of domestic abuse. Their work in this area is very much appreciated and valued.

I hope that this information is of assistance and reassurance to your members with regards to concerns raised in your correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McCabe
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice
51 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 HK52
51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 HK52

Carmel Thornton

From: Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh <Deirdre.NiRaghallaigh@dublincity.ie>
Sent: 04 February 2021 14:32
To: 'Robert Collins'; Anne Lee; Siofra Kilcullen; ebrophy@carlowcoco.ie; lmcgavigan@cavancoco.ie; areynolds@clarecoco.ie; alma_murnane@corkcity.ie; mairead.lucey@corkcoco.ie; J peoples; learls@dlrcoco.ie; Gary.McMahon@galwaycity.ie; mowens@galwaycoco.ie; padraig.corkery@kerrycoco.ie; cogrady@kildarecoco.ie; kkeane@kildarecoco.ie; Anne Maria Walsh; Irene Delaney; Kieran Brett; james.clune@limerick.ie; Grainne Tuomey; Carmel Thornton; mflynn@offalycoco.ie; pbohan@roscommoncoco.ie; Kevin Colreavy; churson@sdblincoco.ie; mreilly@sdblincoco.ie; Walsh, Ger; Honor Dunphy; brian.buckley@fingal.ie; Anne Galvin; Mark Keaveney; Adrienne Larkin; Lorraine Gallagher
Cc: Ruth Dowling
Subject: RE: Mother and Baby Homes.
Attachments: Women's Committee letter to Minister O'Gorman.pdf; Womens Committee Letter to Minister O'Brien.pdf

Dear Meeting Administrators

I was asked by Cllr Darcy Lonergan, Chair of the Dublin City Council Women's Committee to circulate this letter for the attention of your Cathaoirligh and Members. It relates to the issue of Maternity Leave for Councillors and is copies of correspondence to the relevant Ministers.

I would be grateful if you could bring it to the attention of your Members.

Regards

Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh

Senior Executive Officer / *Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach*
T. 01 222 6738 M: 0868150582 E. Deirdre.niraghallaigh@dublincity.ie

Chief Executive's Office, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8. D08 RF3F
Oifig an Phríomhfeidhmeannaigh, Oifig na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8 D08 RF3F

Smaoinigh ar an timpeallacht sula ndéanann tú an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil. Please consider the Environment before printing this mail.



Comhairleoir Cathrach
City Councillor

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth,
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
February 4th 2021

Dear Minister O’Gorman,

The Dublin City Council Women’s Committee, a cross party committee composed of 26 of the 29 female Councillors on Dublin City Council is writing to implore your department to make appropriate legal provisions to allow sitting Councillors to avail of Maternity Leave.

Currently there is no mechanism which allows women Councillors to take maternity leave whilst serving on the Council. We find this to be unjust and discriminatory. The Employment Equality Acts 1998 - 2015 prohibits discrimination in employment related settings, which includes ‘family status’. Discrimination is referred to as ‘less favourable treatment’ and can be either direct or indirect. We have provided quotes from Councillors who had given birth whilst serving on the council which highlight how unjust and discriminatory the current situation is. Additionally, the absence of maternity leave is a proven barrier to participation for women entering politics and a contributing factor for the relative lack of women putting themselves forward for political office. This leads to government structures that are fundamentally unrepresentative of the general population of Ireland.

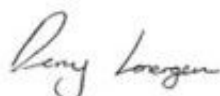
We deem Section 18 (4) (b) within the current Local Government Act 2001 to be an appropriate basis upon which leave for maternity reasons could be provided for. It states that a Councillor may be absent for more than 6 months from meeting for a reason “in good faith” where this “is accepted by the local authority and approved by resolution under this paragraph before the end of the relevant period, in which case the period shall stand extended to 12 months from the relevant date”.

In addition, we concur with the Moorhead Report recommendation which states: ‘Councillors who wish to take parental leave should be able to notify the elected council one month in advance, rather than be obliged to seek the council’s approval to take time away from their role’ and would ask for clarity on how this is likely to be implemented.

Furthermore, the previous ‘National Strategy for Women and Girls’ sought to implement measures to support women in local government. Access to maternity leave would be a significant step in achieving this objective and should be included in the new strategy.

Minister, we are calling on you to put in place the appropriate legislation and/or directive to rectify this unjust anomaly for Councillors, and to ensure that this action required is expedited in recognition of the seriousness of this inequity. We are available to engage with you and your department and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely



Darcy Lonergan, Chair of the Women’s Committee

Comhairleoir Cathrach
City Councillor

Quotes of councillors who have been pregnant whilst serving on Dublin City Council

"I took 2 weeks off after I had my baby and came back to my council role, I took him to meetings with me when I could manage. Child care wasn't an issue. I had family members willing to help but I wanted him with me so I could feed him and bond with him. I felt pressured to come back to work because there was at the time still no set maternity leave for cllrs. I worked in other jobs whilst having my two other boys and took the full entitlement to maternity leave for both births. Rushing back to my council role didn't help me and I suffered a bout of postpartum depression. I believe then and I believe now that we need full maternity leave entitlements. I was part of a group of cross party Cllr who campaigned for a parenting room in city hall. We were successful in getting this room and I was delighted to be able to use it on one or two occasions after I had Bródy"- **Cllr. Janice Boylan**

"After the birth of each my kids, I was back in the Council Chamber 2 weeks later. When I think back I have no idea how I did that after the first one as I had been back in hospital with complications and had only been back out a few days. I was breastfeeding so I had to leave him at home and then run back home straight after the important votes were cast. With no maternity leave, and no remote or proxy voting, as a new mother you are completely compromised in trying to keep up your role as Councillor and balance motherhood. You also don't have proper child care established when they are really small, and there are no longer spaces available for Councillors in the Dublin City Council creche, a facility that was originally set up for the elected representatives and used to provide a drop in service, even for the late night meetings. This changed when there were less women in the Chamber and the demand dropped. This is why we had to fight to change the rules to allow us to bring babies to Council meetings and to establish a parenting room in City Hall. It was surprising how many other Cllrs resisted it, but we got there in the end. It made it so much easier having my second child being able to bring him with me as a small baby, but we still need proper maternity leave. We are entitled to 6 months sick leave but when you aren't sick it feels wrong to take it. But it's too much to expect women to go back to work weeks after giving birth"- **Cllr Claire Bryne**

"Tom was born 13 days after the council election in 2019, on the day of the vote to elect a new Lord Mayor I was in the Rotunda being admitted for monitoring, I missed the vote because there was no facility for a proxy vote or even online voting at the time, which was awkward as my vote was needed as part of the Dublin Agreement and people outside my group weren't sure why I hadn't turned up!" - **Cllr Jane Horgan Jones**

Comhairleoir Cathrach
City Councillor

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House
Dublin, D01 W6X0
February 4th 2021

Dear Minister O'Brien

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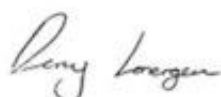
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Yours Sincerely



Darcy Lonergan, Chair of the Women's Committee

Comhairleoir Cathrach
City Councillor

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Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

CEANTAR BARDASACH
BHÉAL ÁTHA BEITHE - CLUAIN EOIS
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
BALLYBAY - CLONES

Fáiltíonn an tÚdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

Section 183 Notice

15 December 2020

To Each Member of the Council

Dear Member,

Notice is hereby given, in pursuance of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 that it is proposed to dispose of the following land:

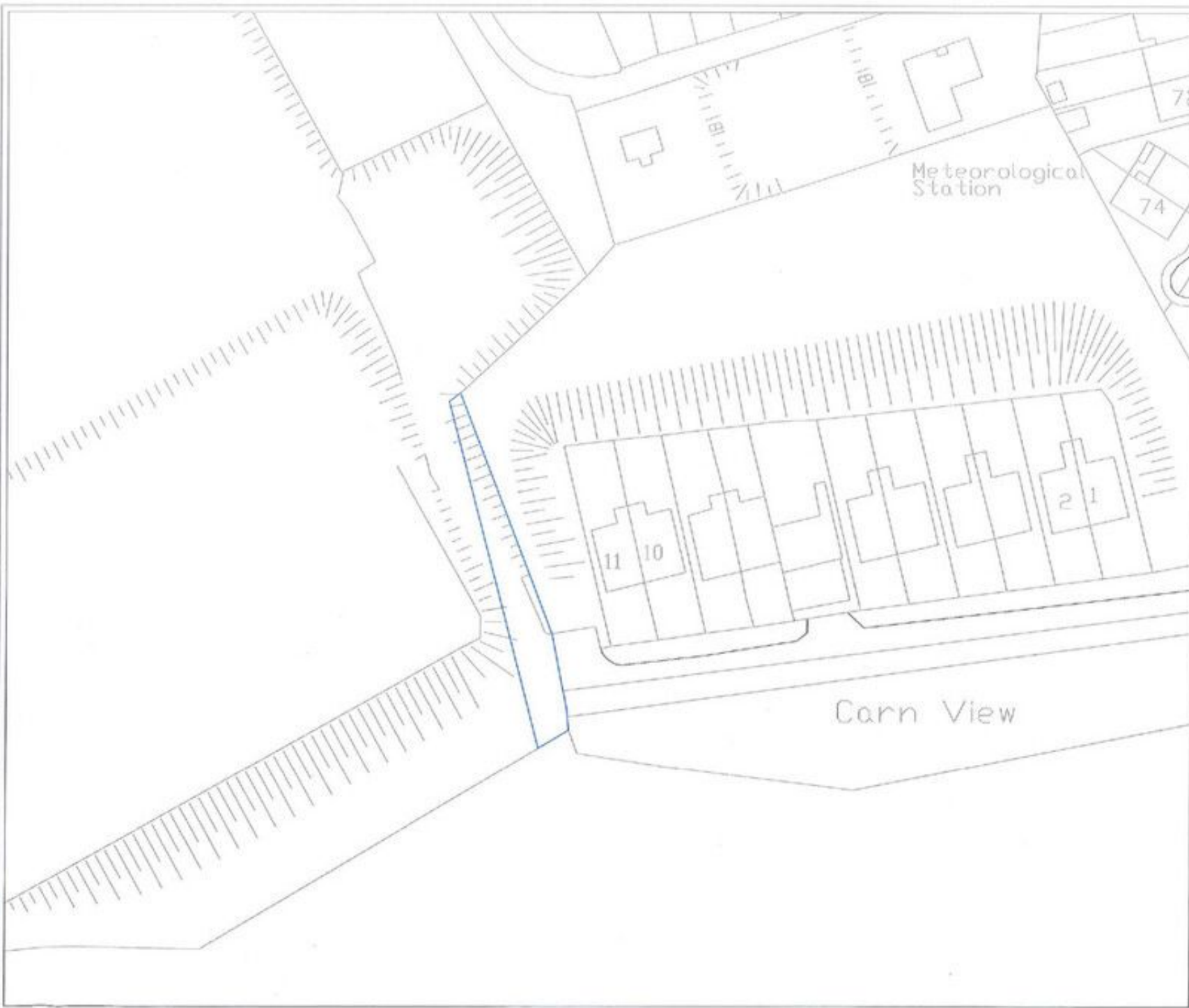
| | |
|---|--|
| The Land: | Land at Carn Clones 207m2. |
| From Whom Acquired: | Clones Town Council. |
| Person in whose favour Land is being disposed: | Clones Town FC. |
| Consideration: | €500. |
| Covenants, Conditions and Agreements to have effect in connection with the sale: | Clones Town FC to be responsible for all costs associated with this disposal of land |

Yours Sincerely

Kevin McNally
Co-ordinator of Municipal District of Ballybay Clones

www.monaghan.ie
www.ballybay.ie
www.clones.ie

Sráid Mhuineacháin · Cluain Eois · Co Mhuineacháin
Monaghan Street · Clones · Co. Monaghan
Guthán/Telephone: 00353 47 51018 · Facs/Fax: 00353 47 52006
Ríomhphost/Email: clones@monaghancoco.ie



Project
CLONES TOWN SOCCER PARK

Title
LAND TRANSFER MAP

Ceantar Bardsach bhéal
 Atha Beithe Cluain Eois,
 Coimhleirí Conna Mhuineacháin,
 Sráid Mhuineacháin,
 Cluain Eois,
 Co. Monaghan,
 Guthán : 047 51018

The Municipal District of
 Billybay-Clones,
 Monaghan County Council,
 Monaghan Street,
 Clones,
 Co. Monaghan
 Telephone : 047 51018

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------|----------|
| Director of Services: Aislinn King | | |
| Designed | | Date |
| Drawn | M.F. | Dec 2020 |
| Traced | -- | Scales |
| Surveyed | -- | 1:500 |
| Checked | -- | @ A0 |

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Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin Monaghan County Council

44

20 January 2021

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
047 30586

Airgeadas
Finance
047 30589

Na Bóithre
Roads
047 30597

Clár na dTogthóirí
Register of Electors
047 30551

Comhshaol
Environment
042 9661240

Na hEalaíona
Arts
047 38162

Iasachtaí /Deontais Tithíochta
Housing Loans/Grants
047 30527

Leabharlann an Chontae
County Library
047 74700

Mótarcháin
Motor Tax
047 81175

Músaem an Chontae
County Museum
047 82928

Pleanáil
Planning
047 30532

Pobal
Community
047 73719

Rialú Dóiteáin/Foirgnimh
Fire/Building Control
047 30521

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
047 71818

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
047 30504/30571

To Each Member of the Council

Dear Councillor,

Notice is hereby given, in pursuance of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 that it is proposed to dispose of land/property as follows: -

Particulars of Proposed Disposal

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Description of property | 25 Old Cross Square, Monaghan |
| 2. Persons from whom the property was acquired | Luke Murray |
| 3. Persons to whom the property is to be disposed of | PCEM Enterprises Ltd., Castleblayney |
| 4. Consideration of sale | €45,000 |
| 5. Particulars of any covenants or agreements to have effect in connection with the disposal | <p>The purchaser will, within two (2) years from the date of signing the contract prepare and submit for the approval of the vendor full plans and specifications to make the premises habitable.</p> <p>The purchaser shall within three (3) years from the date of signing the contract carry out the approved works in a proper and workmanlike manner.</p> <p>In the event that the purchaser shall fail to comply with the time limits specified (or any extensions granted by the vendor), the vendor shall have the option to repurchase from the purchaser the premises at the price paid by the purchaser.</p> |

Yours faithfully,

P. Clifford
Paul Clifford
Director of Economic, Planning
and Emergency Services

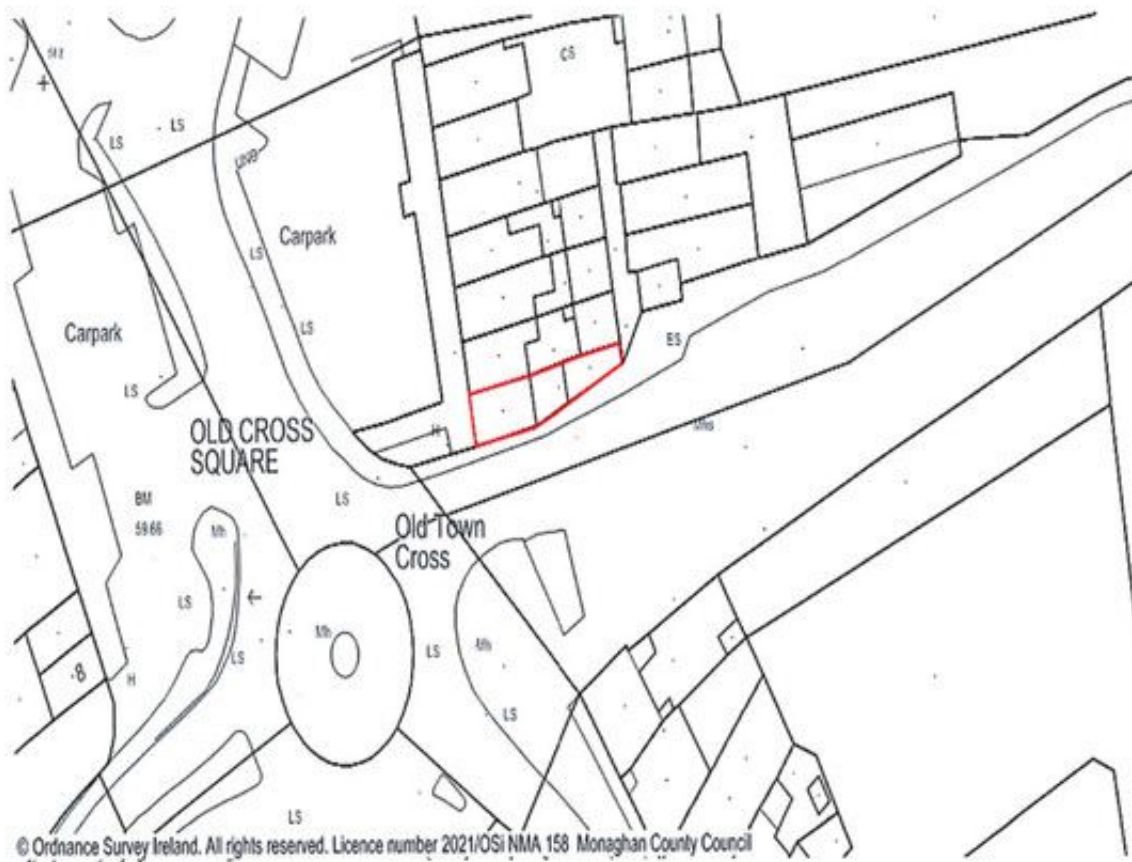
Fáilte fonn an tÚdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Oifigí an Chontae, An Gleann, Muineachán, Éire.
Monaghan County Council, Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland.

☎ 00353 47 30500 📠 00353 47 82739 🌐 www.monaghan.ie

✉ eolas@monaghancoco.ie info@monaghancoco.ie

Map 1 Lands subject to section 183 – 25 Old Cross Square, Monaghan







Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin Monaghan County Council

47

20 January 2021

To Each Member of the Council

Dear Councillor,

Notice is hereby given, in pursuance of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 that it is proposed to dispose of land/property as follows: -

Particulars of Proposed Disposal

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Description of property | Nos. 2 & 3 Thomas Street, Castleblayney |
| 2. Persons from whom the property was acquired | Brendan Irwin and Jacqueline Gilnagh |
| 3. Persons to whom the property is to be disposed of | Creighan Contracts Limited, Castleblayney |
| 4. Consideration of sale | €85,000 |
| 5. Particulars of any covenants or agreements to have effect in connection with the disposal | <p>The purchaser will, within two (2) years from the date of signing the contract prepare and submit for the approval of the vendor full plans and specifications to make the premises habitable.</p> <p>The purchaser shall within three (3) years from the date of signing the contract carry out the approved works in a proper and workmanlike manner.</p> <p>In the event that the purchaser shall fail to comply with the time limits specified (or any extensions granted by the vendor), the vendor shall have the option to repurchase from the purchaser the premises at the price paid by the purchaser.</p> |

Yours faithfully,

P. Clifford
 CT Paul Clifford
 Director of Economic Planning
 and Emergency Services

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
047 30586

Airgeadas
Finance
047 30589

Na Bóithre
Roads
047 30597

Clár na dToghthóirí
Register of Electors
047 30551

Comhshaol
Environment
042 9661240

Na hEalaíona
Arts
047 38162

Iasachtaí /Deontais Tithíochta
Housing Loans/Grants
047 30527

Leabharlann an Chontae
County Library
047 74700

Mótarcháin
Motor Tax
047 81175

Músaem an Chontae
County Museum
047 82928

Pleanáil
Planning
047 30532

Pobal
Community
047 73719

Rialú Dóiteáin/Foirgnimh
Fire/Building Control
047 30521

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
047 71818

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
047 30504/30571

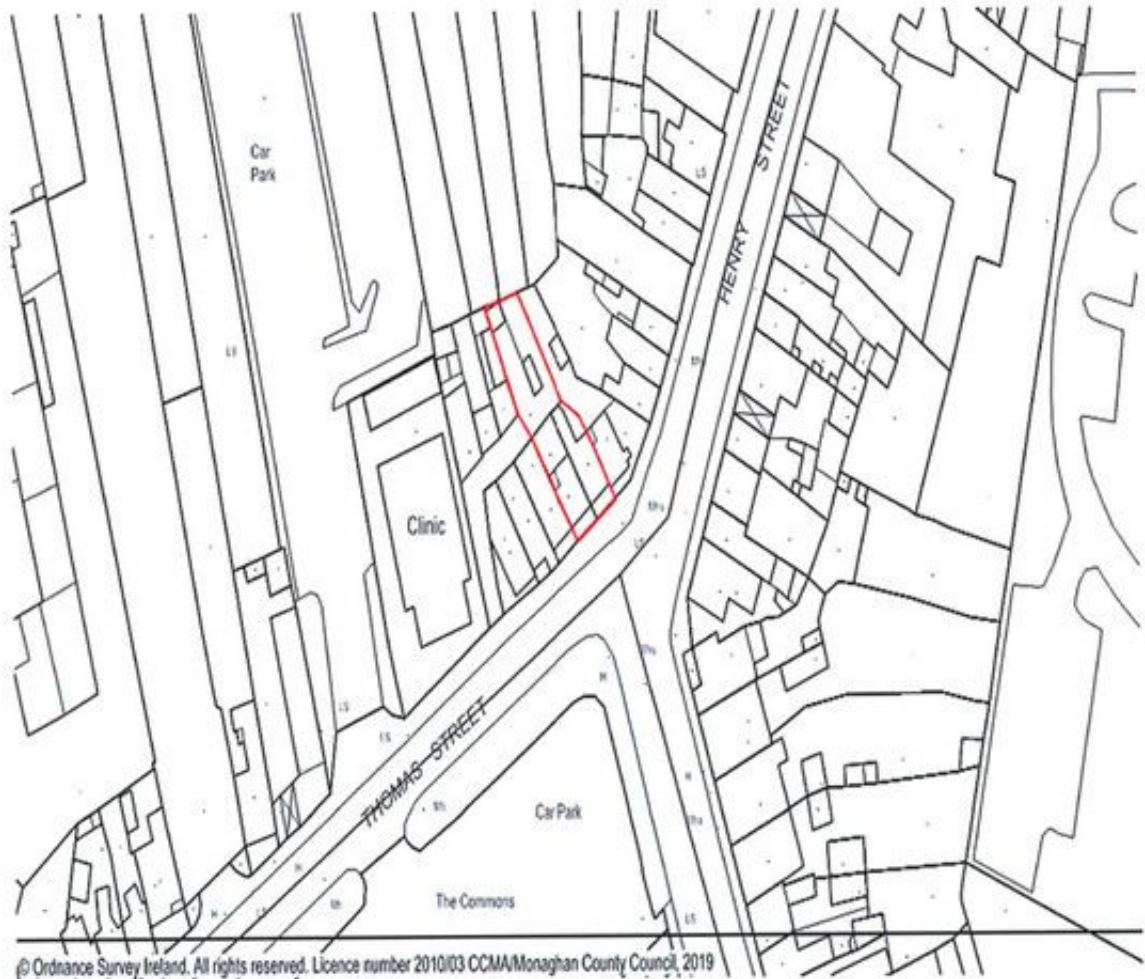
Fáilfionn an tUdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Oifigí an Chontae, An Gleann, Muineachán, Éire.
Monaghan County Council, Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland.

☎ 00353 47 30500 📠 00353 47 82739 🌐 www.monaghan.ie

✉ eolas@monaghancoco.ie info@monaghancoco.ie

Map 1 Lands subject to section 183 – Nos. 2 & 3 Thomas Street, Castleblayney



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Chief Executives Report MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Planning Ref No. 20/8007

1.0 This report has been prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and is being submitted to the Elected Members of Monaghan County Council in the course of compliance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

2.0 Development Description

Proposed to renovate and restore the former Council Offices which is a protected structure for use as an Enterprise & Digital Hub including the following works;

- Demolish shed to rear of original structure including asbestos remediation if required
- Convert original shed to studio/meeting room
- Convert internal rooms to offices, toilets and a canteen facility
- Reform and widen the existing entrance from public road to rear courtyard
- Provision of parking at the rear of building
- Replace all existing windows including opening of 7 windows on the north façade of the building
- Installation of a velux windows to roof on the north and west facades of the building
- Replace existing roof structure including chimneys
- Replace dash to external façade with lime render
- Replacement of original steps to front of building and inclusion of disabled ramped access
- Removal of diesel pumps and storage equipment to rear of building and decontamination of site if necessary
- All other ancillary site works

3.0 Development Address

Main Street, Newbliss, Co Monaghan

4.0 Summary

The proposed development seeks to extensively renovate the existing building, which is a protected structure, for the development of an enterprise and digital hub at Main Street in Newbliss, Co Monaghan. A notice pursuant to Section 81(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), was published in the Northern Standard on 26th November 2020. This notice indicated that the Council would duly consider any submissions or observations received during the consultation period.

No third-party submissions were received during the consultation period. The attached Planning Report outlines the full planning assessment of the proposal.

Having considered the proper planning and sustainable development of the area it is recommended that the Elected Members resolve to proceed with the development as proposed, without modification, in accordance with plans and documentation submitted to the Planning Authority on the 26th November 2020.



Paul Clifford
Director of Services
Monaghan County Council

Date: 29 Jan 2021

Planning Report

1.0 Site Description

The subject site is located within the boundaries of Newbliss, a Tier 4 settlement as designated in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025.

The subject site has a stated site area of 0.1HA and is located on the south western end of Main Street. The building which is a protected structure was constructed c1820, was formerly utilised as a courthouse and most recently used as offices and depot for Monaghan County Council. The building is a two-storey over basement structure with a two-storey rear return extension and courtyard to the rear.

The building is in a poor state of repair with many building elements requiring remedial work.



Application Site in red outline

2.0 Nature and Extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof

The proposed development comprises an extensive renovation of the existing building in order to bring the building back into active use as an enterprise and digital hub. The following works are proposed:

- Demolish shed to the rear of the original structure
- Convert original shed to studio/meeting room
- Convert internal rooms to offices, toilets and canteen
- Reform and widen the existing entrance from public road to rear courtyard with replacement of roller doors with hardwood gates
- Provision of car parking to rear of the building to include disabled parking
- Replace all existing windows including opening up of 7 windows on the north façade of the building
- Installation of velux windows to roof on the north and west facades of the building
- Replace existing roof structure including the chimneys
- Replace dash to external façade with lime render
- Replacement of original steps to front of building and inclusion of disabled ramped access

- Removal of diesel pumps and storage equipment to rear of building and decontamination of site if necessary
- All other ancillary site works

3.0 Observations / Submissions

A notice pursuant to Section 81(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), was published in the Northern Standard on 15th October 2020. The last date for observations was 26th November 2020. No submissions were received with respect to the proposed development.

4.0 Consultation

Internal

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| MD: | No objection |
| Environment: | No objection |
| Fire Officer: | No objection |
| Roads Office: | No objection |

External Consultees

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Irish Water: | No objection |
|--------------|--------------|

5.0 Planning History

18/8007 – Part 8 planning for permission to Renovate & Restore the former Courthouse and Council Offices, which is a Protected Structure, for use as Artists' studios and residential accommodation

6.0 Evaluation of the likely implications of the proposed development with respect to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area

The proposed development is assessed against the objectives and policies as contained within the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025. In particular, the following policies and objectives are relevant with respect to the proposed development:

SHO4 "To promote and facilitate development that is commensurate with the nature and extent of the existing village and support their role as local service centres

CSP4 "To promote and facilitate limited development within the Tier 4 village network that is commensurate with the nature of the settlement and to support their role as local service centres".

CS6 "To consolidate the settlements, retain their visual identity distinct from the surrounding countryside and to reserve land for future planning expansion of settlements. This includes the provision of major infrastructure, as well as protecting the heritage, water quality and recreational amenity of the settlements and their surrounding rural hinterlands".

VO1 "To support the villages in their role as local rural service centres for their population and its rural hinterland where the principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability including protection of the village's heritage and the natural and built environment".

VO3 "To facilitate additional community facilities and services within the village envelope where possible and on the fringes of the village envelope where no other suitable sites are available".

INDP12 "To encourage the reuse of sites and/or existing building stock where possible".

CFP1 "To consider development proposals for new social and community infrastructure/service related development at a) Locations within the settlement boundaries which are within walking distance of local services whereby social inclusion is promoted b) in rural locations in close proximity to existing rural infrastructure"

BHP1 "To protect and conserve all structures included in the Record of Protected Structures and to encourage the sympathetic re-use and long-term viability of such structures without detracting from their special interest and character".

BHP3 "To contribute towards the protections of architectural heritage by complying, as appropriate, with the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011".

BHP6 "To ensure that any new development proposed to or in the vicinity of a Protected Structure will complement and be sympathetic to the structure and its setting in terms of its design, scale, height, massing and use of materials and to resist any development which is likely to impact on the buildings special interest and/or any views of such buildings and their setting".

BHP7 "To facilitate the retention and sympathetic re-use of protected structures and their setting in circumstances where the proposal is compatible with their character and special interest. In certain instances, land use zoning restrictions and site development standards may be relaxed to secure the conservation and reuse of a protected structure and to provide a viable use for any building which is at risk by virtue of being derelict or vacant".

BHP8 "To require that proposals for works to a protected structure shall be carried out in accordance with best practice as advocated in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011".

7.0 Consideration of Proposed Development

7.1 Principle of Development

The proposed development comprises the extensive renovation of an existing two storey building located at Main Street, Newbliss. The site is located within the settlement envelope of Newbliss which is a Tier 4 village settlement within the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025. The building and associated grounds are currently vacant and the existing building on site is in a poor state of repair. A total of nine offices will be provided by reason of the proposed renovation as well as a meeting room and communal facilities such as toilets and a canteen. The principle of the proposed development is acceptable.

7.2 Site Layout

The site is located in a key location within the village on the axis of Main Street and Lower Main Street which affords the building prominence on the southern approach into the village. The site extends to 0.1 hectares. The principle building on site is of L Shape plan form which is built along the northern boundary of the site. The remainder of this boundary consists of concrete post and wire fencing which will be retained. The southern boundary comprises of an existing stone wall which will also be retained. Vehicular access from the main street into the rear of the site is available via an existing entrance on the south western site boundary. This access leads to a courtyard area which will be retained and improved as part of this project. Off street car parking will be provided to the rear of the site and the only alterations to the front elevation of the property is a new ramp access at the main entrance to provide disabled access into the building.

7.3 Architectural Impact on Protected Structures

The existing building on site is a protected structure which was constructed c. 1820. It was formerly in use as a courthouse and more recently offices of Monaghan County Council. However the building has not been in permanent use for many years and is in a poor state of repair with many elements requiring immediate remedial works to halt further deterioration. The building contributes significantly to the streetscape of Main Street and its presence is an example of a key building typology of Irish Georgian architecture.

It is a two storey over basement structure with natural slate finish and wet dash render on the principle elevations. Extensive wall cracks are visible on the structure and it appears that the lintels supporting the masonry have failed and require replacement. Internally the timber floor structures are in poor condition and dampness is apparent at numerous locations. The roof coverings are in poor condition and have been poorly maintained with several slates missing and/or broken. The chimney structures are also in poor condition with vertical and horizontal cracking visible. An existing outbuilding, proposed to be demolished, is a later addition outbuilding that has a subservient impact in relation to the principle building on site and its setting.

An Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) has been submitted with the application which provides an extensive survey, including photographs, of the existing building. The AHIA also provides an analysis of the works proposed with regard to impact, reversibility, mitigation and outcome. The following works have been critically evaluated in this regard;

- a) Alteration of existing entrance to provide pedestrian ramp
- b) Removal of existing later addition stud walls
- c) Replacement enclosure of stairwell for means of escape and re-instatement of grounds to basement stair
- d) Re-appropriation and demolition of existing outbuildings
- e) Landscaping of external courtyard
- f) Re-rendering of existing exposed stone walls and opening of historic windows
- g) Erection of non-load bearing timber stud walls to basement to form storerooms and provision of underpinning and tanking to external walls
- h) Replacement of existing roof coverings and structure and replacement of rainwater goods
- i) Replacement of existing floors

The works proposed will contribute to the historic evolution of the building into the future whilst retaining the historic character, significant features and heritage values attributed to the protected structure and thereby satisfying the principles of conservation in terms of intervention and reversibility. In conclusion the AHIA considers that the proposals present no significant risk in terms of unnecessarily compromising the significance of the heritage assets and it meets with the objectives set out by the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004).

As required by the 2001 Planning Regulations and the Guidelines, the reports submitted with the application are sufficiently detailed to show how the development impacts on the character of the protected structure. The main changes to the fabric of this building have been fully documented and assessed. It is considered that the refurbishment and conversion will have a positive impact on the integrity of the building. The reuse of this iconic building which is a protected structure is welcomed.

7.4 Natural Heritage

A Bat Survey has been submitted with the application. This outlines that four species of bats were recorded roosting/foraging/commuting within the survey area and the primary concern with respect to the proposed development is the potential loss of roosting sites because of the renovation of the main building.

Bats and their bat roosts are protected by the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2012 and all species of bats are listed on Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive. The SEA Directive that implements the Habitats Directive gives strict protection to individual bats and their breeding and resting places. To protect the potential loss and to comply with the relevant legislation and directives a number of mitigation measures are proposed:

Measure 1: Alternative Bat Roost: Prior to renovation works, provide alternative roost in 2-storey flat roof structure attached to the main building

Measure 2: Renovation Works: Undertake Initial renovation works in the presence of a bat specialist.

Measure 3: Removal of Trees. Trees to be removed should be felled during September, October and November.

Measure 4: Lighting: Lighting Plan should be specifically designed so that it does not deter bat species from foraging

Measure 5: Monitoring: Inspection of bat roost within one year of completion.

The proposed development shall implement the mitigation measures outlined in full to ensure the bat species and roosting is protected within the site.

7.6 Roads & Drainage Issues

A new car park is proposed to the rear of the site which will provide a total of eight spaces. There is ample area within the rear of the property for circulation and turning space to ensure safe access and egress to and from the car park. It has been demonstrated that the visibility splays as required by DMURS can be achieved at the entrance. It is proposed to discharge the surface water and rainwater from the new impermeable surfaces to an on-site soakaway and there is no increase in the permeable surfacing at the rear of the site.

8.0 Appropriate Assessment

Under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 30 of SI no. 94/1997 "European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations" (1997) any plan or project which has the potential to significantly impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site (i.e. a SAC or SPA) must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. This requirement is also detailed under Section 177(U) of the Planning and Development Acts (2000-2010).

Policy HLP13 of MCDP 2019-2025 states

"To resist development in or adjacent to any Natura 2000 site (SPA or SAC) where it would result in the deterioration of that habitat or any species reliant on it. The onus will be on the developer to demonstrate that any such development will not adversely impact on the qualifying interest of such sites subject to the preparation of an appropriate assessment exercise under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive"

A screening for appropriate assessment report has been submitted as part of the application which concludes that a Stage 2 appropriate assessment is not required and that the proposed development will not have any significant effects on the integrity of the above mentioned or any other Natura 2000 sites.

9.0 Environmental Impact Assessment

In accordance with Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) a preliminary examination of the projection has been carried out and concludes that there is no

likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and as such an EIA is not required for the proposed development.

10.0 Conclusion

The scheme proposed has been assessed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 and relevant planning legislation and guidance.

It is considered that the alterations and works required to this protected structure to achieve the proposed change of use will not have an undue adverse effect on the special interest of the structure. The proposed works will ensure the sympathetic re-use of the protected structure and will provide for a sustainable use for a property which has been vacant for some time. Furthermore, it will provide an economic stimulus for Newbliss village and will add to the visual amenities of the immediate area.

11.0 Recommendation

Having considered the proper planning and sustainable development of the area it is recommended that the Members resolve to proceed with the development as proposed in accordance with plans and documentation submitted to the Planning Authority on the 26th November 2020 without any variations or modifications.



Paul Clifford
Director of Services
Monaghan County Council

Date: 28 Jan 2021



Front Elevation
Proposed Front Elevation



Proposed Site Layout Plan



Proposed Ground Floor Plan



Proposed First Floor Plan

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)

PART 4 ARTICLE 18(2)(B)

List of newspapers for approval in accordance with Part 4 Article 18 (2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for giving notice of the intention to make a planning application to Monaghan County Council

Northern Standard

Anglo Celt

Dundalk Democrat (Carrickmacross Castleblayney Municipal District only)

Irish Independent

Irish Daily Star

Irish Times



Monaghan County Council Audit Committee Report
on the
Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditors
Report 2019.

In accordance with section 121 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by
section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014)

The Audit Committee was provided with a copy of the 2019 Audited Financial Statement and Auditor's Report by the Chief Executive in November 2020.

The Audit Committee considered the statement and the Auditor's Report and deliberated on the key issues outlined, at their meeting on 30th November 2020.

The Auditor's opinion is that the Annual Financial Statement presents fairly in accordance with the Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, the financial position of the Council at 31st December 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

The Local Government Auditor (LGA) Martin White who conducted the audit attended a meeting with the Audit Committee on 30th November 2020 and provided further clarifications on the report findings and the overall audit opinion. The Committee's deliberations included a review of management responses to audit findings and related matters. In addition, the Committee included discussions with members of the management team, – John Murray Head of Finance and Cathal Flynn Director of Governance and Corporate Services and Eamonn O'Sullivan Chief Executive.


Based on these deliberations, the Committee wish to draw the Councils attention to:

- The cumulative deficit on the revenue reserve which stands at €2.223m
- The Unfunded Capital balances as highlighted by the LGA report still requires considerable work, 5 of these are unfunded balances to the tune of 2.14m

The Audit Committee wishes to advise the Council to make an annual provision in the budget to reduce these deficits and improve its position.

The Committee note the responses made by the Chief Executive to the report and will keep monitored the progress outlined in the responses.

The Committee wish to confirm that the report contents, management responses and follow up actions outlined will inform the Audit Committee's work programme and specific audit reviews which may be undertaken in the future.

Signed: 
Desmond O'Connor.
Chair of Monaghan County Council Audit Committee.

Date: 26 - Jan - 2021



Audit Committee Annual Report 2020

which includes

Performance and Effectiveness.

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1. Role and Function of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is part of the Council's governance framework. Our role is to support the elected members by providing an independent assessment of the activities of management in controlling the organisation. This includes the quality of internal control systems and procedures and providing assurance regarding the suitability of those systems.

Audit Committee Functions

Since the enactment of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the Audit Committee Regulations 2014, the Audit Committee have specific responsibilities and statutory functions. These functions are set out in the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the LG Act 2014, details are as follows:-

- (a) to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it,
- (b) to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the Local Authority of its internal audit function,
- (c) to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the Local Authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its Chief Executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings,
- (d) to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the Local Authority's performance of its functions, and
- (e) to review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks.

The Audit Committee is governed by a Charter which is reviewed and adopted annually by the Council as per the Audit Committee Regulations 2014. The AC Charter for 2020 was reviewed by the Committee and then adopted by the Council on 6th January 2020.

2. Membership , Meetings , Conflict of Interest and AC Training.

The Members of the Audit Committee is made up of 2 Councillors and 3 External Members as per the Regulations.

The Committee held 4 Audit Committee meetings in the year 2020 and details of dates and attendance is as follows:-

| NAMES | 10/2/2020 | Cancelled due to Covid19 restrictions 30/3/2020 | 29/7/2020 | 14/9/2020 | This meeting was held remotely via TEAMS 30/11/2020 | Attendance Total |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|---------------------|
| | Dermot McCrystal (Chairman) | Attended | - | Attended | Attended | Attended |
| Fern Ross | 0 | - | Attended | Attended | Attended | 3 of 4 |
| Des O'Connor | Attended | - | 0 | Attended | Attended | 3 of 4 |
| Cllr David Maxwell | 0 | - | Attended | Attended | Attended | 3 of 4 |
| Cllr Raymond Aughey | Attended | - | Attended | Attended | Attended | 4 of 4 |

Chairman's Meetings

The Chairman of the Audit Committee arranged to meet relevant MCC Staff in order to prepare for the above AC meetings. These meetings were held approximately 10 days prior to each of the full Audit Committee meetings. The Internal Auditor and the Director for Governance and Corporate Services attended all meetings with the Chairman. The Chief Executive attended on occasions to discuss issues or provide updates on particular areas. As a result, the Chairman was fully briefed on the various items due to be discussed /reported on to the Committee and the Agenda paper was agreed. This practice is very useful and has contributed to the holding of better quality AC meetings.

Conflict of Interest

At the start of each meeting of the Audit Committee, those present signed the attendance book and each Member records in writing if there are any conflicts of interest to be declared. At the conclusion of each meeting Members are asked again to confirm if they felt there had been any topics which they felt give rise to a conflict of interest. During 2020 none were recorded.

AC Training

Owing to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Audit Committee did not attend any training. Training was discussed at a number of meetings to ensure the committee were aware it was available if needed.

3. Risk Register.

Monaghan County Council's Risk Management Policy provides a framework for the identification and management of risk. Whilst the policy sets out defined processes for managing risk; successful risk management can only be accomplished on a day-to-day basis by staff at all levels through the implementation of control measures in their work practices. Monaghan County Council use *Decision Time Risks Management* software to record risks and control measures across the organisation. The Risk Management Software provides a clear, simple overview of our risk register with all the control, guidance and visual cues necessary to help embed and maintain a culture of Risk Management within the organisation.

The management and control of risks identified in individual department risk registers are the responsibility of that particular section. However, the Audit Committee recommended a number of changes to the Management of Risks, particularly Management Team risks recorded on the Corporate Risk Register. Individual Department risks with high residual risk ratings are now automatically escalated to the Corporate Risk Register for consideration by the Council's Management Team. Similarly, where a Department proposes to reduce risk exposure by the implementation of further control measures, the removal of the risk from the Corporate Risk Register is also notified to the Management Team for their review. The introduction of automatic notifications enables the Council's Management Team to review the organisations risk appetite or the exposure to risk Monaghan County Council is prepared to tolerate.

4. Statutory Reports and other Documents to Council

The Committee reviewed and followed up on the statutory reports and other documents which must be presented to the Council. These were prepared in accordance with the Audit Committee Regulations 2014. In preparation for the reports, discussions took place with AC colleagues, relevant MCC staff and the LGA. The documents included are as follows:

- **Report on the 2018 AFS and LGA Report.**

The Audit Committee having considered the 2018 AFS and LGA's report in 9th December 2019, prepared their report for the Council. This was circulated to all Council Members and the contents noted at the Council meeting on 6th January 2020.

Report on the 2019 AFS and LGA report.

This was considered by the Committee at their meeting on 30th November 2020 . A report has been prepared and is expected to issue to the Council for their meeting in February 2021.

- **The 2019 AC Annual Report which included performance and effectiveness**

In accordance with Section 121 of the LG Act 2001 as amended by section 60 of the LG Act 2014, the AC prepared their Annual Report which included information on performance and effectiveness. The contents of the report was agreed by the Audit Committee at their meeting on 10th February 2020 and sent to the Chief Executive and then to the Council for their meeting on 2nd March 2020.

This 2020 AC Annual Report will issue to the Chief Executive in January 2021 and then to the Council for their Meeting in February 2021.

- The **Audit Committee Charter** and the **Audit Committee Work Programme** for 2020. These were reviewed and agreed by the Audit Committee at their meeting on 9th December 2019. They were then forwarded to the Council for approval which took place at the Council meeting on 6th January 2020.

5. Internal Audit.

- The Internal Audit work programme for 2020 was agreed by AC on 10th February 2020.

Internal Audit Reports , Recommendations and other Audit Work:

All Internal Audit reports together with recommendations prepared during 2020 were circulated to the Committee for their attention. The Internal Audit Staff attended the meetings and discussed the contents. All recommendations are monitored and progress reports were prepared by Internal Audit team and reported to the Management Team and the Audit Committee until finally closed off.

The Committee may also make recommendations to the Management Team and Department Heads where this is deemed necessary.

The following 7 IA reports were presented to the Audit Committee in 2020:-

- Compliance with revised T & S Policy.
- Cash Point checking Annual report for year 2019
- Purchase to Pay
- Review of Performance Indicators 2019
- PSC Audit on Community & Enterprise Functions

- PSC Audit – N2 Phase 3 Corracrin to Emyvale
- Disposal of Land Procedure & S183 Notices

Internal Audit Recommendations

Recommendations from all the Internal Audit Reports are monitored until complete. The Recommendations from each individual audit are continually monitored by Internal Audit, the Management Team and the Audit Committee until they are delivered on. The reporting of progress in delivering the recommendations is enabled through a standard template which was agreed by the Management Team and Audit Committee. The headings are outlined below.

| Internal Audit Recommendations listed below | Proposed Action for each recommendation (To be completed by Director or Section Head) | Timeline for Delivery of each recommendation | Responsible Person for delivery of each recommendation | Comment from Management Team. | Follow-up /progress information - Audit Committee |
|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | |

The following table shows the position of all Internal Audit Recommendations between 2014 up to November 2020.

| Internal Audit Recommendations (IAR) | Years 2014 - 2018 | Years 2019 – 2020 (as at Nov 2020) | Total | % |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Total No of IAR | 234 | 88 | 322 | 100 |
| Total Complete /closed | 226 | 76 | 302 | 93.79 |
| Total Not Complete | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1.55 |
| Total where delivery timeline not expired | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1.55 |
| Transferred to Risk Register | 8 | 2 | 10 | 3.11 |

Those transferred to Risk Register are long term issues and AC recommended to Management that they monitor them via the Risk Register. Internal audit and support staff also report to the AC on checks carried out to ensure continued compliance with recommendations.

Internal audit continues to carry out other audit work during the year and reports the findings to the Audit Committee, these include:-

| Item | Detail |
|---|--|
| Random checks on Cash points. | Spot checking on receipts -v- Lodgements. 26 checks were carried out in 2020. 10 of these were site visits and the remainder were carried out remotely due to Covid 19 Government restrictions. |
| Carry out review /update on completed internal audits agreed recommendations. | Following expiry of implementation period for agreed recommendations – I.A. carry out review on progress for Audit Committee. This involves discussions and meetings with relevant staff to get updates. Prepare and present findings /updates to AC. |
| Carry out an audit check on Motor Tax | Checks were carried out on Motor Tax Stock and floats at end of 2020. (limited access during the year 2020 due to Covid Restrictions. |
| Follow-up on progress reports. | Monitor and present to the Audit committee updates on each item listed on progress reports. (LGA items, AC items) This will involve continual follow-up discussions/meetings with Heads of sections or relevant directors. |
| Meetings | During the course of the year, the Internal Auditor meets with the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Executive • Director of Governance and Corporate Services. • Management and Staff • Local Government Auditor • Attends Training where necessary • IA Group meetings nationally and regionally. |

The internal audit unit consists of a full time Internal Auditor and a full time Assistant Staff Officer. Other resources provided which support the work of Internal Audit are as follows:

- The Financial Mgt Accountant monitors compliance with the LVP Card procedures and reports the findings to the Management Team and the AC.
- A Procurement Officer was appointed, and this assists the Council in ensuring the procurement processes are monitored and that they are in compliance with

procurement procedures. Compliance checks are carried out by the officer and the AC is updated with the findings.

- In relation to IT - Monaghan County Council operates the Centre of Internet Security (CIS) security controls tool to continuously monitor and assess security, and identify vulnerabilities and their associated risk levels. The tool contains a set of best practices on how to protect organisations against cyber-attacks. It contains 20 Controls and 171 Sub-Controls. The I.S. Section develops a work programme each year to improve the organisations security posture based on the CIS controls tool. Note also, Monaghan County Council has cyber security insurance with IPB.

Rolling Progress Report for AC

A “rolling progress report” on the Council’s responses to issues raised at Audit Committee meetings is presented and reviewed at each AC meeting. This progress report is also used for items that require follow up as a result of the AC’s review of the LGA Management Letter and the Management responses to the associated recommendations.

The Audit Committee track and monitor progress on implementation of all items on this table. The progress report is presented under the headings set out below.

| Date Raised | Query Arising From | Specific Task or Query | Resp. Person | Update by Section Head /Director for AC meeting | AC Comments at meeting | Review date or Close |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | |

When the Committee are satisfied with the responses provided, a decision is made to close the item. Where the AC considers it necessary, they will issue correspondence to the Management Team.

6. Staff attendance at meetings

At the request of the Audit Committee, Senior Staff from different divisions of the Council are invited to report to the AC at their meetings. As normal and in order to contribute to the uniformity and effectiveness of presentations the AC have drawn up a “Guideline” template on the required format of presentations. **See Appendix 1 attached.**

During the year 2020 the following Staff were invited and attended AC meetings:

Rory Treanor, Procurement Officer, attended the Audit committee meeting on 10th February 2020 and gave an overview of the which included his duties & responsibilities. He also advised them on the structure of the Procurement Steering Group which was in place.

C. O'Hare, Head of I.T. attended the Audit Committee meeting on 10th February 2020 and provided the AC with details on Monaghan County Council's Disaster Recovery Plan.

Adge King, Director of Services attended the Audit Committee meeting on 29th July 2020 and provided the AC with an overview on Climate Change which included structures in place, plans, communications & current projects.

John Murray, Head of Finance attended a number of meetings, 14th September 2020 & 30th November 2020 and reported on areas of a financial nature which arose as a result of Internal Audit reports or Local Government Auditors reports. Particular discussions took place on the "Capital Accounts and unfunded capital balances".

The Head of Finance also briefed the Committee on the Budget, the practices and procedures.

Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Governance and Corporate Services attends all AC meetings as Secretary to the Audit Committee. He also reported on various corporate Governance activities including GDPR, Risk Register, NOAC reports, Annual Service Delivery Plans etc.

Olga McConnon, Financial Mgt Accountant attended the meeting on 30th November 2020 with the Head of Finance regarding the AFS and LGA report

The Chief Executive, Eamonn O'Sullivan attended the Audit Committee meeting on 14th September 2020 and gave a presentation on key aspects of MCC service delivery, with particular reference to corporate governance and the LA Financial Performance. The CE also updated the members in relation to the Housing and Road programmes, Climate Action activities, and various Community projects under way at this time. He referred to the challenges facing MCC on foot of Covid -19 and detailed the various measures being implemented in response to the pandemic including details of the Community and Business supports available.

He assured the committee of his continued support and that of the Staff.

7. Other items brought to the attention of the Audit Committee in 2020

The following documents were also circulated to all Members of the Committee during the year:

- MCC 2018 NOAC Review on Performance Indicators
- LGA's Management Letter (2018 Audit)
- Audit committee Protocol for receipt of Protected Disclosures
- Audit Committee Policy on Conflict of Interests
- Report from Ethics Registrar: -
 - Annual Declaration by Members and relevant Staff.
 - Political Donations.
- Independent Review of the Role and Remuneration of LA Elected Members by Sara Moorhead SC.

- MCC Annual Report for year 2019
- Protected Disclosures - Annual Report for year ended 30/6/2020
- NOAC - LA Satisfaction Survey 2020
- NOAC - Satisfaction Survey Summary of findings
- Council responses to NOAC survey
- Letter from Dept of Rural and Community Dev Inspection of Leader Project; Drumlin Trails Bike Hire.
- Community & Enterprise Section – 4 Dept inspection reports on 4 different projects
 - 2017 Outdoor Recreation infrastructure scheme
 - LIS 2019
 - LIS 2019
 - CLAR 2018

8. The Management Team

The Committee makes recommendations to the **Management Team** as necessary as a result of presentations made by Staff or Internal Audit reports.

The **Chief Executive** and the **Management Team** are kept updated in relation to the AC Agenda items and management ensure Staff have the relevant information /responses in place for each Audit Committee meeting as required.

Following each AC meeting, Management receive a “summary report” briefing them on the various items discussed at the AC meeting and this provides details on any item which may require further information/attention.

The Committee are aware of Managements recognition and support for the Internal Audit Unit and the Audit Committee. This is continually reflected in several ways, in particular by the Council’s commitment to ensuring the IA recommendations are responded to and implemented in a timely manner. Up to date reports on the IA recommendations are provided to the AC at each meeting, having first been reviewed and monitored by Management to ensure progress is made on each until closed out.

9. Audit Committee Evaluation and Review of Performance and Effectiveness.

The Audit Committee have evaluated and reviewed their performance and effectiveness for the year 2020 in accordance with the provisions of the LG Audit Committee Regulations 2014.

MCC staff are responsive to AC queries and the IA recommendations, with the recommendations being 93.79% closed at end 2020 (see table earlier in this report for specific details)

The Audit Committee also ensure to monitor & comply with its 5 statutory functions as set out in the Local Government AC Regulations 2014, each Audit Committee Agenda contains a column tracking system. In this column, reference to the AC Regulations /function is recorded and noted. Not only is this deemed to be a useful tracking tool, it also ensures that the Audit Committee Members are reminded of their focus at every audit committee meeting.

The 2020 Audit Committee Annual workplan was adopted by Monaghan County Council on 6th January 2020 and was completed in full by year end.

AC Members Succession Plan.

As mentioned in last years annual report The Committee felt it was best practice to have an agreed succession plan in place. It was agreed that the knowledge and expertise gained over the last 7 years had contributed to the improved performance and effectiveness of the Committee and the Internal Audit Unit. For this reason, it was felt that all members should not exit the committee at the same time, therefore, a succession plan for membership was agreed. In May 2019 the 2 Council Members appointed to the Committee were new members and the 3 external members remained in place at that time. It is agreed that the succession plan would now be initiated with each of the 3 members being replaced over time up to 2024. It was agreed this would benefit the Committee and assist in retaining the knowledge and expertise.

10. Acknowledgement

With the onset of Covid 19 in 2020, it has been a challenging year for all staff members in MCC and we appreciate the commitment of Monaghan County Council Staff both working in office and from home. We will continue to support Government Guidelines in relation to Covid-19 for 2021.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to acknowledge the fact that we are enabled to undertake our role and responsibilities in an independent and open manner.

We would also like to acknowledge the support and assistance the Audit Committee receive from the Management and Staff of Monaghan County Council and in particular the assistance from the Chief Executive, the Secretary to the Audit Committee and the Internal Audit Staff. We look forward to a good, continued working relationship with everyone in the year ahead.

This concludes the report of Monaghan County Council Audit Committee.

Signed:- 

Date 26-1-2021

Desmond O'Connor.

Chairman Monaghan County Council Audit Committee.

Appendix 1.

Guidance Note for Staff attending Audit Committee meetings.

The Audit Committee have asked that when staff are attending to make presentations on their specific areas of responsibility that the following be included:

- Annual Budget / spend.
- Any areas they feel require further funding.
- Include that they are satisfied with the practices and procedures in relation to spending of their budget or not.
- Details of the Governance arrangements in place pertaining to the Management and operation of their section.
- Checks and balances in relation to financial probity,
- Risks and mitigating actions and how they are managed (insert your risk register items in presentation)
- Monitoring and evaluation of annual work programme.
- Documented policy and procedures.
- Reference should be made to any VFM reports carried out by the VFM Unit in the LG Audit Service, (Those that affect your Department)
- Updates and responses arising from any Internal Audit Recommendations within the section.
- Include confirmation that Risk Registers are being included for discussion on the Mon Stat Agenda. (The Audit Committee has also requested the Internal Auditor to carry out a check on this when doing section audits, this needs to be on your Agenda and recorded in minutes)

Copy of all presentations to be circulated to the AC with Agenda at least 10 days prior to the AC meeting. Then at the meeting, the relevant person needs only do a quick overview on the presentation to allow more time for questions /discussion etc.

IMPORTANT NOTE -

The Chief Executive must have sight of your presentation / report etc and it must be circulated for discussion at a Management Team meeting prior to it issuing to the Audit Committee (Your documents must issue to the Audit Committee 10 days before the AC meeting). So please make yourself familiar with the dates of the Mgt Team meetings and ensure your document is available to them on time.

This document was reviewed and approved by AC on 28th May 2018

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin

Monaghan County Council



Audit Committee Charter

Agreed by Council on _____

Audit Committee Charter

| | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| 1. | Purpose | Page 3 |
| 2. | Functions | Page 3 |
| 3. | Composition & Operation of Audit Committee | Page 4 |
| 3.1 | Membership | Page 4 |
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| 3.3 | Meetings | Page 4 |
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| 10. | Protected Disclosures (Whistleblowing) | Page 6 |
| 11. | Qualified Privilege | Page 6 |
| 12. | Review of the Audit Committee Charter | Page 6 |

The charter is based on the SI 244, Audit Committee Regulations 2014, the statutory obligations within relevant Local Government legislation, Audit Committee Guidance June 2014 as well as guidance and good practice as outlined in various professional and authoritative codes and reports.

1 PURPOSE

As part of the governance arrangements that operate within Monaghan County Council, the audit committee has an independent role to advise the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters.

2 FUNCTIONS

The functions of the audit committee are as prescribed by section 59 of the Local Government Act 2014:

2.1 To review the financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority:

- This will incorporate a review and consideration of all aspects of the financial cycle within Monaghan County Council from budget preparation and adoption, monitoring of income and expenditures through to the completion of the annual financial statements.
- The audit committee may request reviews of financial management and reporting arrangements in addition to auditing existing financial policies, procedures and protocols as it considers necessary.

2.2 To foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function:

- Review with management and the internal auditor the charter, activities, staffing and organisational structure of the internal audit function, its compliance with relevant professional standards and bring any recommendations to the attention of the Chief Executive. In this regard, the Committee should ensure that no limitations are placed on the work of the internal audit unit.
- Approve the internal audit plan and monitor its implementation.
- Review audit reports, findings and recommendations and management responses.
- Review on an ongoing basis, the audit engagement process.

2.3 To review any audited financial statement auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report, and report its findings to the authority:

- Review with management and the external auditors the results of the statutory audit.
- Review with management and the external auditors the management letter and all matters required to be communicated to the committee under generally accepted auditing standards.
- Report to Council on its findings at the next practicable meeting of Council.

2.4 To assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions:

- Review management's arrangements to ensure and demonstrate economy, efficiency and effectiveness across the organisation.
- Request special reports from management or internal audit as considered appropriate.

- 2.5 To review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks:**
- Evaluate the scope and effectiveness of the framework established by management to identify, assess, monitor and effectively manage risk.
 - Review the corporate risk management policy and receive presentations from management on corporate, directorate, divisional and sectional risk registers .
- 2.6 To review the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and the response of the Chief Executive to these and take further action as appropriate:**
- Review the relevant findings of NOAC and ensure that its work programme takes NOAC's findings and recommendations into account.
 - Request special reports from management or internal audit as considered appropriate.

3 COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

3.1 Membership

The audit committee is established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group and following consultation with the Chief Executive. The term of the committee is concurrent with that of the current Council which commenced on 31st May 2019.

The Chairperson of the committee shall be selected by its members and shall be one of the external members.

3.2 Induction Process and Training Requirements

It is the duty of the Chairperson to ensure that the training needs of the audit committee and of individual members are reviewed on an annual basis and reported to the Chief Executive and Council. Where training needs are identified, the Chief Executive will facilitate the provision of such training, where practicable.

3.3 Meetings

The committee will ordinarily meet on a quarterly basis and may hold additional meetings if required. Meetings will normally be held in Conference room, Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan, at times and dates which will be agreed by the committee and the Secretary.

In exceptional circumstances meetings may be held remotely using technology at virtual locations.

Each member of the committee participating remotely has a personal responsibility to ensure and confirm to the Audit Committee Secretary that there are no other persons present who are not entitled to be, with access to either hearing, seeing or recording items for consideration at the meetings.

The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be 3 members. In the absence of the Chairperson, those present shall select a chairperson for the meeting.

The committee may invite the Chief Executive, members of management, internal and external audit, or others to attend meetings and provide information, as necessary.

Minutes will be prepared and a copy shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive. Minutes will be approved at the next meeting of the audit committee.

3.4 Working Procedures and Access

The committee will adopt its own working procedures, which may include as necessary the commissioning of independent professional expertise following consultation with the Chief Executive and by resolution of the Council.

Each year the committee will develop a detailed Audit Committee annual work programme and this will be provided to the Council at the start of each year.

The committee will have access to documents or other data and information as it reasonably requires in order to discharge its functions.

The Chief Executive will ensure that staff facilitate the committee in relation to briefings required by them in a timely and efficient manner.

The local government auditor and the head of internal audit may communicate with the committee as they consider necessary. The local government auditor or the head of the internal audit unit may, with the agreement of the Chairperson of the committee, request a meeting to discuss a matter of exceptional importance.

4 INDEPENDENCE

The committee shall be independent in the performance of its functions and responsibilities and shall not be subject to direction or control from any other party. The committee is accountable to the Council.

5 CONFIDENTIALITY

The agendas, papers, reports, documentation and discussions of the committee are confidential and will contain sensitive material and information necessary to allow members to carry out their duties. Members and those in attendance shall not, without the approval of the Chairperson, discuss matters arising with third parties or directly or indirectly disclose to these parties information obtained in the course of their duties, either during the term of their membership or at any time afterwards.

6 MEDIA PROTOCOL

Members will forward all queries, requests for interviews or comments from the media or outside parties immediately to the Secretary of the committee.

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROCEDURES

All possible conflicts of interest are to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the first meeting of the committee. If the personal circumstances of a member changes in any way that may result in a conflict of interest for them in the exercise of their audit committee duties then they are to immediately declare the circumstances to the Chairperson of the Audit Committee. Declaration of interests will be a standing agenda item.

The Committee members will adhere to the code of conduct for the Committee.

8 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS

The Audit Committee will undertake an annual review of its own performance and effectiveness and will report to Council on its findings.

Where the assessment highlights the need for improvement in the role, operational processes or membership of the committee, it is the duty of the Chairperson to take action to ensure that such improvements are implemented. The Chairperson, in consultation with the Chief Executive, will decide on appropriate training and/or actions required to improve the performance and effectiveness of the committee.

9 REPORTING

The committee will prepare an annual report within three months of the expiration of each calendar year of operation.

The committee will report to the Council on its consideration of the audited Annual Financial Statement, Auditor's Report or Auditor's Special Report at the next practicable meeting of the Council.

10 PROTECTED DISCLOSURES (WHISTLEBLOWING)

The committee shall ensure that procedures are in place whereby employees may in confidence raise concerns about possible irregularities in financial reporting or other financial matters.

11 QUALIFIED PRIVILEGE

Members of the audit committee are entitled to qualified privilege in relation to any statements made by them at any meeting that they attend under the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 or in their capacity as a member of the audit committee.

12 REVIEW OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

The audit committee charter will be subject to annual review by the committee and Council

This Audit Committee charter was adopted by resolution of Monaghan County Council on

_____ **2021.**

Signed:- _____
Chair of Monaghan Co Council Audit Committee



Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2020

Prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014.

Monaghan County Council Audit Committees work programme includes the following:-

1. The approval of the Internal Audit Annual work Plan.
2. A review and report on the Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditor's report. (see note below)
3. The preparation of Audit Committees Annual Report to include a review of the Committees performance and findings for the year expired. (see note below)
4. A review of periodic Internal Audit reports and recommendations.
5. A review of the findings and recommendations of the National Oversight and Audit Commission and the responses of the Chief Executive.
6. To prepare /review Audit Committee Charter for approval by the council.
7. Meet separately the Local Government Auditor, Employees of the Internal Audit Unit, and the Chief Executive. (regs 11 (2))
8. Any other actions necessary in the discharge of the Audit committee function.

Note:- In accordance with paragraph 14 &15 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations the following reports must be prepared by the Audit Committee and circulated to the Council and Chief Executive.

- a. Report on the Audited Financial Statement (Section 60 Local Government Reform Act 2014).
- b. Audit Committee Annual Report

This work programme was approved by the Council at their meeting on _____.

Minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr Colm Carthy

Present: Cllrs. R. Aughey, S. Gilliland, N. Keelan, P. Treanor

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. A. King, Mr. P. Clifford and Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance

1. To consider Section 183 Notices - Monaghan and Castleblayney

(i) Disposal of property at 25 Old Cross Square, Monaghan

Mr. P. Clifford, Director, referred to the report which had been circulated with the agenda. He stated that the proposed disposal related to a derelict site which the Council had acquired under the Derelict Sites Act and which had been offered for sale previously in 2018 but which had fallen through due to the license conditions being considered too strict by the intending purchasers at that time. The property was re-advertised in 2020 and the disposal will be subject to the purchaser refurbishing the property within three years of its acquisition. The Council has a right to buy back the property within 5 years if it is not refurbished.

Cllr Keelan asked that a photo of the property would be circulated along with the Section 183 Notice to the members.

Cllr Treanor enquired why the Council would not retain and refurbish the property for its housing stock.

Mr. Clifford stated that the refurbishment work required to the property would prove too costly for the Council to undertake.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed to recommend the proposed disposal to the full Council for approval.

(ii) Disposal of property at 2/3 Thomas Street, Castleblayney

Mr. P. Clifford, Director, referred to the report which had been circulated with the agenda. He stated that the proposed disposal related to two derelict houses at Thomas Street which had been acquired under the Derelict Sites Act – similar to the position with item 1(i). The property was re-advertised in 2020 and the disposal will be subject to the purchaser refurbishing the property within three years of its acquisition. The Council has a right to buy back the property within 5 years if it is not refurbished.

Cllr Keelan asked that a photo of this property would also be circulated along with the Section 183 Notice to the members.

Members asked that the Council would have regard to refurbishing any future derelict properties acquired with a view to retaining them for Council housing stock.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed to recommend the proposed disposal to the full Council for approval.

2. Audited AFS and Audit Report on the Accounts of MCC for 2019

Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive advised the members that the Audited AFS and Audit Report on the Accounts of the Council for 2019 would be listed on the agenda for the February Council meeting for noting by the members. He stated that he would arrange for the documents to be uploaded to Decision Time.

3. To receive Health & Safety Report December 2020

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director outlined the main points of the Health & Safety report for December 2020. He stated that thankfully 2020 had been a good year for the Council, in terms of Health and Safety. Significant progress was made. There were 21 incidents recorded, of which 6 were reportable to the Health and Safety Authority.

Cllr Carthy complimented the Health & Safety Unit on its performance during 2020.

4. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan, Director updated the members in relation to this item. She stated that the Project Team is finalising the Preferred Route Corridors and Route Options Report for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to Border Road Schemes. This is a significant milestone in the project, which will allow (subject to approval) the next phase of the design process to commence. It is expected that the Report will be available in the week commencing 8th February 2021. Every landowner will get an Information leaflet to their home address. The Options Report is a very large document and will be available to the public to download. An Executive Summary for each Scheme will also be made available.

In response to a query from Cllr Carthy, Ms Monahan confirmed that a copy of the Executive Summary and a link to the documentation on the website would be emailed to the elected members.

5. Any other business

ICBAN – Framework of Priorities:

Cllr P. Treanor stated that ICBAN was seeking an opportunity to make a presentation to the Council on the Framework of Regional Priorities for the Central Border of Ireland/Northern Ireland 2021-2027.

It was agreed to recommend that the Council approve the request from ICBAN to make a virtual presentation to the Council on the Framework of Regional Priorities 2021-2027.

Commission of Investigation:

The members acknowledged the publication of the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach would liaise in relation to the matter and revert to the CPG members and the Party Whips in advance of the agenda issuing for the February Council meeting.

The meeting concluded.

Not for Publication



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

MANAGEMENT REPORT

JANUARY 2021

In accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, I am required to prepare a monthly Management Report and to furnish a copy to each Councillor.

The report is set out in line with the functions of the various directorates. It aims to update the members on the following:

- (i) Developments and progress in the different sections over the previous month.
- (ii) Performance and outputs on a year to date basis for various service provisions.
 - (iii) Key immediate priorities going forward.
 - (iv) Ongoing implementation of the Corporate Plan.
- (v) In accordance with Section 151(4) of the Local Government Act 2001, CE/Directors orders are available for inspection at each monthly Council meeting on request.

HOUSING

JOHN MURRAY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/HEAD OF FINANCE

Update on Capital Construction**Coill an Rí & Ard an Radhairc Updates**

All construction sites closed on 27 March 2020 following the Government announcement of Covid-19 Restrictions. All sites reopened in the week commencing 18 May 2020 and additional Covid-19 Health and Safety procedures for the recommencement of work on construction sites were implemented and were successful in keeping construction activity at a high level for the remainder of 2020 while minimizing risk of transmission of Corona Virus on site.

In 2020 there were no outbreaks of Corona Virus on any of Monaghan County Council's Housing construction sites; a small number of cases were recorded but as the contractor's personnel affected immediately self-isolated for 14 days and as appropriate distancing and hygiene measures were in place there was no spread of Corona Virus on any of Monaghan County Council's Housing construction sites. All of Monaghan County Council's Housing construction sites were fully operational after reopening in May 2020 and work progressed at a good pace throughout 2020 in spite of the restrictions associated with Covid-19. In some cases Contractors expressed concern regarding potential delays in the supply of some items such as windows and door, bespoke galvanized steel railings and specialist items such as retaining wall systems, but so far these items have not had a direct impact on project programmes as the projects have been managed to ensure impacts are minimized.

In April and May 2020 Monaghan County Council met with all Contractors online and advised them to order materials in good time and to communicate regularly with their suppliers to avoid delays in delivery of materials and potential impact on project programmes.

Monaghan County Council's proactive management of Housing construction projects has helped ensure that delays due to Covid19 were avoided or minimized for as long as the sites were allowed to remain open.

8 houses at Coill an Rí and 41 houses at Ard an Radhairc, Carrickmacross

Coill an Rí: Two houses under Part V and six houses under a Turnkey Construction contract were completed in November 2020 and immediately allocated to Housing Applicants from the Carrickmacross Housing Waiting List. This brings the total number of social houses provided at Coill an Rí to sixty-six. The photographs below show the houses under construction in June 2020 and the completed houses in



Houses at Coill an Rí under construction in June 2020.



Completed houses at Coill an Rí in November 2020

The houses are high quality and have excellent A-rated Building Energy Ratings. The Developer “Park Edge” and Contractor “Woodfort Contracting Limited” that completed the houses at Coill an Rí, are part of “Woodfort Group”.

Ard an Radhairc: In November 2020 “Greenbriar Developments Limited”, also part of the “Woodfort Group”, commenced construction of a further 41 houses for Monaghan County Council in a new development in Carrickmacross, named “Ard an Radhairc”. The photographs below show the site at “Ard an Radhairc” before commencement of construction, the first day of construction activity (site clearance) and the view of Carrickmacross from “Ard an Radhairc” which shows why the name for the proposed housing estate was chosen (“ard” means height and “radhairc” means view). The site is currently closed under nationwide Covid19 restrictions.



Before construction activity commenced



Early construction activity on site



View from “Ard an Radhairc” before construction activity commenced

Cnoc Na Gréine – Turnkey Project

This project consisted of completion of 6 partially completed houses in Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet following a submission received in response to expression of interest in the sale of land and/or houses with a closing date of the 10th of September 2020. A funding application was submitted to the department on the 22nd of September 2020 and funding approval was received on the 16th of October 2020. The 6 houses have a BER rating of B2 and were substantially completed in December 2020 with minor snagging currently being completed. The houses are due to be completed and handed over by the end of January 2021.



6 partially completed properties in Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet, Co. Monaghan



Tarmacing complete and boundary fencing erected



Monaghan County Council continues to seek additional funding for Social Housing at every opportunity that arises and proactively pursues opportunities for additional social housing provision in areas of Housing Need throughout County Monaghan

2020 Tenant Liaison Officer's Report

Anti-Social Behaviour & Breach of Tenancy Agreements - (Other Than Rent Related)

TOTAL FOR 2020:

- **Total Number of Breaches of Tenancy cases: 70** of which:
 - **Category A - Drug Activity: 1**
 - **Category B - Non-Drug Related Anti-Social Behaviour Activity (e.g property damage or actions hostile to a person) : 8**
 - **Category C - (Other- breaches of tenancy): 61**
 - **(1st warning) Tenant Notifications issued: 7**
 - **Statutory Warnings Served (Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2014.): 8**
 - **Dwellings voluntarily surrendered (following the service of statutory tenancy Warnings/Notices) 5**
 - **Application to court- 1 case initiated regarding Excluding Order or Re-possession**
 - **Dwellings re-possessed (following Court Order): 0**

TO DATE (21st JANUARY) IN 2021

Total Number of cases: 1 of which:

- **Category A - Drug Activity: 0**
- **Category B - Non-Drug Related Anti-Social Behaviour Activity: 5 complaints received regarding an existing case**
- **Category C - (Other- breaches of tenancy): 1**

HERITAGE

JOHN MURRAY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/HEAD OF FINANCE

COUNTY HERITAGE PLAN activities –***Funded with assistance of the Heritage Council***

County Monaghan Biodiversity & Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Adopted by council at November meeting. Graphic design completed. Available electronically as pdf on www.monaghan.ie/heritage

New infographics and icons developed for heritage communications.

Heritage Office Monaghan projects and HO featured in Irish Times heritage supplement.

Funding applications to Heritage Council on 22.01.21 for four Heritage Plan projects. County Hedgerow Survey. Holy Wells phase 2. Print of Black Pigs Dyke publication. Public Awareness – webinar series, and 5 additional Heritage at the Heart podcast episodes.

Materialising Power. The archaeology of the Black Pig's Dyke, Monaghan. By C il n O'Drisceoil and Aidan Walsh. Final copyedit in progress. A4, hardcover book, 200 pages. Wordwell publisher. Spring 2021 publication.

Community Archaeology Holy Well project. Phase 1 in 2020 submissions from the public. Podcast online Northern Sound. Phase 2 to commence shortly.

Clones Historic Towns Initiative. Assisted and advised Clones MD with this project – repair stone walls, conservation of wrought iron gates, stone condition survey of sarcophagus/shrine, laying path.

Traditional Farm Buildings scheme. Produced video for social media of building, owner and contractor at successful Monaghan project, funded through the Heritage Council and Gl s.

Funded with assistance from the National Parks and Wildlife

Monaghan Wetland Action Plan. Year 1 report completed and submitted to the department, outlining preliminary methodology and outcomes for 2021. Final report due in October 2021.

Community Monuments Fund. Administered new scheme for the department, attended training workshop and feedback sessions.

Funded with assistance from Creative Ireland

Rossmore Mausoleum. Conservation Plan, full measured survey and 3-D imagery. Report on burial ground, and suggestions for incorporating creative practices into interpretation and presentation of this historic structure and setting.

Funded with assistance from Interreg

Collaborative Action for the Natura Network. Contractor appointed for drain blocking onsite, 1200 dams installed in November/December 2020. Conservation Assistant engaged for Sliabh Beagh. Tender for Invasive Species Removal issued and contractor appointed. Ammonia monitoring continued. Submission of extension request for project. Delay to stakeholder training and volunteer events due to Covid. International Wetland Day event next Tuesday 2nd Feb at 2pm. Live stream from the drain blocking site on Sliabh Beagh with Dr. Rory Sheehan and Paul Sherlock, MCC.

LIBRARY SERVICES

JOHN MURRAY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES/HEAD OF FINANCE

Keep Well Campaign - Switching off and being creative:

The "Keep Well" campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. The Library section is coordinating the strand 'Switching off and being creative' - switching off and being creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax can help our general wellbeing. The Local Authorities and libraries, with advice from the Creative Ireland Programme, and working with partners at national and local level, will provide a range of initiatives to support individual and community creativity in the arts, crafting, culture and heritage.

Our programme to date includes the following initiatives:

- **Family Creative Boxes** – working with the Family Resource Centres and Food Bank Network, we have put together a high quality creative resource box for the family to engage creatively together. The boxes will be distributed to 100 families who are finding it tough and challenging during this period of time.
- **Care Packs** – We will be distributing 100 care packs through our Cocooning/Housebound delivery service over the coming weeks. These packs contain items to keep those recipients actively engaged with puzzles, art and crafts.



- **Family Tin Whistle Programme** – working in partnership with Cavan Monaghan Music Generation, we planned to deliver one online 8 week programme enabling families to learn the tin whistle together. Due to demand, we will run this programme on two occasions during February/March with almost 40 families.



**Music Generation
Cavan/Monaghan**
an Chabháin/Mhuineacháin

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme. A Music Network initiative, co-funded by Úrú, The Invest2Learn, The Department of Education and Skills and Cavan Monaghan Education Partnership.



Want to Learn Tin Whistle as a Family?

Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan, in partnership with Creative Monaghan and the Keep Well Campaign are running an online course, *Ceol Cláirim*, in tin whistle for families across Co. Monaghan.

Tin whistles and online lessons will be provided, so if your family want to have fun at home together while learning how to play tin whistle from a professional musician - all for FREE, please email creative@monaghencoco.ie

Be sure to include your name, a contact number/email address, whether you have access to a device that can run Zoom and how many members of your family wish to take part.

Sessions will be held Thursdays 6.30 - 7.00pm weekly for 8 weeks, beginning at the end of January. Places are limited so please register your interest by the 22nd of January!

Minimum age: 6

KEEP WELL








- **Knitting Project** – collaborating with the Cairde Resource Centre in Clones, we put out a call to the general public to join in our knitting initiative to knit a Easter Bunny. We had planned for 100 people to participate, but we have been overwhelmed with the response and within 24 hours of putting it up on social media we had almost 200 people wanting to partake. We now have over 300 people of all ages who will partake in the project. We received requests as far as County Cork, Dublin Wexford, Clare, Limerick to Derry.



- **Online Programme:** We recently put out a public call to creative practitioners to submit proposals to facilitate online activities during February/March and this programme will be announced in February.

We are working on a number of other initiatives such a virtual tours, environmental themed booklet, and if restrictions permit outdoor cinema/theatre at end of March.

TRANSPORTATION

PATRICIA MONAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

National Roads**Major Schemes****N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Schemes:**

The N2 Project Team is finalising the Preferred Route Corridor and Option Selection Report for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to Border schemes. The Option Selection Report documents the process of selecting the Preferred Route Corridor, and outlines the rationale and criteria applied to select the Preferred Option.

It is planned to publish the Preferred Route Corridor and the Option Selection Report in early-mid February 2021. Registered landowners and properties within the Preferred Route Corridor will receive an information leaflet to their door. Information will be sent by email to stakeholders registered with the N2 Project Team. Information will also be published in local press/media and on social media.

The Option Selection Report is a large document comprising 9 different volumes with associated appendices. Due to its scale, it is not intended to print hardcopies of the report for the public, however a range of other options will be provided to allow the public to access the report;

- It will be available to view or download from the project website www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie. A digital copy of the Option Selection Report (on memory stick) can be requested by anyone who cannot access the online report due to poor internet access.
- A hardcopy of the report will be available to view by appointment at Monaghan County Council's Glen Offices (subject to applicable government restrictions/guidelines related to COVID-19). Members of the public should contact the project phonenumber to request an appointment.
- It is planned to make the report available to view at Monaghan County Council's libraries in Monaghan Town, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross when they re-open (the report will not be available to borrow/check out from the library).

Although the N2 Project Team is working remotely, the team remains available to engage with landowners and stakeholders. The project website is www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie. The project phonenumber can be contacted on 087 340 3786, and queries can be submitted by email at the following addresses;

ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie or ClontibretBorder@N2MonaghanLouth.ie.

Minor Improvement Schemes**N54 Tullybryan Scheme:**

Consultants RPS and the National Roads team are progressing with Phase 3 deliverables for the scheme i.e. Preliminary Design Report, Risk Workshop and CPO documentation. Further Site Investigations (SI) are proposed to be undertaken along the proposed route. A tender for SI was published and tenders received on 18 December 2020. An assessment of the tenders is currently being carried out. Letters have been issued to landowners affected by the SI. MCC is also liaising with TII Archaeologist and a tender for Archaeology investigations is to be published over the next few weeks. The CPO publishing date is expected to be March 2021.

PARR Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal Schemes:**2020 & 2021 Pavement Scheme - N54 Monaghan Town - 2.3km**

John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd is scheduled to resurface the carriageway on North Rd, Old Cross Square, Dawson St and Broad Rd at the end of March 2021. It should be noted that the works are dependent on progress of installation of new sewers on North Road which is being managed by Irish Water and Roads are liaising with MCC Water section on this.

2021 Pavement Scheme – N54 Clonlura- 2.6km

Additional investigations are to be carried out to ascertain ground conditions along N54 Clonlura. MCC Roads is in the process of procuring a contractor to carry out these works. The PARR report will be updated following receipt of the survey results. MCC roads are liaising with Department of Infrastructure (Northern Ireland) to confirm if there are any plans to renew / upgrade the section of the A3 between Clones and this scheme.

Future Pavement Scheme (year tbc) – N2 CASTLEBLAYNEY BYPASS (2 +1) - 5.8KM

Donegal NRO have issued a draft PARR Report for 5.8km Pavement Scheme along the N2 Castleblayney Bypass from Tullyvin Roundabout to Cremartin Roundabout which MCC Roads will review.

NP/NS Bridge Rehabilitation Programme**N2 Blackwater Bridge:**

The main contract works for the replacement of the N2 Blackwater Bridge were substantially completed in November 2020. The Contractor (Fox Building & Civil Engineering Ltd) have a list of snags and other outstanding items to address. Repairs to the wearing course surface are planned for Quarter 2 2021.

N53 Ballynacarry Bridge Replacement:

MCC Roads are currently preparing a tender to procure Consultants through the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Framework of Bridge Consultants for the design of the scheme.

N54 Park Road (Margaret Skinnider Roundabout)

The Consultant (Peter Monahan Consulting Engineers PMCE) is finalising the Part 8 Planning drawings and documentation. It is planned to publish the Part 8 Application by end of January 2021. Following approval of Part 8 planning, tender documents to be prepared and Contractors procured. It is proposed that Construction of the new roundabout would be carried out in Summer 2021.

N2 Tirnaneil junction

Tenders for the Contract works have been received and the Tender Assessment is currently being carried out. Construction works are expected to commence in Q1 2021.

N2 Tullyvaragh junction

MCC will proceed with the Safety scheme but with the Right Turning Lanes (RTL's) excluded therefore previous Design and Part 8 documents required are to be updated.

N54 Smithboro Pedestrian Crossing

The Tender documents for the procurement of a Contractor were published 15 January 2021. Works are expected to commence April 2021.

Castleblayney Bypass (2+1)

The draft report summarising the investigation/ camera survey will be issued to TII Safety for review.

NP & NS Maintenance**Fencing Retrofit Programme**

NC Plant Hire are to resume on site this week to complete fencing work on the N54 between Smithboro and Clones.

Vehicle Restraint Systems

Lagan Operations & Maintenance Ltd to carry out additional repairs of crash barriers on the National roads due to barrier strikes. Works were due to re- commence in January 2021. MCC Roads are awaiting confirmation of the commencement date.

HGV Restrictions – Monaghan Town

Details of the proposals for HGV restrictions was issued to businesses and hauliers in December 2020. Only one response was received, and this was in relation to HGV restrictions on the Mall Road. Road Design are preparing for public consultation and will publish the proposals in the local newspaper in the coming weeks.

N2 Cyclepaths

TII have allocated €260,000 in funding for 2021 for four Cycle path schemes on the N2 at the locations detailed below: Drawings of these schemes have been issued to the elected members by email. MCC Roads will procure Consultants to progress the design of these schemes.

- N2 Cycle path -Ballyalbanny junction to Coolshannagh Roundabout (0.8km)
- N2 Cycle path - Phase 3 to Emyvale Village (0.25km)
- N2 Cycle path - Corlat roundabout to the Collegiate College (0.65km)
- N2 Cycle path -Upgrade of Hard verge to Cycle path N2 Ballyalbany to Tydavnet junction (5.2km)

Capital & Ordinary maintenance pavement works

MCC have identified the locations for repair (for 2021) and are currently surveying them, preparing drawings and the TII Funding Applications which are to be submitted by end of January 2021.

Non-National Roads

Restoration Improvement (RI)

The Restoration Improvement programme has been agreed with the 3 Municipal Districts for 2021. Monaghan County Council are awaiting the 2021 DTTAS Allocation however, similar funding to 2020 is expected.

The estimated 2021 programme is as follows:

- Tender preparation – 25th January 2021
- Tender Published – 1st February 2021
- Tender Return - 23rd February 2021
- Tender Assessment & Award – 15th March 2021
- Works commence – 22nd March 2021
- RI Programme Completed – August 2021

Please note COVID 19 restrictions may affect the works commencement date of 22nd March.

Restoration Maintenance (RM)

The Restoration Maintenance programme for 2021 has been agreed with the 3 Municipal Districts. Again, we are awaiting confirmation of funding allocation from DTTAS for 2021 however, similar funding to 2020 is expected. The works will commence in May 2021, currently no delay is envisaged for the delivery of our annual RM programme.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2020

MCC Bridge Rehabilitation Programme for 2021 has been submitted to DTTAS and we are awaiting confirmation of funding. An increased allocation is expected in 2021.

Climate Change Adaptation Grant funding of €190,000 was provided for the design of 24 bridges for the 2021 Bridge Rehabilitation programme. The tender process for the construction of these designs will be completed in April 2021 with the works due to commence in June 2021.

Local Improvement Schemes

Monaghan County Council are awaiting the 2021 Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) allocation however, similar funding to 2020 is expected.

- 44 Lanes remain on historic List
- 118 new applications are awaiting assessment.

Community Involvement Schemes

Monaghan County Council are awaiting an allocation from DTTAS for the Community Involvement Scheme allocation for 2021 however, similar funding to 2020 is expected. A list of schemes has been identified with the tender process and works to be completed by May 2021.

Low Cost Safety Schemes

An application has been submitted to DTTAS for Low-cost Safety Schemes in 2021 and we await notification of our allocation.

Specific Improvement Grants

R181 Drumillard to Crossduff:

Further DTTAS funding is expected in 2021 to progress the R181 Drumillard to Crossduff road realignment scheme. The Part 8 Planning Process, Site Investigation Works and Preliminary design were completed in 2020.

Brackley Bridge

Further DTTAS funding is expected in 2021 to carry out the construction of the Brackley Bridge Culvert replacement and Junction realignment. The Part 8 Planning Process, Site Investigation Works, Detailed Design, and the tender process was completed in 2020.

Pilot Schemes 2020 - Budget €1,000,000

CBGM & Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme

The Cement Bound Granular Material (CBGM) and Re-claimed Asphalt pilot schemes were trialled as an alternative to conventional Bitmac road surfacing on our local roads throughout the county in 2020. Further funding is expected in 2021 – The tender is to be published & awarded in March 2021 following our DTTAS allocation.

Climate Change Adaptation

Further funding is expected for the completion of MCC's Climate Action Schemes.

Active Travel Allocation

Monaghan County Council have applied to the NTA for funding to carry out further Active Travel Schemes in 2021. MCC's funding allocation will be issued following a meeting with the NTA in February/March 2021.

Ulster Canal Greenway

The draft Part 8 Planning documentation for the Monaghan Town to the Border section of the Ulster Canal Greenway is currently being reviewed by key stakeholders, and it is expected that a formal Part 8 application will be submitted in the next few weeks. SEUPB has engaged consultants to carry out an economic appraisal of the project in advance of giving its decision on the request for additional funding. A decision from SEUPB is not expected until Q2, 2021. DTTAS has indicated that there is likely to be a funding call for Greenway projects later this year and advised that projects with planning permission in place, and land acquisition well advanced, will be in a strong position to secure funding.

COMMUNITY

PATRICIA MONAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Monaghan Community Response Forum and Helpline

The County Monaghan Community Response Forum promotional campaign has continued in December and January across all Monaghan County Council/ PPN/Healthy Monaghan social medial channels. It has also promoted the Community Call telephone numbers and email address.

The Community Response Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis and a Community Call Helpline update is provided at each meeting. Keep Well campaign updates are also delivered at Forum meetings.

A "Keep well" dedicated webpage on the Monaghan.ie website is providing local relevant information on services, supports and activities that are available across the County. A collaborative calendar of events to ensure the community are connected and aware of what's available for them locally has been produced with Press, Radio & print promotion delivered. Inter-agency collaboration is continuing between MCC staff, HSE, CYPSC, FRCs, MID, CMETB and others.

The Helpline continues to operate from 9am to 5pm – Monday to Friday, with a voice mail facility outside those hours, which is monitored over weekends.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund – Round 2

Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) announced the launch of the COVID 19 Emergency Fund – Round 2.

The fund will provide grants to community groups to assist them:

- to **adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality**. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.
- to **become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign**. The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: **staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood**.

The grants may also be provided to support groups (including those involved in the community call) with day to day running costs if needed.

Closing date for receipt of completed online applications is **12 noon Monday 1st February 2021**.

Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign and Radio Campaign

As part of the Healthy Monaghan (& Healthy Cavan) 'Keep Well' Campaign ran on Northern Sound, Monaghan Sports Partnership and Cavan Sports Partnership collaborated on a four week plan of advertisement, radio interviews and tips, advice and encouragement for the general public to 'keep active' during this time. Interviews took place during the 'Wider View Programme' on Tuesdays and Thursdays (1.30pm – 2.30pm) and concluded at the end of December. All interviews can be found as podcasts on the Keep Well page of the Council website.

A new campaign focussing on "Staying Active" commenced on the 19th January. This will also be coordinated jointly by MSP and CSP and will have a variety of specialist guest speakers each week.

A variety of Keep Well flyers were produced and circulated by the Monaghan Age Friendly Programme and targeted at older, isolated or vulnerable members in our community. 1500 boxes of Christmas treats/biscuits were supplied to over 30 social day care services, local meals on wheels services, senior alert groups and SVdeP to be distributed to the older members of their communities.

The Age Friendly Keep Well Booklet containing important information on keeping well during this time and some tips and advice on looking after your mental health has been distributed across the county. 8000 copies of the booklet were delivered by Monaghan Gardai to all nursing homes in the county, Meals on Wheels services, and the HSE Services for older people team. Copies of the booklet are also available in all Pharmacies and Supervalu stores across the county.

Small Grant Scheme for Sports clubs (Covid19 Supports)

Further to last month's report on Small Grant Scheme for Sports Clubs (Covid19 Supports) where Monaghan Sports Partnership reported 40 clubs were awarded amounts up to €1500 for Covid19 related expenses in returning to sport. A total of 37 out of 40 sports clubs have submitted the required report / drawdown form. 26 clubs have drawn down 100% funding (with proof of spend) and 11 clubs have applied for 80% funding (spending not complete). A total of €45,560.22 out of €54,418.83 has been drawn down.

Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Small Grants scheme

12 local groups secured grants to deliver initiatives under this small grants scheme in November. Activity was due to be completed by May and should have commenced at this stage. However, due to the recent lockdown projects have been unable to progress. It is likely that an extension will be supplied by the Department for these projects.

LCDC/LAG

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)/Local Action Group (LAG) held their monthly meetings on 12th January 2021.

Monaghan LEADER Programme 2014-2020

Progress at 31st December 2020

- The LAG met in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November and twice in December.
- At the close of 2020, 112 projects were approved to the value of €5,698,098.16 (99.82% of total budget)
- There is €10,056.09 remaining to be allocated with more than that in the system seeking funds.
- 41 promoters have completed their projects and have been paid. The total drawn-down at 31st December 2020 in both full and phased payments is €2,485,998.77 (43.66% of project budget).
- Seven cooperation projects have been approved by the LAG. Two are completed and paid to a value of €11,195.64. One to value of €174,222.56 has commenced and is progressing. A further four projects to the value of €134,248.16 are proceeding through Article 48 Check (being conducted by Pobal) and awaiting Departmental approval. Cooperation funding is additional to the overall LDS budget.

| | Allocation of Budget | % | Draw down of Grants | % | No of Projects/Project Claims fully completed |
|--|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---|
| Total LEADER Budget for projects | €5,708,154.74 | | €5,708,154.74 | | |
| Grants awarded as at 12th January 2021 | €5,698,098.16 | 99.82 | | | 112 |
| Budget remaining for allocation at 12th January 2021 | 10,056.09 | | | | |
| Drawn down at 12th January 2021 | | | €2,485,998.77 | 43.66 | 41 |
| Budget to be drawn down at 12 th January 2021 | | | €3,222,155.97 | 56.45 | |

LEADER Transitional Funding

In late December 2020, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced details of the Transitional LEADER Programme which will come into effect in April 2021. One notable development is that the grant rate for the transitional funding has increased from 50% to a maximum of 75% for enterprises and commercial projects to support job creation in rural areas. Monaghan LAG has been allocated €517,685 for projects and €408,872 for Administration and Animation. The Minister also announced some flexibilities in relation to the finalisation of the current LEADER programme. The Deadline for project commitments under the 2014-2020 programme has been extended by 3 months to 31st March 2021.

The Transitional LEADER Programme will bridge a gap between the wind-up of the current 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and the start of the next EU programme, which is not likely to commence until 2023 due to delays at EU level. The transitional LEADER programme will be delivered through existing arrangements with the LAG in each area delivering the extension in the way the original programme was delivered. The LAG in Monaghan is the LCDC, with Monaghan County Council as the Financial Partner and Monaghan Integrated Development as the Implementing Partner. The programme will be delivered utilizing the existing Local Development Strategy, (LDS), which sets out the priorities for LEADER during its delivery. The LAG may, if it needs to, amend the LDS for the transitional programme. It will be a matter for a LAG to decide on the appropriate rate of aid it awards to each project, as is currently the case, and the LAG may award a rate lower than the maximum permitted.

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

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

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme Facebook page

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme has established a Facebook page to promote information and tips on supports and services that are available in the county now. The engagement on the page to date has been good and is increasing. www.facebook.com/monahganagefriendlyprogramme

Monaghan Older Peoples Council– WhatsApp group

The level of engagement via email with the members of Monaghan Older People's Council had dropped significantly as the COVID 19 pandemic progressed. Registered members of the Older People's Council were invited to join a WhatsApp group. There are now 35 groups registered on the WhatsApp group and daily information and supports are sent to the members, who then share the information with their group members. This format of circulating information is proving to be very effective and has significant daily engagement and interaction.

Mindfulness Partnership with Mental Health Ireland

Monaghan Age Friendly programme has partnered with Mental Health Ireland Monaghan to provide a series of mindfulness and wellbeing video information clips to our older people. The videos cover topics including getting a good night sleep, eating well, coping with being alone. Short videos are being circulated via the Older People's Council WhatsApp and Monaghan Age Friendly Facebook page.

Public Sector Duty Committee

The Public Sector Duty Committee has been reconvened in January following the successful implementation of pilot project. The process taken to develop the Public Sector Duty in Monaghan County Council informed the development of a Public Sector Duty action plan. The action plan sets out the key actions that Monaghan County Council will deliver during 2020-2024 in order to promote equality, protect human rights and eliminate discrimination for all service users and staff of the organisation.

Women and Diversity in local government funding

Work has begun on implementing this project. The key actions of this project are:

- Establish Monaghan Women's Assembly
- Deliver training on Equality and Diversity for Elected Representatives
- Develop and produce information and awareness raising resources on Diversity and Equality.

Monaghan Public Participation Network

Monaghan PPN recently collaborated with Environment Section in a PPN Consultation Workshop on Litter Management. Twenty two groups attended and gave their feedback on what they think needs to be done to tackle the increasing level of litter and dumping of rubbish across the county. They also discussed what they think are the main priorities to be included in Monaghan County Council Litter Management Plan.

The PPN has developed its 2021 Annual Work Plan and one of the key priorities will be to enhance support to our members through a tailored training programme which will be determined by them following a consultation survey. The training will consider what can the PPN do assist its members through the challenges of them re-opening the doors of their community centres post Covid 19.

Monaghan PPN has secured funding to retain the post of PPN Support Worker. This post is funded in a partnership approach with Monaghan County Council and Department of Rural and Community Development.

Rural Funding Schemes 2020 – Department of Rural & Community Development

Allocations and approvals from 2020 for Monaghan County Council.

Summary, with details set out below.

| Scheme | Round | Funding Awarded | No. of projects funded |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Town & Village | Accelerated Covid Measure – Round 1 | €137,320 | 5 |
| | Accelerated Covid Measure – Round 2 | €155,000 | 5 |
| | Accelerated Covid Measure – Round 3 | €130,000 | 4 |
| | Main Scheme | €806,543 | 7 |
| Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme | Measure 1 | €103,623 | 6 |
| | *Measures 2&3 | Awaiting announcement on approved projects | 3 applications submitted under Measure 2 1 application submitted under Measure 3 |
| CLÁR | Measures 1&2 | €233,277 | 7 |
| Total - (*excl ORIS, M2&M3 – TBA) | | €1,565,763 | |

CLÁR 2020

Set out below are details of projects that were successful in funding applications made through Monaghan County Council and approved by the Department of Rural & Community Development in 2020. Any queries in relation to the programmes or projects can be directed to Community Section.

| Name of Facility | Project description | Funding approved |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| St. Michael's N.S. Corcaghan | Pedestrian crossing, digital speed signs, upgrade road markings, footpath | €50,000 |
| Connons Outdoor Social Area | Outdoor pavilion with seating | €50,000 |
| Latton Community Centre | Car park and footpath | €50,000 |
| Clontibret GAA/Clontibret Dev. Assoc | Car Park | €22,473 |
| Mullan Village | Traffic calming | €14,505 |
| St. Dymphna's N.S., Tydavnet | Resurfacing, child safety signage | €23,944 |
| Killeevan National School | Drainage and safety infrastructure | €22,355 |
| Cumulative Total | | €233,277 |

Town & Village Covid Accelerated Measure 2020 - Round 1

| T&V project details | Project | T&V Funding allocated |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Ballybay | Provision of outdoor seating & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign | €25,000 |
| Carrickmacross | Provision of band stand canopy, seating & picnic benches adjacent to Civic Office, & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign | €40,000 |
| Castleblayney | Provision of Public Information digital notice board, walking trail map, public seating & picnic benches in Lough Muckno Park & Mindszenty Park & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign | €22,320 |
| Clones | Provision of outdoor seating within Clones town centre & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign | €25,000 |
| Monaghan | Large screen for town centre events, pop-up canopies, seating (mobile), green space set-up at Courthouse Square & Town centre marketing promotion activity | €25,000 |
| Total | | €137,320.00 |

Town & Village Covid Accelerated Measure 2020 - Round 2

| T&V project details | Project | T&V Funding allocated |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Broadband Connection Points (9 villages) | To equip Broadband Connections Points (BCP's) at 9 community centres within Co. Monaghan | €40,000 |
| Inniskeen | The provision of an external canopy & outdoor screen to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre | €25,000 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Latton | To install a perspex canopy covering the footpath approach & external area of community centre & 4 seating benches within the village | €25,000 |
| Monaghan MD 12 villages | Provision of outdoor equipment for 12 villages in Monaghan MD, including pop-up canopies & mobile seating | €25,000 |
| Ballybay Clones MD 9 villages | Installation of seating in 9 Villages in Ballybay/Clones MD | €40,000 |
| Total | | €155,000.00 |

Town & Village Covid Accelerated Measure 2020 - Round 3

| T&V project details | Project | T&V Funding allocated |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Glaslough | Enhancing the Market & Fairs Capacity in the Village | €40,000 |
| Knockconan | External Porch and enhancements to aid access to Blackwater Valley Learning Centre/Community Centre | €25,000 |
| Scotshouse | Upgrade works to Walking Trail | €25,000 |
| Threemilehouse | Adaptations to Community Centre | €40,000 |
| Total | | €130,000.00 |

Town & Village 2020 – Main Scheme

| T&V project details | Project | T&V Funding allocated |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Carrickmacross | Public amenity enhancements including provision of dog walking park, two biodiversity garden parks, the provision of seating and landscaping. | €98,261 |
| Clones | Public realm enhancement including diversion of cabling, new heritage public lighting standards, pedestrian prioritisation and car park upgrade. | €200,000 |
| Clontibret | Installation of footpath and public lighting. | €81,315 |
| Doohamlet | Public realm enhancement including, upgrade of carpark, provision of street lighting, upgrade of footpath and resurface gravel paths in the community park | €100,000 |
| Emyvale | Public realm enhancement works including undergrounding of overhead cables and upgrading of footpath with LED public lighting columns. | €200,000 |
| Inniskeen | To implement a Bike Rental Scheme to operate from the Patrick Kavanagh Centre. | €26,967 |
| Latton | The provision of new footpath and public lighting | €100,000 |
| Total | | €806,543 |

| Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020 – Measure 1 | | |
|--|--|------------------------|
| ORIS project details | Project | ORIS Funding allocated |
| Emyvale Eco Trail | Enhancement of Trail | €20,000 |
| Gortnawhinny Lake, Clones | Improvement works to access trail | €20,000 |
| Castleblayney Outdoor Recreational Exercise Trail, Muckno Park | Trail enhancement - 10-station exercise and fitness trail | €14,429 |
| Greenway connection Rossmore Forest Park | Development & extension of Greenway | €20,000 |
| Ulster Canal Greenway, Monaghan | Maintenance of Greenway | €20,000 |
| Carrickmacross Looped Walks | Walks Enhancement - Supply and installation of Directional Signage | €9,194 |
| Total | | €103,623 |

A total of €1,565,763 has been approved for 34 projects across the range of programmes. Measure 2 and Measure 3 applications under ORIS have yet to be announced (as at 21-01-'21).

Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

Let's Get Active 2021

Monaghan Sports Partnership launched our Let's Get Active 2021 programme on the 11th of January. This programme of activities was devised in order to help people across the county to kickstart 2021 in the most positive and active way.

MSP put together a comprehensive schedule of activities which includes 18 weekly classes across a six-week period. These classes are being delivered live virtually via the app Zoom and are also being recorded where they can be completed at a time which best suits participants.

The activity programme has been developed to incorporate something for everybody, both young and old, absolute beginner or more experienced exercise enthusiast, in order to help all our families, stay as active as possible through these difficult and testing times.

There has been a fantastic uptake in all activities. In total we have 580 registered participants taking part, this number ranges across all age groups and includes children as young as 3 years old to older adults in their mid-70's.

January walking campaign

MSP created a walking calendar for the month of January that outline 31 benefits of walking.

The calendar was posted online and in the Northern Standard to encourage people to develop a walking routine throughout the month of January. Each daily tip is posted online as a regular reminder. We have linked this to the Get Ireland Walking campaign and the development of the new Get Ireland Walking App, which allows people to keep track of their progress.

Education & Training

Safeguarding 1

The following dates have been secured for Safeguarding online workshops 2021:

Tues 23rd February SG1

Mon 29th March SG1

Wed 21st April SG1

Mon 17th May SG2

Wed 26th May SG 1, 2 or 3 depending on demand or if SG3 available online.

Age Friendly Keep Well Brochure

Monaghan Sports Partnership along with Sport Ireland developed a 4-week physical activity plan for older adults. These 4-week activity plans support people to try and reach the minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity, as recommended in Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan.

The Home Exercise Plans demonstrate several exercises as well as adaptations for those with limited mobility.

The exercise brochure has been included as part of the Age Friendly "Keep Well" brochure that has been widely distributed.

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle members were approached to participate in 3 different consultations.

In November, members engaged in a consultation with Monaghan CYSPC on what a "Shared Vision" for the Island of Ireland would look like. This included discussing what identity means to them, what shapes their identities and what could do to support integration of cultures on the island.

In December, members also engaged in a consultation with Youth Work Ireland. CnanÓ members offered views on what a Youth app should look like, the topics the app should cover, suggested possible names for the app and offered plenty of advice on how best to make the app as youth and user friendly as possible.

Finally, in January, members engaged in a consultation on the development of a new Litter Plan for Co. Monaghan. The group offered feedback on what they think are the main causes of the litter problems in Co. Monaghan, their views on the green school initiatives and also give their ideas on how best to make Monaghan litter free.

PROCUREMENT

PATRICIA MONAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

1. Brexit – The EU-UK Trade and Co Operation Agreement

This response summarises the main implications of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) on **public procurement**. This is a synopsis of some of the procurement issues at this at a point in time. It is not intended to be a comprehensive account of all relevant issues. This is a hugely complex area and there are several areas that require further clarity. This response may be updated as further updates/clarifications issue.

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) became effective from 11pm on 31st December, 2020 and includes provision for Public Procurement. The Agreement governs the EU relationship with the UK and Northern Ireland following their exit from the Union. A Protocol on Northern Ireland was included in the Withdrawal Agreement which means that Northern Ireland will continue to follow many of the EU's rules thus resulting in a new "regulatory" border between Northern Ireland and the UK.

EU Guidance to date

The EU also published a [Questions and Answers document](#) on the Agreement which was published on the 24th December 2020.

Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Guidance to date

In order to assist public bodies in Ireland charged with dealing with public procurement and the management of public contracts in the context of changes which will arise due to Brexit, the OGP Policy Unit prepared a series of [Information Notes](#) (4th version published in Dec 2020). These Information Notes are intended to provide public bodies with advice on actions they may wish to take in the context of Brexit and its implications for public procurement in Ireland.

Following the conclusion of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement the OGP has yet to release any guidance on the agreement and uncertainty remains surrounding the agreement with regard to Public Procurement. The OGP have advised that they have no immediate plans to update the Information Note issued in December 2020 (pre the Trade and Cooperation Agreement). Instead, a Brexit FAQ was issued by the OGP on 15th January, 2021 (attached).

Review of Contract Awarded in 2020 (where value >€25,000)

In preparing this report, details of contracts awarded in 2020, with a value greater than €25,000 ex VAT were analysed in order to determine the nature and number of contracts awarded to suppliers from the UK and Northern Ireland. Details of all contracts awarded with a value of €25,000 or greater are published on the Monaghan County Council website in accordance with the requirements of the Model Publication scheme and are available to view at the following link:

<https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/procurement/>

The analysis shows that in 2020 Monaghan County Council awarded 74no. contracts with a value in excess of €25,000 ex VAT. The total value of such contracts was almost €33.8m. 54no. (73%) of these contracts were awarded to suppliers from the Republic of Ireland. The highest category of contracts awarded to UK/NI suppliers was in the area of works, where 12no. contracts (one third of works contracts) were awarded to suppliers from NI.

| Category | Number of Contracts Awarded | No. contracts awarded to suppliers from ROI | No. contracts awarded to suppliers from NI |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Works | 36 | 24 | 12 |
| General Services | 16 | 13 | 3 |
| Works Related Services | 14 | 10 | 4 |
| Supplies | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| Grand Total | 74 | 54 | 20 |

Implications**Access to Public Procurement Markets**

The UK applied for and was granted membership to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). This Agreement ensures that following the UK exit from the Union, both UK and EU companies will continue to mutual access to public procurement opportunities, in excess of the GPA threshold, within each jurisdiction. The GPA thresholds closely match the current EU thresholds (Goods & Services in excess of €214,000 and €5,350,000 for Works). (Some exceptions will apply).

However, UK awarding authorities will no longer be obliged to use the Official Journal of the European Union/Tenders Electronic Daily (OJEU/TED) to advertise procurement opportunities and contract awards over the GPA threshold. Instead, the UK is introducing a new e-notification system entitled 'Find a Tender'. When tendering for contracts in the UK, Irish/EU provider's rights will now be based on UK domestic legislation and will derive from a different legal framework: the GPA, rather than the EU.

Ireland remains committed to EU procurement rules. The EU Commission have indicated that there will be no need for any new legislation governing public procurement rules, so suppliers will engage with procurement processes in a similar manner to pre the TCA. Therefore, Brexit does not change

our national obligations to open and transparent public contracts. The non-discrimination obligations of the TCA ensure that suppliers from the EU will be treated no less favourably than UK operators in the UK, and vice-versa when tendering for contracts above the EU/GPA threshold. Suppliers are still allowed to compete for contracts within each jurisdiction and should be treated equally.

However, given the proposals set out in the UK Cabinet Office's Green Paper Transforming Public Procurement published on 15th December, in a Procurement Policy Note (PPN 11/20), in a guide to reserving low value threshold procurements, and PPN 09/20 on the reform of works contracts, the UK Government has signalled some potentially significant changes that will, if implemented, impact on Irish tenderers bidding for UK/NI contracts which fall below the EU/GPA Thresholds.

In the above publications, UK has indicated that contracting authorities in UK/NI may 'reserve' access to these contracts to entities with a substantial established presence in the UK/NI. This would, if implemented, have the effect of treating UK-established suppliers more favourably than non-UK suppliers in below-threshold competitions. It remains to be clarified whether EU/Irish government policy on works contracts below EU Threshold will allow Irish contracting authorities to apply a reciprocal agreement that would similarly allow them to 'reserve' access to such contracts.

In the meantime, where no existing frameworks exist, Monaghan County Council must continue to advertise all contracts above the national threshold (€25,000 ex VAT for Goods and Services and €50,000 ex VAT for works and works related services) on eTenders and on the OJEU where the value exceeds EU Threshold as was the case pre Brexit.

Recognition of professional qualifications (Appointment of Consultants)

As a member of the EU and the EU Single Market, UK nationals and EU citizens holding a qualification from the United Kingdom previously benefitted from a simplified recognition regime in other EU countries, which allowed professionals such as architects or engineers to supply services across the European Union, including in the United Kingdom.

As of 1 January 2021, following the exit of the UK from the Union, this will no longer be the case. Post Brexit, as a general rule, UK nationals, irrespective of where they acquired their qualifications, and EU citizens with qualifications acquired in the United Kingdom will need to have their qualifications recognised in the relevant Member State on the basis of each country's existing individual rules applicable to the qualifications of third-country nationals.

While the Trade and Cooperation Agreement foresees a mechanism whereby the EU and the UK may agree additional arrangements for the mutual recognition of certain professional qualifications, the timeline for any further agreement of this sort is unclear. No guidance has issued from the OGP to date as to how MCC should deal with this issue should it arise in future competitions.

Certification of Products – Particularly relevant to procurement of construction products

EU product legislation no longer applies in the UK following the expiry of the transition period on the 31 December 2020. This has implications for businesses who use UK based notified bodies or accredited test facilities for the certification of their products as Notified Bodies must be established in a Member State and designated by a Member State notifying authority for performing the conformity assessment tasks set out in the relevant EU product legislation.

All products imported from the UK to the Republic of Ireland will need to comply with EU technical regulations and will be subject to all applicable regulatory compliance obligations, checks and controls for safety, health and other public policy purposes. This means that those selling products in both the EU and the UK will need to check conformity for CE marking in Ireland/EU and a new UKCA marking, which can be used from 1 January 2021, in the UK.

Due to the Northern Ireland Protocol the UKCA mark will not be recognised on the Northern Irish market. According to the Northern Ireland Protocol, products currently requiring an EU conformity marking for sale in Northern Ireland will continue to need to use this marking. The UK(NI) marking is a new product marking that accompanies, but does not replace, the relevant EU conformity mark on certain goods being placed on the market in Northern Ireland. Customs checks will not be required for trade of goods between Northern Ireland and the Republic, and Northern Ireland will remain subject to the EU laws on customs and VAT for such trade.

Insurances

IPB Insurance has advised that any insurance policies which are renewed on or after 01 January 2021 with a UK domiciled Insurer are no longer permitted in the Republic of Ireland. Any insurance policies which were in force prior to 01 January 2021 with a UK domiciled Insurer will remain valid (solely for the purposes of paying claims) for a period of 15 years.

For suppliers which are primarily based in the Republic of Ireland, most if not all UK based insurers will have moved such insurances to a European Economic Area (EEA) authorised entity within their group. However, the location of where their insurer is based should still be reviewed out of caution. For Northern Ireland or UK based suppliers, greater vigilance is required, particularly where the start date of cover is on or after on 01 January 2021.

In this regard, suppliers must ensure that their insurer is authorised to write this business in the Republic of Ireland. This can be confirmed by checking the Central Bank of Ireland Register that the insurer is authorised to write this business in the Republic of Ireland.

2. Training

The LEO has procured a supplier to provide workshops/training to both Micro and SME businesses in Monaghan on the preparation of tenders for public contracts and this training will be rolled out over the coming months.

The Procurement Unit will work in collaboration with the LEO in promoting these workshop/training opportunities by highlighting to potential suppliers the range of goods and services regularly purchased by MCC for both above and below national threshold.

When procuring goods or services below €25,000 ex VAT and works related services or works below €50,000 ex VAT, Monaghan County Council has the discretion to nominate the suppliers from which it seeks quotes. In these instances, Monaghan County Council endeavour to shop local by inviting local suppliers to quote where available.

In 2020 Monaghan County Council awarded 74no. contracts with a value in excess of €25,000 ex VAT. A review of these contracts shows that 28no. (37%) of these contracts were awarded to suppliers from Co. Monaghan. 15no. of these contracts relate to works, 2 relate to works related services (engineering/architectural services) and 11no. relate to the provision of general services.

Brexit Questions and Answers

Q1. What is Government Policy with regard to procurement from the UK with regard to Brexit?

A. It is government policy that all government bodies should be assessing their supply chain and taking measures to mitigate delays such as advance purchasing (allowing for budgetary considerations). There is a possibility that the cost of certain supplies may increase because of tariffs levied at point of entry but for obvious reasons the extent of these is not known. In terms of communicating Government policy the Office of Government Procurement have liaised closely with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and issued and updated information notes. In addition, the OGP has actively taken part in information seminars including those organised by Enterprise Ireland and Inter-trade Ireland for suppliers and the LGMA. We have also updated the Procurement Executive.

Q2. Can the OGP answer queries I have as they arise?

A. The OGP addresses queries as they arise (with the information to hand) from Contracting Authorities across the public service.

Q3. How will the OGP and Procurement Partner FWA's be affected?

A. The OGP has assessed the Framework Agreements (FWA) it has put in place to identify the risks associated with a no-deal Brexit. OGP has been in contact with the companies on the FWAs to assess continuity of supply in the event of a no-deal Brexit. These companies rely on both private and public sector contracts and in many cases the private sector contracts are more lucrative and have higher contractual obligations than the public sector contracts. As such, these companies are hugely

motivated to keep those contracts intact by adopting Brexit-ready strategies. The main risks identified are increases in input costs arising from tariffs and increases in transport and storage costs due to alternative supply routes, as well as delays. The suppliers on the OGP FWAs have expressed confidence in their own contingency planning. However, there can be no guarantee that Brexit and, in particular, a no-deal Brexit, will not have an impact. In the event that suppliers can no longer fulfil their obligations, the OGP will endeavour to ensure that suitable alternatives are in place as quickly as possible. However, there may be a time-lag and, therefore, the OGP continues to recommend that you meet with your supplier(s) to identify and manage any potential risks to your supply and to put in place the necessary detailed contingency plans. Such contingencies could include, but are not limited to, buying in bulk and holding stock, and sourcing substitutions and alternative suppliers.

Q4. Will new EU legislation be required?

A. The EU Commission have confirmed that there will be no need for any new legislation governing public procurement rules, so suppliers will engage with procurement processes in a similar manner to the current regime.

Q5. How can sourcing respond to our exposure to the UK market?

A. From a sourcing point of view our clients would expect us to be aware of our exposure to the UK market. Therefore sourcing experts should conduct an analysis of this exposure at this stage, as has been continuously advised since 2017. Risks from such exposure may include but is not limited to delays and increased costs in the supply chain arising from more complex administrative arrangements and possible increased costs. As part of developing framework arrangements, sourcing would be aware of the location of suppliers that qualified. There should be additional information from the mini competitions or drawdown arrangements as this information is required under EPSD and older standard template documents. The standard templates were altered in 2016 to include information on reliance on third parties so this should give an indication of such parties based in the UK. This would give an indication of the extent of our direct exposure to UK suppliers. It would then be a matter for sourcing to assess the risk depending on the level of reliance. This would give an indication of which suppliers might need to be consulted.

Q6. Will UK companies still have access to eTenders and www.supplygov.ie (LGOPC)?

A. UK companies will continue to have access to eTenders as the UK is a signatory of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) regardless of the outcome of Brexit negotiations. Yes tenderers from the UK will have access to www.etenders.gov.ie and www.supplygov.ie. The scope for how tenders from different countries are assessed across the EU is set out in the EU Directives. Therefore assessment of tenders from the UK will depend on its status at the time a competition is published.

Q7. Will UK suppliers have access to TED?

A. TED is an open platform so access will continue for third country tenderers.

Q8. Could there be charges and tariffs that a UK company may impose Post-Brexit transition period?

A. We would advise that CA's would have to factor in any such charges and tariffs as part of the tendering process

Q9. What products will be most affected by Brexit?

A. At this stage we do not have any indication which particular products may potentially be more affected than others. Once the UK has fully withdrawn from the EU we will have a better idea of tariffs and duties.

Q10. Should we issue a tender clarification to the effect that the liability for any new taxes or tariffs should fall upon the UK contractor and not the Ireland contracting authority?

A. Although there may be nothing in procurement legislation / directives stating that you cannot include such a statement, it would be advisable to seek legal advice before proceeding to make such changes as there could possibly be challenges / issues raised by prospective tenderers, such as unfair advantage / barriers to competition. / We don't see any need at this time to specify any additional items to the RFTs.

Q11. Why should I include a clause on all-inclusive price?

A. With regard to Brexit and the implications of Tariffs, when drafting your own RFT you will need to include a clause regarding the Pricing. If you do not highlight the fact that prices are all-inclusive then you will face the possibility of additional charges being added. By making this clear in the RFT you are making prospective Tenderers aware of their obligations.

Q12. Will the CSSO update the RFT templates on the OGP website to allow for non EU suppliers.

A. The RFT templates are updated by the CSSO with the OGP website hosting the most up to date version. At this stage, I am not aware of any amendments to account for Brexit. That said, these RFTs are already being used for tender processes involving non EU suppliers which may involve tariffs. Section 2.10 (Pricing) of the RFT states that all prices quoted must be all-inclusive. You could specifically refer to tariffs etc in Appendix 2: Pricing Schedule. Section 2.4 requires all tenderers to accept the provisions of the RFT. Should any amendments be made to the RFTs to account for Brexit or should any further Brexit advice be forthcoming, the Brexit information note on the OGP website will be updated to reflect same.

Q13. Should I put a Brexit related termination clause in any contracts?

A. You would need to seek legal advice prior to inserting any clause other than a general termination clause.

Q14. Should I insert a Quality Assurance Agreement clause specific to Brexit?

A. Currently, the OGP does not have a specific Quality Assurance Agreement outside of Schedule A of the template contract which includes a Terms and conditions section.

Q15. Can the OGP provide a statement on current contracts?

A. At this stage there are a number of unknowns relating to how Brexit will affect current ongoing contracts, so it is difficult to give formal advice on this issue.

Q16. Should the UK company continue to bill us in Euros?

A. In relation to your query we would advise that you review your contract and what currency you asked for in the contract. You need seek assurances from the Supplier in this instance. The contract is between you and the supplier and ongoing contract management would be required. This would include agreement on billing currency and its duration.

PLANNING

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Development Management

The number of planning applications received in 2020 was slightly higher than the previous year and the number of Exempt Development applications increased by 67%. However, despite the current COVID 19 restrictions, planning applications and other statutory requirements of the Planning Section are being fulfilled. Approximately 40 applications were received in the last two weeks leading up to Christmas but all of those applications have now been processed and will be due out for decision at the end of February.

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Extension of Durations | 20 | 14 |
| Permission Consequent | 1 | 0 |
| Outline Planning | 11 | 9 |
| Retention | 76 | 66 |
| Planning Permission | 501 | 526 |
| Total Applications Received | 609 | 615 |
| | | |
| Exempt Development Applications Received | 36 | 54 |

Forward Planning

The proposed deletion of 10 Dublin Street, Monaghan (Charles Gavan Duffy Building) from the Record of Protected Structures was placed on public display and comments are invited up until 5pm on 25th February 2021.

Work also continued on preparing the Chief Executive's Report on the Two-Year Progress Review on securing the objectives within the County Development Plan.

Built Heritage

The application process for funding in respect of Built Heritage Grants in 2021 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which has recently taken over this responsibility, remains open, with the deadline for applications being extended until 5pm on 24th of February 2021 due to the current Level 5 COVID 19 restrictions.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Brexit

We note a substantial increase in calls relating to Brexit and in particular the challenge of Customs procedures for exporters. Where necessary, we are directing them to technical experts on the LEO mentoring panel. There is now realisation by the SME community that the cost of doing business will increase and prices will ultimately increase.

Below is the status of the Border Brexit specific programmes that have been devised to support businesses:

- Superior Retail Programme; 30 Monaghan businesses recruited and programme in situ
- Exporting North East: 15 Monaghan recruited and programme in situ
- Financial Capability Programme: Date of Commencement 22nd Feb

- Green Business Management Development
- Innovation Programme - at tender stage
- Scaling Up Programme - at tender stage

Business Information and Advisory Services

The LEO continues to be the first port of call to anyone thinking of starting a business. We provide information and access to other government services, COVID/Brexit supports give advice on the start up process and what supports are available. Our first Start Your Own Business course will commence on 25th Jan.

Enterprise Support Services

Trading Online Vouchers

There is significant ongoing interest in the Trading Online Voucher scheme. The grant amount has now been reduced to 50%, which entitles business to avail up to a maximum of €2,500 towards the development of an e-commerce platform. 10 Co. Monaghan businesses attended a TOV seminar which was held on 21st January. The LEO continue to complete due diligence and process applications that were received in December 2020.

Ecommerce Cluster

The ecommerce cluster has been meeting since September 2020 and members have undertaken Website Audits & Reviews highlighting areas that need to be improved to increase the business visibility and opportunity to sell more products online; Mentoring on a one-to-one basis has also be provided to help the business owners improve the areas highlighted in the website audit process and each member of the eCommerce Cluster has received a tailored business improvement plan so that they can develop and improve the eCommerce area of their business going forward.

Mentoring

The demand for bespoke Mentoring by the entrepreneurial base, has risen for Jan 2021 in comparison of other years. This is directly related to Brexit and the challenge of Customs. The LEO issued an invite to tender to join its mentor panel and received over 100 applications. These are currently been evaluated.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Monaghan Women in Business

The activities of the Monaghan Women in Business Network usually centre around monthly meetings which include presentations by expert speakers – including our own members – and person to person/group to group networking. A review of the programme is underway considering continuing public health issues preventing us from hosting live face to face events.

Student Enterprise Programme

We are working towards hosting a virtual awards for the County Monaghan student enterprise programme in Spring but giving the complexity of access to students this will be challenging.

Enterprise Week

We are currently devising a suite a programme of activity for our annual Enterprise Week which will take place from 1st March to 5th March 2021.

TOURISM

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Trade Workshop

The first trade workshop of the year took place virtually on 21 January. This is one in a series of 3 training workshops in conjunction with Failte Ireland to establish a South Monaghan cluster.

Rossmore Cycle Trail

The final design for the trail is currently being modified at Coillte's request. It is anticipated that the construction element of the project will go to tender at end February.

Destination Town's Project

Initial designs for the preferred site at the Courthouse are currently being worked up by the Design Team.

FIRE & CIVIL PROTECTION

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Fire Operations

Operational Callouts: Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) attended 23 emergency calls during Dec 2020. Call types attended during this period predominantly included Domestic House, Chimney Fires and Road Traffic Collisions. In addition, MFCP provided assistance and support to Revenue and An Garda Siochana to ensure public safety during the seizure of a diesel laundry plant.

For all of 2020 incidents attended were dominated by chimney fires, Road Traffic Collisions, domestic house fires and calls from monitoring alarm companies.

Fleet: Due to the new Covid-19 restriction the delivery of the new Fire Appliance and new chassis for the water tanker is now due in March 2021. The Covid pandemic has also influence our fleet CVRT risk rating standing now at 69%.

Training: All training and drills have been suspended during the current level 5 restrictions for January. Communication is maintained with crews via regular Microsoft Teams to provide up-to-date information on emergency and operational response procedures.

The development of the annual Training Plan has been completed and the following training was completed in the later end of 2020:

- Emergency First Responder refresher
- Emergency Service Driving Standard Course
- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course.
- Health & Safety training (EOY 2020)

H&S: MFCP management review report for 2020 has been completed and a Health and Safety program and objectives for 2021 prepared and includes the provision of an OHSMS Risk register linking to PESTEL/SWOT analysis.

Fire Prevention & Building Control

Building Control activity in Dec '20 included the processing of 5 No. Fire Safety Certificates (FSC's), 9 No. Planning referrals, 9 No. Commencement Notices, 6 No. Licencing applications along with the inspection of 34 units under construction.

Overall for 2020 the number of Commencement Notices increased marginally (circa 3%) on previous year while the number of applications for Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificates reduced (circa 10%), indicating the relatively buoyant demand for housing and the impact on the business sector of both Brexit and Covid-19.

The issuance of advice notes and pre-consultation meetings have enabled the monitoring and assisting local construction practitioners on the regulatory impact of Brexit

Fire Safety activity over the Christmas period included the 12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety Advice' via social media (Twitter & Facebook) and 'Fire Safety Advice Packs' distributed to the local traveller community. In addition, details of the 'bfiresafe@school project' have been circulated to all secondary schools, which is a new teacher lead fire safety education resource for post primary students.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence activities in January continue to be focused on supporting the HSE, the Community Hotline and local communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tasks coordinated and undertaken by Civil Defence volunteers in late 2020 and in January 2021 included:

- 9 No. Transportation duties that include patient transfers to hospitals,
- 1 No. Ambulance duties at GAA inter-county games
- Assist Irish Blood Transfusion Service at Blood Clinic in Tyholland

Essential training and duties included:

- Emergency & Cardiac First Responder online
- FAR Recertification
- Weekly Check all medical supplies and equipment in CD Vehicles,
- Decontamination of vehicle, equipment and re-stock PPE after each event.

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

ADGE KING, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Climate Action Training

In 2019 the CCMA endorsed a **Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan** developed in response to Action 150 of the Climate Action Plan which calls for “the development of Local Authority climate action leadership and capacities”. The training plan, an initial four year programme, is supported by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and is centred around the core objectives of building capacity on climate action within the local authority sector and influencing positive behavioural change at community levels.

The training plan identifies the short to longer term training needs of local authorities arising from their enhanced climate action role, responsibilities and commitments to deliver as part of the Local Government sector on the National Transition Objective.

Climate Action Training for Local Authorities will be undertaken under six training pillars and will commence in January 2021:-

1. **Championing Leadership** Training to harness the leadership role of local authority elected members and senior staff in driving effective climate action.
2. **Raising Awareness** Training (online) to raise awareness of the role of local authority in leading on climate action at local and community levels.
3. **Building Capacity** Training to build capacity of local climate action teams to deliver local climate action measures across all local authority functions.
4. **Empowering Change** Training to empower local authority staff to promote behavioral change and encourage positive climate action across communities.
5. **Delivering Action** Training to mobilise local authority staff to implement practical outdoor activity measures.
6. **Actioning Policy** Training to translate climate action policy and embed climate action policy into particular local authority functions.

Attendees will be contacted directly by Climate Ireland, requesting them to register and attend the relevant training modules.

Public Consultation – Climate Action Plan 2021

Under the Programme for Government, a public consultation process will take place with citizens over January and February 2021 to seek their insight and views on the Climate Action Plan 2021, with a draft report expected in March 2021.

Green Schools

Comhghairdeas mór to St. Louis Secondary School, Monaghan on the recent appointment of two of their Transition Year students as An Taisce Climate Ambassadors. This programme is Ireland’s first ever initiative to train and support young people to act on climate change.

“The Story of your Stuff”

The EPA has recently launched a competition, "The Story of your Stuff" which is open to all secondary school students, and aimed at highlighting sustainability, climate action and environmental protection. Students are invited to use their creative talents to tell the story of their 'stuff', which could be an object or activity, using a visual medium.

The competition website can be viewed at www.thestoryofyourstuff.ie/

The closing date for entries is **Monday 8th March 2021** and the competition is open to all secondary school students.

Community and Environment Action Fund 2019/2020

Notification was received recently that due to Covid 19, the deadline for this fund is extended until June 2021, to assist groups who had to postpone or re-schedule their projects, due to the current pandemic. All groups with outstanding projects have been contacted to inform them of the extension.

Annual Environmental Inspection Plan

Environmental Services are preparing their annual Environmental Inspection Plan 2020 (RMCEI Plan), which will be submitted to the EPA.

There are some small changes to the plan this year with greater focus on allocating resources to the National Environmental Priorities and delivering actions on these.

In preparation of the plan consultation has and will take place with

- Senior Management and staff involved in delivering the plan
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Connaught Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Authority
- Strategic Policy Committee for Climate and Environment
- Local Authority Water Programme Office

The National Environmental Enforcement Priorities are

1. National Waste Priorities 2021 'Improving waste management and protecting our environment'

- 1.1. Tackling significant illegal waste activity
- 1.2. Multi-Agency Sites of Interest
- 1.3 Construction and Demolition Activity
- 1.4 End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector
- 1.5 Waste Collection - Household & Commercial

2. National Water Priorities 2021 'Maintaining and Improving Water Status in all waterbodies

- 2.1 Undertake WFD monitoring, bathing water monitoring, and investigative monitoring
- 2.2 Monitor and enforce the drinking water standards in private water supplies
- 2.3. Undertake Farm inspections
- 2.4. Inspect septic tanks and other single house treatment systems in accordance with the National Inspection Plan
- 2.5 Monitor and enforce Section 4 licences with a focus on licensees identified as significant pressures
- 2.6. Engage with regional WFD committees
- 2.7. Address referrals from Local Authorities Waters Programme assessments including data entry into the WFD application where you have undertaken local catchment assessments
- 2.8. Assist with public consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan.
- 2.9. Respond to water quality complaints and incidents.

3. National Air Priorities 2021 'Protecting public health and improve air quality'

- 3.1. Build Capacity amongst Local Authorities
- 3.2. Promote compliance

- 3.3. Enforce the Solid Fuel Regulations
- 3.4. Support the Ambient Air Monitoring Programme
- 3.5. Comply with Environmental Noise Directive
- 3.6. Respond to Air Complaints
- 3.7. Respond to Noise Control Complaints
- 3.8. Address Air and Noise Control – Planning
- 3.9. Undertake Ongoing air enforcement work

Waste Management Prosecution

At the December sitting of Carrickmacross district court Environmental Services secured successful prosecution under the Waste Management Act 1996 on 2 individuals and a company for the illegal dumping of construction and demolition waste in Lagan, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

Fines totalling €5,500, legal costs totalling €1360 and Council expenses of €1770 were issued by Judge McLoughlin

Mercury Regulations

Local Authorities are the competent authority appointed for monitoring compliance requirements for dental facilities and the handling of amalgam waste under Regulation 4.(1) and 4.(2) of S.I. No. 533 of 2018. During 2021 Environmental Services will be ensuring that dentists in the County are complying with the regulations through a declaration form to be completed by dentistry professionals in the County.

Technical Amendment of Scotch Corner Licence

Environmental services are continuing to progress a technical amendment application with the EPA to amend the current waste licence at Scotch Corner. In late November 2020, the EPA sought additional information in respect of our application which was lodged in September 2020. Just prior to Christmas the additional information which consisted of additional engineering drawings and an Appropriate Assessment Screening report was submitted to the EPA. If the technical amendment application is approved by the Agency, this would enable the MRF and Civic Amenity site to operate under a Waste Facility Permit would facilitate an increase in the range of waste activities allowed on site thereby further allowing Monaghan County Council to further maximise the potential of the facility. Whilst there is no prescribed date by which the EPA has to issue its decision, it is anticipated that a decision could possibly be issued

WATER SERVICES

ADGE KING, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Rural Water update

Revised grant amounts and terms and conditions for both domestic wells and domestic wastewater treatment systems (septic tanks) were announced by the Department of Heritage, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in June 2020. The revised schemes detail an increase in grant amounts of 'up to €5,000 or 85% of approved costs' now available to domestic households subject to eligibility and terms and conditions.

Two new grant schemes have been introduced for domestic waste water treatment systems in addition to the existing National Inspection Plan scheme, the two new schemes relate to households that may be eligible to apply for a grant if they are located in a (i) *High Status Objective Catchment area* or (ii) *Priority Area for Action* in County Monaghan as designated under the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021. Sixteen well grant applications have been received this year. €3.7 million has been paid in subsidies to twelve group water schemes in 2020 in the county by the Local Authority. Capital grant amount of €345,724 has been paid to seven group water schemes towards projects throughout 2020 under the MARWP 2019 -2021.

National Water Resources Plan Draft Framework Plan – Launch Public Consultation

Irish Water commenced Public consultation on its first draft National Water Resources Plan on Tuesday 8th December. This is a 25-year strategy to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and reliable drinking water supply for everyone. The NWRP sets out how Irish water will balance supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term

This 10-week public consultation runs until the 16 February 2021 and invites feedback on the NWRP Draft Framework Plan and associated environmental reports. All documents will be available for inspection by appointment at Local Authority planning counters for the duration of the consultation period. Detailed information on the public consultation will also be available on the Irish Water website here: www.water.ie/nwrp

Irish Water will be running an extensive communications and stakeholder engagement plan throughout the consultation period to highlight the Draft Framework Plan and to encourage and facilitate submissions from the public and interested stakeholders.

Leakage Reduction programme

Irish Water have indicated to Monaghan County Council that several projects shall commence in 2021 under the Mains Rehabilitation and Back Yard Services (BYS) / Lead works as part of the Leakage Reduction programme.

Included below:

1. Mains rehab works to be designed and constructed in 2021
2. Mains rehab works to be designed only at present.
3. Back Yard Service works for completion in 2021

| 2021 - Mains Rehabilitation works - Approved for Design & Construction | | |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Scheme Name | Length of main (m) | Comment |
| Cortolvin and Park Rd, Killyconnigan | 1500 | Replace existing AC main including sliplining of 150m in private land. |
| Castleblaney Town Centre | 220 | Replace existing 100mm AC in centre of town that was excluded from previous mains rehab works |

| 2021 - Mains Rehabilitation works - Approved for Design Only | | |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Scheme Name | Length of main (m) | Comment |
| Newbliss | 2800 | Old cast iron mains resulting in Iron exceedances (c 2000µg) |

| 2021 - Lead / BYS (Back Yard Services) works - Approved for Design & Construction | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Scheme Name | Length of main (m) | Comment |
| Mall Road | 0 | Transfer of 8 no BYS connections to existing main. (1.3m ³ /hr leakage) |

Councillor Clinics - 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 restrictions limiting direct contact - Irish Water have indicated that they will hold a clinic via zoom with elected members.

Irish Water will make direct contact with elected members about arrangements etc.

Irish Water's local Representative Support Desk:

The elected members are reminded that Irish Water has established a local representative support desk to deal specifically with concerns and questions they may have.

The contact details are:

Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

Tel: 1850 178 178

CORPORATE SERVICES

CATHAL FLYNN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Monaghan PEACE Campus

As of December 2020, five months of the twenty-one-month construction period has been completed. The below ground works are largely complete and construction of above ground structures have commenced.

Construction on site ceased at 6pm on Friday the 8th January in accordance with the Government Public Health Regulation for non-essential construction sites. This will introduce some delay in the project delivery which will be assessed when restrictions are lifted. Although the site is closed the project and contract is still in place and meetings and design reviews are ongoing between the Contractor, the Design Team and Monaghan County Council. It is expected that construction will immediately recommence. as soon as the public health restriction on non-essential construction are removed.





Image of site from 08/01/21 at point of Covid shutdown



Image of site from 08/01/21 at point of Covid shutdown



Attenuation tank nr2- Rebar and formwork white with frost, backfilling of base ongoing



Podium ramp walls ready to pour, postponed due to cold weather.

Public Lighting

Progress is continuing towards completion of the remaining LED retrofits, up to December 2020 90% of streetlights have been converted to energy efficient LED lights. Substantial completion is estimated by the end of April 2021 with a total completion estimated by end June 2021.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

CATHAL FLYNN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

N.B.I. have stated that 3723 homes in Monaghan will be connected this year, with the first homes expected to be connected in Summer 2021.

N.B.I. have been engaging with all of the telecommunications companies to certify a list of Internet service providers. This includes organisations like EIR and Vodafone, along with many other regional suppliers. Consumers can sign up with any of the approved providers for high speed broadband.

All of the providers have been engaged in a lab testing process to ensure that the consumer receives a minimum of 500 Mb to the home or business. A list of service providers is now available on NBI website.

N.B.I. Rollout

The actual N.B.I. build work has commenced in the area around Monaghan by NBI and its subcontractors.

In Co. Monaghan, survey work is also continuing around Clones and North Monaghan.

BCPs

NBI and its partners continue to make Progress on achieving connectivity to the remaining BCPs.

Tullycorbet Parish Hall is expected to be connected in the early days of February. The wireless link has been installed successfully in St Patricks Accommodation Centre, with only Drumhowan Community Centre awaiting connection.

A survey in Latton Community GAA Centre was also completed towards the end of January. Additional BCPs are also being planned 2021.

Elected members' queries for NBI can be directed by email to reps@NBI.ie, or onto their website <https://www.nbi.ie>

Imagine Broadband expansion

Imagine Networks also continue to expand their own private network within Co. Monaghan.

Earlier this week, Imagine announced plans to expand their wireless fibre network within the Newbliss area. This new high-speed broadband network will cover townlands from Rockcorry, Newbliss, and Clones, as well as extending into Smithborough and parts of Scotstown.

Elected members who require further information on this new high-speed broadband coverage area can contact Imagine directly.

Sandra Dinan, Business Development Manager, 087 4377358

Sandra Dinan <sandra.dinan@imaginegroup.ie>

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CATHAL FLYNN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Staff Appointments

An Administrator 7 and an Assistant Business Adviser 5 have been appointed to support the delivery of the enterprise remit of the Local Enterprise Office so as to proactively support businesses during the current Covid-19 crisis and prepare them for the challenges of Brexit.

Training Programme –January and February 2021

| Name of Course | Dates | Duration | Numbers to be trained |
|--|---|-----------------|--|
| Manual Handling | Ongoing | Online (1 hour) | Ongoing Reminder sent to staff to complete this training |
| Online Climate Action Awareness Training | Mid-January – End February – Climate Action Teams, Grade 7 and equivalent | 2.5 hours | 36 staff |

Some Training Courses have been postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Eamon O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
Monaghan County Council

Carmel Thornton

From: Niamh Smyth <Niamh.Smyth@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: 15 January 2021 15:19
To: Carmel Thornton
Subject: RE: Resolution from Monaghan County Council

Hi Carmel,

Happy New Year to you and your family.

Thank you for your correspondence on the below matter.

I want to advise members that I have raised the North South Interconnector with an Taoiseach Michéal Martin at every occasion and most notably at our Parliamentary Party meetings which I believe have been well documented. He has assured me that he will speak with Minister Ryan as I want Minister Ryan to honour the Fianna Fáil Commitment which was made prior to the 2020 election. Rest assured, I will continue to press this matter at all ranks.

If you could please relay this to members I would be most grateful.

Kind Regards
 Niamh

From: Carmel Thornton <cthornto@monaghancoco.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 5 January 2021 12:00
To: Brendan Smith <Brendan.Smith@oireachtas.ie>; Heather Humphreys <Heather.Humphreys@oireachtas.ie>; Matt Carthy <Matt.Carthy@oireachtas.ie>; Niamh Smyth <Niamh.Smyth@oireachtas.ie>; Pauline Tully <Pauline.Tully@oireachtas.ie>; Joe O'Reilly <Joe.OReilly@oireachtas.ie>; Robbie Gallagher <Robbie.Gallagher@oireachtas.ie>; Diarmuid Wilson <Diarmuid.Wilson@oireachtas.ie>
Subject: Resolution from Monaghan County Council

Dear Minister/Deputy/Senator,

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year 2021.

At the December Council meeting, the following resolutions were passed by the Council and I was directed to forward same to you for attention.

- *That Monaghan County Council writes to the Oireachtas Members for this constituency requesting they challenge Government and Eirgrid as to why those communities affected by the proposed North-South Interconnector were not consulted on the prospect of an underground option, given that the communities affected by the proposed Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade are being consulted on an underground option.*
- *That this Council contacts the Oireachtas Members for this constituency, asking the following question: Will you revisit / reintroduce or support the Fianna Fail Motion tabled on 14th February 2017, which called for an independent analysis of the North-South Interconnector and full consultation. That the Oireachtas Members revert back to this Council.*

You might let me have a response for the Council at your convenience.

Carmel Thornton

From: Heather Humphreys <Heather.Humphreys@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: 04 February 2021 11:30
To: Carmel Thornton
Subject: FW: CCAE-MO-00126-2021

Dear Carmel,

Following on from your email on the January December 5th, we received the following response from the Minister for Communications Eamon Ryan regarding the questions raised by members of Monaghan County Council.

Kind regards,

Pauric

On behalf of

Heather Humphreys TD
Minister for Social Protection and Rural & Community Development

Cavan / Monaghan Constituency
Monaghan Office:
Unit 2, Mall Road
Monaghan, Co Monaghan
Tel: 047 71911 / Fax 047 71912

Cootehill Office:
79 Market Street
Cootehill, Co Cavan
Tel: 049 555501

heather.humphreys@oir.ie
www.heatherhumphreys.ie
www.facebook.com/heatherhumphreysfg

From: Ministers Office <MinisterRyan@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 2 February 2021 12:52
To: Heather Humphreys <Heather.Humphreys@oireachtas.ie>
Subject: CCAE-MO-00126-2021

Ref: CCAE-MO-00126-2021

2nd February 2021

Dear Minister Humphreys



I refer to your email of 8 January regarding the North South Interconnector.

Please allow me to clarify that my Department does not have any role in the delivery of electricity infrastructure on the ground. This is consistent with the 2012 Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure which states: 'The Government does not seek to direct EirGrid and ESB Networks or other energy infrastructure developers to particular sites or routes or technologies'.

EirGrid and ESB Networks, as our electricity system operators, reassure me they always seek to work in close collaboration with landowners and stakeholders in the delivery of electricity infrastructure. Both companies are currently engaging with those living closest to the route of the proposed north south interconnector. In that regard I note that EirGrid has already set in place a variety of engagements locally, including the appointment of community liaison officers and a mobile information unit active in the area. I expect such engagements to intensify in the coming weeks and months, subject of course to national public health guidelines on Covid-19. Further hereunder you can see a list of public consultations that EirGrid have run over the years on the project. None of these were consulting on an underground DC line as this is not what EirGrid believes is appropriate to the linking of the two AC networks on the island.

The option of undergrounding the North-South Interconnector has been comprehensively assessed on several occasions. Further to the resolution of Dáil Éireann of 16 February 2017, my department commissioned an independent report incorporating international industry expertise to examine the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding the north-south interconnector. This was an expert analysis of the specificity of the cost undergrounding and did not involve a consultation process. The report from the International Expert Commission was published in October 2018 and it found that an overhead line remains the most appropriate option for this piece of critical electricity infrastructure. The Kildare-Meath project is not comparable with the North South project in many ways such as distance and mesh grid connection.

I think everyone can agree on the importance and value of the North-South Interconnector. It is critical to improving the efficient operation of the all-island single electricity market and increasing security of electricity supply in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It will also help Ireland to move towards 70% renewable electricity, a commitment made in the Programme for Government. A resilient and well-connected energy infrastructure is vital for Ireland's economic well-being and the ability to respond to the future needs of energy consumers.

Consultations on North South Interconnector

In discharging its duties as operator of the national transmission grid, EirGrid engages with communities and citizens on an ongoing basis.

There has been extensive public consultation on the North-South interconnector including statutory consultation as required under Regulation (EU) No. 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

The An Bord Pleanála inspector's report itemises the public consultation elements of the process in comprehensive detail. The Inspector concluded that the "applicant's approach to consultation is adequate to meet statutory requirements.

The following is an itemisation of Public Consultations on the North South Interconnector:

- Oct 2007 – May 2008: public consultation on route corridors
- June 2008-Mar 2009: public consultation on evaluation of these corridors
- Apr 2009 – Sep 2010: public consultation on line route within the preferred corridor

- May 2011 – May 2013: Public consultation on a re-evaluation of the project;
 - o Landowner engagement commences with Phase 1 contacts;
 - o The Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources establishes an International Expert Commission to review costs and technologies.
- July 2013 – December 2013:
 - o Public consultation on the preferred project solution report. It then continues on the proposed line route;
 - o Landowner engagement continues to Phases 2 and 3.
- 2014-15:
 - o Government sets up a new Independent Expert Panel to review the methodologies of the Grid Link and Grid West projects.
 - o Proposed Line Design updated. Some pylons are repositioned along the line route and further public engagement took place;
 - o Full planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála in June 2015.
- Dec 2016 - The An Bord Pleanála inspector's report itemised the public consultation elements of the process in comprehensive detail. The Inspector concluded that the "applicant's approach to consultation is adequate to meet statutory requirements."

I trust this information is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Eamon Ryan, T.D.,

Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications

Minister for Transport

"D'fhonn is go gcuirfeadh feidhmeanna na Roinne i gcrích, agus seirbhísí ar fáil, ceanglaíonn an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide go soláthróidh custaiméirí sonraí pearsanta áirithe. Féadfar do shonraí pearsanta a



Pauline Tully TD

Sinn Féin,
Teach Laighean,
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

✉ Pauline.Tully@oir.ie

☎ (01) 618 3210

128

Carmel Thornton,
A.O. Corporate Services,
Monaghan County Council
Glen Road,
Monaghan Town

27 January 2021

Dear Members,

Please find below the recent parliamentary question that I submitted on the North/South Interconnector and the extremely disappointing response that I received from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.

In the parliamentary question I requested if he would *'establish a consultation process for the communities affected by the proposed north-south interconnector with the option of undergrounding this project... in view of the fact that the communities affected by the proposed Kildare-Meath grid upgrade are being consulted on an underground option...'*

Unfortunately, the Ministers response was dismissive of any difference in the way that the communities along the Kildare-Meath grid are being treated compared to the communities along the North-South Interconnector, arguing instead that the projects are *'not comparable'*, sighting the main difference as the *'distance'* in the length of both projects.

However, if there are credible reasons for the option of undergrounding the project in Kildare-Meath then surely the same reasons exist for the north-south interconnector which due to its length will be much more damaging and affect more communities.

The distance of the project, I believe, is also only one factor that should be considered. If it was felt necessary to give the option of undergrounding the Kildare-Meath grid project due to its potential health, environmental, visual, social or economic impacts then these need to be reassessed with regard to the north-south interconnector.

Myself and my party fully acknowledges the need, and want to see the development, of a north-south interconnector, recognising that it is an important infrastructural project. However, we have consistently said that the interconnector should be put underground. The technology is there, it's entirely feasible, but the government is refusing to move on the issue.

MONAGHAN CO. COUNCIL

5 FEB 2021

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

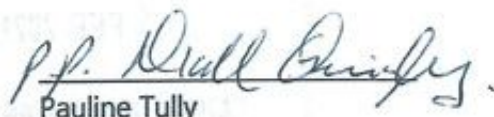


Constituency Office/Oifigi sa Dáil Cheantair

39 College Street, Cavan Town.
Phone/Guthán : ☎ 049 4373 510 ☎ 085 19 100 19

The plans for hundreds of pylons and 400 kV power lines cutting through counties Meath, Cavan, Monaghan, Tyrone and Armagh have been met with spectacular levels of local opposition. Therefore, pursuing this option only serves to frustrate and anger rural communities who have expressed genuine fears in terms of health, visual amenities and the impact on local businesses, particularly in tourism and agriculture.

Is mise le meas,



Pauline Tully

*Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Disability & Carers,
TD for Cavan-Monaghan*

Fón

(049) 4373510 | Cavan

(01) 6183210 | Leinster House

Ríomhphost

Pauline.Tully@oireachtas.ie

For Written Answer on : 27/01/2021
Question Number(s): 55 Question Reference(s): 1459/21
Department: Environment, Climate and Communications
Asked by: Pauline Tully T.D.

QUESTION

[Ref No.: 1459/21]

To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if it will be ensured that an independent analysis of the north-south interconnector takes place in line with the motion passed by Dáil Éireann on 16 February 2017, in view of the fact that the communities affected by the proposed Kildare-Meath grid upgrade are being consulted on an underground option; if he will establish a consultation process for the communities affected by the proposed north-south interconnector with the option of undergrounding this project included as part of the consultation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Pauline Tully.

For WRITTEN answer on Wednesday, 27th January, 2021.

Changed from ORAL to WRITTEN

REPLY

The North-South Interconnector is critical to improving the efficient operation of the all-island single electricity market and increasing security of electricity supply in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It will also help Ireland to move towards 70% renewable electricity, a commitment made in the Programme for Government. A resilient and well-connected energy infrastructure is vital for Ireland's economic well-being and the ability to respond to the future needs of energy consumers.

Government does not have any role in the delivery of electricity infrastructure on the ground. This is consistent with the 2012 Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure which states: 'The Government does not seek to direct EirGrid and ESB Networks or other energy infrastructure developers to particular sites or routes or technologies'. The Kildare-Meath project is not comparable with the North South project, particularly in terms of distance.

The option of undergrounding the North-South Interconnector has been comprehensively assessed on several occasions. Most recently and fully in

line with the resolution of Dáil Éireann of 16 February 2017, my department commissioned an independent report incorporating international industry expertise to examine the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding the north-south interconnector. The report from the International Expert Commission was published in October 2018 and it found that an overhead line remains the most appropriate option for this piece of critical electricity infrastructure. I do not intend ordering a further such review.

EirGrid and ESB Networks, as our electricity system operators, always seek to work in close collaboration with landowners and stakeholders in the delivery of electricity infrastructure. Both companies are engaging with those living closest to the route of the interconnector. In that regard I note that EirGrid has already set in place a variety of engagements locally, including the appointment of community liaison officers and a mobile information unit active in the area. I expect such engagements to intensify in the coming weeks and months, subject of course to national public health guidelines on Covid-19.

QUESTIONS

FEBRUARY 2021

Cllr A. Campbell will ask:

1. With regard to the development of the 28 houses in Bree, Castleblayney know as Plas an Bhri and these houses near completion.
 - (a) Will the work on these houses be allowed to continue to get them finished due to the stopping of construction work due to Covid-19?
 - (b) When will these houses be ready for hand over?
 - (c) What is the energy rating of these homes?

2. With a large vacant site now in the town centre of Castleblayney where the Fire Station and Council office/yard were located and the housing section in Monaghan Council having ongoing discussions regarding this site.
 - (a) What is the update in relation to Monaghan County Councils plans for housing and in particular housing for the elderly in this town centre location?
 - (b) Will these plans include the protected structure in this area?
 - (c) What is the time scale in terms of these plans?

3. The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent at both local and global level and the scientific evidence suggests that these impacts will intensify over the coming decades. With regard to climate change and the energy 2030 targets which have been set out.
 - (a) What plans has Monaghan Council in place?
 - (b) What are the key aspects of any plans which are in place?
 - (c) How will any plan the Council have in place be monitored?

4. With regards to the National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2021. What priorities have Monaghan County Council in place under the various headings including tackling significant illegal waste activity, construction and demolition activity, End of Life Vehicles, Waste Collections etc.

5. With the Country in Level 5 due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the importance of health and wellbeing for so many people. Under the Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign which promotes exercise and physical activity and minding your mental health. And the big issue with so much information being bombarded at us how to switch off.
 - a) What plans has Monaghan County Council in place to promote this very important plan at this time?

Cllr C. Carthy will ask:

6. What is the updated position on Vacant Housing in Co. Monaghan i.e: How many units have been brought back into use since the start of 2019?
 - What plans are in place to make use of remaining Vacant Units?
7. What is the current make-up of the Co. Monaghan Council Housing list:
 - (a) How many are on the list for 2, 3, 4 & 5 bed units?
 - (b) What are the figures per Municipal District?
 - (c) How long, on average, are people waiting for a housing offer (depending on house size)?

Cllr R. Truell will ask:

8. Can Monaghan County Council investigate the status of 4no. houses that appear to be derelict on Lower Main Street, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan. The eircodes of these dwelling houses are (i) H18 DK24 (ii) H18 FK52 (iii) H18 W932 and (iv) H18 TE80. If these dwellings are deemed to have derelict status potential, I request that Monaghan County Council advise if the derelict sites process can be commenced for these dwellings and if there is a potential for refurbishment of these houses to assist with housing need in the area.

Cllr S. Conlon will ask:

9. Following the selection by Irish Water in July 2020 to upgrade the Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) at Clontibret, Glaslough, Carrickroe, Knockatallon, Oram and Newbliss under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme and accompanying budget of €1,238,000, please provide an update on how these upgrade schemes are progressing.
And further, what percentile range are these six WWTP's compliant with discharge standards.
10. Following the recent Government announcement that the National Transport Authority plan to create 248 new Local Authority posts to expand walking and cycling facilities throughout Ireland, what resources have been allocated to Monaghan County Council for this purpose?
Also, do allocated resources include the establishment in Monaghan of one of the 30 new Regional Cycling Design Offices?
11. Considering the €442,625 underspend from the 2020 Active Travel Measures allocation, and that less than €50,000 of the original €1,172,275 was allocated to the Monaghan MD area, will unsuccessful proposed projects previously submitted for this MD now be eligible for some allocation of this carried over funding for works this year?

Cllr N. Keelan will ask:

12. In relation to road safety approximately how many hedge cutting notices have been sent out to landowners across the county, what action/follow up will be taken to insure that the hedge cutting notices are complied with before the end of the cutting season on the 28th of February next?

13. What is the annual fuel bill (diesel/petrol costs) for all the Council owned vehicles and where is this fuel purchased?
14. In relation to climate change and energy saving measures what is the up to date position in relation to the retrofitting of the public lighting network across the county with low energy LEDs bulbs?
15. In relation to the roll out of high speed broadband which is now more critical than ever with so many people working from home, when can we expect that every home and business across the county will be connected? Also, in relation to broadband connection points how many community building/schools etc. are awaiting this service across the county and when will this work be completed?
16. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the Dundalk to Cavan regional road R178 which is critical to this region's economy, in particular the section from Carrickmacross to Sherlock town?

Cllr C. Bennett will ask:

17. Can Monaghan County Council please raise the issue of Hard water in Scotstown and Ballinode with Irish Water? The issue still exists and consumers are still being forced to replace appliances due to this ongoing issue. Can Monaghan County Council please outline any measures that they have taken to improve this water supply.
18. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with the number of vacant commercial properties registered to them.
19. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with a list of initiatives that have so far progressed from the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan. The Sliabh Beagh Masterplan needs to be used to its full potential.

Cllr A. McCooey will ask:

20. Can Monaghan County Council outline the number of social housing units which will be added to the housing stock in 2021 in each Municipal District.
21. Can Monaghan County Council outline the number of housing units which will be suitable for people of the one and two bed housing list respectively.
22. Can Monaghan County Council and/or the Planning section give detail on:
 - a) any guidelines or restrictions, if any, that are in place for people who convert parts or their homes or outside garages in to home offices.
 - b) that implications there may be from a rates point of view.

Cllr P. Connolly will ask:

23. To ask Monaghan County Council in relation to the Local Authority Mortgage Payment Break for
 - a) an update in relation to the scheme?
 - b) the number of home loan borrowers availing of this scheme.

NOTICES OF MOTION

FEBRUARY 2021

Cllr S. Coyle will move:

1. That Monaghan County Council demands of the government and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Daragh O'Brien T.D., that funding be made available for application by Local Authorities to allow them carry out corrective works in Housing Estates, where inferior/defective Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPIs) exists, as this is causing great difficulty for the residences/property owners, the Local Authorities and utility agencies, with many of these properties have been purchased at high prices in the Celtic Tiger years and today carrying a huge mortgage and a devalued property due to the poor/weak Developer Provided Infrastructure.

Cllr C. Bennett will move:

2. This Council notes the centenary of the passing by the British Parliament at Westminster of the Government of Ireland Act in December 1920, the Act which provided for the Partition of Ireland. We recall the deep injustices, divisions and conflict caused by this Act. We reiterate our support for the Good Friday Agreement and the political process arising from it, including the revoking of the Government of Ireland Act. We reaffirm our support for the self-determination of the people of Ireland as expressed in Article 3.1 of Bunreacht na hÉireann and for the bringing about of a United Ireland "by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people, democratically expressed, in both jurisdictions". Accordingly we call on both the Irish and British governments to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and all their obligations with regard to the rights of citizens; we call on the British government to agree to set a date for the Irish Unity referendum as provided in the Agreement; we call on the Irish government to work for this outcome. We stand ready as a Council to work with all statutory bodies and with civic society to plan and prepare for the referendum on Irish Unity and for a positive outcome to the referendum.

Cllr N. Keelan will move:

3. That Monaghan County Council writes to the minister for health Stephen Donnelly TD and to An Taoiseach Micheal Martin T.D., requesting the immediate suspension of all medical card reviews until the covid 19 vaccine roll-out is completed.