

# Agenda

## Notice of Meeting

📄 *Meeting Notice.pdf*

*Not included*

## 1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

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

📄 *Minutes 7 December 2020.pdf*

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## 2.0 Correspondence

📄 *Correpondence.pdf*

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

📄 *Report on Proposed Deletion of 10 Dublin St from RPS.pdf*

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📄 *Consarc Report Heritage Report No 10 Dublin Street.pdf*

*Page 45*

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

📄 *LEADER Partnership Agreement background doc.pdf*

*Page 78*

📄 *Cavan Monaghan Louth Report Final Edition (low res) .pdf*

*Page 79*

📄 *MOU for Monaghan\_Cavan\_Planning\_Conservation\_Heritage\_sites\_V2.pdf*

*Page 140*

📄 *MOU for Monaghan Cavan Louth LCDCs re Signage project.pdf*

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## 5.0 To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group

held on 22nd December,2020

📄 *CPG 22 December 2020 (final).pdf*

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

**7.0 To receive Management Report - December 2020**

December Management Final Report.pdf

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**8.0 To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

Conference sheet.pdf

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**9.0 Business submitted by Chief Executive**

**10.0 Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 7th December, 2020**

Minutes 7 December 2020.pdf

Not included

**11.0 To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

**12.0 To receive update on North South Interconnector project**

NS Inter\_MCarthy.pdf

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**13.0 To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

**14.0 Questions**

Questions January 2021.pdf

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**15.0 Notices of Motion**

Notices of Motion.pdf

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**16.0 Votes of sympathy/congratulations**

**17.0 Conferences**

AILG Webinar - Planning function.docx

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**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, Armagh Road, Monaghan, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.**

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

**Present:** Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Campbell, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, 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.

**Sympathy – Roger McQuaid, RIP:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the wife and family of the late Roger McQuaid, Environmental Patrol Warden with the Council who had passed away on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.*

All members of the Council associated themselves with the vote of sympathy. They spoke highly of Roger – recalling his personality, his dedication to his work, his efficiency in his role as Environmental Patrol Warden and his interest in his local community. Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Chief Executive and Mr. A. King Director of Services, associated themselves and the staff with the vote of sympathy. The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

**Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the name of Cllr P. Connolly.

*That, in view of the fact that the Autism Unit known as Le Chéile, Edenmore NS, Emyvale Co. Monaghan is threatened with closure in June 2021, Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD and the OPW to investigate what remedial actions can be taken on the Edenmore NS grounds to ensure that the building of a permanent structure can take place thus ensuring the long term viability of this Unit into the future.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Connolly, it was agreed to go 'Into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motion submitted as urgent business.*

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.*

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

**(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020, be confirmed.*

**(ii) Minutes of Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, be confirmed.*

**(iii) Minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence.**

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Defence, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. regarding Brexit.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue regarding the TB Herd History Risk Statement & reports.
- Letter from the Office of Public Works regarding Emyvale Garda Station.
- Letter from the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D, regarding stillbirth registrations.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D, regarding breakdown of COVID-19 cases.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D, regarding the stillbirth register and stillbirth certification.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D, regarding the stillbirth register.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth Mr. Roderic O’Gorman, T.D, regarding the existing Direct Provision system.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Defence, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. regarding Jadotville.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D. regarding Emyvale Garda Station.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D, regarding request to waive the cost of fees for plots where a baby will be buried.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding the Grant Thornton report.
- Information on Irish Water Connection Charges.

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

- Letter from Dr. Jilan Abdalmajid on behalf of the Mayor of Bethlehem regarding construction of a new Israeli Settlement north of Bethlehem (*Giv at Hamatos*)
- Resolution from Galway County Council regarding Mother & Baby Homes.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O’Hanlon it was agreed that Monaghan County Council acknowledge the work of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Simon Coveney T.D., the Taoiseach, Micheal Martin T.D., the Government and all their officials, their EU Colleagues governments, incoming US President Joe Biden, in ensuring that the Protocol of the Withdrawal Agreement on Ireland and Northern Ireland will apply, in protecting the Peace*



*Process, avoiding a hard border on the Island of Ireland, preserving the EU Customs Union, the Single Market, especially near Monaghan and the border counties.*

Cllr McElvaney requested that the motion would be forwarded to LAMA and the AILG. This was agreed.

*On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council requests the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D., to withdraw the TB Herd History Risk Statement and Report, as it is only leading to the categorisation of herds and their devaluation which is not dealing with the root causes of the increase in the incidence of TB, which are now at the highest levels since 2012 at 4.2% and that this Council expresses serious concern at the Monaghan figure of 7.96% of herd incidence.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that we write to Irish Water and request them to collaborate with Group Water Schemes to extend their supply infrastructure along public roads. It is unfair to charge each applicant the full cost of that extension.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carthy it was agreed that the Council respond positively to the Mayor of Bethlehem in relation to the construction of a new Israeli Settlement north of Bethlehem.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr S. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council support the motion from Sligo County Council calling on the Taoiseach to implement the recommendations of the Grant Thornton Report on the future of the post office network.*

### **3. To consider Chief Executive's Report on submissions received in respect of the Proposed Variation 2 - MCDP**

The members noted the report which had been circulated in relation to the proposed variation No 2 of the Monaghan County Development Plan.

Mr T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner outlined the background to the report which had been circulated. He stated that it was a requirement of the Planning Act to undertake a review of the alignment of the County Development Plan with the National Planning Framework and the NWRA RSES. The variation of the MCDP is required to ensure legal compliance with Section 11(1)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The proposed variation was advertised in the NS on 10 September 2020 inviting submissions up to 09 October 2020. 13 submissions had been received and a summary of assessment was included in the circulated report.

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council adopt the proposed variation and that the additional text as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the Report is inserted into Section 1.12 of Chapter One of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, as follows:*

*"The Monaghan County Development Plan (MCDP) was prepared concurrently with both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Northern & Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (NWRA RSES) and a significant amount of synergy was achieved between the provisions of the MCDP and the provisions of both the NPF and the NWRA RSES as a consequence. However, for the purposes of clarity the provisions of the NPF and the NWRA RSES will take precedence over the provisions of MCDP."*

**4. To Consider Part VIII proposal to extend Peace Link, Clones (Ref 20/8006)**

The members noted the Chief Executive's report dated 30 November 2020 in relation to planning permission for the proposed extension to the Peace Link Clones (Planning Ref 20/8006)

*On the proposal of Cllr Truell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was resolved that the Council proceed with the development as proposed, namely; the extension of the Peace Link, Clones and all associated works (Ref 20/8006) to comply with the report from the Chief Executive dated 30 November 2020, in accordance with Part VIII of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

**5. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to the disposal (by lease) of Pringle Building, Clones**

The members noted the report which had been circulated with the agenda. The report related to the extension of a lease which had been in place for 2 years with National Transport Agency for the leasing of the Pringle Building, Clones (former Town Council offices). It was recommended that Monaghan County Council renew this lease for next 2 years at €8,400 rent p.a. with the National Transport Agency.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr Truell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal (by lease) of the Pringle Building, Clones to the National Transport Agency in accordance with notice dated 17 November, 2020 under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

**6. To confirm date for the January 2021 Council Meeting**

It was agreed that the January Council meeting would be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in the Garage Theatre.

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

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**8. To receive the Management Report – November 2020:**

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

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

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

The members noted the report from Cllr. McCooey in relation to her attendance at the Moorehead Report Briefing in Dundalk, Co. Louth on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

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

There was no discussion under this item.

**11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Councils meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 and the Statutory Budget meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.**

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 and the Statutory Budget meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 were responded to by the relevant officials.

*On the proposal of Cllr Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seeks allocation from the Department of Housing under the 'Services Site Fund' whereby funding is made available to provide necessary infrastructure to facilitate development and reduce the cost of houses to a minimum of 10% below the realisable open market value. This measure is required to compliment the efforts of our Housing Section in thoroughly addressing the need for housing development in the County.*

**12. 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.

**13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project**

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

- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding North South Interconnector.
- Email from Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D. regarding North South Interconnector.

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed 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.*

*On the proposal of Cllr Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that Waterways Ireland had confirmed that a presentation would be given to the full Council via an online platform in late February/early March. She stated that she had asked for an earlier date for the presentation if possible and was awaiting confirmation of this.

**15. Questions:****Cllr P. Connolly will ask:**

1. What plans have Monaghan County Council to introduce a scheme which would encourage the cutting of hedges/trees which need attention along the public road network to improve road safety i.e. a grant that would be open to community groups and or groups of persons/residents?

**Reply: Community Hedge cutting Schemes have been piloted in a number of Local Authorities and offer small grants for community groups and residents to cut areas of hedgerows with the consent of landowners. The Roads Section are currently investigating the details of the scheme, its popularity and the budgetary implications and will report back to the next meeting with this update.**

**Cllr N. Keelan will ask:**

2. How much rent in total is Monaghan County Council paying per annum for buildings in order to provide services to the people of the county?

**Reply: The Council spends €257,000 p.a. on the rental of office space. Rented facilities make up part of the Council's offices facilities, rented property is used where a need to provide a service has been identified and existing Council owned facilities are not available or suitable.**

3. When is it expected that an affordable housing scheme will be rolled out across the county in order to cater for those citizens that can't get onto the local authority list because of the income thresholds etc and also can't get a home loan?

**Reply: County Monaghan is an affordable place to live as the average cost in County Monaghan of a second-hand home is currently less than the cost of building a new home. Budget 2021 allocated €75 million nationally for the proposed affordable housing scheme which is reported to be a shared equity scheme. It is understood that the required legislation for the proposed affordable housing scheme, which will allow low and middle-income workers to buy State subsidised homes, is currently being drafted and agreed at Government level. Details of the proposed scheme, announced as part of Budget 2021, are not yet available and Monaghan County Council is awaiting further information and the commencement of the proposed affordable housing scheme before making definitive plans.**

**The previous affordable housing scheme was discontinued in 2011 and another new affordable housing scheme was announced five years ago in Budget 2016 but was never enacted. Under the newly proposed affordable housing scheme it is reported that there is an expectation that the main lending institutions and the Department of Housing will put money into a special purpose entity under the auspices of the Department, which will then put up some of the equity to help finance the purchase of new homes. It is understood it will be possible for the homeowner to buy out the equity stake held by the special purpose entity in the future, based on market value at the time. Reports suggest that this form of affordable housing may rely on**



**State subsidies for the purchase of houses built by the private sector.**

**Monaghan County Council owns land in Monaghan town which could potentially be used for the provision of affordable housing and Monaghan County Council has advertised for land to purchase throughout County Monaghan in anticipation of the need to purchase additional land for the provision of affordable housing and social housing. Definitive plans for the provision of affordable housing will be made when the details of proposed affordable housing scheme are available.**

**The Elected Members will be informed as soon as details of the proposed affordable housing scheme are available.**

4. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the very dangerous Tullyvaragh junction on the N2?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council Roads Department had meeting with TII Safety on 24 Nov and they propose that we proceed with the Safety scheme which would include the widening of the local side road L8100 at the junction with the N2 and with the proposal for Right Turning Lanes to be excluded from the design. Previous Design and Part 8 documents will need to be updated. MCC have a meeting scheduled with the Castleblayney – Carrickmacross MD for the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to outline the details of the project.**

5. What plans have the Council in the time ahead to build social and affordable homes in the villages across county Monaghan, including Inniskeen, Donaghmoynne in consultation with local communities?

**Reply: As noted previously County Monaghan is an affordable place to live as the average cost in County Monaghan of a second-hand home is currently less than the cost of building a new home.**

**County Monaghan is a predominantly rural county with more than 60 % of the population living in small towns, villages and rural areas. Monaghan County Council has historically provided social housing in small towns, villages and rural areas throughout the county such as Inniskeen, Magheracloone, Oram, Bawn, Tyholland, Knockatallon, Newbliss, Rockcorry, Annyalla, Clontibret, Clara, Emyvale, Glaslough, Tydavnet, Latton, Doohamlet, Threemilehouse, Scotshouse, Ballinode, Knockatallon and Scotstown.**

**At present, under the National Planning Framework (NPF) 2040 Monaghan County Council is actively working on the “reversal of rural decline in the core of small towns and villages” and in particular has been working to strengthen small towns and villages by increasing social housing to meet housing needs identified which in turn, through increasing population, supports all of the local services in rural areas.**

**Every year Monaghan County Council purchases individual houses in rural areas to meet particularly urgent housing needs and proactively seeks opportunities to increase social housing in small towns and villages. A recent example of this was the provision of 10 new social houses at The Meadows Smithborough and 12 social houses at Maple Grove also in Smithborough. In addition, Monaghan County Council is currently constructing 24 social housing units in Clones town centre and providing 32 social houses in the village of Scotstown (4 derelict houses being brought into used and 28 new houses). These developments are of enormous significance to small towns and villages and the surrounding areas as they address derelict properties while providing much needed social housing, improving the sustainability of small towns and villages and strengthening the viability of local services for the wider rural community in the areas in question.**

Monaghan County Council recently supported the acquisition of 5 houses at Castleross, a rural area near Carrickmacross. The houses are to be owned by Tuath Housing Association and used as social housing to be allocated to Housing Applicants on Monaghan County Council's Housing Waiting List. Also, following two years of negotiation, Monaghan County Council recently secured agreement with a local contractor to provide 6 social houses in Tydavnet village, funding approval was received in October 2020 and the houses will be completed by year end of 2020.

Monaghan County Council advertises regularly for Expressions of Interest in the sale of land and/or houses from Property Owners and Developers and this process has yielded significant results in the main towns and has also benefited the villages and rural areas such as Smithborough and Tydavnet already mentioned. Through this process Monaghan County Council is working on potential opportunities to deliver social housing in Inniskeen and Ballinode and is also examining future potential for social housing other villages.

**Villages & "Rural Community Settlements":** Monaghan County Council has developed social housing or purchased houses for use as social housing in every village in County Monaghan (such as Inniskeen) and in most of the "Rural Community Settlements" in County Monaghan (Rural Community Settlements are listed in Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025).

Monaghan County Council has identified potential opportunities for small housing developments in many of the small villages in County Monaghan where a housing need exists. Where feasible and in line with the objectives of Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025; Monaghan County Council intends to develop housing in villages that have services and facilities such as churches, schools, community centres, small shops, local bus services, water supply and sewage treatment plants. Monaghan County Council has been approached by Developers interested in the provision of social housing in Inniskeen, Tydavnet, Rockcorry, Ballinode and Emyvale. In 2020 an additional 12 social housing units have been provided in Rockcorry in conjunction with Clanmil Housing Association and a further 6 social houses are currently being completed in Tydavnet on behalf of Monaghan County Council.

Monaghan County Council is discussing and actively pursuing other opportunities for the development of social housing in other villages throughout County Monaghan.

**"Dispersed Rural Communities":** With regard to "Dispersed Rural Communities" which might include Donaghmoynne; the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 states *"Within the rural area there are dispersed rural communities which have small scale clustering around one or more focal points which may include a crossroads, a shop or a church. It is considered that there is scope for some additional dwellings which may consolidate existing focal points and utilise existing services in the area subject to normal planning considerations. It is anticipated that the majority of development taking place will be individual dwellings. Where a multi-unit residential development (more than 2 houses) is proposed in Tier 6 settlements the onus will be on the developer to justify the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 demand for housing proposed. Any development shall be centred on the focal point of the settlement and shall be subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services"*.

In addition the following further extracts from the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 containing specific objectives of the plan should be noted:



**2.3.9 Tier 4 – Village Network**

Village Network Objective	
<b>SHO 4</b>	To promote and facilitate development that is commensurate with the nature and extent of the existing villages and support their role as local service centres.

**2.3.10 Tier 5 – Rural Community Settlements**

Rural Community Settlement Objective	
<b>SHO 5</b>	To support and encourage the development of Tier 5 settlements to ensure that local services are sustained in the rural community settlements.

**2.3.11 Tier 6 – Dispersed Rural Communities.**

Dispersed Rural Communities Objective	
<b>SHO 6</b>	To support the viability of dispersed rural communities and seek to encourage the growth of Tier 6 settlements generally in the form of single dwellings.

**Monaghan County Council will continue to seek every opportunity to increase social housing provision in all areas of housing need; to reverse rural decline, increase the sustainability of small towns and villages and strengthen the viability of local services for the wider rural community.**

6. In relation to the ongoing scourge of illegal dumping across the county has the Council been successful in detecting and prosecuting anyone for dumping in rural areas in particular excluding bring centres and bottle banks?

**Reply: In 2020 Monaghan County Council has**

- 1. Referred three waste management files for prosecution in relation to large scale illegal dumping in County Monaghan.**
- 2. Referred 2 litter fines, non CCTV related for prosecution**
- 3. Served 26 Section Notices under the Waste Management Act on persons in relation to alleged breaches of the Waste Management Act 1996**
- 4. Issued 17 Fixed Payment Notices (€500) for Offences under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act**
- 5. A further 3 cases from 2018 and 2019 are also currently before the courts, awaiting hearing**

**ClIr P. Treanor will ask:**

7. What steps have been taken by Monaghan County Council to establish the Coiste Logainmneacha? When will its first meeting take place?

**Reply:** The elected member nominees to the Coiste Logainmneacha were appointed following the local elections in 2019. These are Cllr. Pat Treanor, Cllr. Aoife McCooey, Cllr. Richard Truell and Cllr McElvaney. In addition, the membership of the previous Coiste Logainmneacha included a number of external reps - members of the public who had an interest in the Irish Language/History. We will liaise with the elected reps on the Coiste Logainmneacha to progress the recruitment of the external members with a view to holding a meeting of the Coiste Logainmneacha early in the new year.

8. Has the Minister approved Monaghan County Council's Scéim Gaeilge? When will it be launched publicly?

**Reply:** The Draft Sceim na Gaeilge 2020 – 2023 was noted by the Council at the October meeting. The Scheme has since been forwarded to the Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs. When the formal approval of the Minister is received, arrangements will be made to launch the Scheme publicly.

9. Has Monaghan County Council contributed to Waterways Ireland's application to the Category 1 Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in relation to the Ulster Canal marina at Clones? When should we expect a result?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council is a partner to Waterways Ireland and has assisted in the preparation of its application for funding for the Clones Marina Project under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund 2020. The closing date for receipt of applications was 1 December 2020. An decision on the success or otherwise from the Department is not anticipated until Q2 2021, at least.

10. What other applications have Monaghan County Council made/involved in, to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council submitted four applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund 2020 in November 2020. The projects submitted were

- Clones Monastic Project
- Truagh Rural Enterprise and Community Hub
- C Tek II Co-working Enterprise Hub, Carrickmacross
- Newbliss Enterprise and Digital Hub

11. Has Waterways Ireland indicated when they will do a presentation to Monaghan County Council, as invited at the beginning of 2020?

**Reply:** Waterways Ireland have been contacted by Monaghan County Council in relation to making a virtual presentation to the Council members. Waterways Ireland has replied that its officials would be available to schedule a presentation to the elected members of Monaghan County Council towards the end of February/early March 2021.

**Cllr S. Conlon will ask:**

12. In the context of the recently adopted 2021 County Council Budget that includes a four-page overview of the efforts and accomplishments of the Housing Section, without any reference to the issue of homelessness, I ask the Executive:

- (a) Please provide quantitative data outlining what solutions were arrived at to accommodate each of the families and individuals who presented as homeless during 2020 due to reasons including, and not confined to: domestic violence, rough sleeping, couch surfing, eviction?

**Reply:** 136 persons presented as homeless in the period January to October 2020. Individual solutions included advice, support, support from Monaghan County Council with HAP, Focus Ireland with tenancy sustainment and support in finding accommodation, mediation, link with appropriate agencies, support with deposits from the community welfare officer, advocating on behalf of the person, solutions through the HAT,

9 people and one child were provided with emergency accommodation in B&B or in hostel accommodation or in accommodation provided by Castleblayney Trust.

- (b) What process is available to homeless families and individuals who fall into any of the above category to apply for Council Housing when they have no verifiable or accessible address to submit on the application form?

**Reply:** Each person presenting to the Council as homeless submits an application form, so that we can assess their situation. In assessing the application, we would seek to establish that the applicant fulfills the criteria to apply for social housing support, to enable them to be considered for inclusion on Monaghan County Councils housing waiting list.

13. Following my proposal at the September Council meeting to write to the Department of Local Government regarding Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Council Housing, what financial allocation has been provided to Monaghan County Council, in particular for the purpose of replacing wooden windows at 14 dwellings at Ard Gleann Monaghan?

**Reply:** The following is the proposal referred to that was made at the adjourned Council meeting in September 2020:

*“On the proposal of Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr McElvaney it was agreed that ahead of the announcement being made by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage indicating the annual allocation towards Energy Efficiency Upgrades on Social Housing, that we bring to their attention that 14 houses at Ard Glas and Ard Gleann, Killygoan, Monaghan are in need of an overdue replacement of wooden windows, and that we appeal for the appropriate resources for these works to occur.”*

Monaghan County Council brought the Department’s attention to the 14 houses at Ard Glas and Ard Gleann as proposed. The Department responded that there is no objection to the proposal to *“upgrade the windows/doors up to the maximum grant rate applicable under the 2020 EE Retrofitting Programme”*. The Department does not provide allocations for specific properties but does provide a general Energy Efficiency allocation for each Local Authority to carry out Energy Efficiency upgrades in compliance with the Department’s *“Technical Guidance on Eligible Works”*.

On 6 November 2020 Monaghan County Council was informed of an Energy Efficiency funding allocation in the amount of €366,456 for the upgrade of Monaghan County Council owned housing (not specifically for 14 houses at Ard Glas and Ard Gleann).

It should be noted that Phase I Energy Efficiency upgrades including attic and cavity wall insulation has been completed to all Monaghan County Council owned housing stock including the 14 houses at Ard Glas and Ard Gleann and that the windows of the houses at Ard Glas and Ard Gleann are double glazed timber windows. It should also be noted that Phase I Energy Efficiency work included upgrade to the fabric of the walls and attics of dwellings only and does not include replacement of windows and doors or the replacement of heating systems. Phase



II Energy Efficiency upgrade work is referred to as “Deep Retrofit” Energy Efficiency Upgrade. Under the Department guidelines and “Technical Guidance on Eligible Works” the replacement of existing double glazed windows is not included unless a “Deep Retrofit” Energy Efficiency Upgrade is being carried out which includes the installation of a Heat Pump in place of the existing heating systems. The upgrade of windows and doors is required to achieve a Heat Loss Indicator of 2.0 or less which is required to ensure that a Heat Pump can efficiently achieve desirable comfort levels of heating at a relatively low cost in heating bills for the tenant.

For the houses at Ard Glas and Ard Gleann; Monaghan County Council will proceed with “Deep Retrofit” Energy Efficiency Upgrades including the following works; installation of new triple glazed windows and doors, insulation of porch roof, block up chimney and associated vent and installation of an energy efficient heat pump to replace existing heating source(s). Monaghan County Council has commenced contacting tenants and the “Deep Retrofit” Energy Efficiency Upgrade will commence as soon as possible and upon completion of the upgrade works the properties will have a Build Energy Rating of B2 or higher. It is estimated that the full suite of Energy Efficiency work proposed will result in significantly reduced heating bills for tenants, reductions in the order of 30% to 50% or more are achievable. The proposal has following benefits:

- Energy Efficiency of dwellings improved
- Cost of heating reduced – fuel poverty reduced/eliminated
- External Air quality improved by the elimination of burning of solid fuels (important for everyone in general and particularly for those with asthma and other respiratory/cardiovascular conditions)
- Internal air quality improved by the elimination of burning of solid fuels (important for tenants in general and particularly for those with asthma and other respiratory/cardiovascular conditions)
- Elimination of chimney fires
- Elimination of potential Carbon Monoxide exposure
- Reduction in Carbon Dioxide emissions

14. For the purpose of enhancing the potential of drawing down funding for County Monaghan from the Governments €500m Shared Island Unit budget and the upcoming EU Peace Plus programme with a €600m budget for cross border projects already secured, that I ask the Council Executive for an update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Armagh and Monaghan Councils in 2015. In the absence of any activity or developments in this regard, will Executive agree to work towards the reestablishment of this MOU in line with similar successful partnerships between Donegal - Derry -Strabane Councils and the Newry - Mourne and Louth Councils?

**Reply:** There has been no update in the status of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Armagh City and District Council and Monaghan Council in 2015. Following the reorganisation of local government in Northern Ireland, Armagh City and District Council was dissolved and now forms part of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and officials from both councils co-operate on Interreg and Peace projects. Monaghan County Council is an active member of East Border Region Ltd and Irish Central Border Area Network, where regional priorities are agreed and pursued. Both organisations have indicated that they are seeking to liaise with the newly established Shared Island Unit within the Department of the Taoiseach.

**Cllr C. Carthy will ask:**

15. Will the Council consider adding public notices (road closures etc) to their social media accounts to increase the spread of information to the public?

**Reply: IT & Roads Dept's are currently working on a mechanism to link the Map alerts issued to social media and this will be trialled in January.**

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme	BB/CL	CMX/CBY	MON	TOTAL
Sold 2016	0	0	0	0
Sold 2017	3	1	1	5
Sold 2018	2	5	8	15
Sold 2019	3	5	5	13
Sold 2020	6	0	9	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>48</b>

16. Can the housing section confirm the number of council tenants in Co. Monaghan that have applied to buy their homes under the current tenant purchase scheme and how many have been approved (with a breakdown of each Municipal District)?

**Reply: The Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 commenced in January 2016. Since its launch Monaghan County Council has received 124 applications. Of these**

Status	Ballybay/ Clones Municipal District	Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney Municipal District	Monaghan Municipal District	Total
Closed Ineligible or not progressing	10	23	27	60
Approved Letters of Offer Issued	3	2	4	9
Approved Currently with the solicitors	3	1	3	7
Sold to date	14	11	23	48
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>124</b>

17. With the changes to the level of funding available under the repair and lease scheme, will the council be contacting those who were unsuccessful, initially, who required more work than the original sum allowed for?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council will contact all suitable applicants that are eligible under the increased Repair and Leasing funding limit which has increased from €40,000 to €60,000.**

18. When is it envisaged that works will commence on the upgrade of the Carrickmacross Water Treatment plant (tender process to completion)?

**Reply:** The plan is currently to go to tender in Q1 2021 with a view to commencing in Q1 2022.

The scope of the upgrade works is as follows: - new inlet pumping station - upgrade to the inlet works - refurbishment of the original oxidation ditch and settlement tank - new treated effluent pumping station and rising main - relocation of the discharge point to downstream of Monalty Lough - associated siteworks, pipework, etc.

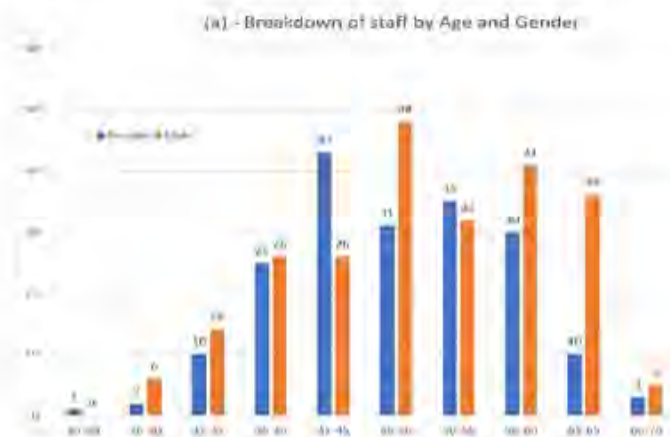
**Cllr A. McCooey will ask:**

19. Can Monaghan County Council please outline any plans that have been made for any type of mental health facility within the new Peace Campus in Monaghan town.

**Reply:** The provision of a Youth Mental Health service has been identified as a key core element of the Peace Campus from early in its development and planning. This has been factored into the design and concept of the Peace Campus and has been discussed at length with a range of stakeholders. The provision of such services are a matter for the Health Service Executive and Monaghan County Council is in continuing discussion with the HSE on the issue. Monaghan County Council senior staff will be meeting with HSE counterparts early in the New Year to advance that planning. The projected opening of Peace Campus is set for Quarter 2 of 2022.

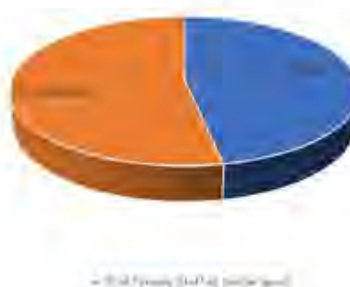
20. Can Monaghan County Council please give a breakdown of:

(a) The staff within the organisation, by gender and age.



(b) The % of female staff who are in positions of manager or are at senior level?

(B) - Gender % of Staff at Senior Level Management





- (c) How do Monaghan County Council ensure all opportunities are equal irrespective of age or gender?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council include in their media advertisement of jobs and on their recruitment documentation for every competition that they are an 'Equal Opportunities Employer'.**

- (d) Do Monaghan County Council provide any type of training or routes of progression for its staff? Particularly in giving female members of staff the skills and knowledge to progress.

**Reply: Monaghan County Council provide all employees with equal opportunity and exposure to training and development so far as such training and development relates to their business needs.**

**Attendance on all Health & Safety programmes is mandatory.**

**Applications to attend third level education programmes are supported having been considered carefully in light of the relevance to the individual, the organisation, the cost of the course and the level of funding available. However, depending on the budget allocated for training it may not be possible to meet all demands for third level assistance in any academic year. Employees undertaking a third level course can progress from the Certificate to Diploma, Degree and Masters.**

**There have been a number of third level courses afforded to females recently such as:**

- **Cross Border Women's leadership Programme**
- **Leadership in Local Government**
- **Certificate, Diploma, Degree in Local Government**

**Cllr A. Campbell will ask:**

21. What is the update in the handing over to the first 11 New houses in the new Development out of a total of 38 for Tuath Housing Association on the Shercock road out of Castleblayney? And subsequent hand over of the remanding houses?

**Reply: The first phase of 11 houses in the new development known as Radhairc an Bhri (on the Shercock road out of Castleblayney) has been completed and proposed tenants have been nominated to Tuath Housing Association by Monaghan County Council. Tuath has advised that a further 14 houses are programmed for completion in Q1/Q2 of 2021 and the final 13 houses are programmed for completion in Q4 of 2021. More accurate handover dates will be available in 2021.**

22. What is the update on the Hope Castle, Annex and the Lough Muckno park in Castleblayney?

**Reply: Due to Covid 19 restrictions over the past six weeks, there has been no progress on this matter.**

23. Climate change is recognised as the major challenge facing us at both National and International level with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the consequences of our changing climate. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy represents a proactive step by Councils and with Monaghan County Councils Climate Change Adaptation strategy been recently submitted to the Department of Environment Climate and Communication. Under the six thematic areas of

1. Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations.
2. Infrastructure and Build Environment.
3. Land Use and Development.
4. Drainage and Flood Management
5. Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure
6. Community Health and Wellbeing.

- (a) How much progress have we made?

**Reply:** In October Monaghan County Council submitted the first Climate change adaptation strategy progress implementation report to the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office. This progress report demonstrated that of the 61 actions as detailed in the Climate Change Adaptation strategy, approximately 70% of the actions are either complete or in progress. Of these approximately 10% of the actions have been completed.

- (b) What are the key priorities in the short-time to mitigate against the onset of Climate Change?

**Reply:** Prioritised actions for delivery in the short term have been identified in a Climate Action Delivery Plan 2020-2021 that was prepared by Environmental Services during the summer with the help of staff members from all council departments. This Action Delivery Plan contains the climate actions that have been prioritised for delivery in 2020/2021 by each council Division, detailing the high-level actions to be progressed along with the anticipated outputs. The linkages and connection to similar actions in the National Climate Action Plan 2019 and the Climate Action Charter are also recorded as are timeframes for delivery.

That plan contains 42 actions for delivery/part delivery across all council departments during the period 2020/2021 which represents approximately 60% of the total actions identified in the adaptation strategy.

- (c) What are the highlights of the report that has gone to the Department from Monaghan County Council?

Some of the highlights as detailed in the progress implementation report include:

- Formation of new Climate Action Steering Committee.
- Setting up of new designated Climate Action and Environmental Services SPC.
- Monaghan County Council in partnership has piloted Climate change training programs for staff with further training scheduled for 2021.
- In terms of energy usage, Monaghan County Council is currently ranked 8th best performing local authority in the country, having already achieved a 37% energy improvement by the end of 2019.
- New Biodiversity and Heritage Plan 2020-2025 published.
- Works has commenced for in identifying council owned lands suitable for the planting of native woodlands under the Woodland Creation on Public lands scheme.
- Monaghan County Council has progressed the Smithboro-Middletown project significantly in 2020.
- Work ongoing with the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Planning Office in implementing the Regional Waste Plan with a focus on the circular economy.

- Purchase of first Electric Sweeper in Ireland by Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD.
- Construction of BER A rated homes in Scotstown.
- Further progress made in the retrofitting of public lighting.
- Progression of the "Hilly Way" walling and cycling route.
- Development of new village park in Scotshouse with specific planting that supports local biodiversity.

24. With regard to the Market House in Castleblayney and the process of moving the process to the design stage under the recent Rural Regeneration Grant of €500,000. €295,000 in RRDF funding (75% funding) was secured in June 2020 for the preparation of detailed designs for the refurbishment of the Market House and Market Square public realm.

(a) Has Monaghan County Council procured the relevant experts to engage in the start of this process?

**Reply: AP & E Architects, a team of architects with distinct expertise in relation to small towns, community engagement, spatial analysis and adaptive reuse have been appointed by Monaghan County Council. The consultants will prepare a report which will include an assessment and recommendations of potential uses, reflecting the input from the community and stakeholder consultation and participatory engagement exercises.**

(b) When is the consultation process due to commence?

**Reply: AP+E commenced the consultation the week beginning 23 November. The consultants are expected to complete their report by March 2021.**

(c) With Covid-19 and the difficulty of public meetings or gathering how will this process of consultation be managed?

**Reply: AP+E have proposed a range of consultation engagement methods, including online surveys, questionnaires and online group meetings. Subject to public health guidance, it is proposed to have a socially distanced community engagement day in Castleblayney in early January.**

## 16. Notice of Motion

**Cllr P. Connolly proposed, Cllr S. Treanor seconded:**

1. That Monaghan County Council Monaghan on the Ministers for Justice, Finance and Public Expenditure to make provisions where drug trafficking monies confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Legislation be redirected from central coffers back into local addiction services, youth organisations, and community initiatives to combat the effect of addiction on our communities, and that the necessary legislation is changed as a matter of urgency to allow this vital funding support to happen"

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

**Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded:**

2. In regard to the option of dual heating systems in Council houses, typically from an oil burner as well as solid fuel, that this Council continue to honour Council tenancy agreements whereby tenants occupy dwellings on the basis that both heating systems are available.

Following a short discussion on the motion, it was agreed that this motion would be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

**Cllr A. McCooey proposed, Cllr Aughey seconded:**

3. That Monaghan County Council supports the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals. That this local authority would call on the Government and the Minister with responsibility of Disabilities, Anne Rabbitte TD, to enact legislation to standardise and fund additional PA hours.

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

**17. Votes of sympathy/congratulations**

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

- *The husband and family of the late Maire Clements, RIP (nee Leonard) Ballybay and Cavan and sister of Meath County Councillor Suzanne Jamal.*

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

- *The new Church of Ireland Bishop-elect for the Clogher Diocese, The Rev. Canon Dr. Ian W. Ellis on his appointment.*
- *The new Chair of Monaghan County Board GAA – Declan Flanagan*
- *The outgoing Chair of Monaghan County Board GAA – Michael Owen McMahon*
- *Cavan County Board GAA on winning the Ulster Senior Football Championship 2020*
- *The Kavanagh Centre Inniskeen on the completion of the refurbishment works to the centre.*
- *Kathleen McCrudden, Council employee on her retirement after 45 years service.*

**18. Conferences**

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

**Urgent Business:**

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr Maxwell seconded

*That, in view of the fact that the Autism Unit known as Le Chéile, Edenmore NS, Emyvale Co. Monaghan is threatened with closure in June 2021, Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD and the OPW to investigate what remedial actions can be taken on the Edenmore NS grounds to ensure that the building of a permanent structure can take place thus ensuring the long term viability of this Unit into the future.*

Following a discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the members and it was agreed.

The Cathaoirleach wished all present and their families, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new Year 2021.

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

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

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





# 2021 Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for National Roads

Monaghan County Council 







Monaghan County Council

Improvement

Total Allocation

€ 7,110,541

B.1.1 Allocation

€ 6,560,000

Classification	PRS Type	Name	Route No.	Allocation (€)	
Both NP/NS	LA Eng Support - B.1.1	Local Authority Support (Improvement) 2021 MN	-	€ 300,000	
National Primary	Bridge Rehabilitation	N2 Blackwater Bridge Replacement	2	€ 80,000	
		N2 Junctions Monaghan	2	€ 150,000	
	HD15 and HD17 Minor Works	Timaneil Type D	2	€ 60,000	
		NDP - N2 Ardee to South of Castleblaney Bypass	2	€ 1,300,000	
	Major Scheme	NDP - N2 Clontibret to the NI Border	2	€ 1,300,000	
		Minor Works	AT - N2 Cyclepath - Corlat RoB to Collegiate College	2	€ 60,000
	National Secondary	Pavement	AT - N2 Cyclepath -Upgrade of Hard verge to Cyclepath N2 Ballyalbany to Tydavnet	2	€ 30,000
			AT- N2 Cyclepath -Ballyalbanny Jct to Coolshannagh RoB	2	€ 130,000
			AT- N2 Cyclepath - Phase 3 to Emyvale Village	2	€ 40,000
			N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Improvement Phase 3	2	€ 250,000
NP Pavement Scheme Site Investigations 2021 MN			-	€ 10,000	
Bridge Rehabilitation			Ballynacarry New Bridge	53	€ 200,000
National Secondary	HD15 and HD17 Minor Works	N54MN_003.0 Monaghan Town	54	€ 300,000	
		Smithsboro Type D	54	€ 40,000	
	Minor Works	N53 Ballynacarry Bridge Road Improvement	53	€ 100,000	
		N54 Tullybryan (Minor Works Project)	54	€ 200,000	
Pavement	N54 Clonlura	54	€ 1,180,000		
	N54 Town Centre Pavement	54	€ 820,000		
	NS Pavement Scheme Site Investigations 2021 MN	-	€ 10,000		
<b>B.1.1 Improvement Total</b>				<b>€ 6,560,000</b>	



Monaghan County Council

Maintenance

Total Allocation  
€ 7,110,541

B.1.2 Maintenance  
€ 550,541

Classification	PRS Type	Name	Route No:	Allocation (€)
Both NP/NS	LA Eng Support - B.1.2	Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance) 2021 MN	-	€ 10,000
		Local Authority Support (Maintenance) 2021 MN	-	€ 25,200
National Primary	Ordinary Maintenance	NP Ordinary Maintenance 2021 MN	-	€ 166,676
	Route Lighting	NP Route Lighting 2021 MN	-	€ 50,726
	Winter Maintenance	NP Winter Maintenance 2021 MN	-	€ 169,500
National Secondary	Ordinary Maintenance	NS Ordinary Maintenance 2021 MN	-	€ 44,615
	Route Lighting	NS Route Lighting 2021 MN	-	€ 44,324
	Winter Maintenance	NS Winter Maintenance 2021 MN	-	€ 39,500
<b>B.1.2 Maintenance Total</b>				<b>€ 550,541</b>

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**From:** Department of Health <Health-Correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 8 December 2020 13:57  
**To:** Info  
**Subject:** HEA-MO-06753-2020

HEA-MO-06753-2020

8th December 2020

Dear Ms. Thornton ,

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of Monaghan County Council addressed to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, T.D regarding the reporting of Covid-19 cases. The Department has received unprecedented levels of correspondence over the past months and I wish to apologise for the delay in replying to you. The contents of your correspondence have been noted.

As you are no doubt aware, the situation has changed since you got in touch and Ireland is now at level 3 of Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19 the Government's medium-term approach to managing and living with COVID-19 in a range of areas over the next 6 - 9 months.

Since the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) met for the first time, a commitment was given to collect and publish as much relevant data as possible while ensuring individual patient confidentiality is always maintained. While the nature and scale of the Covid-19 pandemic has been unprecedented, the collection of timely and comprehensive data has been instrumental in developing the health service response to Covid-19 and to the advice provided by NPHE and the Department of Health to assist Government decision-making in the wider response to the disease in Ireland.

Comprehensive national statistics, information and data about Covid-19, including a timeline of confirmed cases by date, is published on a daily basis on the Department of Health website at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-health/> and on the Covid-19 Data Hub and Dashboards available at: <https://covid19ireland-geohive.hub.arcgis.com/>. The published data are based on official figures provided by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) and the



Health Service Executive (HSE). All datasets, charts and maps are updated on an on-going basis and in line with newly published data.

The COVID-19 Data Hub now offers regularly updated Local Electoral Area (LEA) data. However, care is required to ensure patient confidentiality is preserved and that no potential identification of individual cases arises. As a result, the data relating to confirmed cases by LEA is published weekly on a Thursday, reflecting new cases notified in each LEA for the 14-day period up to midnight on the previous Monday.

You may also wish to note that a range of data on the epidemiology of Covid-19 in Ireland, including data on county incidence levels and trends in transmission, is published in the daily report by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) available at: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casesinireland/epidemiologyofcovid-19inireland>, while a daily report on the last 14 days in cases available at: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casesinireland/epidemiologyofcovid-19inireland>.

I hope that the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Rooney

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health



OIFIG ÁRD RÚNAÍ AN UACHTARÁIN  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT

7 December, 2020

Ms. Carmel Thornton  
Meetings Administrator  
Monaghan County Council  
Council Offices  
The Glen  
Monaghan

Dear Ms. Thornton,

Thank you for taking the time to write, on behalf of Monaghan County Council, to President Higgins with your request regarding the Irish Soldiers of A Company 35th Infantry Battalion who served at the Siege of Jadotville.

Your letter has been brought to the President's attention.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Keaveney  
Deputy Head of Protocol



**Oifig an Aire Cosanta agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
Office of the Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs



10 December 2020

Ms. Carmel Thornton  
Monaghan County Council  
Council Offices  
The Glen  
Co. Monaghan



Re: Response to Jadotville correspondence

Dear Ms Thornton,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding Jadotville.

The siege of Jadotville was a prominent event that occurred during Ireland's peacekeeping mission in the Congo in September 1961 where "A" Company, 35th Infantry Battalion, came under attack. From the 13th to the 17th September the men of "A" Company endured almost continuous attack. At the end of the Siege, the men were taken into captivity until finally released on the 25th October 1961.

In 1962 and 1965 a properly constituted medals board considered the issue of award of medals including nominations that had been submitted in respect of a number of the men of "A" Company. This Medals Board did not award any medals whose citation mentioned Jadotville. This decision was subsequently reviewed by the Medals Board and it was indicated that the issued raised had received due consideration and that they were not prepared to alter their findings.

In 2004 a broader examination of the events at Jadotville was conducted by military officers. This Board recommended that the events of Jadotville and the contribution of the 35th Battalion be given recognition. The outcome of this broader examination of the events at Jadotville has led to a number of initiatives that honour the collective actions and bravery of the men of "A" Company at Jadotville and recognise the very significant contribution of "A" Company and of the 35th Battalion, as a whole, to the UN Peace Support Mission in the Congo.

Recognition of their contribution over the years include:

- A presentation of scrolls to "A" Company in 2006.
- Portraits of Lt Col McNamee (35th Battalion Commander) and Comdt Quinlan (Company Commander "A" Company) were commissioned in 2006.
- In July of 2010 the 50th anniversary of the first deployment to the Congo was commemorated in a highly publicised and well attended event in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel.



- A nominal roll of "A" Company, printed in copper, was affixed to the monument in Costume Barracks and was unveiled as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Jadotville affair in September 2011.
- In September 2016, on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Siege of Jadotville, a Unit Citation to honour the collective actions and bravery of the men of "A" Company was issued. This was the first time a Unit Citation was awarded within the Defence Forces.
- In 2017, at the request of the then Minister with responsibility for Defence, a further review of archival records relating to the Siege at Jadotville was undertaken by the Military Authorities but this did not uncover any additional information not already known. Given the increase in knowledge and understanding of the unique and exceptional circumstances surrounding the Siege at Jadotville, the then Taoiseach and the then Minister with responsibility for Defence decided that the most appropriate decision would be to collectively honour the actions of "A" Company at Jadotville. The Government committed, as an exceptional step, to award a medal known as "An Bonn Jadotville" or "The Jadotville Medal" to each member of "A" Company, 35th Infantry Battalion and the family representatives of deceased members.

This specially commissioned medal gives full and due recognition in honour of the courageous actions of the men of "A" Company, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, during the siege at Jadotville. The words inscribed on the medal are "Cosaint Chalma" (Valiant Defence) and "Misneach" (Courage). These words were carefully chosen in order to pay tribute to the courageous actions of the men of "A" Company.

Coupled with the Unit Citation that issued in 2016, no other collective award of this nature has been made to date and the uniqueness of such awards should not be understated.

Notwithstanding the actions that have been undertaken to date, I recently asked the Chief of Staff for his views on the matter, in the context of the award of medals, and the possible implications for the integrity of the award of medals system. I have accepted the Chief of Staff's proposal to establish an independent group of external experts to consider the entire case and evidence, including new evidence, if any, available. This independent review group will report its findings and recommendations to the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff will then make recommendations as appropriate to myself by the end of March 2021.

Yours sincerely



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Simon Coveney TD  
Minister for Defence and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ár dTag: AT7577(b)

Éamonn Ó Súilleabháin  
Príomhfheidhmeannach  
Conhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
An Gleann  
Muineachán  
Contae Mhuineacháin

18/12/2020

### Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003

Éamonn, a chara,

Tá iarrtha orm ag an Aire Stáit sa Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, Jack Chambers Uasal T.D., buíochas a ghabháil leat as ucht dréacht tríú scéim faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin a chur faoina bhráid le déanaí.

Is cúis áthais dom a rá go bhfuil an dréacht-scéim daingnithe ag an Aire Stáit anois. Beidh an scéim i bhfeidhm ar feadh tréimhse 3 bliana ó 27 Nollaig 2020 nó go mbeidh scéim nua daingnithe, cibé acu is déanaí.

Ba mhaith liom an deis seo a thapú chomh maith le mo bhuíochas pearsanta a chur in iúl d'fhoireann na Comhairle, go háirithe Nial O'Connor, a bhí páirteach in ullmhú na scéime agus guím gach rath oraibh lena cur i bhfeidhm.

### Official Languages Act 2003

The Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Mr. Jack Chambers T.D., has asked me to thank you for Monaghan County Council's third scheme under the Official Languages Act which you forwarded to him recently.

I am pleased to inform you that the draft scheme has now been confirmed by the Minister of State. The scheme shall remain in force for a period of 3 years from 27 December 2020 or until a new scheme has been approved, whichever is the later.

I would also like to convey my personal thanks to the staff of the Council who participated in the preparation of the scheme, in particular Nial O'Connor, and to wish you every success with its implementation.

Is mise, le dea-ghuíf,

---

Diarmaid Ó Mórdha  
Rannóg Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

**Carmel Thornton**

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**From:** Minister of State Madigan <no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 18 December 2020 10:38  
**To:** Info  
**Subject:** EDU-MoSM-01415-2020 *Re: Edenmore NS*

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ms. Carmel Thornton  
info@monaghancoco.ie

PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Ref: EDU-MoSM-01415-2020

Dear Ms. Thornton ,

I acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion Ms. Josepha Madigan T.D.

Enquiries are being made about this matter from senior officials and an answer to your query will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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Keith Murphy  
Private Secretary to Minister Josepha Madigan T.D.  
Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion

**Carmel Thornton**

---

**From:** Lisa Joyce <lisa.joyce@opw.ie>  
**Sent:** 22 December 2020 17:22  
**To:** Info  
**Subject:** FAO Ms Carmel Thornton (Meetings Administrator) - RE: Edenmore NS, Emyvale, Co Monaghan

Dear Ms Thornton,

On behalf of Mr Maurice Buckley, Chairman, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence received in the Chairman's office today, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020.

I will bring your letter to the attention of the Chairman and I will also forward same to Minister O'Donovan for his attention.

A response will issue in due course.

Kind regards,  
Lisa

---

Lisa Joyce  
Chairmans Office

---

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

Sráid Jonathan Swift, Baile Átha Troim, Co na Mí, C15 NX36  
Jonathan Swift Street, Trim, Co Meath, C15 NX36

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To send me files larger than 30MB, please use the link below  
<https://filetransfer.opw.ie/filedrop/lisa.joyce@opw.ie>

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/439daf-email-disclaimer/>

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.opw.ie/en/disclaimer/>

**Carmel Thornton**

---

**From:** eCorrespondence (DCYA) <DCYA-Correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 23 December 2020 17:40  
**To:** Info  
**Subject:** DCDEI-MOGO-02613-2020

23rd December 2020

Ms. Carmel Thornton

info@monaghancoco.ie

Dear Ms. Thornton,

Thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of Monaghan County Council with regard to the creation of a Government White Paper to set out a pathway to replace the current system of International Protection accommodation.

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to ending the Direct Provision system and replacing it with a new International Protection accommodation policy, centred on a not-for-profit approach. The Government has also committed to the development of a White Paper which will set out how this new system will be structured and the steps to achieving it.

Minister O’Gorman is currently developing the White Paper, which will set out options, together with the recommended direction, for the new model of accommodation and services for International Protection applicants and the transitional processes needed to implement the model. Options for developing a not-for-profit approach are currently being examined in this regard.

Good progress has been made on drafting the White Paper and work is now focusing on testing the accommodation proposals that will be contained in it. In view of the extent of change proposed, the White Paper will take some more time than originally envisaged but is expected to be published by the second week of February.

I trust that the information provided is satisfactory to the Council.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Hughes

Private Secretary to Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD





Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council

**Our Ref:** HD/AOS/M162

11<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

**To:** Each Local Authority

The following motion was adopted at the November meeting of Waterford City and County Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

*" That Waterford City and County Council:*

- sends its solidarity and support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer*
- reaffirms the Council's support for workers' rights, the principle of collective bargaining, and fairness and dignity at work*
- 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*

*calls for KPMG and Government to immediately engage with the workers and their representatives in the Mandate trade union. ."*

Yours sincerely,

**Honor Dunphy**  
**Meetings Administrator**

Áras an Chontae,  
Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh,  
H91 H6KX.

Áras an Chontae,  
Prospect Hill, Galway,  
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Timpeallacht & Tréidhacht  
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& Seirbhísí Ginearálta  
Roads, Transportation, Marine  
& General Services  
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Achairíní Daonna  
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Méircháin  
Motor Taxation  
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motor@galwaycoco.ie

Clár na dTogthaí  
Register of Electors  
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Water Services  
(091) 509 505  
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Pobal & Fiontar  
Community & Enterprise  
(091) 509 521  
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Planning  
(091) 509 308  
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Leabharlann  
Library  
(091) 562 471  
info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0025

Our Ref: MO/SE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

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

*"I propose that Galway County Council write to Minister for Justice Helen McEntee to request that the review of the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic Sexual and Gender based Violence is expedited to provide a fit for purpose strategy taking into account the additional reported rise in domestic abuse incidents occurring during COVID Pandemic restricted conditions and the urgent need for additional refuge places and adequately resourced services.*

*I propose that a copy of this motion be sent to all local authorities as correspondence".*

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

Mise le Meas

*Michael Owens*

**Michael Owens**  
Meetings Administrator



**Report on the Proposed Deletion of No. 10 Dublin  
Street, Monaghan Town from the Record of  
Protected Structures for County Monaghan  
RPS registration number 41001071**

**Sections 54 & 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000  
(as amended)**

December 2020

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1: The principle mechanism for the statutory protection of architectural heritage is via inclusion of buildings within the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The RPS identifies and provides positive recognition of buildings of special architectural, historical, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, gives a very high level of protection as well as giving potential access to the *Conservation Grants Scheme* on foot of the provisions of Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

1.2: Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) allows a Planning Authority to review its RPS on a continual basis. The RPS may be amended by the addition or deletion of entries independently of the development plan review process in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

## 2.0: Legislative Context

2.1: Section 54(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 states that *"A planning authority may add to or delete from its record of protected structures a structure, a specified part of a structure or a specified feature of the attendant grounds of a structure, where—*

*(a) the authority considers that—*

*(i) in the case of an addition, the addition is necessary or desirable in order to protect a structure, or part of a structure, of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, whether or not a recommendation has been made under section 53, or*

*(ii) in the case of a deletion, the protection of the structure or part is no longer warranted, and*

*(b) the addition or deletion is made when making a development plan under Part II or in accordance with section 55.*

2.2: The making of an addition to, or a deletion from, a record of protected structures is a reserved function and section 55(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 states that *"A planning authority which proposes, at any time other than in the course of making its development plan under Part II, to make an addition to or a deletion from its record of protected structures shall—*

*(a) serve on each person who is the owner or occupier of the proposed protected structure or the protected structure, as the case may be, a notice of the proposed addition or deletion, including the particulars,*

*(b) send particulars of the proposed addition or deletion to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and to any other prescribed bodies, and*

*(c) cause notice of the proposed addition or deletion to be published in at least one newspaper circulating in its functional area.*

2.3: Section 55(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 states that before making the proposed addition or deletion, the planning authority shall—

(a) consider any written submissions or observations received within the 6 weeks inspection period, and

(b) have regard to any observations received from the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, concerning those submissions or observations, within 4 weeks after the receipt by that Minister of a copy of the submissions or observations.

2.4: Within 12 weeks after the end of the period allowed for inspection, the planning authority shall decide whether or not the proposed addition or deletion should be made.



### 3.0: Description of Subject Building

3.1: The subject site is located at No. 10 Dublin Street, Monaghan Town. The building is currently on the Record of Protected Structures (Reference: 41001071) and is rated as 'Regionally Important'. The structure was also surveyed as part of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in 2012 and was rated as 'Regionally Significant'.



Figure 1: Site location plan outlining location of subject site.

3.2: The subject site comprises a terraced three-bay storey building which was built around 1810. The building has been used as a shop at ground floor level and residential apartments to upper floors since approximately 1978. A shopfront and integral carriageway are located at ground level. The building has square headed window openings within which uPVC windows have been installed and the sills have been painted. The shopfront comprises a timber fascia board with console brackets, timber-framed display window and a glazed door. The carriage arch has a depressed arch opening and a recently installed metal gate. The building is finished in smooth render ruled and lined walls with block and start quoins to upper floors.

3.3: The plaque on the front wall identifies the building as the birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy, an Irish nationalist, barrister, journalist, poet, politician and a Young Irelander who founded 'The Nation' with Thomas Davis and John Blake Dillon in 1842. Following emigration to Australia in 1856, Gavan Duffy became the 8th Premier of Victoria and one of the commanding figures in Victorian political history.





Figure 2: Images of subject building

#### 4.0: Background to the Removal of Structure from the RPS

4.1: The South Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Scheme is a significant town centre redevelopment project extending comprising 6 hectares and is located to the south east of the town core, extending from The Diamond to the northwest, south eastwards along Dublin Street and is defined to the south east by the Presbyterian Church to the south at Old Cross Square. The aim of the scheme is to consolidate the urban structure of the plan area, creating new streets and new public spaces which integrate with the existing historic town centre and introduce a new backland area.



Figure 3: Map illustrating location of Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Area

4.2: A hierarchy of spaces and streets are proposed within the plan area and as a result, modifications to the street layout of the adjoining area are proposed in order to complete the overall vision for the plan area and its environs with a number of new streets and spaces proposed.



Figure 4: Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Scheme Proposal

4.3: Following in the tradition of Monaghan's historic squares, connected by narrow streets, a new civic square and street is proposed, 'Gavan Duffy Place', which will be located midway along Dublin Street. The civic square and street will facilitate an increase in pedestrian footfall and vehicular activity and act as a gateway to the south west development area. Gavan Duffy Place will be dedicated to Charles Gavan Duffy and has the potential to provide an appropriate location to accommodate a piece of artwork in the form of a potential statue or plaque and information stand to commemorate him.

4.4: The space will benefit from a southerly orientation, will increase light onto Dublin Street, improve vehicular and pedestrian connections to the backlands and add to the sense of place and cultural identity of the Town.

4.5: The new street will be formed by the demolition of existing structures, including the subject building, to form a new junction onto Dublin Street which will accommodate two way vehicular traffic and a pedestrian space.



1. 15-16 Dublin Street (Retained)
2. 14 Dublin Street (Retained)
3. 12-13 Dublin Street (Retained)
4. 11 Dublin Street (Proposed Demolition)
5. **10 Dublin Street (Proposed Demolition)**
6. 9 Dublin Street (Proposed Demolition)
7. 8 Dublin Street (Proposed Demolition)
8. 7 Dublin Street (Retained)
9. 6 Dublin Street (Retained)

Figure 5: Photomontage and list of buildings to be retained/demolished along Dublin Street  
(Subject Site highlighted in red)



## 5.0: Statement of Significance

5.1: CONSARC Conservation were retained by Monaghan County Council to undertake an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) of Number 10 Dublin Street. A copy of their final report is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.

5.2: The AHIA notes that Number 10 Dublin Street is of some limited architectural significance. The building retains the overall form, massing and scale to the street frontage and whilst the gable chimney remains (without any pots) and is a part of the overall street roofscape, the report notes that the loss of its original fabric and ill-considered alterations have reduced that significance.

5.3: In summary the report finds that the façade of the building has 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 and the windows and any original materials.

5.4: Internally the building has been extensively altered and converted into two apartments over the ground floor shop unit. Access to these properties is via the rear of the property only. The submitted report notes that any original interior finishes or joinery items have been removed and a modest modern interior has been created. Notably there is no evidence of any remaining fireplaces or chimneys or any original doors. The submitted report clearly notes that the interior of the building is classed as having neutral significance.





Figure 6: Internal images of subject building

5.5: As a result of the substantial alterations which have been carried out on the building over the years, the submitted report notes that the building fabric has been substantially altered over time which has eroded its architectural significance. Consequently, the report concludes that the building cannot be regarded as having artistic merit due to the loss of most of the historic detail. CONSARC Conservation has classed the building to have 'neutral' significance and that it no longer meets the test for special characteristics in terms of its architecture or artistic merit.

5.6: CONSARC Conservation has also assessed the historical/social significance of the building within the AHIA. Noting that the building was the birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy, the report states that this element of social history has limited regional significance only and therefore does not meet the test for special characteristics in terms of historic and social significance.

5.7: The report also determined that the decision to remove the structure rather than reuse it within the scheme was based on a detailed analysis of the existing structures and how these could be integrated into the proposed scheme. The analysis concluded as follows:

- The proposal is part of a wider public benefit to the whole of the town centre.
- The combination of the erosion of character of the existing building through modern interventions and alterations, coupled with the predicted public benefit of the proposal can be seen to outweigh the loss of the existing building.

5.8 Notably the submitted report contains a number of mitigation measures to ensure the demolition of the structure is carried out to a satisfactory standard. The mitigation measures include the following:

- the recording and drafting of a full inventory of the structure to be demolished and monitoring of same by a conservation architect.
- the salvage of any original fabric for future use elsewhere in the town
- a full archival standard photographic record of the site will be submitted to the Irish Architectural Archive.
- the history of the site and its relationship to Gavan Duffy could be included within the Town Museum

## **6.0: Dublin Street Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)**

6.1: Eleven Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) have been designated within Monaghan Town. ACAs are areas of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or areas that are important to the setting of a Protected Structure. An ACA can consist of a town centre, a group of buildings, a terrace or street or the setting of a country house. The main purpose of an ACA designation is to control inappropriate development for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the character of the area.

6.2: Although Dublin Street is a designated ACA, notably number 10 Dublin Street, the subject site, is not located within same.

6.3: CONSARC Conservation has however assessed the impact of the demolition of the subject building as well as the impact of the 'Gavan Duffy Place' proposal on the ACA and has noted that together, the development is predicted to enhance the special character of the ACA more than the retention of the existing building through the quality of the design and the positive introduction of public artwork and social history information to tell the story of Gavan Duffy.

## **7.0: Recommendation**

7.1: Having regard to the report and recommendation by CONSARC Conservation dated May 2020, it is recommended that this structure be deleted from the Record of Protected Structures for County Monaghan.

## **8.0: Proposed Timescales**

8.1: In accordance with the provisions of Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the proposed timescale for the deletion of No.10 Dublin Street from the RPS is detailed in Figure 7 overleaf.

Timescale for Deletion from Record of Protected Structures	
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Report issued to CPG for consideration
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Report issued to Full Council for consideration
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Notice of proposed deletion served on owner/occupier
14 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	1. Public notice of proposed deletion published in Northern Standard 2. Particulars of proposed deletion placed at reception and published on website
14 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Notice of proposed deletion sent to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and prescribed bodies
14 <sup>th</sup> January 2021-25 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Submissions in respect of proposed deletion
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Copy of submissions in respect of proposed deletion sent to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
26 <sup>th</sup> February – 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Period for observations by Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on submissions in respect of proposed deletion
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Preparation of report on submissions
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Report issued to Members
5 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Consideration of proposed deletion by Members for adoption at Council Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Notice of proposed deletion served on owner and occupier
6 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Notice of deletion sent to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and prescribed bodies
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	1. Public notice of deletion published in Northern Standard 2. Particulars of deletion placed at reception and published on website

Figure 7: Timescale for Deletion from Record of Protected Structures

**Appendix 1**

**CONSARC Conservation Report**

DRAFT



# CONSARC

CONSERVATION

## Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment



### **SOUTH DUBLIN STREET & BACKLANDS REGENERATION SCHEME, MONAGHAN** GAVAN DUFFY PLACE HERITAGE REPORT

---

May 2020

for

Monaghan County Council

## CONTENTS

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
- 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
- 3.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
- 4.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- 5.0 CONCLUSION

Consarc Ref.	20-1950-c
Date issued	30 June 2020
Rev.	- Author: BL

### DUBLIN

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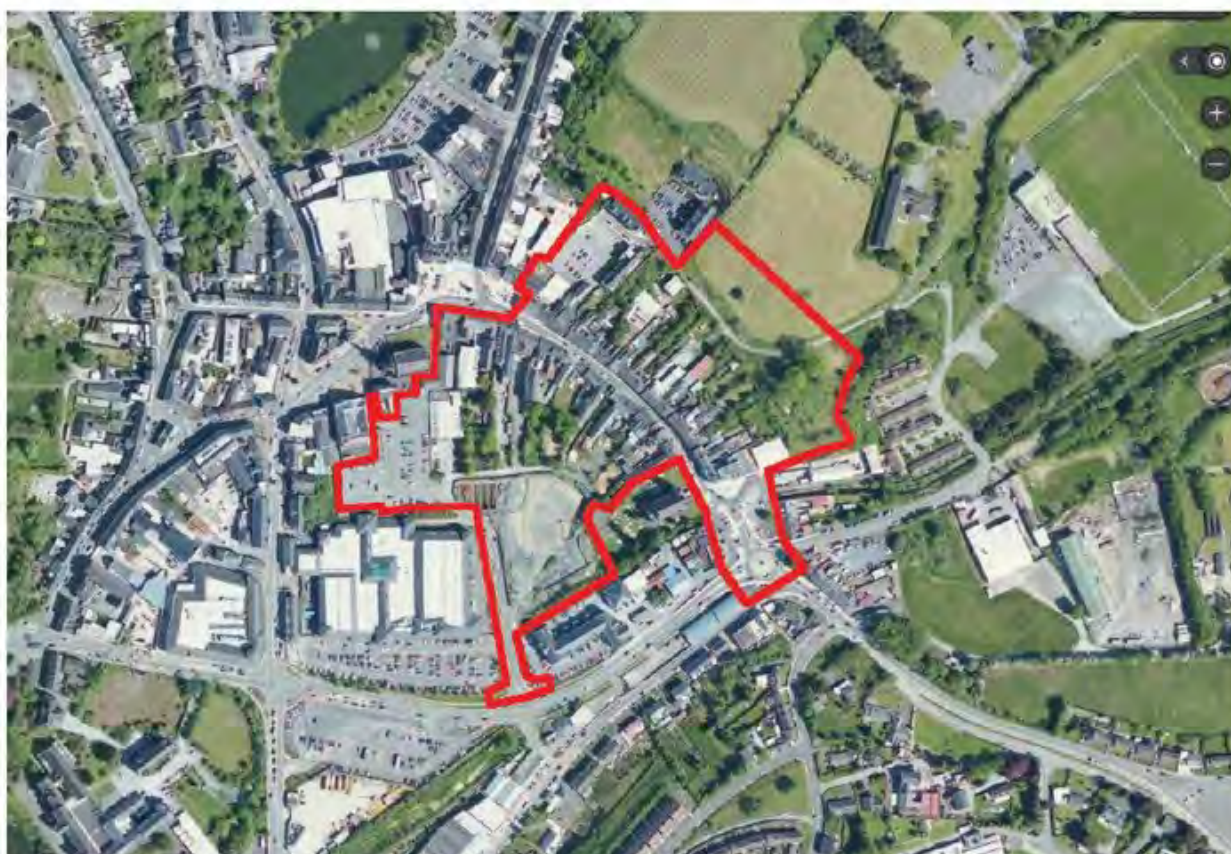
### Consarc Conservation

#### BELFAST

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This architectural heritage impact assessment has been prepared by Consarc Conservation an RIAI grade 1 accredited conservation practice.
- 1.2 The assessment supports the project being undertaken by Monaghan County Council described in The Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Plan 2018 which proposes a regeneration strategy for Dublin Street and the Backland areas to the south west of Dublin Street (South Dublin Street) and to the north east of Dublin Street (North Dublin Street) in Monaghan town, as outlined on Figure 1 below.



Extract From Bing Maps\_Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Plan Area\_annotated by SW

**Figure 1:** Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Plan 2018 – Outline of South Dublin Street and North Dublin Street. Bing Maps Extract annotated by Sheridan Woods.





**Figure 2:** Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Plan 2018 – Overall Plan for South Dublin Street and North Dublin Street by Sheridan Woods.

- 1.3 The 2018 Regeneration Plan combines the aims and objectives of the "Dublin Street Regeneration Plan for Monaghan Town (October 2017)", and the "Local Area Action Plan for the lands to the north east of Dublin Street (March 2011)" which proposes the overall regeneration of the area as a coherent and integrated development proposal.

The 2018 Regeneration Plan sets out a vision for consolidating the urban structure of the plan area; creating new streets and new public spaces which integrate seamlessly with the existing historic town centre and introduce a new backland quarter.

Monaghan County Council proposes to commission the overall Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration on a phased basis with Phase 1 as "South Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Scheme".



- 1.4 Consarc are appointed as part of the Urban Design multidisciplinary team to deliver the proposed regeneration and infrastructural elements for the area to the south of Dublin Street only i.e. "South Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Scheme".



**Figure 3:** South Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Plan - Outline of South Dublin Street. Bing Maps Extract annotated by Sheridan Woods.





**Figure 4:** South Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration Plan – Overall Plan for South Dublin Street by Sheridan Woods.

- 1.5** Within the South Dublin Street and Backlands Regeneration project there are a number of interventions which require an assessment of their impact on the heritage and in one instance the removal of a protected structure from the Monaghan County Council Record of Protected Structures (RPS) list.

Summary of interventions:

- New street and public space to connect Dublin Street to the backland area – forming Gavan Duffy Place. This intervention requires the removal of No. 10 Dublin Street from the Record of Protected Structures.
- A mews lane subdividing the longer rear plots to the backlands area – forming Church Walk.
- A new street to the rear to enhance pedestrian access between the existing shopping centre and Dublin Street – forming The Mall.
- Realigned road proposed from Broad Road to The Mall with public realm improvements and urban landmarks.
- New major public space to the side of the courthouse (existing carpark redefined) – forming Court House Square.
- A new linear building within the backlands area between The Mall and Church Walk.

The Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment report assesses all of these interventions in relation to Dublin Street and the wider context of Monaghan Town.

This heritage report outlines the scheme and provides justification for the removal of No. 10 Dublin Street to commence the process of deletion of this protected structure from the RPS.

- 1.6 To form the new street and new square, Gavan Duffy Place, a number of buildings to Dublin Street are required to be demolished, including No. 10 Dublin Street.



Figure 5: NIAH Historic Environment Viewer – Location of No. 10 Dublin Street, Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy.



Figure 6: NIAH Historic Environment Viewer – Location of No. 10 Dublin Street, Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy.

NIAH Reference: 41303129

Monaghan Town Council Record of Protected Structures Reference: 41001071



## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

### 2.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Monaghan Town, a plantation town and originally part of the estate of Sir Edward Blaney, became part of the Rossmore Estate in the late 18th century.

The town prospered during the first half of the nineteenth century through linen and agricultural products and through the development of the road and rail network. It was during this period that the town got its character of a market town through the construction of several public buildings, monuments and private residences of good quality.

A map of Monaghan Town drawn by Arthur Richard Neville c.1787 shows buildings lining Glaslough Street, Dublin Street, Mill Street, Hill Street and Park Street which radiated out from the open spaces of the Diamond, Church Square and Market Street. This historic street pattern is still evidenced today.

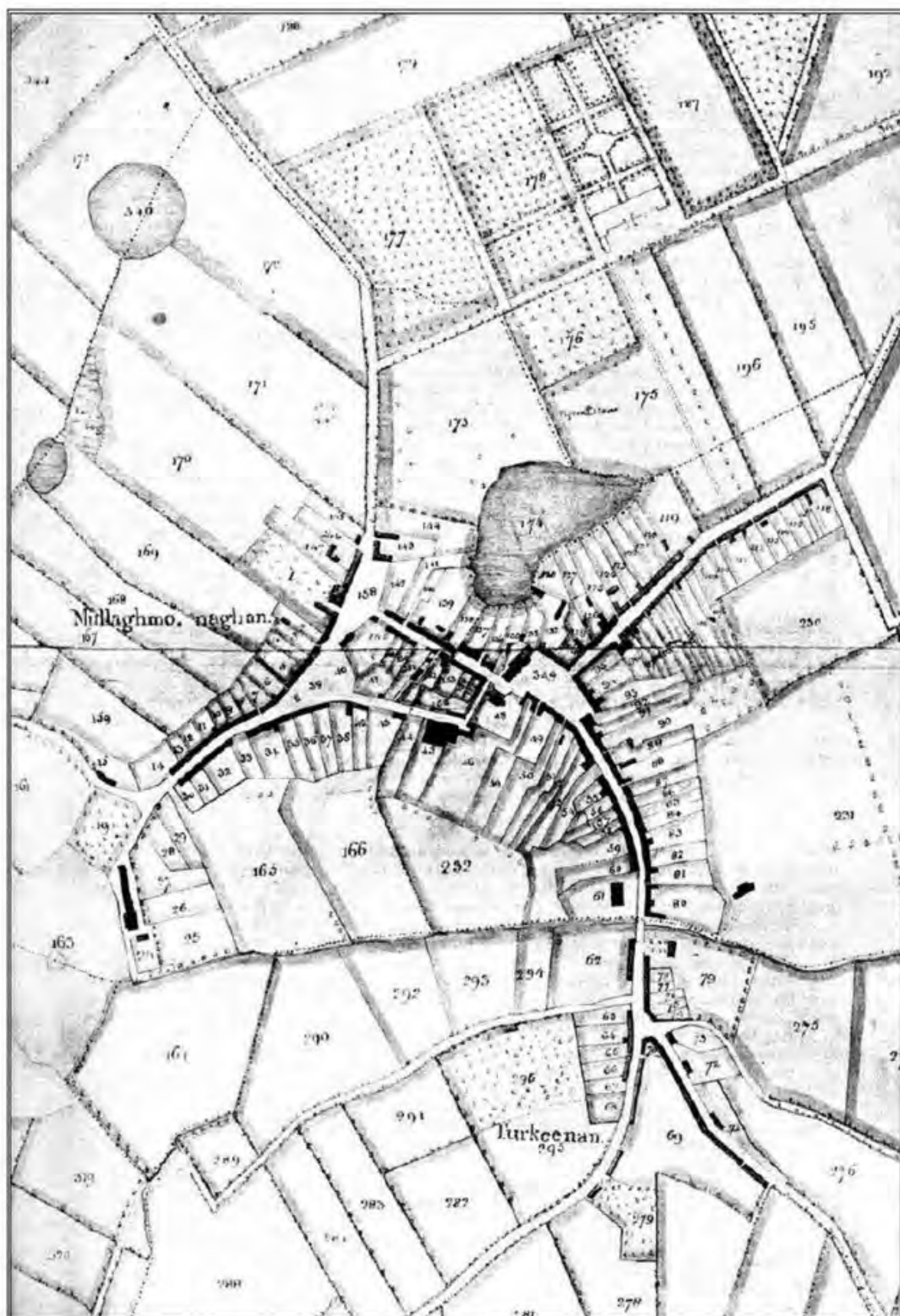
The completion of the Ulster Canal in 1839 led to the creation of a canal bridge of stone on Dublin Street but the canal was made obsolete shortly after it was made by the arrival of the Great Northern Railway in 1863 which prompted the building of a railway station c.1860 and other necessary infrastructure.

Dublin Street dates from the 18th century when it was a centre of shopping activity in the town. The street is defined by merchant's townhouses of varying size and prominence with ground floor commercial units and residences above. The archways, laneways, courtyards and outbuildings that extended from the street to the south west and the north east were thriving arteries serving as storehouses to the merchants and homes to communities who lived and worked in these backland areas of the town.

As the town developed and the population shifted towards the outskirts of the town, this saw a period of steady decline in the street. Later the introduction of a modern shopping centre with surface carparking in the 1980s to the southwest of Dublin Street, saw a migration of shopping from Dublin Street to the new centre and seemingly irreversible decline manifested itself on the street and its backlands.



## 2.2 HISTORICAL MAPS – CHRONOLOGY OF THE SITE

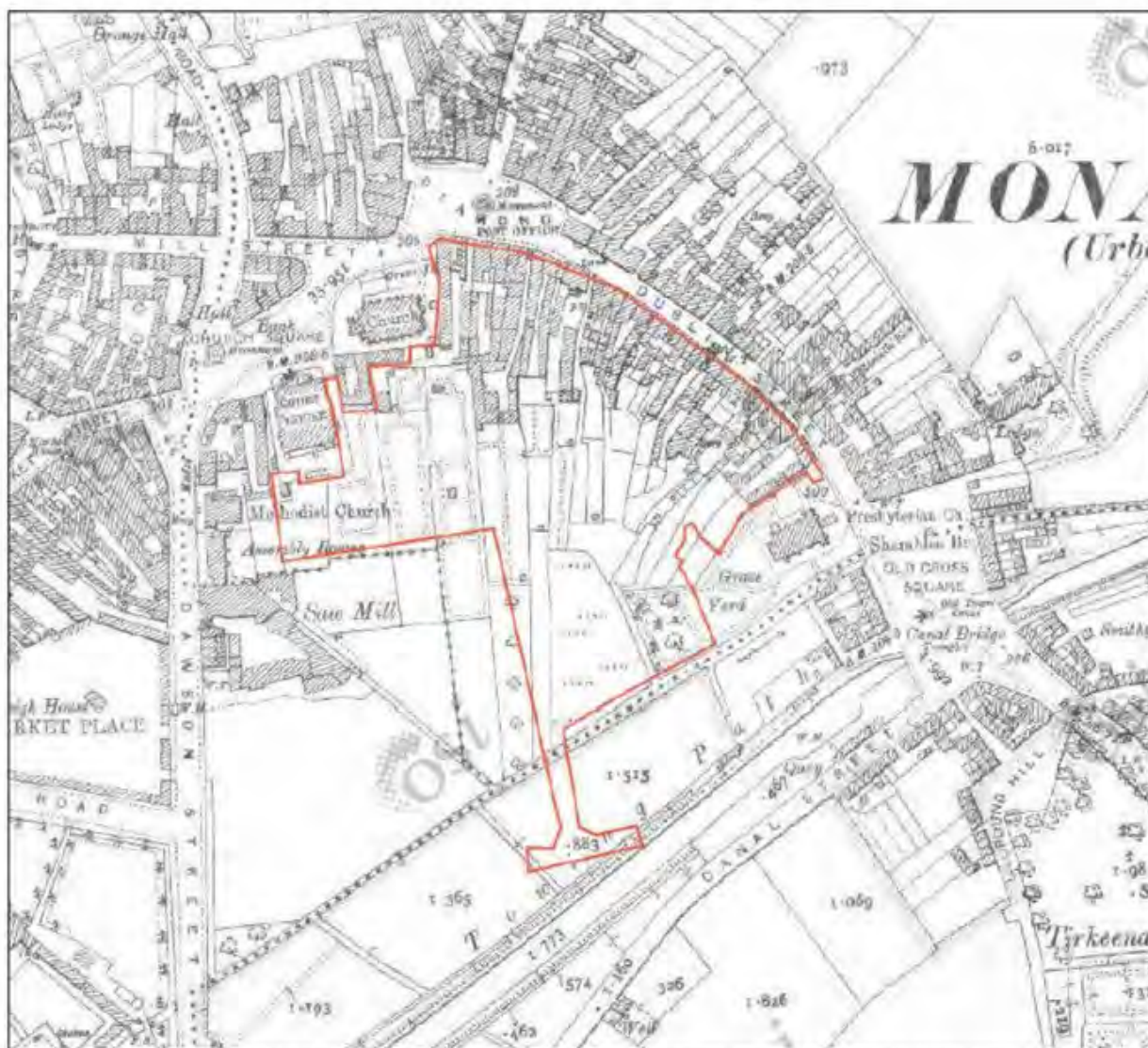


**Figure 7:** Map of Monaghan town made by Arthur Richards Neville for the Rossmore Estate (1790).



**Figure 8:** Map of Monaghan Town as depicted on first edition six-inch OS map (c.1836-1840) annotated by John Cronin & Associates.





**Figure 9:** Map of Monaghan Town as depicted on 25-inch OS map (c.1910) annotated by John Cronin & Associates.





Figure 10: OS map (Current) annotated by Consarc Design Group.

### 2.3 THE REGENERATION SCHEME

The proposed South Dublin Street regeneration scheme area is located to the southeast of the town core, extending from The Diamond to the northwest, south eastwards along Dublin Street, and is defined to the southeast by the Presbyterian Church to the south at Old Cross Square. The regeneration scheme area includes the terraces of dwellings to Dublin Street to the north east, and the long rear gardens to the south. Historically the rear gardens of these properties extended to the Shambles River, however 20th century development has resulted in the gardens being reduced to their present-day configuration. The rear gardens now face onto the existing large public surface car parking area to the south.



Figure 11: The Diamond – National Library of Ireland.



Figure 12: The Diamond – Current. Extract from Google Streetview.





**Figure 13:** First Monaghan Presbyterian Church. Extract from Google Streetview



**Figure 14:** Dublin Street – looking north west. Consarc Design Group



**Figure 15:** Carpark to south east of the site looking towards the rear of the First Monaghan Presbyterian Church. Consarc Design Group.



**Figure 16:** Carpark in front of existing shopping centre looking towards Saint Patrick's Church and the rear of the Court House. Extract from Google Streetview.

## 2.4 URBAN GRAIN

The terraces facing Dublin Street are interspersed with lane ways through archways and gaps between terraces to the courtyards, backlands and gardens to the rear. The existing structures facing Dublin Street comprise two and three storey buildings, generally of two and three bays in width. Typically, there are long rear annexes extending into the depths of the plots. To the south east the backlands are characterised by small courtyards created by two storey outhouses positioned parallel to the principal structure.

Dublin Street connects The Diamond and Old Cross Square, and benefits from its own distinctive characteristics. The building line is well defined, and with a gentle rising topography, and slightly curving building line creates an attractive and intimate effect. The gaps and archways allow glimpses southwards with potential good visual connection to the south west and backland areas.





**Figure 17:** No. 10 Dublin Street – Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy, archway through to backlands, Consarc Design Group.



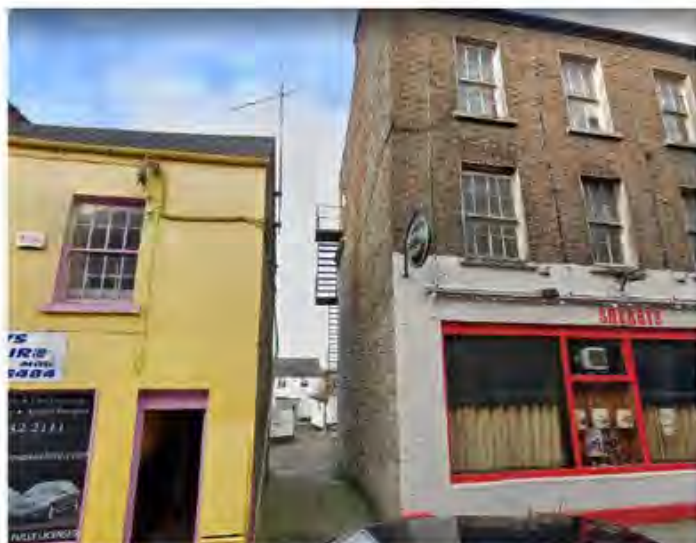
**Figure 18:** Rear of No. 10 Dublin Street, Consarc Design Group.



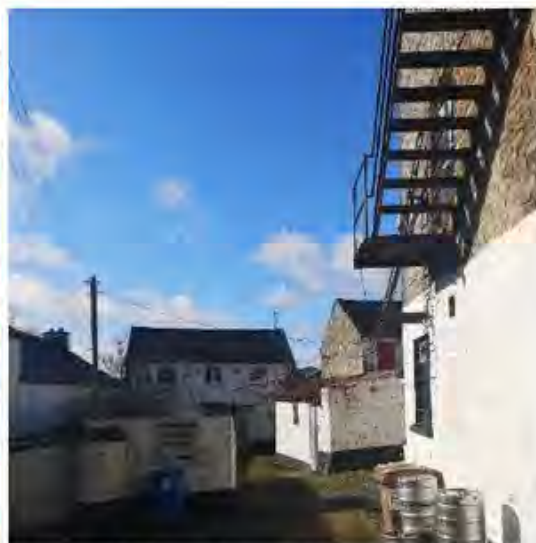
**Figure 19:** No. 14 Dublin Street – archway through to backlands, Consarc Design Group.



**Figure 20:** Rear of No. 14 Dublin Street, Consarc Design Group.



**Figure 21:** Sherrys Dublin Street – gap through to backlands. Extract from Google Streetview.



**Figure 22:** Rear of Sherrys Bar. Consarc Design Group.

## 2.5 ISSUES

Dublin Street has suffered decline more than any other area of the town centre, the volume, speed and one-way flow of traffic, coupled with narrow footpaths has resulted in declining footfall on the street. The concentration of fast food takeaways and late-night venues on the street and a number of vacant and derelict properties have also resulted in anti-social behaviour and loss of residential amenity in the area.

In general, the pedestrian and vehicular access to the backlands are not well supervised, which limits a sense of security. The fall in topography from Dublin Street to the lower car parking area also discourages pedestrian movement between both areas, which further reduces the sense of security. This detracts from the quality of the public realm.

Dublin Street is a narrow street with limited car parking, there is no opportunity to comfortably walk and pause on the street. This environment creates a poor public realm and has also contributed to the deterioration and decline of Dublin Street as a shopping destination, a place to do business, and a place to live.

Vehicular movement along Dublin Street to the north east of the study area, operates on a one – way system leading from the Diamond south east to Old Cross Square. As a consequence of this, Dublin Street has become an exit from the town, reversing its former role as a principle entrance to the town core.

All of these factors combined, result in an inability for the street to attract a vibrant mix of uses.





**Figure 23:** Dublin Street – looking North West towards Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy.  
 Consarc Design Group.

## 2.6 THE VISION

Monaghan county council Vision:

*"Dublin Street together with its backlands offers a unique opportunity to create a new and viable town centre quarter, with the potential to accommodate additional shopping, office, cultural, residential and new employment zone. It offers the opportunity to address the weaknesses of the area and to maximise its strengths; to enhance pedestrian and vehicular movement, to enhance the existing built heritage; to integrate with the historic streetscape in a manner that is both contemporary and forward looking while complimenting the built heritage; to create an integrated and commercially robust, viable proposal, and a vibrant and sustainable new urban quarter in Monaghan."*

The Dublin Street Regeneration Scheme Area benefits from a strong identity, with fine built heritage, and the scheme has the potential to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the built environment to both Dublin Street and the backlands area by creating new streets and new public spaces which integrate seamlessly with the existing historic town centre and introduce a new backland quarter.



## 2.7 URBAN DESIGN PROPOSAL

A hierarchy of spaces and streets are proposed within the South Dublin Street and Backlands plan area, and minor modifications to the street layout of the adjoining area are proposed in order to complete the overall vision for the Regeneration Plan Area and its immediate environs. A number of new streets and spaces are proposed as follows.

- Gavan Duffy Place,
- Church Walk,
- The Mall, and
- Courthouse Square.

The AHIA is concerned with the South Dublin Street Regeneration proposals in relation to the wider context of Monaghan Town, including the creation of Gavan Duffy Place and the protected structures impacted by that. As previously mentioned, this heritage report is in support of application to remove No. 10 Dublin Street from the RPS and supplements the AHIA.

Following in the tradition of Monaghan's historic squares, connected by narrow streets, a new civic square and street is proposed, "Gavan Duffy Place" located midway along Dublin Street. The civic square and street will facilitate an increase in pedestrian footfall and vehicular activity and act as a gateway to the south west new development area.

The edges of the street are to be created by infill development and the gables of existing structures. The space will be defined to the north east by the existing structures on Dublin Street. It is proposed that this space will be dedicated to Charles Gavan Duffy and will be called "Gavan Duffy Place", with the potential to provide an appropriate location to accommodate a piece of artwork in the form of a potential statue or plaque and information stand to commemorate him.

The space will benefit from a southerly orientation, and will increase light onto Dublin Street, as well as improve vehicular and pedestrian connections to the Backlands, and add to the sense of place and cultural identity of the Town.

The new street will be formed by the demolition of existing structures to form a new junction onto Dublin Street that accommodates two-way vehicular traffic and a pedestrian space. One of these is a protected structure, No. 10 Dublin street.



**Figure 24:** South Dublin Street Regeneration Part Plan. Formation of Gavan Duffy Place, by Sheridan Woods.

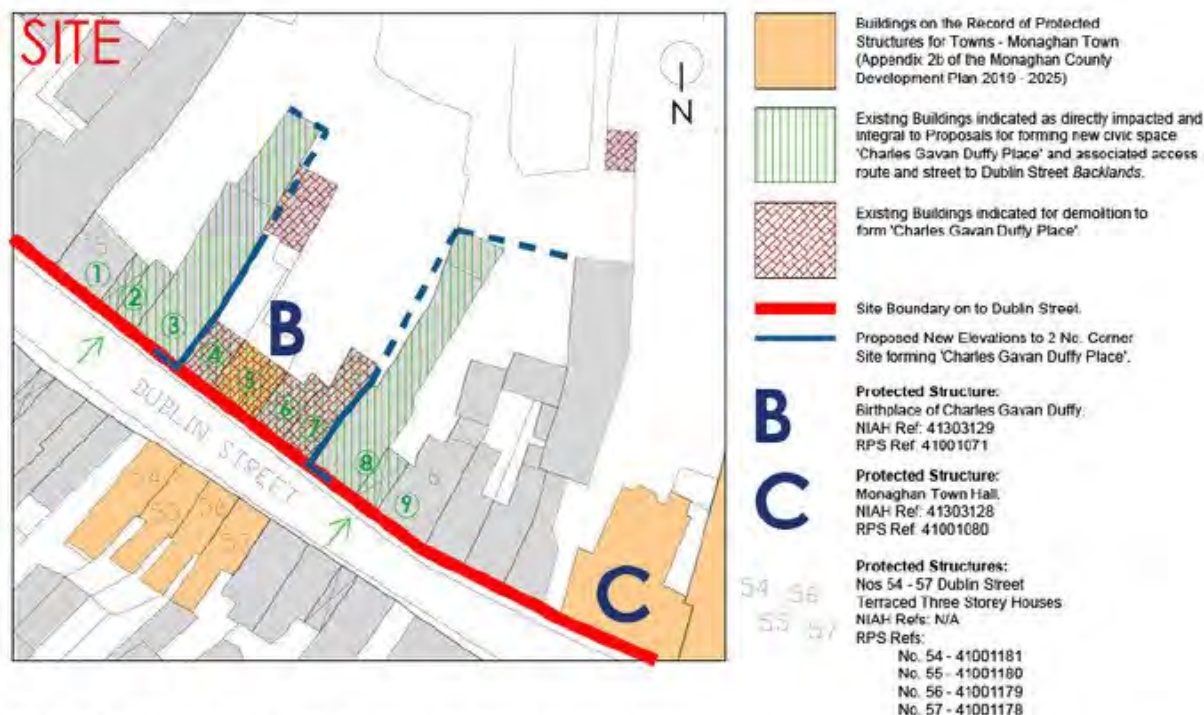


Figure 25: Existing Plan – Site Review. Consarc Design Group.

Proposed removal of 4 No. buildings to Dublin Street, including the protected structure "Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy" indicated with the letter 'B'.

Numbers in green relate to photographs below:



Figure 26: Photomontage. Consarc Design Group.

- 1: 15-16 Dublin Street – Retained.
- 2: 14 Dublin Street – Retained.
- 3: 12-13 Dublin Street – Retained.
- 4: 11 Dublin Street – Proposed Demolition.
- 5: 10 Dublin Street – Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy – Proposed Demolition.
- 6: 9 Dublin Street – Proposed Demolition.
- 7: 8 Dublin Street – Proposed Demolition.
- 8: 7 Dublin Street – Retained.
- 9: 6 Dublin Street – Retained.



EXISTING STREETScape - DUBLIN STREET - PROPOSALS FOR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY PLACE



**Figure 27:** Buildings proposed for demolition outlined in red. New gable locations indicated. Extracts from Google Streetview annotated by Consarc Design Group.



**Protected Structures to South side of Dublin Street (within the Site) - Reference 'B'**  
Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy  
- Proposed to be demolished.

**Protected Structures to North side of Dublin Street**  
No's 54 - 57 Dublin Street - To be retained.

**Figure 28:** Protected Structures Dublin Street.



**Protected Structures**  
No's 54 - 57 Dublin Street - To be retained.

**Protected Structures to South side of Dublin Street (within the Site) - Reference 'C'**  
Monaghan Town Council Offices / Town Hall  
- To be retained.

**Figure 29:** Protected Structures Dublin Street.



## 2.8 BUILDING DESCRIPTION - NO. 10 DUBLIN STREET

In assessing the significance of No.10 Dublin Street, we have reviewed the external and internal elements of the building impacted by the scheme. The building sits directly on Dublin Street with arched access via an alleyway to a rear yard where there are 2 external escape stairs. Beyond the yard wall the backlands are vacant and overgrown with stone boundary walls.



**Figure 30:** Yard area to rear, backlands overgrown.



**Figure 31:** Yard area to rear, gated - photo taken from fire escape stairs.

### EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION



**Figure 32:** Protected Structures Dublin Street – No. 10 Birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy. Extract from Google Streetview.



**Figure 33:** Protected Structures Dublin Street. No. 10 – Shop unit at ground floor level.



**Figure 34:** Protected Structures Dublin Street. No. 10 – Plaque marking the birthplace of C. G. Duffy.



**Figure 35:** Protected Structures Dublin Street No. 10 – Rear elevation.



Overall Description	Terraced three-bay three-storey house-over-shop, built c.1810, with shopfront and integral carriageway to ground floor.
Roof	Pitched slate roof to main front block Half round gutters to eaves. No downpipes visible to front elevation.
Front facade	Smooth Cement rendered ruled-and-lined wall to front elevation with painted finish and block-and-start quoins to upper floors. Part exposed gable wall – finish. Painted window sills. Exposed random rubble stonework to side of carriage arch.
Rear facade	Smooth Cement rendered rear elevation unpainted. With lined arch over carriageway. Rear access at first floor level with painted steel stair.
Rear Extension	None.
Windows Front facade	Square-headed window openings to first and second floors, with modern uPVC top hung windows. Ground floor large shop window. All replacement.
Windows Rear Facade	Modern uPVC top hung windows. All replacement.
Shopfront	Single paned Large timber shop front window with timber fascia and signboard over with timber console brackets. Single timber glazed entrance door to shop. All replacement.

## INTERNAL DESCRIPTION

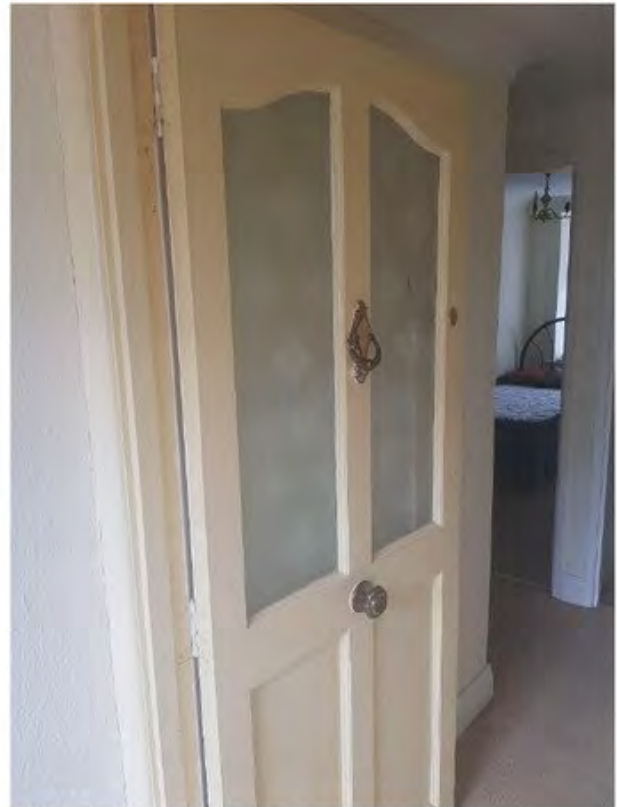
Plan Form	Rectangular plan with 2 storeys over alleyway and rear escape stairs. Shop unit to ground floor and property divided into living accommodation at 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> floors all areas remodelled from original plan form.
Ceilings	Mixture of smooth plastered and painted ceilings along with artex textured plaster and pvc sheeted ceilings to bathrooms and kitchen. Some simple coving in corridors – modern addition.
Walls	Generally a mix of artex textured plaster and smooth plastered walls throughout
Floors	Carpet and vinyl flooring over existing floor boards
Staircases	Modern external fire escape stairs from living accommodation – internal staircase to 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor [ not inspected]
Chimneypieces	No evidence of any remaining chimney pieces or fireplaces
Doors	Modern panelled doors of differing styles internal some with glazed panels / painted or stained.
Windows	Modern upvc windows to all upper floors



**SURVEY PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Figure 36:** Entrance hallway internal door.



**Figure 37:** Entrance hallway internal door.



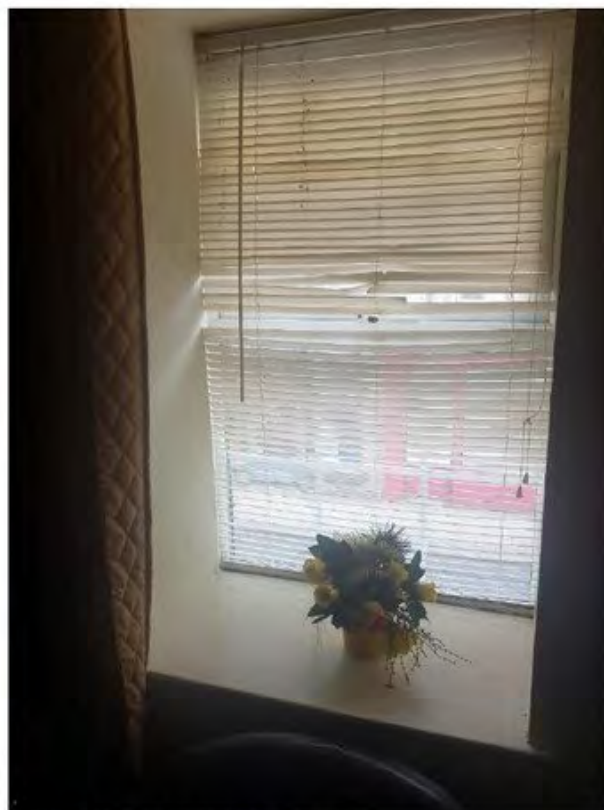
**Figure 38:** Hallway adjacent to entrance to 2nd floor apartment.



**Figure 39:** Door to 3rd Floor apartment (no access).



**Figure 40:** Living area - leading to kitchen.



**Figure 41:** Living room window.



**Figure 42:** Kitchen - off living area.





Figure 43: Bedroom 1.



Figure 44: Bedroom 2.



Figure 45: Bathroom shower and toilet.



Figure 46: Bathroom ceiling.



### 3.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places the concept of significance at the heart of the planning process for the historic environment. Its definition of significance is:

*"The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting."*

For a building to be included on the Record of Protected Structures the local planning authority decides whether a structure identifies characteristics of special interest or significance, under the following headings: *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, technical, and social*. Each structure must be assessed impartially and objectively to see if it meets this test.

English Heritage's Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (2008) also outlines broadly similar heritage values that make up significance: evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Following established conservation practise, the significance of built heritage assets is described using the following terminology:

- **Highly Significant**  
Original features that contribute to the historical and architectural interest of the heritage asset; or non-original features which are of sufficiently high quality to maintain a high degree of architectural or historic interest.
- **Significant**  
Original features which contribute to the historical and architectural interest of the heritage asset, but which are not in themselves (or as a group) of particular importance; or non-original features which contribute to maintaining the overall architectural interest of the asset.
- **Neutral**  
Features of little or no interest, which do not contribute positively to the historic and architectural interest of the asset. This can include original fabric where this is of minimal special interest and is located in an area that has undergone notable change.
- **Detracts**  
Features that obscure or detract from the significance of the heritage asset.

- 3.2 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) RPS list has set out their appraisal of No. 10 Dublin Street as follows:

<b>(NIAH) Ref:</b>	41303129
<b>Rating:</b>	Regional
<b>Categories of Special Interest:</b>	Architectural / Historical / Social
<b>Original Use:</b>	Shop/Retail outlet /Residence
<b>In use as:</b>	- Shop/Vacant
<b>Date:</b>	1800 - 1820

**Description:** Terraced three-bay three-storey house-over-shop, built c.1810, with shopfront and integral carriageway to ground floor.  
Pitched slate roof not visible from street, with smooth-rendered chimneystacks, and replacement rainwater goods.  
Smooth-rendered ruled-and-lined walls with block-and-start quoins to upper floors.  
Plaque to front wall inscribed 'Charles Gavan Duffy was born here 12th April 1816'.  
Square-headed window openings with replacement uPVC windows and painted sills.

Shopfront has timber fascia board with console brackets, timber-framed display window and glazed door.

Carriage-arch has depressed-arch opening and recent metal gate.

**Appraisal:**

This modest building has the typical characteristics of buildings in Irish provincial towns, such as the shopfront and the archway allowing access to a yard to the rear.

The building is notable for being the birthplace of the Irish nationalist and Australian politician Charles Gavan Duffy.



**Figure 47:** The Diamond, Monaghan

### 3.3 ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

No. 10 Dublin Street has been assessed against the criteria for inclusion on the RPS, however it has been altered and changed over the years and whilst it retains its upper floor openings to the front elevation in the original locations all windows have been replaced with modern uPVC alternatives and a modern shop window and fascia.

The original carriageway arch remains.

The building structure is of some limited architectural significance. It retains the overall form, massing and scale to the street frontage. The gable chimney remains albeit without any pots and is a part of the overall street roof scape. However, the loss of original fabric and ill-considered alterations have reduced that significance.



**Figure 48:** View of alleyway, taken from Dublin Street.



**Figure 49:** View of alleyway, from rear yard and stair to first floor accommodation.



The façade has been altered over time with replacement windows, amended shopfront and fascia, whilst the carriage arch remains, much of the architectural significance has been eroded by the subsequent loss of the shopfront and the windows and any original materials.

Internally, the building has been extensively altered and converted into two apartments over the ground floor shop unit with rear access to these units only. Any original interior finishes or joinery items have been removed and a modest modern interior has been created for the living accommodation. There is no evidence of any remaining fireplaces or chimneys or any original doors. We would consider the interior of the building to be of neutral significance.

The building fabric has been substantially altered over time and this has eroded its architectural significance. The building cannot be regarded as having artistic merit due to the loss of most of the historic detail. We would therefore consider the building to have 'neutral' significance and no longer meets the test for special characteristics in terms of its architecture or artistic merit.

### 3.4 HISTORICAL / SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The plaque on the front wall identifies the building as being the birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy. Charles Gavan Duffy was born in Dublin Street, Monaghan, on April 12, 1816. He was a barrister, journalist and politician, and a Young Irelander who founded "The Nation" with Thomas Davis and John Blake Dillon in 1842. He was imprisoned for sedition in 1844, until April 1849, after which he revived the Nation and devoted his attention to land reform and the Tenant Rights League. He was MP for New Ross 1852-5.

Disillusioned with Irish politics following the collapse of the Independent Irish Party, Duffy emigrated to Victoria in 1855 where he practised law and rose to be prime minister in 1871-2 and speaker of the Assembly in 1876-80, receiving a knighthood in 1873.

He subsequently retired to Nice, France to write his extremely influential memoirs and historical accounts of the 1840s and 1850s. He also served as first President of the Irish Literary Society in London, 1892.

This element of the social history has limited regional significance only, and we feel the building does not meet the test for special characteristics in terms of historic and social significance.



Figure 50: Charles Gavan Duffy.



## 4.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 STATUTORY PROVISIONS

There are a number of relevant policies relating to historic structures and Architectural Conservation Areas in the Monaghan county Development Plan 2019-2025.

There is scope within the policy documents for demolition of existing buildings and for demolition within an ACA.

These policies reflect the guidelines in the 'Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities', in particular 3.10: *Criteria for Assessing Proposals within an Architectural Conservation Area*.

Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 has a number of key strategic aims including:

*'To facilitate sustainable development and to build on the strengths of County Monaghan by supporting the provision of employment opportunities and residential developments within quality urban and rural environments that provides a high standard of physical and social infrastructure necessary for their respective communities.'*

The position of Monaghan Town is again reiterated in the current Plan, with a key objective SH01:

*'To facilitate the development of Monaghan to maintain its position as principal town in the County at the top of the settlement hierarchy and to ensure that its expansion takes place in an orderly and sustainable fashion that will not detract from the vitality and viability of its town centre.'*

The Dublin Street Regeneration Plan 2017 (which has been incorporated within the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025): sets out the vision for the Dublin street area in the context of the overall plan:

*'Dublin Street together with its backlands, offers a unique opportunity to create a new and viable town centre quarter, with the potential to accommodate additional shopping, office, cultural, residential and new employment zone. It offers the opportunity to address the weaknesses of the area and to maximise its strengths; to enhance pedestrian and vehicular movement, to enhance the existing built heritage; to integrate with the historic streetscape in a manner that is both contemporary and forward looking while complimenting the built heritage; to create an integrated and commercially robust, vibrant and sustainable new urban quarter in Monaghan.'*

The creation of a new junction onto Dublin Street to facilitate the proposed "Gavan Duffy Place" as outlined earlier in this report, will require acquisition and demolition of structures of a number of existing properties currently fronting onto Dublin Street.

One of these structures (including out buildings and curtilage) is currently included on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) within the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 and hence this report is making an assessment of the heritage impact of this proposal and if it can be removed from the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) list to permit their demolition.



## 4.2 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Protection of architectural heritage is provided for through a range of legal instruments that include the Heritage Act (1995), the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) & National Monuments (Misc. Provisions) Act (1999), and the Planning and Development Act (2000).

The Heritage Act (1995) (as amended) defines architectural heritage as including:

*'all structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including streetscapes and urban vistas, which are of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest, together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures, fittings and contents.'*

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established under the Architectural Heritage Act (1999), to record architectural heritage structures within the State and to advise local authorities in relation to structures of architectural heritage significance within their administrative areas.

The conservation principles of care and protection of architectural heritage and the facilitation of the listing of significant buildings of architectural merit are set out in Part IV of the Planning and Development Act (2000). This requires Local Authorities to maintain a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of structures with special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, to be included in City/County Development Plans.

In addition, Local Authorities must provide for the preservation of townscapes etc. through designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Any changes that materially affect the character of a protected structure require planning permission.

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) lists 712 entries for County Monaghan. No. 10 Dublin Street is recorded as number 41303129 on the RPS list.

The property sits within the local Architectural Conservation Area namely, Dublin Street ACA.

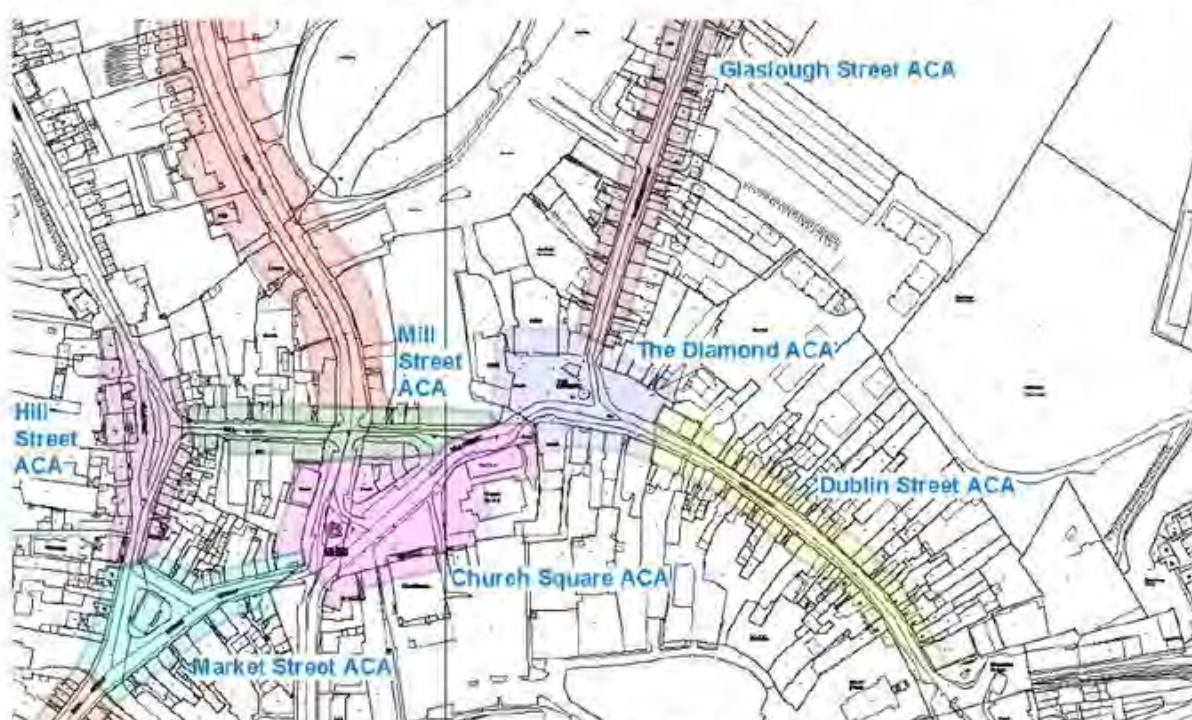


Figure 51: Extract from Monaghan County Council Architectural Conservation Areas - Monaghan Town.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 contains the following policies in relation to Protected Structures:

**BHP 1**

*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.*

**BHP 5**

*Planning permission for the demolition of any protected structure shall not be granted except in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with Section 57(10)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.*

**BHP 6**

*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 Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 131 Protected Structures Policy terms of its design, scale, height massing and use of materials and to resist any development which is likely to impact on the building's special interest and/ or any views of such buildings and their setting.*

**BHP 7**

*To facilitate the retention and sympathetic re-use of protected structures and their settings 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.*

In the case of this project the decision to remove rather than reuse is based on a detailed analysis of the existing structures, and how these could be integrated into the proposed scheme. The analysis led to the conclusion to demolish rather than replace for the following reasons:

- The proposal is part of a wider public benefit to the whole of the town centre.
- The combination of the, erosion of character of the existing building through modern interventions and alterations, coupled with the predicted public benefit of the proposal can be seen to outweigh the loss of the existing building.

### 4.3 THE IMPACT OF DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS RATHER THAN REUSE

The principal tenet that the greater public interest will be served by demolition of the existing building and creation of a new public space can be argued for the following reasons:

- The proposal relates to a wider public realm and opportunity for Monaghan to drive regeneration into the town centre.
- The property as outlined above has limited architectural significance and whilst it forms part of the streetscape of Dublin street, so too the new proposal will create a new and enhanced streetscape.
- The social significance of the building will still be recognised in the creation of the new Gavan Duffy place and the social / historical significance will be more evident and legible to the public than it is currently.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 contains information on a total of eleven Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) within Monaghan Town. The following is stated in relation to Architectural Conservation Areas Policy:

**ACP 1**

*To prepare character appraisals for each of the designated Architectural Conservation Areas in the County to guide new development proposals and environmental*



*improvements by identifying the character of each ACA and designing objectives to ensure that their distinctiveness and special interest are preserved and enhanced.*

#### **ACP 2**

*To resist development that would adversely affect the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area. New development or alterations to existing building(s) in an ACA shall reflect the historic architecture in terms of scale, design and materials used. Regard shall be had to any objectives contained in the character appraisals (where applicable).*

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 contains the following Objectives for the Protection of Natural & Built Heritage SNO 6 Protect and preserve the Protected Monuments and Structures located within the towns.

#### **SNO 7**

*Protect existing Architectural Conservation Areas by ensuring that all developments within them comply with the policies set out in, Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 - 2025 and the DEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines. In these areas repair and refurbishment of existing buildings will be favoured over demolition and new build.*

*Protect and conserve the streetscape character, architectural quality and heritage of the towns.*

#### **4.4 THE IMPACT OF THE DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE ON THE ACA**

The proposed public realm scheme and creation of Gavan Duffy Place is predicted to enhance the special character of the ACA more than the retention of the existing through the quality of the design and the positive introduction of public artwork and social history information to tell the story of Gavan Duffy.

#### **4.5 MITIGATION MEASURES**

- The structures proposed for demolition shall be recorded prior to demolition and a full inventory prepared. (conservation by record) and shall be monitored by a conservation architect during demolition to record evidence of historic fabric that may be uncovered.
- Any original fabric shall be saved and stored for future reuse elsewhere in the town. This may include internal joinery items. Any original brickwork or stonework to the building shall be carefully taken down and stored for possible reuse where required within the ACA area. All information shall be submitted to Monaghan County Council and the Irish Architectural Archive.
- A full archival standard photographic record of the site will be carried out and will be submitted to the Irish Architectural Archive.
- The history of the site and its relationship to Gavan Duffy could be included with the town museum.
- Public realm improvements will be undertaken to Dublin street as part of this regeneration scheme to enhance to whole area.

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The report has outlined the context of this project and the rationale for proposing demolition of this building and the justification for doing so. This in turn means removal of No. 10 Dublin street for the RPS list. We believe this is acceptable for the following reasons:
- 5.2 For inclusion on the RPS list a building must be identified as having characteristics of special interest or significance, under the following headings: *architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, technical, and social*. We have assessed No.10 Dublin Street against these characteristics and believe it no longer meets the test for inclusion on the RPS.
- 5.3 The proposal to demolish the historic structure of Dublin street within the ACA of Dublin street is based on a thorough investigation of the site and the existing buildings within it.
- 5.4 The significance of the buildings and the ACA is understood. The building has a limited architectural significance, but the overall significance has been compromised by the erosion of architectural detail and insensitive development and alterations over the course of its recent history, both externally and internally.
- 5.5 The social history of the building being the birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy is of limited regional significance and not widely appreciated. This proposal gives the opportunity to create greater understanding of that aspect of the town's history.
- 5.6 The erosion of character does not provide sufficient grounds for demolition, only where the replacement is of more benefit than their retention. The replacement proposal of creating Gavan Duffy place and new access to the Backlands areas of the South Dublin Street will in this case be of more benefit than the retention of the existing buildings.
- 5.7 The aim of the new public space is to celebrate the birthplace and life of Gavan Duffy, while also helping the regeneration of Monaghan town by increasing footfall on Dublin Street and connections to newly regenerated Backlands areas to the south.

## Establishment of Partnership Agreements with Louth and Cavan County Councils for the delivery of a LEADER Co-Operation Project

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.

This is the second phase in the initiative. Phase one involved technical assistance and resulted in the attached report 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.

To meet this requirement a **Memorandum of Understanding** document has been drawn up for each of the above project elements (see attached). It sets out the spirit of collaboration and good faith proposals of the parties to proceed with the initiatives and it not legally binding.





# PREPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS AT KEY HERITAGE SITES IN COUNTIES CAVAN, LOUTH AND MONAGHAN

PRODUCED FOR CAVAN, LOUTH & MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCILS

MARCH 2020

TARA CLARKE & NEIL JACKMAN

ABARTA HERITAGE





**Ullmhúchán de phleananna forbartha le haghaidh príomh-láithreacha turasóireachta-oidhreachta i gcontaetha an Cabhán, Lú agus Muineachán**

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leis na heagraíochtaí seo a leanas, as ucht cuid den airgead a chur ar fáil le haghaidh na scéime seo;  
 Coiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Chontae an Chabháin, Comhairle Chontae an Chabháin, Breifne Aontaithe CLG, Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Lú, Comhairle Contae an Lú, Comhpháirtíocht LEADER Lú, Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Mhuineacháin, Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Forbairt Chomhtháite Mhuineacháin Theoranta, an t-Aire agus an Roinn Tuaithe, agus forbairt Pobail, EU agus an EAFRD.

*Maoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann faoin gClár LEADER 2014-2020.*

**Preparation of development plans for key heritage tourism sites in counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan**

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following in part funding this project:

County Cavan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Cavan County Council, Breffni Integrated CLG, Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Louth County Council, Louth Leader Partnership, County Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Monaghan County Council, Monaghan Integrated Development CLG, Department of Rural and Community Development, the EU and EAFRD.

**FUNDED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020.**



Funded through Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and governed by the Department of Rural and Community Development in line with the EU Programme Operating Rules.





# Summary

*The key aims of this project are to:*

- Undertake a review of 9 potential tourism/heritage sites (identified by the councils – 3 per council area) which have the potential to attract international visitors. The review will focus on access, existing infrastructure, interpretation etc
- Identify the 6 sites (2 per council area) with the most potential
- Provide a rationale for these developments
- Highlight where permissive agreements with landowners are required
- Outline upgrading works in terms of interpretation, access improvements etc to bring these key sites up to the required standard
- Provide preliminary QS costings for such recommended works at these sites (2 per council - 6 sites in total)
- Provide 250 words on Historical Background for each of the identified sites that can be used in future signage/promotions
- Recommend Interpretation Solutions that take the international visitor into consideration (e.g. Language provision etc)
- Consider linkages with other experiences in the area (activities, living culture, food/drink, music etc) which can be layered in to develop a cluster for the visitor

The border counties of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan boast some of the richest cultural heritage in Ireland, ranging from prehistoric tombs, ancient monasteries, some of the most spectacular medieval castles in Ireland and elegant historic houses. This project will establish a solid foundation for the development of sustainable heritage tourism in Counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan. This phase of the project focuses on the development of plans at agreed sites, based on an assessment and review of nine potential sites identified by the county councils. This detailed review will assess the sites according to their potential and suitability for heritage tourism, based on accessibility, health and safety, their suitability to the overarching tourism brands such as Ireland's Ancient East and their interpretation and infrastructural requirements.

The review will result in a detailed and practical report that identifies the six sites with the highest potential and discusses their reason for selection, it will identify any infrastructural requirements such as improved parking, waymarking or interpretation, and it will identify any potential issue with regards to the conservation of the monument and the potential impact from increased tourism on the fabric of the built heritage and the natural environment of these remarkable places.

This project is a wonderful opportunity to create a foundation for sustainable heritage tourism that will help people to discover, explore and experience the story of some of the many evocative heritage sites across Cavan, Louth and Monaghan.



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Context and Aims of the Project

This project will establish a solid foundation for the development of sustainable heritage tourism in Counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan. This phase of the project focuses on the development of plans at agreed sites, based on an assessment and review of nine potential sites identified by each of the three Local Authorities. This detailed review will assess the sites according to their potential and suitability for heritage tourism, based on accessibility, health and safety, their suitability to fit with the overarching tourism brands such as Ireland's Ancient East and their interpretation and infrastructural requirements.

### 1.2 This Report

The review will result in a detailed and practical report that identifies the 6 sites with the highest potential and discusses their reason for selection, it will identify any infrastructural requirements such as improved parking, waymarking or interpretation, and it will identify any potential issue with regards to the conservation of the monument and the potential impact from increased tourism on the fabric of the built heritage and the natural environment of the site. The report will also detail the ownership of the sites, and where any permissive agreements may be required with landowners. Where infrastructural or interpretation facilities are required, the report will provide preliminary costings for the six sites. This will include an analysis of the interpretation requirements, assessing the needs of foreign language visitors. It will also have a preliminary assessment of how to make the site more accessible for visually or physically impaired visitors.

### 1.3 About Abarta Heritage

Abarta Heritage were commissioned by Monaghan, Cavan and Louth County Councils to produce this report on the development of heritage tourism at selected sites in the study area. Abarta Heritage are an award-winning heritage company based in Tipperary, and are passionate about helping to tell Ireland's story to visitors. Since Abarta Heritage was founded in 2012, we have helped many national institutions, county councils, community development organisations and the private sector to identify, assess, interpret, conserve and promote their heritage. We focus on digging deep to research and discover the truly meaningful stories, and we love empowering communities to take an active role in the promotion and management of their local tourism assets. We specialise in creating positive and robust frameworks for collaboration between communities, stakeholders, local government and national bodies.



Map 1: Location map of counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan.



# 2.0 BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The ‘border counties’ of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan have many historic attractions and beautiful landscapes. They have significant potential as rural tourism destinations, but the counties have not fully capitalised upon this yet. In examining how to develop and promote the six chosen sites, it is worth considering the broader tourism context in Ireland and at regional level.

## 2.1 Tourism in Ireland and the Borderlands

In general, tourism in Ireland has shown signs of strong recovery since the economic recession beginning in 2008. Overseas visitor numbers increased year on year since 2013 from 6.8 million to 11.2 million in 2018. Revenue from overseas visitors grew from €3.6 billion to €6.1 billion over the same period. Domestic tourism performance i.e. Irish people holidaying within Ireland, has also grown, from 8.4 million domestic trips in 2013 to 10.9 million in 2018 spending €2 billion.

From a regional perspective, border counties such as Cavan, Louth and Monaghan experienced a decline in overseas visitor numbers. 752,000 overseas tourists visited the border counties (Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim and Sligo) in 2018, spending €153 million in the region. Whereas 815,000 visited in 2016 spending €286 million. In 2018 there were 1 million domestic trips to the border counties generating €180 million in revenue. 644,000 Northern Ireland resident trips across the border generated €153 million for the region.

In 2017 County Cavan had 107,000 overseas visitors which generated €48 million for the county, with a further 206,000 domestic visitors who spent €32 million. In 2017 County Louth received 172,000 visitors and €44 million in revenue, in the same year County Monaghan received 60,000 overseas visitors generating €25 million. Monaghan and Louth welcomed a combined 179,000 domestic visitors who generated €30 million in revenue for the two counties (source Fáilte Ireland). This is a relatively low base from which to grow domestic tourism to the region.

Approximately two-thirds of spending by overseas tourists in 2018 was on accommodation, food and drink. This illustrates the potential benefit to an area that adequately caters for visitor’s needs for overnight and longer stays.

Fáilte Ireland research indicates that the internet is now the predominant source of information for choosing and planning a holiday in Ireland: 53% of overseas visitors use the Internet to choose Ireland as their destination, while 80% use it to plan their holiday. After visitors have decided to come to Ireland, 83% of overseas visitors travel independently to get here and to move around the country.

A key factor in the recovery of tourism has been the concerted efforts of Fáilte Ireland to promote Ireland to overseas visitors. A number of major branding and marketing initiatives have been undertaken.

**The Wild Atlantic Way** along the western seaboard was launched in 2014 and has been a very successful endeavour. **Dublin** is the focus of another specific Fáilte Ireland brand identity. **Ireland’s Ancient East** was launched in 2016 and covers seventeen counties in the southern and eastern part of the country, including counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan. In 2018 a new tourism brand was developed, **Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands** which largely follows the route of the River Shannon and encompasses a large swathe of the Midlands. The geographical area runs from the east of County Clare up to County Leitrim, along with Roscommon and parts of North Tipperary, East Clare, Longford, Cavan, Westmeath and Offaly.

Ireland’s Ancient East is the brand identity that is most significant for this Cavan, Louth and Monaghan project, as the sites are all located within the region. The cultural heritage focus of Ireland’s Ancient East is also harmonious with the focus of this project – as they are all sites of archaeological or historical importance.

Ireland's Ancient East has been developed by Fáilte Ireland as a branded visitor experience encompassing the rich heritage and cultural assets that Ireland has to offer in the midlands/eastern half of the country. Fáilte Ireland's goal is to make Ireland's Ancient East the most personally engaging cultural destination in Europe by harnessing our living culture, lush landscapes and hidden history, and to make it accessible. The Ireland's Ancient East visitor experience is based on Ireland's rich built, natural and cultural legacy, made accessible and delivered through storytelling and interpretation at key historical sites throughout the region. A series of themes or 'Signature Stories' have been created, these are:

- Ancient Ireland
- Sacred Ireland
- High Kings and Heroes
- Vikings
- Castles and Conquests
- Ireland's Mystical Waterway
- Tales of Two Worlds
- Maritime Gateway
- The Sport of Kings

Ireland's Ancient East focuses on storytelling and good quality heritage interpretation to help to inspire visitors to explore the region. Fáilte Ireland wish to create Ireland's Ancient East to be a "destination of stories" that harnesses the stunning scenery and the depth of heritage along with the Irish people's reputation for storytelling, to create a distinctive brand. Fáilte Ireland have enacted a number of Capital Grants Schemes for Ireland's Ancient East, that have provided funding for interpretation and storytelling.

*"Our vision is to make Ireland's Ancient East the most enjoyable, engaging and accessible culture experience in Europe."*

Jenny de Saulles, Fáilte Ireland.

This focus on heritage tourism and storytelling certainly offers great potential for the sites examined in this report. All of the sites are not only attractive and atmospheric places to visit, but they all have a compelling story that fits within the key 'pillars' or themes of Ireland's Ancient East. For more on this please see Section 5.4.

## COVID-19 – Potential Impact of Coronavirus Upon Tourism in Ireland

During the course of this report, a global pandemic of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has had serious implications for the health of people in Ireland and overseas. As it is a highly contagious virus, the government of Ireland has instigated a policy of social distancing. As well as posing a clear threat to public health, the pandemic has also had a particularly negative effect upon the economy. Tourism has been particularly badly hit, with all visitor attractions (both state and privately run) closed for an undetermined period. Tour companies, accommodation providers, restaurants and festivals or events are facing incredible difficulties at the time of writing, with an uncertain future. Fáilte Ireland have offered supports during this crisis to tourism businesses.

Though it is difficult to offer much insight of any substance during this unprecedented period of disruption, it is clear that international travel is going to be severely impacted for the short term, and with likely longer term negative effects. However, there may be an increased interest in domestic tourism as people become more reluctant to travel overseas. There is much to offer the domestic visitor in this region, considering the extensive parks like Rossmore and Dún na Rí, along with a good variety of potential activities like recreational hiking in the Slieve Gullion region. A focus on domestic tourism is also a good strategy as if you get the tourism offering right for the domestic market, you will get it right for foreign visitors, as arguably the domestic market generally has a more thorough prior knowledge and higher expectations for tourism offerings and value for money.



## 2.2 Market Segmentation

Fáilte Ireland have identified two core market segments for tourism in Ireland. These segments have been characterised by their motivations for tourism rather than strictly by traditional demographics such as their age or nationality. This motivational approach to segmentation can be applied equally to domestic tourism as to overseas visitors. The two core groups are identified as the *Culturally Curious* and *Great Escapers* (both addressed in more detail below). There is some overlap of wants and needs between these groups, and the counties of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan are almost perfectly suited to satisfy both of these core groups.

### 2.2.1 The Culturally Curious Market

*Independent thinkers with a craving for culture and history*

According to Fáilte Ireland, Culturally Curious visitors are independent travellers who are generally in a mature age bracket (typically 40+) with a particular interest in history and heritage and who went to get off the beaten track and discover new and interesting places. They choose their destinations carefully and are active sightseers, who are looking to expand their experience and appreciation of culture by exploring landscapes, and encountering traditional crafts and events. They conduct thorough research in advance of their trip (often online), and they demand an authentic experience. They dislike being told what to do, they dislike being hurried and they have a broad and inclusive view of culture that can include historical attractions, natural heritage, music, food, crafts or events.

Culturally Curious visitors are most likely to stay in a hotel, self-catering accommodation or a B&B as long as there's a lot to see. They are three times more likely to take long breaks than average, but they also take more short breaks than average, both at home and overseas. They are happy to pay for something that is out of the ordinary. Superior service – “people who recognise me by name” A human guide that offers real insight into the history of a place. They value environmentally friendly practices.

(Source Fáilte Ireland).

### QUICK REFERENCE TABLE: TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE CULTURALLY CURIOUS

Curious learners who want to visit new places and explore landscapes, history and culture

Explorers rather than tourists - they want to discover hidden stories

They base themselves in a location, used serviced accommodation, hire a car and explore the area

They want an interactive, local and personalised experience - something out of the ordinary

They want to relax and explore the natural environment and experience the 'real' Ireland

Socially responsible and environmentally conscious

Quality conscious in terms of products and services, and willing to pay extra for quality

Health conscious and will go out of their way to eat healthy and stay active

They like to be recognised for having made a good holiday choice

They like to share their experiences with others by word of mouth



### 2.2.2 The Great Escapers Market

*Adventurous and committed to spending quality time in a breathtaking place*

According to Fáilte Ireland, the Great Escapers are often couples, in their late 20–30s, some with young children. They are seeking time away from their busy lives and careers. They are specifically interested in rural holidays, and travel as a family or in a small group with close friends. They want a break, to get physical with nature, and to reconnect to their partner or friends. They often seek to take part in strenuous (though not necessarily extreme) activities. They want to connect to the landscape and soak in the history and heritage of a place. They want a mindful experience where they can understand a sense of the history and reflect on their place in the vastness of space and time. They want to come home refreshed and revitalised with their batteries recharged.

They love to escape to breath-taking landscapes. They love actively exploring more remote and exciting places, on foot or by bicycle. They enjoy visiting heritage landmarks. They particularly enjoy fun and authentic experiences like traditional music sessions in a local pub, or a relaxed meal of fresh local produce. However, they don't particularly want to interact with other people. They would much prefer to be provided with the means and information to explore by themselves rather than take a guided tour. So good interpretation at the sites and things like audio guides and brochures are essential for them. They love things that take the hassle away, and that lets them focus on relaxing and immersing themselves in the landscape and culture. The Great Escapers could be a largely domestic market as much as an overseas one.

(Source Fáilte Ireland).

#### QUICK REFERENCE TABLE:

#### TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GREAT ESCAPERS

Their primary motivation is to spend quality time away with friends and family in a place that offers the chance to get away from the daily grind

Nature and rural settings are highly desirable.

They want to have the opportunity to enjoy experiences, walking, kayaking, exploration, hands on with craft or creative arts.

They want to connect to the landscape, to feel the earth beneath their feet and to absorb the stories and history of a place.

They are seeking mindfulness and a place apart. They want to go home refreshed and revitalised.

They don't particularly want to make connections with other people, be they locals or others on holiday, they are there to spend quality time with their own family and friends. Guided tours are not as appealing, they would appreciate being facilitated to make their own independent way – so better on-site interpretation, audio guides and brochures so they can pick and choose their own priorities.

Great Escapers could particularly encompass the domestic market

Health conscious and will go out of their way to eat healthy and stay active

They may seek relatively strenuous activities

They appreciate things that take the hassle away



## 2.3 Existing Regional Attractions

There are already a number of top tourist destinations in counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan. They include the county museums in Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, Dundalk, Co. Louth and Monaghan Town, each of which provide excellent engaging history on their respective counties and the country of Ireland.

There are a number of archaeological and heritage attractions close to the nine chosen sites, which provide the opportunity to create heritage trails or itineraries, thus providing more incentive for visitors to stay locally in the area. These include Proleek Dolmen in Co. Louth, Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone in Co. Armagh, Iniskeen Round Tower and the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, the Clones Lace Museum, Castle Leslie and Errigal Truagh in Monaghan.

There are also regional attractions in these counties to explore the great outdoors. These natural heritage sites include the Cooley Mountains, the Ring of Gullion, the Cavan Burren, the Monaghan Way and the Ulster Canal Greenway. Tourists can also visit the picturesque towns of Carlingford, Clones and Cootehill where they can purchase great food & drink, as well as handcrafted local products.

The sites are located in a band stretching along the border, within easy driving distance of the major tourist sites of Dublin, Belfast and the Boyne Valley at the northernmost aspect of Ireland's Ancient East. In addition, the nearby towns of Virginia, Clones, Carrickmacross, Cootehill, Dundalk and Monaghan can act as service centres, with a number of options for accommodation and food.

The nine sites chosen for this project are centrally located within Ireland's Ancient East and are also part of the border region. They are ideally placed to capitalise upon current market trends and marketing initiatives in tourism. What is required to achieve this is a structured plan of action that provides a road map for future development. This report aims to provide such a road map and will ensure that Cavan, Louth and Monaghan can showcase their wonderful heritage and stories to visitors from near and far.



*An avenue of Yew trees at Rossmore Forest Park*



# 3.0 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

At the outset of the project the Local Authorities of Louth, Cavan and Monaghan identified nine sites (three sites per county) for this project. Abarta Heritage carried out an audit and assessment to identify six key heritage sites within the original nine that had the best potential for tourism (with two sites chosen per county). This task was carried out using a systematic methodology that has successfully been employed on similar projects in the past.

## 3.1 The Sites

The nine potential sites put forward for evaluation were as follows:

### County Cavan:

- Cohaw Court Tomb
- Deerpark Forest Park
- Dún na Rí Forest Park and Walled Garden.

### County Louth:

- Castleroche,
- Castletown Motte
- The ruins of a Church on the Hill of Faughart.

### County Monaghan:

- Rossmore Forest Park
- The Black Pig's Dyke
- Drumirril Rock Art.

## 3.2 Desk-based Research

All nine sites put forward by the Local Authorities were researched and identified using the following sources; The Heritage Council's Map Viewer ([www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)), the National Monuments Service's Archaeological Survey of Ireland ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)) the Record of Protected Structures, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Ordnance Survey Maps ([www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)), and aerial imagery (Bing Maps, Google Maps).

An initial audit of the tourism infrastructure in the nine areas was conducted via online searches, including the following websites: Irelands Ancient East ([www.irelandsancienteast.com](http://www.irelandsancienteast.com)), Visit Louth ([www.visitlouth.ie](http://www.visitlouth.ie)), Dundalk Town ([www.dundalktown.ie](http://www.dundalktown.ie)), Monaghan Tourism ([www.monaghantourism.com](http://www.monaghantourism.com)), Cavan Tourism ([www.thisiscavan.ie](http://www.thisiscavan.ie)), Discover Ireland ([www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)), Coillte ([www.coillte.ie](http://www.coillte.ie)), Air B&B, and [irishtrails.ie](http://irishtrails.ie).

Information and stories about the sites were researched using a variety of sources, including academic publications, and sources such as the National Folklore Collection, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

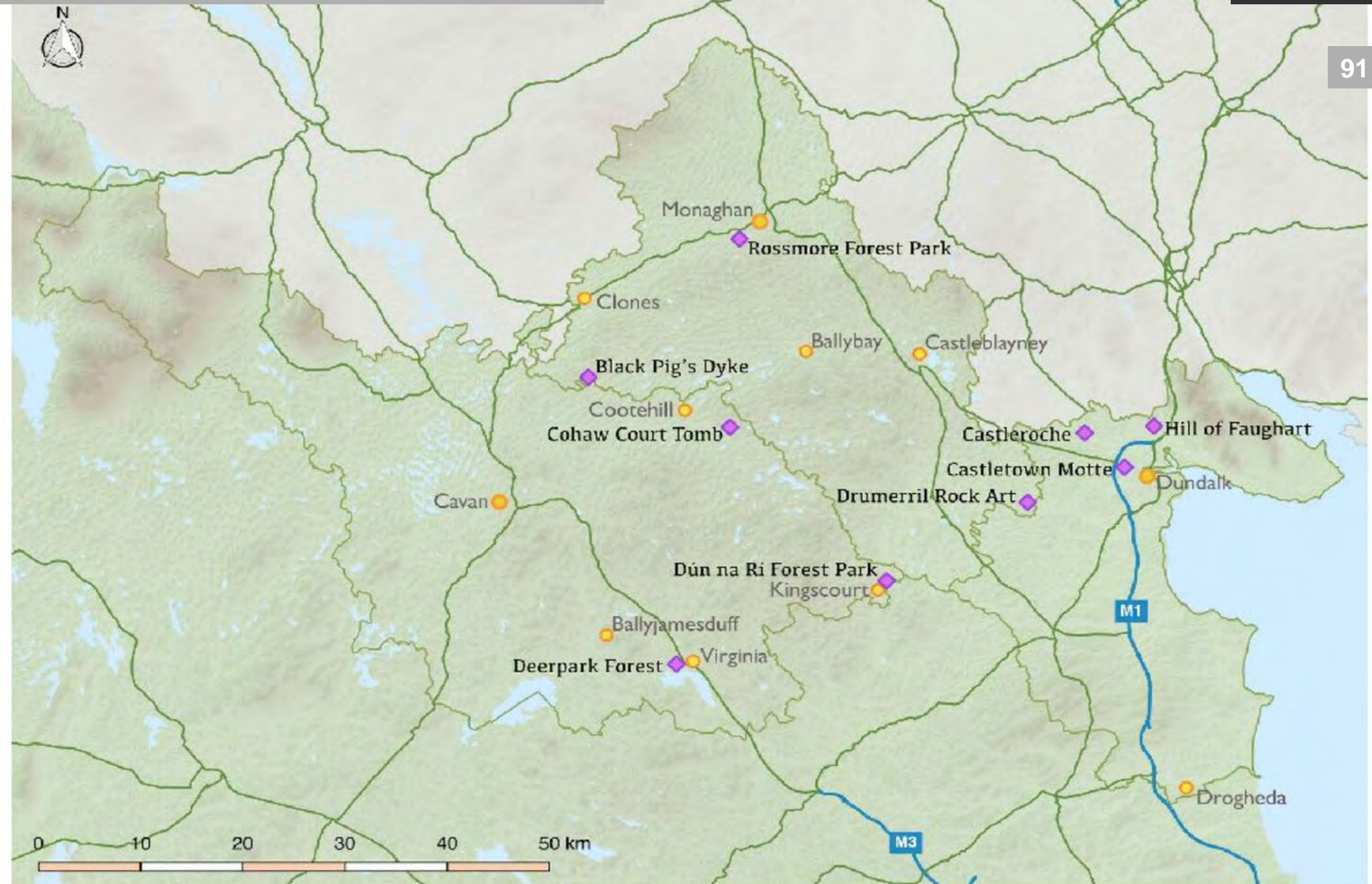
## 3.3 Site Visits

Through a series of site visits, each of the sites were assessed for suitability for their potential to become recreational and tourism resources. The exact locations of the sites were logged using GPS, and photographed in high-resolution using DSLR cameras and [where appropriate] aerial photography from a drone. For detailed information on the selection criteria please see section 4.0.

## 3.4 Mapping

Maps were produced using open source data and QGIS software along with co-ordinate data gathered during site visits to show the location of the original nine sites, the six selected sites and of nearby accommodation and attractions.





Map 2: Location map to show the nine sites put forward for evaluation by the county councils of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan.



# 4.0 EVALUATION OF HERITAGE SITES

## 4.1 The Process of Evaluation

Of the nine archaeological, historical and architectural sites identified, three were located in County Cavan, three in County Louth and three in County Monaghan. Each of these sites were evaluated to assess tourism potential and suitability.

The sites were assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Consent** – Is there consent from the landowner (such as County Council, Coillte, relevant church authority, Office of Public Works, private landowner) for public access to the point of interest?
- **Safety and Access** – is there safe access or parking for vehicular transport? Is the access through agricultural lands? Are there issues with livestock? Are there existing signposts or waymarkers? Is the site structurally safe? Will the point of interest itself be put at risk through increased footfall by inclusion on tourism trails?
- **Accommodation and Amenities** – Is there local accommodation located nearby? Are there any facilities, shops or restaurants in the vicinity? Is there the potential for cross-promotional support?
- **Environmental Impact** – will the inclusion of the site as a point of interest negatively impact upon flora or fauna habitats? What can be done to mitigate the impact? Will the increased footfall cause erosive damage to the point of interest?
- **Visual Aspect** – Is the point of interest (or journey to it) likely to excite and enthuse visitors?
- **Story** – Does the particular point of interest have an engaging story? How well does it fit within the Ireland's Ancient East 'brand'?

## 4.2 Audit of Selected Sites

This following section presents historical backgrounds on the nine sites that were proposed, a site visit report and an assessment of their potential as a tourist destination. This research and assessment informed the selection of the six sites to be developed further.



*Through the gateway of Castlerocke, County Louth*





*Aerial view of Cohaw Court Tomb*

### 4.2.1 Cohaw Court Tomb, County Cavan

#### Historical Background

The megalithic tomb at Cohaw dates to the earlier part of the Neolithic period (c.4000–3200 BC) and it is classified as a court tomb. This particular style of megalithic monument is predominantly found in the northern half of Ireland and south-west of Scotland. Court tombs are made up of a gallery (long stone structure enclosed by a cairn) and a courtyard (an open semi-circular area at the entrance to the tomb).

What makes the tomb at Cohaw special, is that it is one of the few examples of a well preserved dual court tomb. The dual part refers to the fact that two court tombs have been constructed on a N-S axis, connected back to back and covered by a single cairn. The court of the north tomb is roughly U-shaped, while the court of the south tomb was described as two-thirds of a circle. There were two chambers in each gallery divided by stone jams and sills. The outer chamber was larger than the inner one in both cases.

Cohaw Court Tomb was damaged in the early-20th century when it was used as a source of stone for the nearby road as well as the new church in Cootehill. It was then excavated by Howard Kilbride-Jones in 1949. The excavation revealed paving, traces of fire, Neolithic pottery and human remains such as teeth and bones (both cremated and unburned).

#### Site Visit Report and Assessment:

Cohaw Court Tomb is a National Monument (CV018-005) in state guardianship, located on private land. It is located 5km outside of Cootehill, in the scenic Annalee valley. The road to the tomb is winding and beautiful, but extremely busy. A single brown road sign indicates the sites location, but there is no directional signage from Cootehill.



At present there is no safe parking, instead we pulled off the road as far as possible alongside a gate on the opposite side of the road to the tomb. Due to the extremely busy nature of the R192 road, some form of lay-by is required for safe parking. Clear warning and pedestrian signs approaching the site would be of huge benefit as it is extremely dangerous for pedestrians to cross the road to access the site.

Entrance to the field is by wooden stile, which has become loose and needs replacing. The field in which the tomb is located is privately owned and churned up by livestock. There were no animals in the field when visited, but this may become a barrier to access in the future if bulls or cattle are kept in the field.

The court tomb is adequately fenced off from animals hence its good condition. A small amount of vegetation near the stones makes it difficult to spot every stone/trip hazard under foot, but it is not a significant issue. At present there is no information or interpretation at the site to inform visitors of its significance. The site is not accessible for anyone with mobility issues.

### Appraisal

With better road signage, a safe parking space and installation of a 'kissing gate' this unusual and well-preserved court tomb at Cohaw could become a great cultural attraction for the Cootehill area. The site is visually appealing and the story is engaging for all who visit.

The site has consent from the landowner for the public to access the site and there should be little environmental impact with increased footfall to the area. Cohaw has the added advantage of being one of several megalithic monuments in the area, offering the potential to create an engaging prehistoric heritage trail.



*Stile to enter Cohaw Court Tomb, note road sign.*



*Fencing around the court tomb.*



*A view of Cohaw Court Tomb*





## DEERPARK FOREST PARK COUNTY CAVAN

*Bridge in Deerpark Forest Park*

### 4.2.2 Deerpark Forest Park, County Cavan

#### Historical Background

Deerpark Forest Park is located beside the town of Virginia, on the banks of Lough Ramor. This area has extensive evidence of human settlement from the Iron Age – Early Medieval period. The remains of three crannógs on the shore of Deerpark: (Recorded Monument: CV039-035), (Recorded Monument: CV039-036) and (Recorded Monument: CV039-034) attest to this. Crannógs are man-made islands which were used as a form of high status settlement that range in date from the Iron Age with some examples used as late as the 17th century.

Further evidence of the park's long history is the existence of natural spring that has been adapted as a holy well. Folklore attests that St. Patrick used the waters of the well to bless the pagans after he destroyed Crom Cruach's idols, at Maght Slecht in the 5th century. A well, named Toberpatrick, was later built by the spring and annual patterns were held here on the feast of St. Patrick.

Deerpark Forest as we see it now was designed for the Lords of Headfort as a Deerpark. The hunting lodge now located outside the park, was built between 1790–1810 for the first Earl of Bective, Lord Headfort. The second Earl Headfort was more interested in developing the parkland's flora, rather than hunting deer. He imported shrubs and trees from China, Japan and beyond and adding ornamental bridges and a boat house.

Nowadays Deerpark is no longer a private residence, but is owned by Coillte and opened to the public. The original hunting lodge and stables are separate from the parkland. The hunting lodge is now a restaurant currently owned by the chef Richard Corrigan and the old stables have been turned into a hotel.



### Site Visit Report and Assessment

Deerpark Forest Park is located on the western outskirts of Virginia town and on the shore of Lough Ramor. The Forest is signposted from the main road and shares a carpark with Virginia Rugby Football Club.

There are two large mapboards at the entrance to the park (Coillte and Slí na Sláinte) offering different forms of information. However, information about routes, distance and time are not very clear once inside the park. There are small interpretative information markers at key sites, but some show signs of vandalism. Key sites that are viewable when walking around include St. Patrick's Well, the boathouse, bridges, the icehouse and the Lady's cottage. All of which would benefit from a conservation management plan.

Though the park is enjoyed by the public (walkers and joggers) and has beautiful nature to see and hear, there are occasional signs of dumping and vandalism. Deerpark would benefit from improved interpretation at all key points, increased signage from Virginia town, a vegetation management plan, a conservation management plan for all stone features and the addition of bins (if feasible) to counteract some of the littering. (For details please see the Recommendations section below).

### Appraisal

Deerpark Forest Park has excellent potential for heritage tourism, as it already has easy-access and consent for public use. The location of the park, beside the town of Virginia provides visitors with a number of amenities. The park is visually appealing, with a wonderful array of natural heritage and a great history and folklore connected it to St. Patrick and the Headfort family. Increased visitor numbers should have little environmental impact as paths have already been put in place. Coillte should be engaged with at the earliest opportunity to form a collaborative approach on developing the visitor experience at Deerpark.



*Existing interpretation in Deerpark Forest Park*



*St. Patrick's Well*



*The boathouse at Deerpark Forest Park*





# DÚN NA RÍ WALLED GARDEN & FOREST PARK

## COUNTY CAVAN

*Bridge in Dún na Rí Forest Park*

### 4.2.3 Dún na Rí Walled Garden & Forest Park, County Cavan

#### Historical Background

Dún na Rí Forest Park is located in the south-east of County Cavan close to where the county boundary lies with the neighbouring counties of Meath, Louth and Monaghan. The forest park itself is managed by Coillte, and covers an area of 229 hectares. 146 hectares of this land is managed as a commercial forest. The remainder of the forest is predominantly broadleaved woodland accessed by the public for recreational uses. There are a number of different walking paths in Dún a Rí, with are four walks of approximately 1.5 – 2km in length.

The name Dún na Rí (Fort of the Kings) is certainly evocative, suggesting the presence of a large early medieval ringfort or enclosure. Though no such fort has yet been identified within the boundaries of the forest park, a number of ringforts are located in close proximity outside the park and the name may conceivably apply to one of those.

The ruins of a 17–18th century fortified house known as Fleming’s Castle are one of the key historical features of the park. The house was thought to have been originally built by Captain Gerald Fleming in 1607, and a castle is depicted on the Down Survey Map, (1656-8). Other features in the park relate to its use as part of the Pratt family’s estate. Key points of interest include the Walled Garden, Sarah’s Well, Cabra Cottage, Cromwell’s Bridge and the Wishing Well (Tobar na Splinne). In recent years an engaging sculptural trail has been added to the park.

The principle focus of this audit centred on the Walled Garden, though the report also includes a broad overview of the forest park. Unfortunately there is little historical information available on the walled gardens at Dún na Rí. They appear to have been used to provide food to the Pratt family of Cabra Castle / Cabra Cottage. There is very little information on who built them and when. Though we do know that there were two gardeners named Bob Templeton and Jim Tinnelly who were employed in growing fruit and vegetables.



Written evidence attests to the fact that there was a well in the walled garden that provided fresh water and a hothouse where pears, peaches, blackcurrants and tomatoes were grown inside the walled garden. Any excess of fruit and vegetables from the garden was not wasted, but was sold to the people of Kingscourt.

Since the 1950s the garden has been gradually falling into disrepair, though from the inspection it appears that there had been efforts to repoint some of the wall, possibly in the 1980–90s. Unfortunately the repointing used concrete instead of breathable mortar, and this has put those sections of the walls at particular risk.

### Site Visit Report and Assessment

#### General Report on the Forest Park

Dún na Rí Forest Park situated 3.2 km outside of Kingscourt town. The Forest is run by Coillte who charge €4 admission for vehicles. There are facilities including parking, washrooms and four sign posted trails (some of which are suitable for wheelchair and buggy access). There is also a website with information about the history and ecology of Dún na Rí, along with interactive maps. Some 8,685 vehicles are recorded as visiting Dun a Rí in 2017, giving a pedestrian figure of 10,856 (multiplier of 1.25) for 2017. (It should be noted that there is a pedestrian entrance on the Shercock Road where visitor numbers are not recorded).

While the Forest Park is generally well maintained an upgrade to the washroom facilities is worth consideration to make them more accessible. A more cohesive system of interpretation and waymarking could also add to the experience. Upstanding remains like the bridges, wells and in particular, the castle, should be subject to a conservation assessment. The castle has become rather overgrown, and is in need of conservation works. The overall forest park would benefit from the development of a Masterplan that outlines the existing offering and how it can be enhanced, managed, protected and promoted. It should have a particular focus on visitor management, biodiversity and orientation. The Masterplan should also detail how Dún na Rí can be incorporated within the proposed Navan – Kingscourt Greenway. Additional cycle-focused facilities may help the forest park to become a highlight feature of the Greenway. Coillte should be engaged with at the earliest opportunity to form a collaborative approach on developing the visitor experience at Dún na Rí.

#### The Walled Garden

At present there are no directional signs for the walled garden and it is not shown on the park map. Though visible from the route by Sarah's Bridge, the walled garden is not accessible to the public. There is a footpath that passes by the walled garden, but a wooden fence with a no-entry sign stops the public from accessing it. Inside the gardens, extensive damage to the walls can be seen. Some wall sections were upstanding, others had fallen and were replaced with metal fences and corrugated iron. Some attempt has been made to preserve the surviving walls but cement was used instead of breathable mortar which will have a significantly negative long term impact. The garden is completely overgrown by vegetation and the ground is uneven and waterlogged. A conservation assessment is required to retain the remains of the walls, such a plan should also include the remains of the gardens outhouses and features such as the plinths.

#### Overall Appraisal of Dún na Rí Forest Park

Dún na Rí is undoubtedly a wonderful recreation and heritage asset for the region. It is generally well maintained and accessible, and with some enhancements it could become an even more popular place for visitors to enjoy.

#### Walled Garden Appraisal

Though the walled garden in Dún na Rí has a number of advantages – especially being so well positioned inside the grounds of an already successful forest park, it does pose some significant challenges that must be overcome for it to become an established heritage tourism asset. At the moment it is unsafe for the public as walls are unstable and the vegetation needs to be managed.

The garden would require significant investment before it can be restored to its former glory, and a full conservation assessment is a necessary first step to developing a sustainable plan, as would discussing the project with an expert in the restoration of historic gardens. One approach worth consideration is to engage with local communities to explore the potential for creating a long-term community heritage project. Such a project is currently underway at Mountbellew in County Galway as part of the Heritage Council's Adopt a Monument Scheme. Another example can also be seen at Colclough Walled Garden at Tintern Abbey in County Wexford. Such a project would provide wonderful opportunities for training and community development, in conservation, masonry, landscaping and garden design. Working in partnership with local community groups can be a sustainable way of making progress, and also offers potential funding options such as LEADER community funding.





*Aerial view of Dún na Rí Walled Garden*



*The entrance into Dún na Rí Walled Garden*



*A blocked entrance and overgrown section of wall*



*An overgrown section of wall*



*The traditional lime-based mortar used on the wall*



*Concrete used as mortar – this causes great damage as the concrete is not breathable*





*Aerial view of the church on the Hill of Faughart,*

#### 4.2.4 Hill of Faughart Church, County Louth

##### Historical Background

The ruins of a medieval church stand on the Hill of Faughart, a place with a long and complex history. The Hill of Faughart is one of the most significant archaeological landscapes in Louth. The site began as an Iron Age hillfort which was mentioned in Ireland's epic poem the Táin Bó Cúalinge. According to hagiography, St. Bridget was born on the hill in AD 451. In AD 732 the King of Ulaid fought the Northern Uí Néill on Faughart Hill, which resulted in the King of Ulaid being decapitated. The hill also saw more violence when Edward Bruce, brother of Robert Bruce the Scottish King, was killed by the Anglo-Normans in 1318 following a decisive battle.

The church of Faughart was founded on the holy ground where St. Bridget was born and lived with her sister. It was originally constructed in the 12th century, but had numerous extensions and alterations over the following centuries. Faughart church is surrounded by an enclosure that also contains the base of a high cross (known as St. Bridget's Pillar), the possible base of a round tower, St. Bridget's Well, and a number of historic graves including that of Edward Bruce 'the last high king of Ireland'.

The graveyard has been in use for generations. The holy well is still popular with pilgrims as it is said to mark the spot where St. Bridget removed her eyes to stop the unwanted attentions of an amorous local chieftain, it is now used as a cure for eye ailments. People visit on the 1st of February, the first Sunday in July and on the feast day of the Assumption (15th of August).

##### Site Visit Report and Assessment

The Hill of Faughart is located to the west of the M1 motorway in Faughart upper townland. Additional signage to the church from the Kilcurry side would help increase tourism to the church and graveyard. A tarmac carpark is already in place, but there are signs of littering despite two council bins present at the site. Perhaps the addition of security cameras in the carpark would prevent littering and the signs of vandalism to cars and graves in the area.



A conservation assessment and management plan is needed for the site, including the key features of St. Bridget's Well, the church, enclosure and the large earthen motte nearby (LH004-023001-). The motte appears to be suffering badly from erosion, perhaps exacerbated by livestock climbing the mound. Fencing and a vegetation management plan to deal with the gorse that is established on the banks of the site would be a good step to remedying this. Vegetation appears to be actively managed at the church with ivy recently cut back, though this should be followed up with conservation of the walls if not already planned. The site would benefit from information panels explaining the significance of the site, its history, particularly St. Bridget, Edward Bruce and the motte. The church at the Hill of Faughart should be considered as part of a heritage trail in the area. This trail could link with the museum in Dundalk and include sites both north and south of the border including the shrine of St Bridget, the Church of St. Bridget and the relics in Kilcurry, the Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone, Slieve Gullion, Proleek Dolmen and Castleroche.

### Appraisal

As one of the most significant archaeological landscapes in the county, indeed the country, the church on the Hill of Faughart has tremendous potential as an asset for sustainable heritage tourism. The compelling complexity of stories, and the commanding views will please any type of tourist. Access and consent are already in place along with a convenient carpark, and accommodation and amenities are easily sourced in the nearby town of Dundalk.



*Aerial view of the Motte (foreground) and church (background) on the Hill of Faughart, County Louth*



*St. Bridget's Well on the Hill of Faughart*



*The grave of Edward Bruce 'High King of Ireland'*





*Aerial view of Castletown Motte, County Louth*

#### 4.2.5 Castletown Motte (Cúchulainns Castle), County Louth

##### Historical Background

Originally a large early medieval fort known as Dún Dealgan, Castletown Motte has strong connections to two mythical heroes of Ireland: Fionn Mac Cumhaill and Cúchulainn. According to the Schools Folklore Collection, Fionn Mac Cumhaill was staying at the fort with his mother, she noticed that his beautiful brooch or 'dealg' was missing. The fort was searched and the ground was rooted up, but the brooch was never found. Fionn and his mother departed but in remembrance of the incident the name of the fort became 'Dún-Dheilg-Fhinn' or the Fort of Fionn's Brooch. The fort's name was later used for the surrounding settlements and was then anglicised to Dundalk. Just below the fort stands a prehistoric standing stone named the Lia Lingadon, which is the reputed site of the hero Cúchulainn's birth. According to tradition, Castletown motte was supposedly used by the invading 'Danes' and then by the Anglo-Normans, who constructed a motte and bailey connected with Bertram de Verdun. In the 18th century a castle was built on top of the motte by Patrick Byrne, who styled himself as Earl of Castletown and was known as a notorious pirate.

The Schools Folklore Collection describe how Patrick Byrne lured ships up the river and into his castle moat by lighting beacons on top of his castle in stormy weather. The ships would either run aground or put in close to the castle, where Byrne and his men would fall on them and loot the ship. The stories also describe how Byrne's treasure was supposedly hidden in a cave under the hill.

##### Site Visit Report and Assessment

Castletown Motte is a National Monument located on the outskirts of Dundalk Town, and it is already utilised by local dog walkers. To make the site more accessible, it may be worth considering directional road signage from the N53. The current parking facilities are extremely limited. This may be remedied by considering a slight adjustment to the entrance to the adjacent water treatment plant. A realignment of the gate and hedgerow may allow for additional parking spaces for around 8–10 cars. However a road widening scheme is planned for Mount Avenue limiting options for road-adjacent parking. A potential solution is to change the access to the water treatment plant, and to create a dedicated carpark within this landholding, though given



Agenda 4.0 / Cavan Monaghan Louth Report Final Edition (low res) .pdf Detailed planning proposal. A conservation assessment of the tower should be considered if one has not been completed in recent years. Two interpretation panels should be considered for Castletown Motte. One on the path to the site, near the Lia Lingadon. This panel should focus on the mythology of the site with reference to the birth of Cú Chulainn and the loss of Fionn Mac Cumhall's broach. Steps should be built into the bank here to give the visitor the chance to see the Lia Lingadon in the adjacent field. A second panel should be considered near the summit with the history of the stone castle and the story of Patrick Byrne.

### Appraisal

Castletown Motte has excellent potential for heritage tourism. Located close to the town of Dundalk and nearby other sites of interest, it easily fits into a days itinerary. It has a compelling history, that covers numerous time periods, and the site offers impressive views of the surround mountains and sea as well as being visually attractive and intriguing to the visitor. The main consideration for the site is the provision of safe parking. This is somewhat complicated by a major road widening scheme that is planned for Mount Avenue. In light of this new development a feasibility and planning assessment should be carried out to evaluate the design and costings for a new carpark, such a plan needs archaeological mitigation strategies as any development would require Ministerial Consents.



*Limited car-parking near the entrance to the water-treatment plant.*



*The tower on the summit of Castletown Motte, County Louth*



*Aerial view of Castleroché*

#### 4.2.6 Castleroché, County Louth

##### Historical Background

Castleroché is arguably the finest example of a 13th century castle in Ireland. According to tradition, it is also the only castle of its period to have been commissioned by a woman, Lady Rohesia de Verdun. She was the granddaughter of Bertram de Verdun, one of the founders of Dundalk town. Construction at Castleroché began in 1236 with the plan of creating a bastion of defence for the Anglo-Norman colony in Louth against the Gaelic tribes of Ulster.

The castle is trapezoidal in shape with a projecting tower at the north-east angle. The castle is keepless, the residents lived in the gate towers and a great hall once stood in the southern side of the castle. The entrance to the east is protected by a rock-cut ditch and two four storied, D-shaped towers that still survive today. Arrow loops can be seen in the tower walls and and putlog holes survive in the curtain wall denoting where wooden hoarding once offered additional defence. The subsurface remains of a settlement are located just to the east of the castle.

A famous legend about the castle tells the tale that once it was built Lady Rohesia de Verdun had the architect thrown from the tower window so he could never reveal its secrets. A similar story is recorded in the Schools Folklore Collection, except the reference states that Rose de Verdun was jealous of her husband Richard and pushed him out the window. He fell to his death and now his ghost walks the battlements every Easter night.

Today the spectacular ruins of Castleroché are located on private land and the site is a national monument in state guardianship (LH003-029001-, LH003-029002-).

##### Site Visit Report and Assessment

Parking for Castleroché is limited and somewhat dangerous on the narrow road. If the site is to be considered for heritage tourism it requires a lay-by to be set aside for parking. A well-maintained gate and pedestrian access point allow entry into the field. A conservation management plan is required for the castle. Areas of the fabric of the building are in urgent need of repair, especially in the case of the wall to the west of the great hall, where the mortar has degraded and washed out, leaving the wall under threat of collapse.

A vegetation management plan is also needed, as extensive ivy growth can be seen (particularly on the southern exterior of the curtain wall) and saplings are growing on the wall capping and on top of the two gate towers. On the date of our inspection there was clear evidence of metal detecting, campfires and littering. A sign should be erected on the gate informing the public on the illegality of metal detecting, and local landowners informed to establish a neighbourhood watch type system. CCTV may also be a good option. The interpretation panel may benefit from being updated and refreshed.



### Appraisal

Although Castleroche is undoubtedly an incredible site that offers the visitor excellent views of a unique castle and an intriguing history, it may not be advisable to consider it for heritage tourism at present. There needs to be ongoing consultation with the landowner to understand their wishes regarding access and tourism, and the site itself would not benefit from increased footfall at present given the conservation requirements. For these two fundamental issues, it is recommended that the other two monuments in Louth are more suitable for heritage tourism in the short term. However, with the full consent of the landowner and following a conservation management plan and some urgently needed remedial conservation work, Castleroche could become a truly wonderful place to experience the story of medieval Ireland.



*The interior of the gatehouse*



*Vulnerable section of wall west of the Great Hall*



*Saplings growing at the top of the towers*





*One of the lakes in Rossmore Forest Park*

## 4.2.7 Rossmore Forest Park, County Monaghan

### Historical Background

Rossmore Forest Park has a long history that dates back over six thousand years. Evidence for this extensive history can be found by the presence of a Neolithic court tomb (MO013-007), an unclassified megalithic tomb (MO009-051) and the discovery of a gold Lunula, thought to date to *c.*2,000 BC in the park.

Rossmore Park as we know it, began to take shape when the early Lords of Rossmore built a house known as Cortolvin Hills in the 18th century. Part of this original house was kept as a wing in the later Rossmore Castle, that was constructed in a Scottish Baronial architectural style. This architecture of this later castle significantly changed from 1858 onwards when a competition began between Lord Rossmore and Mr Shirley of Lough Fea over who had the largest room in County Monaghan. By the end of this competition Rossmore's drawing room was enlarged five times and the castle contained three towers and 117 windows in 53 different shapes and sizes.

Rossmore Castle and its beautiful parkland were inherited by the 4th Lord Rossmore who died in 1874 during a steeplechase in Windsor Castle. A memorial in Monaghan town centre and a mausoleum in Rossmore Forest were built by Edward Tarver. The mausoleum was said to be *'so beautiful that it made one in love with death'*.

Like many grand houses in the 20th century, Rossmore fell into decline. The estate was broken up by the Land Commission and distributed between local farmers and the Forestry Division. The mausoleum was badly damaged and the abandoned Castle was demolished by the Army in 1974 due to health and safety concerns.

Today Rossmore Forest Park is a popular place for visitors, and an important recreational asset for the region.



### Site Visit Report and Assessment

Rossmore Forest Park is easily accessible to the public with ten entrances; two vehicular and eight pedestrian. The carpark is currently being expanded and offers free access to all. Directional signage from Monaghan Town would help visitors find the site, and digital information and interpretation would help to engage people with the story of Rossmore. This could be produced in the form of a mobile friendly website that offers engaging information and shows the location of the key points of interest and routes around the park.

Rossmore Forest Park is in good condition with substantial footpaths, benches and a recently created 'Giants Playground'. However, there is no interpretation on site and directional signage, though numerous, lacks cohesiveness and can be confusing for the visitor. There is substantial heritage at Rossmore that offers a lot for visitors to enjoy. A conservation assessment/management plan and interpretation panels for the castle, walled garden, mausoleum and court tomb should be considered.

The Friends of Rossmore group have recently conserved the Gardener's Shed, but the Walled Garden itself is locked and partially used for council storage. The Walled Garden is in reasonably good condition, but may benefit from a planting and design brief by an expert in historic gardens. The restoration of the garden would provide an excellent opportunity for a long-term community project. Likewise, the site of the castle itself could provide a compelling community archaeology project, with surveys and a dig (subject to licence and approval from National Monuments Service and National Museum of Ireland) to help engage people, especially local schools with the story of Rossmore and the practice of archaeology.

The nearby pet cemetery is missing its headstones. Excellent work has been done repairing the mausoleum roof, but this is being counteracted by golfballs hitting the terracotta tiles. As it is a place of rest, the Rossmore family do not wish the mausoleum to become an attraction, but the current temporary fences are rather unsightly. A continuing restoration of the original perimeter fencing could be a beneficial option.

Though there is a vast array of beautiful vegetation in the park, there are some issues: gaps in the yew tree avenue, the unchecked growth of invasive rhododendrons, and the court tomb is overgrown. A vegetation management plan should be completed and some areas cut back before further damage occurs.

### Appraisal

Rossmore Forest Park has excellent heritage and tourism potential, with a variety of attractions to the local community and visitors alike. The playground and engaging giant sculpture ensure it is a wonderful attraction for all ages. It already possesses access, safety and consent, and a completed Masterplan. Located just outside of Monaghan town it provides visitors with options for accommodation and amenities. There is also an interesting story and a great visual aspect to the park. With the support of Coillte, and interpretation, general signage, conservation and vegetation clearance the park can offer a lot more to become a leading regional tourism and recreational asset.



*Above and below – different forms of directional signage in Rossmore Forest Park*







*Above: aerial view of the site of Rossmore Castle*



*The overgrown court tomb – a c.5,000 year old Neolithic monument.*



*The feature known as the 'Ice House' below the site of Rossmore Castle, likely to be the servants/supplies tunnel*





*Above: Aerial view of the walled garden at Rossmore Forest Park*



*The Mausoleum*



*The giant redwood planted by the 'Right Hon. Henry Cairns Lord Rossmore on the 11th Anniversary of his Birthday 14th November 1862'.*





## THE BLACK PIG'S DYKE COUNTY MONAGHAN

### 4.2.8 The Black Pig's Dyke, County Monaghan

#### Historical Background

The Black Pig's Dike (BPD) also known as the 'Black Pig's Race' or the 'Worm Ditch' is part of a series of linear earthworks dating to the Iron Age. These earthworks cross at least nine counties: Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan and Roscommon. Though they differ in size and shape, the earthworks generally consist of a large bank flanked by a ditch on either side.

The name, Black Pig's Dyke is traditionally associated with the story of a schoolmaster who was able to turn himself and his students into animals. In one version of the story the students and the parents overthrow the schoolmaster, he turns into a giant angry pig and in his rage he tore up the land using his tusk, leaving large trenches across the landscape. Other versions of the story say the earthworks were created by the Danes or that they were a defensive structure that separated Ulster from the rest of Ireland. The area of Aghareagh West prefers the tradition of the Worm Ditch interpretation, that states that a large serpent or 'worm' carved the ditches as it slithered along.

*Aerial view of The Black Pig's Dyke*

The site of the BPD in Aghareagh West was taken over by Monaghan County Council in 1976. Six years later the first professional excavation in county Monaghan and the first research excavation on the 'Black Pig Dyke' feature in Ireland was started by Aidan Walsh. The excavation found no artefacts, but the extents of the feature was established, and the monument was radiocarbon dated to 535-545 BC. Recent geophysical surveying of the monument has revealed possible evidence of a Bronze Age village to the north and south of the feature. Perhaps evidence of the first border community in the region!

#### Site Visit Report and Assessment

The Black Pig Dyke at Aghareagh West is located 2.5km from Scotshouse and 9.7km from Clones town. It is easily passed and the parking lay-by is in poor condition. At present there are no navigable signs or GPS co-ordinates made available to the public to aid them to find the Black Pig Dyke at Aghareagh West. The site is not mentioned on any tourism websites such as Ireland's Ancient East or Discover Ireland.



The entrance to the site is flooded and the gate dilapidated and unstable. The main bank of the earthwork is overgrown with hazel making it difficult to get around the site or to understand its nature. However, despite its relatively raw state, The Black Pig's Dyke at Aghareagh West has excellent potential for heritage tourism. With additional road signage, information on website/local towns and an exhibition in the excellent Monaghan County Museum more visitors could understand and appreciate the site. As a relatively untouched 'wild' patch of land, the site has biodiversity and ecological value, and this must be considered before allowing access to the monument. For it to become a meaningful place for visitors, some clearance of the vegetation should be undertaken – though it need not be fully cleared. The hazel adds atmosphere and a sense of wildness in keeping with the fantastical stories of the monument. The access onto the site should be considered, with the gate replaced and a stile added, and a low-impact walkway established to allow people to climb on the bank to walk along the length in council owned lands. Similarly, a wattle fence along the boundaries would be a wonderful way of aiding the sense of place and period while also masking the standard agricultural fencing. An interpretation panel with information from the recent projects should also be considered to help inform visitors of the significance of this atmospheric and fascinating place. Consideration should also be given to a 'placemarking' artistic installation that is in keeping with the story of the site, such as a large sculpture of a pig made from hazel and willow. This could be placed at the carpark/entrance area, or along the earthwork if it would not be intrusive or damaging of the archaeology.

### Appraisal

Though the Black Pig Dyke requires additional work such as vegetation management and a carpark, it is owned by Monaghan County Council who are interested and willing to develop the site and have made it accessible to the public. Accommodation and amenities are low in this general area, but with sensitive and appropriate steps to make it accessible combined with the promotion of this impressive site as a hidden gem, visitor numbers may increase as the site has an excellent story and atmospheric aspect.



*Hazel thickets on The Black Pig's Dyke*



*The dilapidated gate*



*The water filled ditch*



## 4.2.9 Drumirril Rock Art, County Monaghan

### Historical Background

The townland of Drumirril (the Ridge of Irial) has over 80 examples of rock art that are believed to date from the Neolithic or Bronze Age. The rock art which consists of cup and ring motif as well as concentric circles appears on natural sandstone outcrops and was extensively recorded by Blaze O'Connor as part of her PhD thesis.

A geophysical survey conducted in 2002 and an excavation in 2003 revealed possible pits, postholes, areas of burning, field boundaries and curvilinear enclosures. areas of burnt charcoal, early Neolithic pottery, burnt stone, stone lined postholes, 52m x 32m enclosure, flint round scraper, quartz hammer-stone, blue glass bead, cremated bone and burnt hazel nuts.

### Site Visit Report and Assessment

The Drumirril rock art is located on private land. During the course of consultation the landowner stated that they did not wish the monument to be considered for heritage tourism at this time.

### Appraisal

Although the site has a significant history which would be extremely interesting to visitors and has a beautiful visual aspect, the site is located on private land. Permission was not granted for us to access the site, and the landowner's wishes were respected by the project team.

## 4.3 Overall Appraisal of the Nine Heritage Sites

The following table details the overall assessment of the points of interest for Cavan, Louth and Monaghan that have the most potential for tourism. The table scores each site out of 10 based on a number of factors. The sites in green have the highest potential as tourism offerings with little infrastructural work required, these are essentially quick wins, and offer excellent potential as visitor attractions. Sites in red require high investment to make them accessible to the public or they are on private land without the owners permission to access, and therefore unsuitable for heritage tourism at present, though this may change in the future.

Site	Access, Consent, safety (10)	Visual Aspect (10)	Story (10)	Total (30)
Rossmore Forest Park	10	8	10	28
Hill of Faughart Church	9	9	10	28
Deerpark Forest Park	10	9	8	27
Dún na Rí Forest Park	9	10	8	27
Castletown Motte	8	10	9	27
Cohaw Court Tomb	8	8	9	25
Black Pig's Dyke	6	8	10	24
Castleroche	4	10	10	24
Drumirril*	0	10	10	20
Excluded based on landowner wishes				

Following the initial assessment, consultation and site inspection the original nine sites were narrowed down to six, with two sites in each county put forward. The selected sites deemed most appropriate for heritage tourism are:

- **Cavan:** Deerpark Forest Park and Dún na Rí Forest Park
- **Louth:** Castletown Motte and the Church on the Hill of Faughart
- **Monaghan:** Rossmore Forest Park and the Black Pig's Dyke

The three sites that were deemed unsuitable for heritage tourism at this time are:

- Drumirril, County Monaghan (due to landowner's wishes),
- Cohaw Court Tomb (a site with much to offer though the alternative sites in Cavan perhaps offer greater potential for heritage tourism).
- Castleroche (a vulnerable site requiring conservation and more engagement with the landowner)



# 5.0 AUDIT OF ACCOMMODATION, AMENITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

Following the programme of fieldwork and site assessment, the existing tourism infrastructure in the area of the six chosen sites was then audited. The amenities in the vicinity and surrounding area of the six sites was examined for key motivators to visit an area as identified by Fáilte Ireland, they include accommodation, food & drink and places to visit.

These were identified and are presented in the tables below:

## 5.1 County Cavan

Site	Accommodation	Restaurants / Pubs	Places to Visit
Dún na Rí Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabra Castle Hotel</li> <li>Plantation Lodge B&amp;B</li> <li>Teach T-Mac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gartlan's Bar</li> <li>The Wishing Well Bar and Bistro</li> <li>McMahon's Cafe Bar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deerpark Forest Park</li> <li>Cabra Castle Golf Course</li> <li>Lough an Leagh</li> </ul>
Deerpark Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Kyran's Country House.</li> <li>Skelleys B&amp;B</li> <li>Lakeside Manor Hotel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Riverfront Bar</li> <li>St Kyran's Restaurant</li> <li>Lisgrey House</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cavan County Museum in Ballyjamesduff</li> <li>St Kilian's Heritage Centre</li> <li>Lough Ramour</li> <li>Dún na Rí Forest Park</li> </ul>

## 5.2 County Louth

Site	Accommodation	Restaurants / Pubs	Places to Visit
Hill of Faughart Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ballymascanlon House Hotel</li> <li>Ravensdale Guest House B&amp;B</li> <li>Carnbeg Hotel &amp; Spa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rosewood Country Club Restaurant</li> <li>The jockeys bar, Dundalk</li> <li>Strandfield Cafe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone</li> <li>Carlingford Historic Town</li> <li>Dundalk Town</li> </ul>
Castletown Motte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inisfree House</li> <li>Lismar Guest House</li> <li>Imperial Hotel Dundalk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lennon's Gastro Pub</li> <li>The Spotted Dog</li> <li>Windsor Bar and Restaurant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Museum</li> <li>St. Patrick's Church</li> <li>Carlingford Historic Town</li> </ul>

## 5.3 County Monaghan

Site	Accommodation	Restaurants / Pubs	Places to Visit
Rossmore Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Westerna Arms Hotel</li> <li>Four Seasons Hotel</li> <li>Hillgrove Hotel, Leisure &amp; Spa</li> <li>Ashleigh House</li> <li>An Carraig Self-Catering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Batch Loaf Restaurant</li> <li>Porky's Restaurant at The Squealing Pig</li> <li>Monaghan Spice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monaghan County Museum</li> <li>Errigal Truagh</li> <li>Monaghan Town Trail</li> <li>Rossmore Golf Club</li> </ul>
Black Pigs Dyke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hilton Park Country House</li> <li>Creighton Hotel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ulster Canal Stores Bistro &amp; Coffee Shop</li> <li>Creighton Hotel and Restaurant</li> <li>Drinkin's Home Bakery and Coffee Shop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clones Heritage Town</li> <li>Ulster Canal</li> <li>Clones Lace Museum</li> <li>Clones Town Trail</li> <li>Clones Golf Club</li> </ul>

## 5.4 Ireland's Ancient East

From our analysis it is clear that the six sites of Dún na Rí Forest Park, Deerpark Forest Park, Hill of Faughart Church, Castletown Motte, Rossmore Forest Park and the Black Pig's Dyke satisfy all of the needs of both of the key tourism demographics of the Culturally Curious and Great Escapers (please see Section 2.2 Market Segmentation above). The six key sites also fit some of the pillar themes of Ireland's Ancient East: Ancient Ireland, Heroes, Sacred Ireland, Castles & Conquests and Big Houses & Hard Times. Which can be seen in the table on the next page.

Additionally, the six sites fit in with some of the existing Ireland's Ancient East's itineraries. Rossmore Forest Park could be added to the *"Follow in the Footsteps of Labourers and Landlords"* itinerary and the BPD could be slotted into the *"Unravel 5,000 years of History in Just Seven Days"* itinerary. Rossmore could also be tied into a new itinerary with Castle Leslie, the Monaghan County Museum and the Monaghan Way.

County Cavan already contains a number of key attractions in Ireland's Ancient East such as the Cavan Burren, Clogh Oughter Castle, and the Shantemon Stone Row. The addition of Deerpark Forest Park and Dún na Rí Forest Park, along with Cohaw Court Tomb, would fit in with the theme of natural heritage sites.

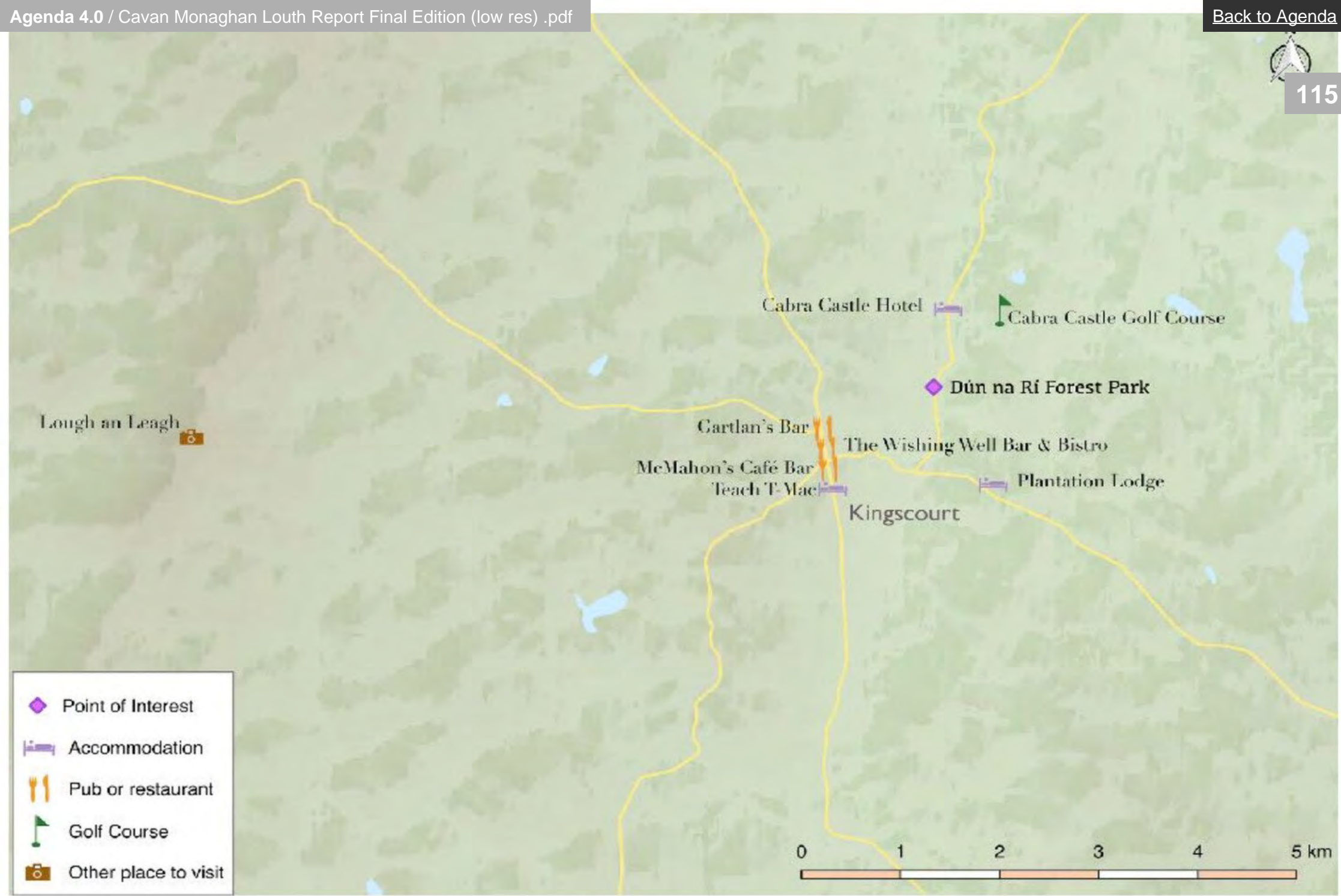


County Louth is well recorded in Ireland’s Ancient East with the historic village of Carlingford, Proleek megalithic tomb, Castleroche, Mellifont Abbey, Monasterboice and Drogheda. By including sites such as the Hill of Faughart church and Castletown Motte the county would have an even stronger heritage tourism offering to entice visitors.

Castletown Motte and the Hill of Faughart could be easily incorporated into Ireland’s Ancient East’s “Unravel 5,000 Years of History in Just Seven Days” itinerary. Or perhaps the Hill of Faughart could be included in the “Unlock the Myths and Secrets of Ancient, Pastoral Lands” itinerary. Both sites could be used in “Time Travel to Ireland’s Turbulent Middle Ages” itinerary. The Hill of Faughart could be also be incorporated into the “Delve Into Sacred Ireland and Marvel at Monastic Brilliance” itinerary. Given the Hill of Faughart’s strong associations with St. Brigid, the site also offers potential for a larger engagement with the story of one of Ireland’s patron saints.

IRELAND’S ANCIENT EAST SIGNATURE STORY	CORE FOCUS OF THEME	REPRESENTATIVE SITES IN CAVAN, LOUTH AND MONAGHAN
<b>ANCIENT IRELAND</b>	Prehistoric Ireland, from the Neolithic period up until the Iron Age. Exemplar sites could include Newgrange and the Brú na Bóinne County Meath.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Black Pig’s Dyke,</li> <li>• Rossmore Court Tomb,</li> <li>• Castletown Motte’s Lia Lingadon stone</li> </ul>
<b>HIGH KINGS &amp; HEROES</b>	This theme focuses on Ireland’s wonderfully rich tales and sagas of myth and legend. The Táin looms large, as does stories of Fíonn Mac Cumháill. Exemplar sites include the Hill of Tara in County Meath, or Rathcroghan in County Roscommon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hill of Faughart</li> <li>• St. Patrick’s Well in Deerpark</li> <li>• Castletown Motte</li> </ul>
<b>SACRED IRELAND</b>	Ireland played a leading role in the development of Christianity. Ireland’s early monasteries were famed across Europe as places of learning and worship, art and craft. Exemplar sites include Clonmacnoise County Offaly or Skellig Michael County Kerry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hill of Faughart</li> <li>• St. Patricks Well, Deerpark</li> </ul>
<b>A TALE OF TWO WORLDS</b>	During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries many grand estates and fine houses were constructed as homes for the gentry, in stark contrast to the poverty and harsh existence of many. Exemplar sites include Castletown House in County Kildare and Donaghmore Workhouse in County Laois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dún na Rí Forest Park</li> <li>• Deerpark Forest Park</li> <li>• Rossmore Forest Park</li> </ul>





Map 3: Locations of amenities and other attractions in the vicinity of Dún na Rí Forest Park, County Cavan

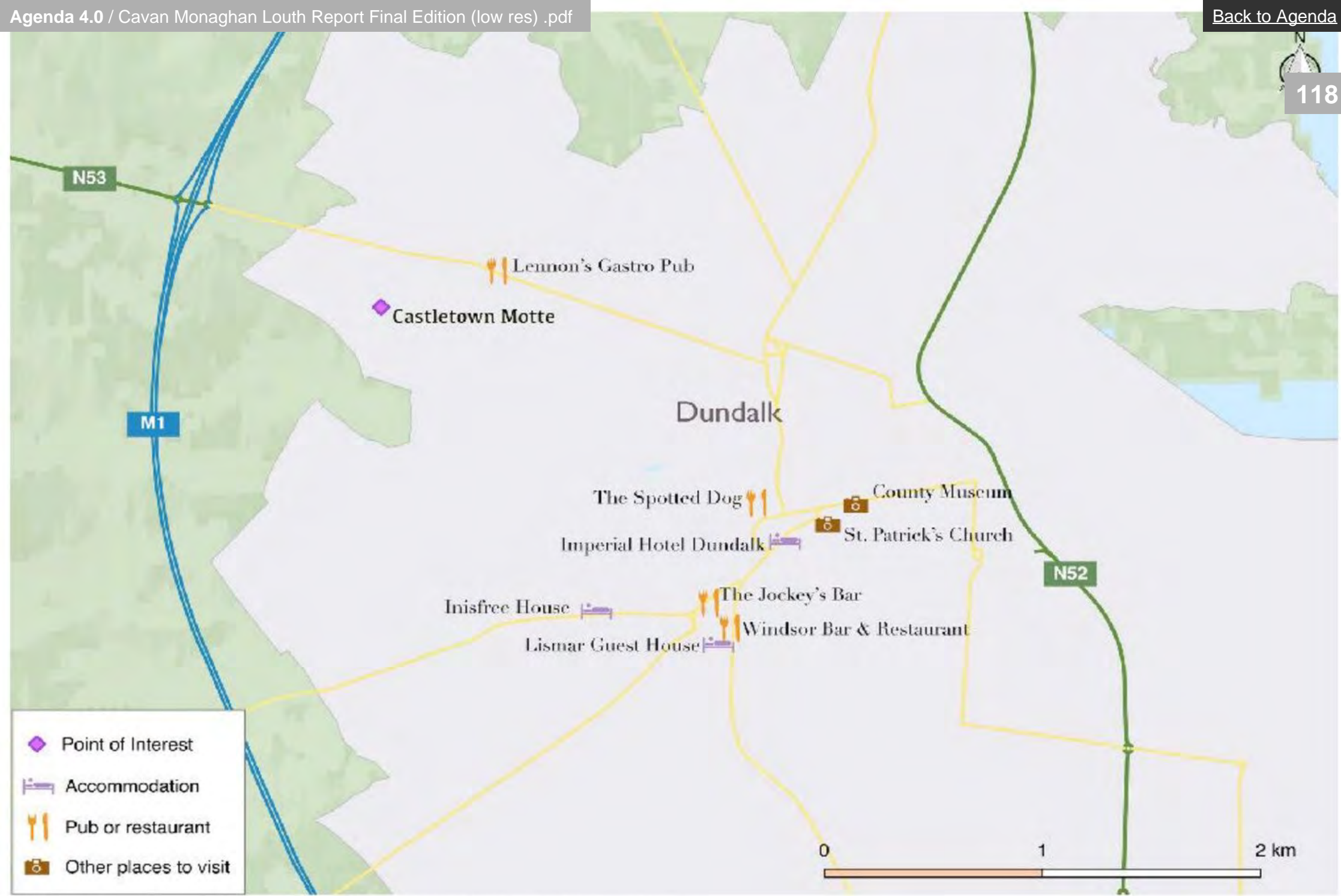


Map 4: Locations of amenities and other attractions in the vicinity of Deerpark Forest Park, County Cavan



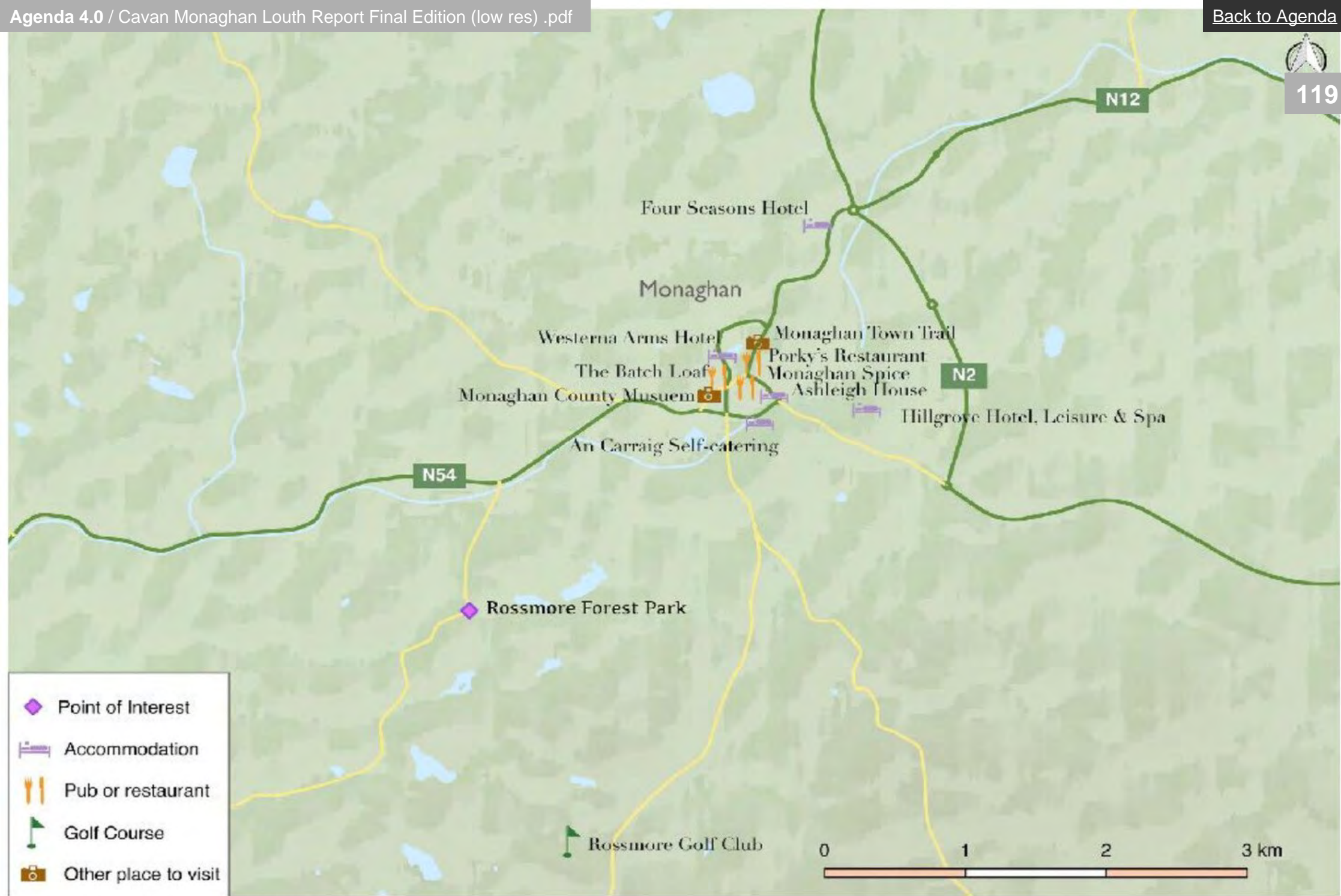


Map 5: Locations of amenities and other attractions in the vicinity of the Hill of Faughart, County Louth



Map 6: Locations of amenities and other attractions in the vicinity of Castletown Motte, County Louth





Map 7: Locations of amenities and other attractions in the vicinity of Rossmore Forest Park, County Monaghan





Map 8 : Locations of amenities and other attractions in the vicinity of the Black Pig's Dyke, County Monaghan



# 6.0 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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A key priority for tourism development in counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan should be sustainability and low-impact tourism development, with as little disturbance to our built and natural environment as possible. As the unique selling point of the six sites are their rural nature and wealth of heritage. It is important that these are protected by any proposed measures to develop tourism.

In the context of this proposal, sustainable tourism could include:

- Protecting and conserving the landscape which gives the sites their distinctive character.
- Ensuring that all monuments on the sites are protected.
- Marketing the six sites to visitors who will also appreciate the landscape and heritage of the area and support its protection e.g. Culturally Curious and/or Free Independent Travellers.
- Monitor visitor numbers to the various sites by installing electronic pedestrian counters.

Sustainable community engagement can also be hugely beneficial for monuments. The success of any rural tourism proposition is largely predicated by positive community engagement. The involvement of local community groups, businesses and service providers is invaluable. These local stakeholders could play a part in generating awareness of any route which is developed. They could also act as ‘eyes and ears’ on the ground in terms of long-term management and maintenance. Examples of how this has worked out include the ‘Friends of Rossmore’ in Rossmore Forest Park, who as a group ensured the gardeners cottage was preserved and restored and is now an asset for the park.

Each of the six sites should endeavour to find a local voluntary steering committee. This committee should be made up of committed individuals who are in a position to give the time and energy required to implement the recommendations of this report. It would be ideal if landowners within the route area and representatives of tourism businesses could be involved. It is important from the outset that a strong committee is formed as it will give clear direction and purpose to implementing the remaining recommendations. For instance in the case of the Hill of Faughart or Castletown Motte, the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society (CLAHS) may be interested in becoming involved with the sites. For Cavan it is recommended to engage with the Grand Gardens Restoration Group. Discussions should also be held with Breffni Integrated to explore the potential for rural social schemes to become involved with the restoration of the walled garden at Dún na Rí (under expert guidance).

## Recreational Events

Holding events which encourage local people to get out and use the sites, heritage trails and forest parks can help to raise local awareness. Depending on the nature of the site, this could include walking, cycling or canoeing events, or a combination in the form of a triathlon. Running charitable events where donations are sought for worthy causes in the community would help to generate good will. Community organisations could take a lead in organising these events and would gain a sense of ownership of the site. Other events could include a community archaeology project at Rossmore Castle site with Monaghan Museum and the local schools. Consideration should also be given to making the castle tangible once again – such as large hoardings showing a historic image of the castle on its original site during an event like Heritage Week.

## Folklore Gathering Project

There is considerable local folklore relating to the heritage sites in counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan. Some of this was captured in the Schools Folklore Collection in the late 1930s, which can now be accessed online at [www.duchas.ie](http://www.duchas.ie). A new project to gather local history and folklore with the co-operation of local community organisations and schools could generate significant local interest and community pride. This would be an effective way to engage the broader community with their heritage, and offers the opportunity for intergenerational learning in the process of recording, archiving and making the stories accessible.



# 7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

From our analysis we believe that the six sites chosen from Cavan, Louth and Monaghan have tremendous potential to become a successful regional heritage tourism offering. There is a true wealth of heritage and history in a relatively compact area, with some sites of truly national significance. Added to this is the idyllic rural landscape and environment which has remained relatively untouched by extensive modern development.

The recommendations are laid out in detail for each site in the appendices. In general all sites would benefit from interpretation. This primarily requires interpretive panels on site but the onsite interpretation should be complimented with the availability of digital media to both promote the heritage of the area to entice and educate potential visitors.

Another common factor is the need for increased directional signage. All sites would benefit from additional road signs. The Forest Parks also need clearer directional signage that offers the user information on distance and trails.

Some sites such as the Black Pig's Dyke and Castletown Motte require additional safe car parking. In addition some sites need new access gates or slightly upgraded paths.

Conservation assessment and vegetation management plans feature in nearly all recommendations. These are strongly recommended to ensure that the proposed sites are maintained and conserved for future generations to enjoy. This will help to fulfil the duty of care to ensure the safety of visitors and the monuments. To make the costs sustainable, it is recommended that a series of engaging map brochures are created to cater for the key foreign language groups who visit this region (French, German, Italian and Spanish). These can be made available in nearby tourist offices, accommodation providers and service stations.

The detailed recommendations for the six sites are detailed below, with the estimated costs provided in the Appendix.





## 7.1 Recommendations for the Selected Heritage Sites in County Cavan

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### On-Site Interpretation for Dún na Rí Forest Park, Cavan.

#### Key Locations

- Carpark / Entrance Area
- Sarah's Well
- Walled Garden
- Sculpture Trail
- Military Barracks
- Fleming's Castle
- Ice House
- Cabra Cottage
- Cromwell's Bridge
- Wishing Well

#### General Recommendations:

- Engage with Coillte to develop a Masterplan for the Forest Park.
- The Masterplan should detail how best to incorporate Dún na Rí with the planned Greenway.
- Conservation assessment for Walled Garden, Fleming's Castle, Ice House, Cromwell's Bridge, Sarah's Bridge, Sarah's Well.
- Vegetation Management and Planting Strategy that will help the ecology of the park and provide recommendations to reduce impact of invasive species.
- Upgrade of washroom facilities to make them fully accessible.
- Purchase and installation of bicycle parking facilities.
- Audio Guide to help people to discover the stories of the Park.
- Examine the cost of entry to the park.

### Recommendations – Interpretive Panels

LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	RECOMMENDED CONTENT
Entrance Area	1 x A0 Mapboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Dún na Rí Forest Park.</li> <li>• Concise background history.</li> <li>• Cohesive map of all routes with points of interest highlighted.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Along the main trail just beyond the carpark	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity of Dún na Rí</li> <li>• What type of animals you can see</li> <li>• Flora of the park.</li> <li>• Illustrated with pictures of the key animals and plants</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Sarah's Bridge	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Folklore of the bridge.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Sarah's Well	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of Pratt family</li> <li>• Who Sarah was</li> <li>• The well</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Fleming's Castle	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical information about the castle</li> <li>• The Williamite Wars in Ireland</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
The Ice House	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose and role of an ice house.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Cabra Cottage	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The story of the cottage.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Cromwell's Bridge	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The story of Cromwell at Dún na Rí</li> <li>• Panel should also mention the military barracks</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>

## 7.1 Recommendations for the Selected Heritage Sites in County Cavan

### On-Site Interpretation for Deerpark Forest Park, Cavan.

#### Key Locations:

- Entrance area
- St. Patrick's Well / Toberpatrick
- Ice House
- Lough Ramor
- Boat House
- Gate Lodge

#### General Recommendations:

- Installation of road signage from the main road (N3) to encourage visitors to the park.
- Create uniform directional signs in the park that provides visitors with directions, distance and trail colour/name marked.
- Installation of additional picnic or rest areas, with seating and rubbish bins (if sustainable).
- A conservation assessment for St Patrick's Well, the Ice House, the metal bridge and the Boat House.
- Metal bridge should be conserved and wooden railing replaced with same metal design. This unique design could be used as a park symbol or trail symbol.
- Create a vegetation management plan for the park, with potential issues regarding invasive species identified.
- Consider alternative style of fencing for boat house.
- A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.

### Recommendations – Interpretive Panels

LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	RECOMMENDED CONTENT
Entrance Area	1 x A0 Mapboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Deerpark Forest Park.</li> <li>• Concise background history.</li> <li>• Cohesive map of all routes (Lough Ramor loop, The Golden Way and The Multi Access Trail) with points of interest highlighted.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Toberpatrick	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation of spring and well.</li> <li>• The story of St. Patrick and the destruction of Crom Cruach's idols.</li> <li>• Explanation of St. Patrick's day annual pattern.</li> <li>• Historic image (if appropriate image can be sourced) or illustration of well.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Ice House	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical information about the Headfort family.</li> <li>• Explanation of feature.</li> <li>• Historic image of ice house and Deerpark lodge.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Lough Ramor	2 x A2 Lectern Panels	<p>Lectern 1 (near bench over looking the shore)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity panel on Deerpark and Lough Ramor.</li> <li>• Flora and fauna seen in the park.</li> <li>• Images of flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul> <p>Lectern 2 (space by the shore)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools Folklore Collection Stories; lights on the lake when a member of the Doyle or Conarty families die and Chieftains missing cauldron.</li> <li>• Illustrations.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Boat House	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the boathouse.</li> <li>• Historic information about its use.</li> <li>• Schools Folklore Collection story of the rabbit stealer.</li> <li>• Historic image (if appropriate image can be sourced).</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Ladies Cottage	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic information about the cottage.</li> <li>• Historic image (if appropriate image can be sourced).</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>



## 7.2 Recommendations for the Selected Heritage Sites in County Louth

### On-Site Interpretation for Castletown Motte, Louth.

**Key Locations:**

- Path to site
- On summit of motte

**General Recommendations:**

- The creation of a small carpark adjacent to the existing entrance to the waterworks (may require archaeological mitigation and consents)
- If the road widening project precludes such a carpark then it is recommended to commission a Feasibility / Planning and Mitigation Strategy for a larger carpark within the landholding of the waterworks. An evaluation as to the location suitability, design and potential costings of establishing a new carpark at Castletown Motte. Such a study should also indicate costings and requirements for archaeological mitigation given the proximity to a National Monument, with steps required to gain Ministerial Consents.
- Add road signs for the site on the N53
- A conservation assessment for the site.
- A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.



### Recommendations – Interpretive Panels

LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	RECOMMENDED CONTENT
Existing pathway where the Lia Lingadon Stone is visible	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mythology and folklore of the motte.</li> <li>• Information about Fionn Mac Cumhall’s brooch with engaging reconstruction drawing.</li> <li>• Information Cúchulainn’s birth.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
On top of the Motte	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of the site.</li> <li>• Architectural information of the structure.</li> <li>• Story of Patrick Byrne with engaging reconstruction image.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish</li> </ul>





## 7.2 Recommendations for the Selected Heritage Sites in County Louth

### On-Site Interpretation for the Hill of Faughart, Louth.

#### Key Locations:

- Carpark

#### General Recommendations:

- Install security cameras in the carpark to deter vandalism and littering.
- Determine the ownership of the site.
- Add additional road directional signage for the hill.
- Consider doing a survey of the historic graveyard with the local community.
- Consider fencing the motte to prevent further erosion and deterioration from livestock.
- Assess progress of conservation management plan for the hill, address any outstanding recommendations and consider update of plan if required.
- Conduct a feasibility report on creating a cross-border heritage trail in the area. Beginning with Dundalk Museum, and covering St. Bridget's shrine, St. Bridget's relics in Kilcurry, the Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone, Proleek Dolmen and wedge tomb, the Ring of Gullion and other appropriate historical sites. This heritage trail could be delivered in the form of a map brochure and an engaging audio guide.
- A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.
- Consider a potential re-enactment event or festival to mark the significant Battle of Faughart, this could offer potential connections with heritage groups in Scotland.



LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	RECOMMENDED CONTENT
Carpark	3 x A2 Lectern Panel	<p><b>Lectern 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the history of the hill</li> <li>• Plan of graveyard showing significant features.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lectern 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Story of St. Brigid and the holy well.</li> <li>• Information about holy wells and rag trees.</li> <li>• Information on the church, possible round tower and high cross base</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lectern 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Story of Edward Bruce and the Battle of Faughart</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>



## 7.3 Recommendations for the Selected Heritage Sites in County Monaghan

### On-Site Interpretation for the Black Pig's Dyke, Monaghan.

#### Key Locations:

- Car Park or Entrance Gate
- Centre of the Site

#### General Recommendations:

- Design Black Pig Dyke/Worm Ditch logo. The logo should be incorporated into all signage, interpretation and promotional materials. If possible, the design should also be incorporated into features like entrance gates to make the 'brand' more tangible and to provide a better sense of place for visitors.
- Consider a placemarking artwork in keeping with the story and nature of the BPD. Such as a large pig sculpture made of woven hazel and willow.
- Create uniform directional signage from Scotshouse and Clones.
- Resurface and install curb for lay-by carpark.
- Install parking sign and pedestrian crossing sign before the bend in the road alerting drivers to site and presence of tourists.
- Install easy to use gate and stile. Consider including the Black Pig's Dyke logo within the design.
- Divert ditch water away from site entrance and remove corrugated iron and other dumped material from ditch.
- Create and install aesthetically pleasing wooden walkway to main earthen bank (requires consents etc).
- Replace concrete and metal field boundary with organic material, such as a wooden or wattle fence (may require consents).
- Install 1m high wattle/woven fence along the inside of the existing agricultural boundaries.
- Loop/coppice Hazel bushes in 1.5m intervals to allow passage, create views and bring in more light.

- Establish a Black Pig's Dyke Trail that connects all the regions that the BPD traverses, along with regional museums where people may see artefacts relating to the period of its use. This could be accompanied by a map brochure and an engaging audioguide.
- A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.
- To contract a design team for access and interpretation. The team should have responsibility for drawing up the specifications, assisting with the tender documents for the works, securing ministerial consent and planning permission (if appropriate) and overseeing the works, including archaeological assessment.

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LOCATION	RECOMMENDATION	RECOMMENDED CONTENT
Car Park or Entrance Gate	1 x A2 Lectern Panel  (Useful to draw attention to the exact site and offers information to people who may not be physically able to access the site).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation of names and myths connected with the BPD.</li> <li>• Significance and history of the site.</li> <li>• Other places the BPD can be found.</li> <li>• Aerial image of site.</li> <li>• Reconstruction drawing of BPD.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Centre of the Black Pig Dyke (on top of the central bank)	1 x A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruction image of Bronze Age village.</li> <li>• Explanation of life in Bronze Age and Iron Age Ireland.</li> <li>• Information about 1980's excavation and explanation of site destruction.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish</li> </ul>

## 7.3 Recommendations for the Selected Heritage Sites in County Monaghan

### On-Site Interpretation for Rossmore Forest Park, Monaghan.

#### Key Locations:

- Carpark / Entrance Area
- Park Biodiversity
- Rossmore Castle
- Walled Garden
- 4th Baron Rossmore Mausoleum
- Giant Redwood
- Neolithic Court Tomb
- Water Turbine

#### General Recommendations:

- Create uniform directional signs that provide visitors with directions, distance, with trail colour-coded.
- Additional picnic or rest areas.
- Additional waymarking road signage to direct visitors to the park.
- Rumble-strips or speed bumps on approach road to make entering/exiting park safer.
- Additional interpretation panels in Monaghan town to link the town to the park. Ideal locations could be at the Market House, or the town's monument to 4th Baron Rossmore.
- An engaging audioguide with the key stories and themes of the park. Such a guide should be available as an audio download, as well as in podcast format to ensure accessibility. The guide should be approximately 30–45 mins in total duration, with tracks on each of the key aspects and features of the park.
- Mobile-friendly website featuring practical information (location, opening times, key overview, annual events). The key information should be translated into French, German, Italian and Spanish. This website should also house the audio guide to provide compelling and engaging promotional content for users.
- A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.



*Carpark and playground of Rossmore Forest Park*



	RECOMMENDATION	RECOMMENDED CONTENT
Entrance	1 sided welcome panel (A0).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Rossmore Forest Park, motivator to encourage exploration</li> <li>• Biodiversity – flora and fauna that you may encounter</li> <li>• Landscape of park – info on lakes</li> <li>• The ‘Giants’ artwork info on concept</li> <li>• Images of places that are inaccessible – ringfort/souterrain?</li> <li>• Large map with walking routes &amp; points of interest highlighted</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Main Trailheads & Wayfinding	4 x beacon signs 25 x wayfinding posts	Installation of 4 ‘beacon’ signs to highlight trails, with information on distance, duration and special features.
Info Points	18 x Information points	To complement the above a number of visually subtle info points will be incorporated with just a line of text or verse to share/unveil the value of what can be seen from that point and reinforce the theme of the trail. Examples include: Pet cemetery, Yew Walk, Bluebell drifts, Lake etc
Rossmore Castle	2 x A2 Lectern Panels  1 x ‘Historioscope’ (please note this is a bespoke artistic installation)	<p><b>Lectern 1 (in front of the site of the castle)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of the Castle and Rossmore family</li> <li>• Historic images</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lectern 2 (at servants entrance/tunnel)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation of feature</li> <li>• Explanation of society &amp; servant’s role in a grand house of this period</li> <li>• Historic images (if appropriate image can be sourced)</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish</li> </ul> <p><b>‘Historioscope’ (at viewing point of castle adjacent to main path)</b> Similar to such features at Derrigimlagh Bog, Co. Galway. Artistic installation in the form of a telescope-type feature that incorporates a historic image of the castle. When a visitor looks through it, they see the missing castle superimposed back in its original location.</p>
Walled Garden	1 A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Walled Garden, its role, the key features and the type of plants grown.</li> <li>• Illustration or images (if available) to show layout and design.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
4th Baron Rossmore’s Mausoleum	1 A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose and architecture of the mausoleum.</li> <li>• Story of the 4th Baron Rossmore</li> <li>• The architectural plans (if they still exist) would make a striking illustration</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Tree of the Year	1 A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the tree, how it was planted to mark the birthday of a Rossmore family member.</li> <li>• Information about the planting generally – the grand avenues etc.</li> <li>• Reconstruction illustration of the planting ceremony?</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Megalithic Tomb	1 A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court-tombs, their period and purpose.</li> <li>• Reconstruction drawing of one in use.</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Water Turbine	1 A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of the turbine and how it worked</li> <li>• Perhaps a reconstruction drawing or plan to illustrate its context</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish.</li> </ul>
Lady Rossmore’s Cottage	1 A2 Lectern Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background history of the cottage</li> <li>• Lady Rossmore’s story</li> <li>• Historical image (or reconstruction drawing) of cottage in its heyday</li> <li>• Text in English and Irish</li> </ul>

## 8.0 APPENDIX I

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## 8.1 Estimated Costings to Implement Recommendations for Selected Sites in County Cavan (prices are approximate and exclusive of VAT)

### Dún na Rí Forest Park, County Cavan

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Masterplan for Dún na Rí Forest Park	€15,000	
Upgraded Washroom Facilities to make them accessible	€110,000	May require planning consent.
1x A0 Mapboard	€4,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)
7x A2 Interpretation Panel	€21,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)
Conservation Assessment (to incorporate Walled Garden, Fleming's Castle, bridges and other structural remains)	€25,000	
Engaging audioguide describing main points of interest around the park	€5,000	
Vegetation Management and Planting Plan	€8,000	
Cycle Parking Facilities	€19,000	(Approximate cost for covered and secure bicycle parking for 24 bikes)

### Deerpark Forest Park, County Cavan

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
1x A0 Mapboard	€4,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)
6x A2 Lectern Panels	€18,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)
Conservation Management Plan	€15,000	
Vegetation Management and Planting Plan	€8,000	
Restoration of Metal Bridge rails		Specialist contract required - could be funded through Heritage Council Grant schemes
A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.	€4,000 (including research, design and translations)	



## 8.2 Estimated Costings to Implement Recommendations for Selected Sites in County Louth (prices are approximate and exclusive of VAT)

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### Hill of Faughart, County Louth

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Additional Road Signage to site	€190 per fingerpost sign and pole required (including installation) Same price applies for diamond shaped road walker signs	Planning consents and liaising with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
Update of Conservation Management Plan	€10,000	
3x A2 Interpretation Panel	€9,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)  If in proximity to monument may require Ministerial Consent (National Monuments Service)
Feasibility Study into Cross-Border Heritage Trail	€15,000 - €18,000	The cross border nature of this trail may provide opportunities for funding and collaboration. This study should audit and highlight heritage attractions and significant monuments within the study area, with access and conservation issues highlighted.
Audio Guide to tell the story of this evocative site	€5,000	
A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.	€4,000 (including research, design and translations)	

### Castletown Motte, County Louth

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Creation of a small carpark at entrance to waterworks	€30,000 (including cutting back the verge, tarring, fencing and road painting).	May require Ministerial Consents and archaeological mitigation dependent upon work
Feasibility / Planning and Mitigation Strategy for Larger Carpark with the landholding of the waterworks (if first option discounted)	€10,000	An evaluation as to the location suitability, design and potential costings of establishing a new carpark at Castletown Motte. Such a study should also indicate costings and requirements for archaeological mitigation given the proximity to a National Monument, with steps required to gain Ministerial Consents.
Additional Road Signage to site	€190 per fingerpost sign and pole required (including installation) Same price applies for diamond shaped road walker signs	Planning consents and liaising with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
Conservation Assessment	€14,500	(Scaffolding may be required to examine upper portions of tower)
2x A2 Interpretation Panel	€6,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)  If in proximity to monument may require Ministerial Consent (National Monuments Service)
Addition of small set of stone steps to allow a view of the Standing Stone	€1,500 - €2,000.00	
A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.	€4,000 (including research, design and translations)	



## 6.3 Estimated Costs to Implement Recommendations for Selected Sites in County Monaghan

(prices are approximate and exclusive of VAT)

### Rossmore Forest Park, County Monaghan

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Additional Road Signage from Monaghan Town	€950  (estimated 5 signs required at €190 per fingerpost sign and pole required (including installation) Same price applies for diamond shaped road walker signs)	Planning consents and liaising with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
Engaging audioguide describing main points of interest around the park	€5,000	
Mobile friendly website	€6,000	Estimate incorporates fees for hosting and maintenance for a 3 year period.
Conservation Management Plan for key POI	€15,000	
Vegetation/Planting Management Plan	€5,000	
1x A0 Mapboard	€3000	Affixed to existing welcome panel in the carpark
6x A2 Interpretation Panel	€18,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)
18x Information Points	€17,000	
4x 'Beacon' signs for start of key routes	€11,000	
25x Way-finding Posts	€11,500	
Restoration of Mausoleum Fence	Specialist contract required - could be funded through Heritage Council Grant schemes	
Historioscope feature for Rossmore Castle site	A bespoke artistic installation, may require a budget of approximately €10,000	
Sculptural Stones to enhance arrival and carpark area	€3,250 (estimate for 5 stones)	
A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.	€4,000 (including research, design and translations)	

### The Black Pig's Dyke, County Monaghan

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ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Parking area	€15,000 (including cutting back the verge, tarring, fencing and road painting).	May require planning permission
New access gate	€1,000 including installation	
Slip-resistant, wooden walkway	€24,000 (Approximately €300 per linear metre, with an estimated length of 80m)	May require Ministerial Consent (National Monuments Service)
Wattle/Woven Fencing	€12,000 (€60 per metre x2 for both sides of the BPD. Cost includes delivery & installation)	
Additional Road Signage to site from Cootehill	€950 (5 items at €190 per fingerpost sign and pole required including installation. Same price applies for diamond shaped road walker signs).	Planning consents and liaising with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
Conservation and Vegetation Management Plan	€10,000	
Placemarking Artwork	€8,000	(Estimated price, could be funded via Creative Ireland).
3x A2 Interpretation Panel	€9,000	(Including design, manufacture and installation)  If in proximity to monument may require Ministerial Consent (National Monuments Service)
A map brochure detailing the key points of interest, provided in English, Irish, German, French, Spanish and Italian.	€4,000 (including research, design and translations)	
Black Pig's Dyke Brand Development	€4,500	Logo design, brand concept framework, fonts, colour palette etc.
Design team for access and interpretation (including archaeological assessment)	€15,000	



# 9.0 APPENDIX 2

## 9.1.1 Interpretive Text; Cavan - Dún na Rí Forest Park

The name Dún na Rí (Fort of the Kings) is certainly evocative, suggesting the presence of a large early medieval ringfort or enclosure. Though no such fort has yet been identified within the boundaries of the forest park, a number of ringforts are located in close proximity outside the park and the name may conceivably apply to one of those. The "Romantic Glen" of the Cabra River, stretches the full length of the Park and it is said that the legendary warrior Cúchulainn camped here at night while by day conducting his single-handed defence of Ulster against the armies of Queen Maeve of Connacht.

The ruins of a 17–18th century fortified house known as Fleming's Castle are one of the key historical features of the park. The house was thought to have been originally built by Captain Gerald Fleming in 1607, and a castle is depicted on the Down Survey Map, (1656-8). Other features in the park relate to its use as part of the Pratt family's estate. Key points of interest include the Walled Garden, Sarah's Well, Cabra Cottage, Cromwell's Bridge and the Wishing Well (Tobar na Splinne). In recent years an engaging sculptural trail has been added to the park. The forest park incorporates a Coillte commercial forestry plantation and native species. The tree storey is dominated by oak and ash but includes hazel, holly and invasive rhododendron. The ground is carpeted with snowdrops, bluebells, wood anemone, woodrush, foxgloves, wood sorrel and a wide range of ferns.





### 9.1.2 Interpretive Text; Cavan - Deerpark Forest Park

Beautifully positioned on the banks of Lough Ramor, Deerpark was originally established as a hunting ground for the Lords of Headfort. This wealthy family lived in Headfort House in Kells, County Meath and owned a large extensive estate which, at the turn of the 20th century, encompassed over 22,000 acres in Counties Cavan and Meath. The Headfort family held various titles such as Lord, Earl, Marquis and Viscount and they were Members of Parliament at Westminster in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The first Earl of Bective, Lord Headfort created the 160 hectare park here, but the second Earl was more interested in developing the ecology and biodiversity of the parkland. He imported rare and exotic shrubs and trees from Asia and beyond. The family also commissioned buildings like an ice house and boathouse.

Located to the north entrance of the park, the ice house was a way of keeping ice frozen into the summer and may also have been used to store deer carcasses after the hunt. Ice houses were almost like an artificial cave, built deep into the ground so the temperature inside remains cool and regulated. Ice was gathered from the lake at winter and was stored in the icehouse where it would remain frozen all the way into summer. Some wealthy families even imported ice from Russia and Scandinavia.

Evidence can still be seen of settlements from earlier periods, long before the time of the Headforts. Crannógs on the lake of Lough Ramor are man-made islands which were used as a form of high status settlement. These monuments typically date to the early medieval period, often around a thousand years or so old. Local folklore tells that a chieftain who lived on one of the crannog islands lost his beautiful cauldrons in the waters of the lake. A more eerie stories warns of mysterious lights that appear on the lake when a member of the Doyle or Conarty families dies.





### 9.2.1 Interpretive Text; Louth - Castletown Motte

Underneath the large Anglo Norman Motte (earthen fort) are the remains of Dún Dealgan, - a prehistoric fort with strong connections to two of the most famous mythical heroes of Ireland; Fionn Mac Cumhaill and Cú Chulainn. Fionn Mac Cumhaill and his mother visited the fort once. While they were feasting, Fionn's mother noticed that her son's beautiful brooch or 'dealg' was missing. The fort was searched and the ground was even dug up, but the brooch could not be found anywhere. Fionn and his mother departed, but in remembrance of the incident the fort was named 'Dún-Dheilig-Fhinn' or the 'Fort of Fionn's Brooch'. The name was later used for the surrounding settlements and became later Anglicised to the current name – Dundalk.

The prehistoric fort became the site of the original Anglo-Norman settlement in this region in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. This fortress controls the important approaches to the ford at Toberona, the lowest downstream ford that can be crossed at all states of the tide. The Anglo-Normans often used pre-existing forts or hills to make their mottes (large earthen forts) appear higher and more domineering and they added baileys where they kept the animals and stores. From here the Anglo-Normans expanded their power in Dundalk and eventually started building stone castles nearby. The remains of the original Anglo-Norman site can still be seen in the external ditch and bank of the motte as well as the D-shaped Bailey to the northwest of the hill. In the eighteenth century the motte was reused for Byrne's Folly, a castellated residence whose ruins survive today.

To the right of the path on the way to the fort you can see a prehistoric standing stone in the field. This is called 'Lia Lingadon'. Lingadon was the herdsman of the beautiful Dechtire, the mother of one of Ireland's greatest legendary heroes; Cú Chulainn. The Lia Lingadon supposedly marks the spot where Dechtire gave birth to her son Setanta, who went on to earn the name Cú Chulainn (hound of Culann) when he killed the guard dog of Culann.



### 9.2.2 Interpretive Text; Louth - Hill of Faughart Church, County Louth.

The ruins of Faughart's medieval church stand on the great Hill of Faughart, an area with a long, complex and influential history. The Hill of Faughart stands 133m high and holds commanding views over the Irish Sea, Dundalk, the Cooley Peninsula, the Fews Mountains and Plain of Muirthemhne. As it holds such a vital strategic position in the landscape, it is easy to see why so much history is concentrated here.

The Hill of Faughart or Focherd (as it is also known) was once the site of an Iron Age hill fort. This hill fort was mentioned in Ireland's epic poem; the *Táin Bó Cúailgne*. It was here that Meabh, Queen of Connacht asked the Ulster hero Cú Chulainn to meet to discuss a truce. In good faith Cú Chulainn came to the hill, but Meabh had laid a trap. She sent a number of warriors to attack him but Cú Chulainn killed them all. The Hill of Faughart saw other conflicts through the centuries including the decisive Battle of Faughart in 1318 between the forces of Edward Bruce (brother of Robert Bruce the Scottish King) and the Hiberno-Norman forces led by John de Bermingham and Edmund Butler. The grave of Edward Bruce can still be seen in the churchyard today.

The Hill of Faughart Church is dedicated to St. Brigid. It was built in the 12th century on the holy ground where St. Brigid is said to have been born in AD 451. St. Brigid along with St. Patrick and St. Columba was one of the patron saints of Ireland. When Brigid was young, she lived on the hill with her sister. One day when she was returning home, she caught the amorous attention of a local chieftain, who pursued Brigid. In order to dissuade the chieftain of his love, Brigid changed herself into an old woman and pulled out her eye. Horrified at the sight of an old one-eyed crone the chieftain lost the mood and ran off. After he left Brigid restored her eye, and this act is associated with the Holy Well that you can find in the churchyard. Around the church other monuments to St. Brigid stand including the base of a high cross (St. Bridget's pillar), the possible base of a round tower and St. Bridget's Well. Aerial photographs have revealed that the churchyard is surrounded by a series of large circular enclosures – an indication that this was once an important monastic site during the early medieval period (400 – 1200 AD).





### 9.3.1 Interpretive Text; Monaghan – Rossmore Forest Park

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Rossmore Forest Park has a long history that dates back over six thousand years. Hidden away in the park, you may encounter evidence of our prehistoric past as there are a number of Megalithic Tombs dating back to the time of the first farmers in Ireland, in the Neolithic Period (4,000 - 2,500BC). You will also see echoes of Rossmore Castle which was developed by the Lords Rossmore from the 18th century onwards. The walled garden and mausoleum are remnants of the once grand estate.

Today much of the parkland survives with its eight lakes (Twin Lakes, Barnhill Lake, Castle Lake, Priestfield Lake, Ardagh Lake, Steenson's Lake, Bartle's Lake). There are lots of yew trees and rhododendrons, bamboo, red woods, birch and many native trees. Native species such as mallards, squirrels, foxes and badgers call the Park home. One of the most famous residents of the park is the Giant Redwood tree which was planted here by Henry Cairnes Westernra, 4th Lord Rossmore on his 11th birthday in 1862. Unfortunately Henry died young at the age of twenty two during a steeplechase in Windsor Castle in 1874. The death was witnessed by Queen Victoria who called off the races the next day as a mark of respect. Recently, this redwood won the Tree of the Year competition, which is run by the Tree Council of Ireland, in association with the Irish Tree Society. The park has recently introduced the Giants playground, an excellent and imaginative space for children to play on natural materials.



### 9.3.2 Interpretive Text; Monaghan – Black Pig’s Dyke

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The Black Pig’s Dike, also known as the Black Pig’s Race or the Worm Ditch, is part of a collection of linear earthworks dating to the Iron Age. These earthworks are found in at least nine counties in Ireland including Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan and Roscommon. Though the earthworks differ in size and shape, they generally consist of a large bank with a ditch on either side.

The name, Black Pig’s Dyke is traditionally associated with the story of a tyrannical magical schoolmaster who was able to transform himself and his students into animals. In one version of the story the students and the parents overthrow the schoolmaster, he turns into a giant angry pig and tears up the land using his tusks to create large trenches. Other versions of the story say the earthworks were a defensive structure that separated Ulster from the rest of Ireland or that a large serpent or worm carved the ditches as it slithered along. The story of the Black Pigs Dyke has caught the imagination of many, including one of Irelands most famous poets William Butler Yeats.

A section of the Black Pigs Dyke in Agheragh West was excavated in 1982. The excavations found no artefacts, but the team did discover that the dyke dated to 535–545 BC. This early date confirms that it was built long before other monumental defensive structures such as the Roman walls in Britain and was not influenced by them. They also confirmed the site was a defensive structure, designed to keep those south of the wall away from those living to the north of the wall. Recent geophysical surveying of the area, which allows archaeologists to see features underground by using ground penetrating radar, revealed the outline of many fire pits and houses. This may be evidence of a Bronze Age village to the north and south of the Black Pigs Dyke. Perhaps evidence of the original border community.





**REPORT PREPARED BY  
TARA CLARKE & NEIL JACKMAN  
ABARTA HERITAGE  
CLONMEL, TIPPERARY  
MARCH 2020**

**Planning and Conservation at Heritage Sites in Cavan & Monaghan**  
LEADER Co-operation project - MOU

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**Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”)**

(hereinafter the ‘MOU’)  
for the Management and Delivery of the

**Planning and Conservation at Heritage Sites in Cavan & Monaghan**  
**- Co-operation Project between Monaghan LCDC and Cavan LCDC.**

**DATED THE 30<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF November 2020**

**BETWEEN** Cavan County Council on behalf of Cavan LCDC (hereinafter the “Lead Partner”), **AND** Monaghan County Council on behalf of Monaghan LCDC (hereinafter the “Partner”). Hereinafter each of the named parties may be referred to as a “Party” or collectively the “Parties”.

**1 Introduction**

The Parties have agreed to develop Heritage Tourism sites in the counties of Cavan and Monaghan, so as to provide a heritage cluster capable of attracting visitors to the northern-most region of Ireland’s Ancient East.

Specifically, the second phase of the initiative seeks to deliver planning and conservation studies across the two of the three counties in order to improve their attractiveness as visitor sites.

**2 Memorandum of Understanding**

This MOU is exchanged between the Parties for the purpose of delivering the aims of - **Planning and Conservation at Heritage Sites LEADER Co-operation Project.**

The MOU sets out the parameters under which the delivery of these project aims will be undertaken between the parties.

This MOU sets out the spirit of collaboration and good faith proposals of the Parties to proceed with the Initiative and the Parties acknowledge that this MOU is not legally binding.

The Parties agree that this MOU will be the basis for determining the scope, limits and practical workings of the Initiative.

The Parties further agree that CAVAN County Council on behalf of Cavan LAG is recognised as the lead partner for this project.



**Planning and Conservation at Heritage Sites in Cavan & Monaghan**  
LEADER Co-operation project - MOU

## 2.1 Sites for Development under this Phase

2.1.1 The following plans and studies (as recommended in the Abartha report) will be developed at the following sites:

### Cavan

- Masterplan at Dun a Ri Forest Park, Kingscourt
- Conservation assessments, Deerpark Forest, Virginia

### Monaghan

- Conservation Management Plan, Rossmore Forest Park
- Conservation Management Plan, the Black Pigs Dyke, Scotshouse

2.1.2 For this phase delivery, the Parties have procured The Paul Hogarth Company whose will undertake the following;

The delivery of a series of plans and assessments at four heritage sites (as listed above) in Cavan and Monaghan as per the requirements and specifications set out in the tender documents.

2.1.3 The Parties have committed to seek further funding to assist in the delivery of these works.

## 2.2 Purpose of Initiative

- A to highlight the importance of heritage (both built and natural) within the counties of Cavan and Monaghan as unique attractors from a tourism point of view; and
- C to develop a cluster of tourism/heritage sites in these adjoining counties, by pooling 'resources' so as to broaden the product base and to increase these northern counties 'attractiveness' within Ireland's Ancient East,
- B by specifically developing the visitor experience at a minimum of three sites (one per county), thus unlocking their potential to attract increased visitors

## 3 The Parties Agree:

### 3.1 Resources

The parties agree to seek to secure capital funding for agreed developments to deliver on the recommendations of the Abartha Report.

### 3.2 Project Management

The Parties agree to establish a Steering Committee to oversee the delivery of this initiative.

**Planning and Conservation at Heritage Sites in Cavan & Monaghan**  
LEADER Co-operation project - MOU

- 3.2.1 Each party shall nominate a member of staff to deliver this project in conjunction with the consultants
- 3.2.2 The Lead Partner will be responsible for overall Project Co-Ordination Meetings

### **4.3 Financial Management**

The Parties agree that, for this signage element, Cavan LCDC, as Lead Partner will enter into a contract with The Paul Hogarth Company noting in all documents that the contract is on behalf of the two partners and is part of a LEADER Co-Operation Project.

- 4.3.1 When the project is completed, The Paul Hogarth Company will invoice Cavan LCDC for the full amount.
- 4.3.2 Cavan LCDC will issue payment for the full amount;
- 4.3.3 Cavan CDC will then invoice Monaghan LCDC for their share of the invoice, supplying back-up documentation
- 4.3.4 Each party will supply the Implementing Partners with the necessary paperwork to claim the grant aid.

### **5 Term**

- 5.1 The Term of this MOU is **3 years** from the date hereof (the "Term")
- 5.2 The MOU may be terminated, at any time, by the mutual agreement in writing of the Parties.

Signed for and on behalf of (and with the authority of) Cavan County Council (on behalf of Cavan LCDC) in the presence of:

Signed for and on behalf of (and with the authority of) Monaghan County Council on behalf of Monaghan LCDC in the presence of:



## **Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”)**

(hereinafter the ‘MOU’)  
for the Management and Delivery of the

***Developing Heritage Tourism Sites - Co-operation Project between  
Monaghan LCDC, Louth LCDC and Cavan LCDC.***

**DATED THE            30th    DAY OF November            2020**

**BETWEEN** Louth County Council on behalf of Louth LCDC and Cavan County Council on behalf of Cavan LCDC respectively (hereinafter the “Partners”) of the one part, **AND** Monaghan County Council on behalf of Monaghan LCDC (hereinafter the “Lead Partner”). Hereinafter each of the named parties may be referred to as a “Party” or collectively the “Parties”.

### **1 Introduction**

The Parties have agreed to develop Heritage Tourism sites in the counties of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan, so as to provide a heritage cluster capable of attracting visitors to the northern-most region of Ireland’s Ancient East.

Specifically, the second phase of the initiative seeks to deliver interpretation signage in four sites across the three counties in order to improve their attractiveness as visitor sites.

### **2 Memorandum of Understanding**

This MOU is exchanged between the Parties for the purpose of delivering the aims of the Developing Heritage Tourism Sites - Co-operation Project.

The MOU sets out the parameters under which the delivery of these project aims will be undertaken between the parties.

This MOU sets out the spirit of collaboration and good faith proposals of the Parties to proceed with the Initiative and the Parties acknowledge that this MOU is not legally binding.

The Parties agree that this MOU will be the basis for determining the scope, limits and practical workings of the Initiative.

The Parties further agree that Monaghan County Council on behalf of Monaghan LAG is recognised as the lead partner for this project.

## **2.1 Sites for Development under this Phase**

2.1.1 Interpretation signage (as recommended in the Abarta report) will be erected at the following sites:

Monaghan

- Rossmore Forest Park

Louth

- The Hill of Faughart
- Castletown Motte

Cavan

- Deerpark Forest, Virginia

2.1.2 For this phase delivery, the Parties have procured The Paul Hogarth Company whose will undertake the following;

Design, Project Management, Manufacture & Installation of Heritage Interpretation Signage at 4 Heritage sites (as listed above) in Cavan, Louth & Monaghan as per the requirements and specifications set out in the tender documents.

2.1.3 The Parties have committed to seek further funding to assist in the delivery of these works.

## **2.2 Purpose of Initiative**

- A to highlight the importance of heritage (both built and natural) within the three counties of Cavan, Louth and Monaghan as unique attractors from a tourism point of view; and
- C to develop a cluster of tourism/heritage sites in these adjoining counties, by pooling 'resources' so as to broaden the product base and to increase these northern counties 'attractiveness' within Ireland's Ancient East,
- B by specifically developing the visitor experience at a minimum of three sites (one per county), thus unlocking their potential to attract increased visitors



### **3 The Parties Agree:**

#### **3.1 Resources**

The parties agree to seek to secure capital funding for agreed developments to deliver on the recommendations of the Aarta Report.

#### **3.2 Project Management**

The Parties agree to establish a Steering Committee to oversee the delivery of this initiative.

3.2.1 Each party shall nominate a member of staff to deliver this project in conjunction with the consultants

3.2.2 The Lead Partner will be responsible for overall Project Co-Ordination Meetings

#### **4.3 Financial Management**

The Parties agree that, for this signage element, Monaghan LCDC, as Lead Partner will enter into a contract with The Paul Hogarth Company noting in all documents that the contract is on behalf of all 3 partners and is part of a LEADER Co-Operation Project

4.3.1 When the project is completed, The Paul Hogarth Company will invoice Monaghan LCDC for the full amount.

4.3.2 Monaghan LCDC will issue payment for the full amount;

4.3.3 Monaghan LCDC will then invoice both Louth LCDC and Cavan LCDC for their share of the invoice, supplying back-up documentation

4.3.4 Each party will supply the Implementing Partners with the necessary paperwork to claim the grant aid.

### **5 Term**

5.1 The Term of this MOU is **3 years** from the date hereof (the "Term")

5.2 The MOU may be terminated, at any time, by the mutual agreement in writing of the Parties.

Developing Heritage Tourism Sites – Co-operation project - MOU

Signed for and on behalf of (and with the authority of) Louth County Council (on behalf of Louth LCDC) in the presence of:

Signed for and on behalf of (and with the authority of) Cavan County Council (on behalf of Cavan LCDC) in the presence of:

Signed for and on behalf of (and with the authority of) Monaghan County Council on behalf of Monaghan LCDC in the presence of:

DRAFT



**Minutes of meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 22 December 2020 at 10.00 am**

**Chair:** Cllr Colm Carthy

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

Mr. P. Clifford, A/Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan, Mr. A. King Directors of Services, Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Services, Ms D. Condra Tourism Marketing Executive, Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator and Ms. M. McGarvey, Senior Staff Officer

**Apology:** Mr. E O'Sullivan, Chief Executive.

**1. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to Carn, Clones**

Mr. A. King, Director of Services referred to the report circulated which related to the proposed disposal of a portion of land to Clones Town FC. The area is 200 sq metres and is required to rectify the title of Clones Town FC. The matter had been discussed at a meeting of the Ballybay-Clones MD and the members were in agreement with the proposed disposal

*It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Gilliland seconded by Cllr P. Treanor to recommend to the proposed disposal to the full Council for approval.*

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

The members considered the circulated report on the proposed deletion of No. 10 Dublin Street from the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The building was identified as being the birthplace of Charles Gavin Duffy. It was noted that CONSARC Conservation were retained by Monaghan County Council to undertake an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) of Number 10 Dublin Street. Their report found that as a result of the substantial alterations which have been carried out on the building over the years, the submitted report notes that the building fabric has been substantially altered over time which has eroded its architectural significance. Consequently, the report concludes that the building cannot be regarded as having artistic merit due to the loss of most of the historic detail. CONSARC Conservation has classed the building to have 'neutral' significance and that it no longer meets the test for special characteristics in terms of its architecture or artistic merit.

Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance stated that the matter had been considered by the Monaghan MD members and there was no objection to the proposed removal of the building from the RPS.

*It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Aughey seconded by Cllr Treanor to recommend the proposed deletion of No 10 Dublin Street from the Record of Protected Structures to the full Council for approval.*

### 3. Section 85 Agreements – Monaghan/Cavan/Louth Co. Councils:

Ms. D. Condra, Tourism Marketing Executive informed the members 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 in the attached report 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.

*It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr C. Carthy to recommend that Monaghan County Council enters into a Section 85 Agreement with Cavan and Louth County Councils for the projects outlined above.*

### 4. Annual Council Awards Scheme

The Meetings Administrator referred to the Annual Council Awards Scheme. She stated that the 2019 Awards Scheme had been postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions on large gatherings and the 2020 Scheme was due to be advertised in early January.

Following a discussion on the matter, it was the view of the members that the presentation of the Awards for 2019 should be facilitated in a safe and socially distanced manner - Corporate Services to examine how this can be done. Regarding the 2020 Awards Scheme, the members felt that the Scheme should go ahead as there were many examples of good community efforts that should be acknowledged. The 2020 Awards Scheme should not take place until the 2019 Awards have been finalised.



*It was agreed to recommend to the Council that the 2020 Awards Scheme be deferred until after the 2019 Awards have been finalised.*

#### **5. To receive Health & Safety Report November 2020**

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director outlined the main points of the Health & Safety report for November 2020. He stated that there were no significant issues to report.

The Health & Safety Report for November 2020 was noted.

#### **6. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services informed the meeting that Jacobs Consulting are well advanced in their work on reviewing the material from the third public consultation phase and are making arrangements to finalise the full Option Selection Report (OSR), which is expected towards the end of January/beginning February. She stated that there will be a full publicity campaign when the final report is published and the Members will be fully informed. The full OSR is a suite of documents, very large in size, which will be uploaded to the project website. Each hardcopy OSR will cost approx €250-€300 to print.

Another issue that is currently being considered is how to safely accommodate members of the public who want to view the OSR at our offices while keeping compliance with public health guidelines.

The members acknowledged the work of the Consultants and the Roads Staff in ensuring the very professional way that the public consultation process on both schemes had been undertaken. Ms. P. Monahan acknowledged the positive comments from the members.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

##### **Civic Offices**

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Services informed the members that a meeting of the Office Accommodation Working Group had been held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November to bring that committee up to date and decide on the next steps. He stated that it was necessary to update the full Council and to seek the members endorsement of the process to date and seek approval to move to the next stage – ie Detailed Project Brief - pre Tender approval.

Mr. Flynn stated that the Capital Programme 2021-2023 had been circulated to the members at the Statutory Budget meeting and that it may be prudent to have a special meeting in January to discuss both the Civic Offices and the Capital Programme. The Masterplan for Rooskey lands is nearing completion and this could also be discussed at that meeting.

Following a discussion by the members it was agreed to place an item on the January Council agenda – to fix a date for a special Council meeting to consider the Capital Programme 2021-2023 and the Civic Offices project.

In response to queries from members regarding the inclusion of social clauses in future capital contracts, Mr. Flynn stated that the Council can include social considerations in public procurement but that it must follow strict procurement guidelines.

#### **Waterways Ireland presentation**

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that she had been notified by Waterways Ireland that its officials would be available to give a presentation to Council members on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Time to be confirmed later.

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

The meeting then concluded.

Not for publication



# Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin 151 Monaghan County Council



CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021-2023



NOVEMBER  
2020



Tionscaldal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040





### **Introduction from the Chief Executive**

Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires the Chief Executive to prepare and submit to the Elected Council a report indicating the programme of Capital Projects proposed by the Local Authority for the next three financial years, having regard to the availability of resources.

The three year Capital Programme for 2021-2023 is now presented to the Elected Members. This Programme is a rolling programme and will be reviewed and updated annually. Time, financial and other constraints may vary the progress of particular projects within a given period.

The programme includes a total of over 100 projects, which will require funding of some €265 million over the three year period.

It is important to note that consideration of the Capital Programme by the Members does not confer council approval on any individual project. This can only be achieved through the normal statutory processes and compliance with the Public Spending Code. Funding arrangements also need to be clearly identified and secured in advance of committing to any particular project.

I would like to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Colm Carthy, and the Elected Members for their ongoing support to the Management Team and staff of Monaghan County Council as we seek to deliver on our ambitious Capital Programme.



**Eamonn O'Sullivan**  
**Chief Executive, November 2020**



## Current Capital projects update

**Stage 1:** Still at inception stage

**Stage 2:** Planning permission approved and Design Team appointed

**Stage 3:** Awaiting funding approval

**Stage 4:** Gone to tender for construction/ Approved tender for construction

**Stage 5:** Construction started

### HOUSING

Project Title	Stage	Estimate Completion date
Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme Phase 4 (final payment and retention)	Stage 5	2021
Gortakeeghan conversion of day utility units to houses	Stage 5	2021
Bree, Castleblayney new build (26 houses)	Stage 5	2021
Clones Renewal Scheme (24 dwellings, balance and retention)	Stage 5	2020/2021
Bothar na Mullen Scotstown (32 houses)	Stage 5	2020/2021
Coill Darach Castleblayney (24 houses PP awaited)	Stage 2	2023
Social housing projects in villages (Ballinode, Iniskeen)	Stage 2/3	2023
41 houses Naffarty, Carrickmacross	Stage 4/5	2021/2022
41 houses Aghnasedagh Monaghan Town (CALF only, balance borrowed by AHB)	Stage 5	2022
Direct house purchases including renovation / pre-let work / buy & renew	Stage 5	2021 onwards
Casual Vacancies / Voids (recoupable)	Stage 5	2021 onwards
Planned Maintenance	Stage 5	2021 onwards
Social Houses provided under Part V	Stage 5	2021 onwards
Sheltered housing projects C'Blayney, B'bay and Hall Street	Stage 3/4	2022 onwards
Other turnkey projects and AHB projects (Kilnacloy, Folly Court B'bay, Mullaghmatt, Tydavnet)	Stage 3/4/5	2021 onwards
Castleblayney C.A. Communal Facility & 2 units Drumillard C'Blayney	Stage 4	2022
12 apartments Drummond Radhairc Carrickmacross CALF (balance borrowed by AHB)	Stage 5	2021
Liseggerton Clones Oaklee CAS (19 houses)	Stage 5	2021

## ROADS

Project Title	Stage	Estimate Completion date
<b>NATIONAL ROADS</b>		
N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3	Stage 5	2021
N54 Tullybryan Realignment	Stage 2	2023
N2 Clontibret to the Border	Stage 1	2031
N2 Ardee to Castleblayney	Stage 1	2031
N2 Blackwater Bridge Replacement	Stage 5	2021
N2 Aclint to Annamarran Pavement Scheme	Stage 5	2020
N54 Monaghan Town Pavement Scheme	Stage 5	2021
N54 Clonlura Pavement Scheme	Stage 2	2021
N2 Castleblayney By Pass (Lislanly to Tullyvin) Pavement Scheme	Stage 1	2022
N2 Junction Safety improvement (Tirnaneil)	Stage 2	2021
N2 Junction Safety improvement (Tullyvaragh)	Stage 1	2021
National Roads (HD17) Safety Improvements (incl junction improvements on N53, N54 & N12)	Stage 1	2021
N54 Margaret Skinnider Roundabout	Stage 1	2021
N12 Silverstream to Co Armagh Border	Stage 1	2024
N53 Ballynacarry Bridge (Replacement)	Stage 1	2023
N2 Cyclepaths	Stage 1	2022
N54/ N12 Monaghan Town Northern By Pass route	Stage 1	2026
N53 Dundalk Road to N2 Tullyvin Roundabout	Stage 1	2026
N54 Annaghervy to Mullabrack Realignment	Stage 1	2026
N2 Park & Ride	Stage 1	2022



<b>NON- NATIONAL ROADS</b>		
R181 – Corduff to Cavan Border – (Specific Funding)	<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>2022</b>
N2/N12 Link Road (Strategic Funding - Knockaconny)	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2023</b>
N2 Monaghan Bypass to Old Cross Square	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2026</b>
R180 Upgrade (Specific Funding) – Phase 1	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2022</b>
R180 Upgrade (Specific Funding) - Phase 2	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2023</b>
R162 Ballybay to Monaghan	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2023</b>
R182 Oram to Castleblayney	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2022</b>
Climate Change Adaptation	<b>Stage 4</b>	<b>2021</b>
Dundalk/ Carrickmacross/ Shercock R178	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2023</b>
N54 Flood Alleviation Scheme *(Developer Led)	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2022</b>

## FIRE &amp; CIVIL DEFENCE

Project Title	Stage	Estimate Completion date
Castleblayney Fire Station	Stage 5	2021
Ballybay Fire Station	Stage 1	2022
Civil Defence HQ	Stage 5	2021
Class B Fire Appliance	Stage 1	2022
Class B Fire Appliance	Stage 5	2021
Class B Fire Appliance	Stage 1	2023
Clones Fire Station energy upgrade	Stage 1	2023
Monaghan CFBT Centre	Stage 1	2022
Monaghan fleet storage facility & energy upgrade	Stage 1	2023
Carrickmacross Fire Station extension & energy upgrade	Stage 1	2023

## ENVIRONMENT

Project Title	Stage	Estimate Completion date
Rebuilding of landfill site office	Stage 4	2021
Historical landfill Remediation works at old Scotch Corner Site	Stage 1	Funding dependent
Historical landfill Remediation works at Killycard site.	Stage 1	Funding dependent
Historical landfill remediation works at Killycronaghan site.	Stage 1	Funding dependent



## RECREATION &amp; AMENITY

Project Title	Stage	Estimate Completion date
<b>Libraries</b>		
Small Capital Works Clones Branch	Stage 1	2021
Clones branch glazing works	Stage 1	2021
<b>Recreation</b>		
Ulster Canal Greenway (Phase 2)	Stage 2	2023
MUGA (Monaghan Town) (may relocate to Orielway)	Stage 2/3	2021
MUGA Orielway Resurfacing	Stage 3	2021
Belgium Park Sports Facility upgrades	Stage 1	2022
Derelict Sites (Countywide)	Stage 4	2021
<b>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Funding</b>		
Rossmore Park Cycle lane	Stage 3	2021
Hollywood	Stage 2	2022
Sliabh Beagh Tourism Infrastructure ORIS Enhancements	Stage 1	2023
Outdoor recreation scheme Mon MD misc.	Stage 1	2021
Outdoor recreation scheme BCMD misc.	Stage 3	2021
<b>Heritage</b>		
Tourism Signage & Interpretation Improvements at Rossmore & Conservation Plan at Black Pig's Dyke (LEADER Co-operation)	Stage 3	2021

## MISCELLANEOUS

Project Title	Stage	Estimate Completion date
<b>Capital Projects Department</b>		
Council HQ Redevelopment Project	Stage 1	2025
Energy Improvement projects at Council Buildings (BEC)	Stage 5	2023
Public Lighting Upgrade to LED	Stage 5	2021
Castleblayney Market Square regeneration Phase 1 (Gate Lodge 2 & Public Realm)	Stage 5	2022
Castleblayney Market Square regeneration Phase 2 (Market House & Market Square Public Realm)	Stage 1	2024
Peace Campus Monaghan Town	Stage 5	2022
Newbliss Former Area office	Stage 2	2023
<b>Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD</b>		
Ivy Lane Carpark, Carrickmacross	Stage 1	2022
Industrial Development/ Enterprise	Stage 1	2023
<b>Ballybay-Clones MD</b>		
Clones Serviced Industrial Sites	Stage 1	2023
Ballybay Street Scape Phase III	Stage 2	2022
MD Public Lighting	Stage 3	2023
Clones Renewal Phase II	Stage 1	2023
Ballybay Renewal	Stage 1	2023
<b>Monaghan MD</b>		
Car parking Monaghan Town, Acquire & Develop car parks	Stage 1	2021
<b>Urban &amp; Rural Regeneration Fund</b>		
Monaghan Urban Regeneration Development Funding	Stage 1	2024
Ballybay Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Project	Stage 2	2023
Clones Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Project	Stage 2	2023
Clones Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Project - Peacelink Gym Enhancement	Stage 3	2023
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD Rural Regeneration Project (3 projects)	Stage 1	2023
Clones to Smithboro Greenway	Stage 1	2023
Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway	Stage 1	2023
<b>Town &amp; Village Fund</b>		
Ballybay-Clones MD Town & Village Fund	Stage 3	2023
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD Town & Village Fund (4 projects)	Stage 4	2020
Monaghan MD Town & Village Fund	Stage 1	2021



<b>Destination Towns (Failte Ireland)</b>	<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
IT Department – Additional 48TB Storage Node	<b>Stage 4</b>	<b>2021</b>
Leader Projects	<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>2022</b>
MD Depots BCMD	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>2021</b>

SUMMARY					Funding Source - Income			
Division	2021	2022	2023	Total Expenditure	Grants	Loans	Other	Total Funding
Housing	€ 28,675,000	€ 28,325,000	€ 33,000,000	€ 90,000,000	€ 89,250,000	€ -	€ 750,000	€ 90,000,000
Roads	€ 11,290,000	€ 27,355,000	€ 20,070,000	€ 58,965,000	€ 58,965,000	€ -	€ -	€ 58,965,000
Fire & Civil Defence	€ 1,024,527	€ 1,792,393	€ 721,238	€ 3,538,158	€ 3,252,354	€ 20,441	€ 265,363	€ 3,538,158
Environment	€ 300,000	€ -	€ 5,760,000	€ 6,060,000	€ 5,760,000	€ -	€ 300,000	€ 6,060,000
Recreation & Amenities	€ 2,037,693	€ 5,125,000	€ 7,695,000	€ 14,857,693	€ 14,461,355	€ -	€ 396,338	€ 14,857,693
Miscellaneous	€ 26,845,446	€ 31,780,507	€ 33,274,300	€ 91,900,253	€ 55,488,888	€ 32,416,365	€ 3,995,000	€ 91,900,253
<b>Total</b>	€ 70,172,666	€ 94,377,900	€ 100,520,538	€ 265,321,104	€ 227,177,597	€ 32,436,806	€ 5,706,701	€ 265,321,104



Housing	2021	2022	2023	Total Expen.	Funding Source - Income			Total Funding
					Grants	Loans	Other	
Mullaghmatt Remedial Works Scheme Phase 4 (final payment and retention)	€ 400,000			€ 400,000	€ 400,000			€ 400,000
Gortakeeghan conversion of day utility units to houses	€ 600,000			€ 600,000	€ 600,000			€ 600,000
Bree, Castleblayney new build (26 houses)	€ 5,600,000			€ 5,600,000	€ 5,600,000			€ 5,600,000
Clones Renewal Scheme (24 dwellings, balance and retention)	€ 3,300,000	€ 200,000		€ 3,500,000	€ 3,500,000			€ 3,500,000
Bothar na Mullen Scotstown (32 houses)	€ 4,235,000	€ 275,000		€ 4,510,000	€ 4,510,000			€ 4,510,000
Coill Darach Castleblayney (24 houses PP awaited)			€ 6,000,000	€ 6,000,000	€ 6,000,000			€ 6,000,000
Social housing projects in villages (Ballinode, Inishkeen)			€ 9,000,000	€ 9,000,000	€ 9,000,000			€ 9,000,000
41 houses Naffarty Carrickmacross	€ 7,820,000	€ 2,000,000		€ 9,820,000	€ 9,820,000			€ 9,820,000
41 houses Aghnasedagh Monaghan Town (CALF only, balance borrowed by AHB)		€ 2,000,000		€ 2,000,000	€ 2,000,000			€ 2,000,000
Direct house purchases including renovation / pre-let work / buy & renew	€ 2,200,000	€ 1,000,000	€ 500,000	€ 3,700,000	€ 3,700,000			€ 3,700,000
Casual Vacancies / Voids (recoupable)	€ 350,000	€ 350,000	€ 350,000	€ 1,050,000	€ 1,050,000			€ 1,050,000
Planned Maintenance	€ 250,000	€ 250,000	€ 250,000	€ 750,000			€ 750,000	€ 750,000
Social Houses provided under Part V	€ 500,000	€ 500,000	€ 500,000	€ 1,500,000	€ 1,500,000			€ 1,500,000
Sheltered housing projects C'Blayney, B'bay and Hall Street		€ 5,000,000	€ 5,000,000	€ 10,000,000	€ 10,000,000			€ 10,000,000
Other turnkey projects and AHB projects (Kilnacloy, Folly Court B'bay, M'matt, Tydavnet)	€ 2,000,000	€ 16,000,000	€ 11,400,000	€ 29,400,000	€ 29,400,000			€ 29,400,000
Castleblayney C.A. Communal Facility & 2 units Drumillard C'Blayney	€ 20,000	€ 650,000		€ 670,000	€ 670,000			€ 670,000
12 apartments Drummond Radhairc Carrickmacross CALF (bal borrowed by AHB)	€ 500,000			€ 500,000	€ 500,000			€ 500,000
Liseggerton Clones Oaklee CAS (19 houses)	€ 900,000	€ 100,000		€ 1,000,000	€ 1,000,000			€ 1,000,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€ 28,675,000</b>	<b>€ 28,325,000</b>	<b>€ 33,000,000</b>	<b>€ 90,000,000</b>	<b>€ 89,250,000</b>		<b>€ 750,000</b>	<b>€ 90,000,000</b>



Roads	2021	2022	2023	Total Expen.	Funding Source - Income			Total Funding
					Grants	Loans	Other	
<b>National Roads</b>								
N2 Monaghan to Emyvale Phase 3	€300,000			€300,000	€300,000			€300,000
N54 Tullybryan Realignment	€2,000,000	€10,000,000	€5,000,000	€17,000,000	€17,000,000			€17,000,000
N2 Clontibret to the Border	€1,250,000	€1,350,000	€600,000	€3,200,000	€3,200,000			€3,200,000
N2 Ardee to Castleblayney	€1,250,000	€1,350,000	€600,000	€3,200,000	€3,200,000			€3,200,000
N2 Blackwater Bridge Replacement	€100,000			€100,000	€100,000			€100,000
N2 Aclint to Annamarran Pavement Scheme	€50,000			€50,000	€50,000			€50,000
N54 Monaghan Town Pavement Scheme	€850,000	€50,000		€900,000	€900,000			€900,000
N54 Clonlura Pavement Scheme	€1,300,000	€65,000		€1,365,000	€1,365,000			€1,365,000
N2 Castleblayney By Pass (Lislanly to Tullyvin) Pavement Scheme		€2,300,000	€120,000	€2,420,000	€2,420,000			€2,420,000
N2 Junction Safety improvement (Tirnaneil)	€100,000			€100,000	€100,000			€100,000
N2 Junction Safety improvement (Tullyvaragh)	€200,000			€200,000	€200,000			€200,000
National Roads (HD17) Safety Improvements (incl junction improvements on N53, N54 & N12)	€780,000	€500,000	€500,000	€1,780,000	€1,780,000			€1,780,000
N54 Margaret Skinnider Roundabout	€500,000	€50,000		€550,000	€550,000			€550,000
N12 Silverstream to Co Armagh Border		€50,000	€150,000	€200,000	€200,000			€200,000
N53 Ballynacarry Bridge (Replacement )	€200,000	€2,000,000	€4,000,000	€6,200,000	€6,200,000			€6,200,000
N2 Cyclepaths	€230,000	€280,000		€510,000	€510,000			€510,000
N54/ N12 Monaghan Town Northern By Pass route		€50,000	€100,000	€150,000	€150,000			€150,000
N53 Dundalk Road to N2 Tullyvin Roundabout			€50,000	€50,000	€50,000			€50,000
N54 Annaghervy to Mullabrack Realignment		€50,000	€100,000	€150,000	€150,000			€150,000
N2 Park & Ride	€100,000	€350,000		€450,000	€450,000			€450,000
<b>Non- National Roads</b>								
R181 – Corduff to Cavan Border – (Specific Funding)	€1,500,000	€2,500,000	€300,000	€4,300,000	€4,300,000			€4,300,000
N2/N12 Link Road (Strategic Funding - Knockaconny)	€100,000	€4,000,000	€3,000,000	€7,100,000	€7,100,000			€7,100,000
N2 Monaghan Bypass to Old Cross Square			€50,000	€50,000	€50,000			€50,000
R180 Upgrade (Specific Funding) – Phase 1	€60,000	€600,000	-	€660,000	€660,000			€660,000



R180 Upgrade (Specific Funding) - Phase 2	-	€1,000,000	€2,200,000	€3,200,000	€3,200,000		€3,200,000
R162 Ballybay to Monaghan	-	-	€3,300,000	€3,300,000	€3,300,000		€3,300,000
R182 Oram - Castleblayney	€60,000	€660,000	-	€720,000	€720,000		€720,000
Climate Adaptation Grant	€160,000	€150,000	-	€310,000	€310,000		€310,000
Dundalk/ Carrickmacross/ Shercock R178			€50,000	€50,000	€50,000		€50,000
N54 Flood Alleviation Scheme *(Developer Led)	€200,000	€200,000		€400,000	€400,000		€400,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€11,290,000</b>	<b>€27,355,000</b>	<b>€20,070,000</b>	<b>€58,965,000</b>	<b>€58,965,000</b>		<b>€58,965,000</b>

Fire & Civil Defence					Funding Source - Income			
	2021	2022	2023	Total Expend.	Grants	Loans	Other	Total Funding
Castleblaney Fire Station	€ 30,479			€ 30,479	€ 30,479			€ 30,479
Ballybay Fire Station	€ 600,000	€ 790,393	€ 45,238	€ 1,435,631	€ 1,292,068		€ 143,563	€ 1,435,631
Civil Defence HQ	€ 24,048			€ 24,048	€ 3,607	€ 20,441		€ 24,048
Class B Fire Appliance	€ 190,000			€ 190,000	€ 190,000			€ 190,000
Class B Fire Appliance		€ 200,000	€ 190,000	€ 390,000	€ 390,000			€ 390,000
Class B Fire Appliance			€ 390,000	€ 390,000	€ 390,000			€ 390,000
Clones Fire Station energy upgrade		€ 52,000		€ 52,000	€ 52,000			€ 52,000
Monaghan CFBT Centre	€ 180,000	€ 310,000	€ 25,000	€ 515,000	€ 515,000			€ 515,000
Monaghan fleet storage facility & energy upgrade		€ 125,000	€ 71,000	€ 196,000	€ 137,200		€ 58,800	€ 196,000
Carrickmacross Fire Station extension & energy upgrade		€ 315,000		€ 315,000	€ 252,000		€ 63,000	€ 315,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€ 1,024,527</b>	<b>€ 1,792,393</b>	<b>€ 721,238</b>	<b>€ 3,538,158</b>	<b>€ 3,252,354</b>	<b>€ 20,441</b>	<b>€ 265,363</b>	<b>€ 3,538,158</b>



Environment	2021	2022	2023	Total Expend.	Funding Source - Income			Total Funding
					Grants	Loans	Other	
Rebuilding of landfill site office	€300,000			€300,000			€300,000	€300,000
Historical landfill Remediation works at old Scotch Corner Site			€3,200,000	€3,200,000	€3,200,000			€3,200,000
Historical landfill Remediation works at Killycard historical landfill site.			€1,300,000	€1,300,000	€1,300,000			€1,300,000
Historical landfill remediation works at Knockcronaghan historical Landfill site.			€1,260,000	€1,260,000	€1,260,000			€1,260,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€300,000</b>		<b>€5,760,000</b>	<b>€6,060,000</b>	<b>€5,760,000</b>		<b>€300,000</b>	<b>€6,060,000</b>

Recreation & Amenity	2021	2022	2023	Total Expend.	Funding Source - Income			Total Funding
					Grants	Loans	Other	
<b>Libraries</b>								
Small Capital Works Grant Clones Branch	€111,000			€111,000	€111,000			€111,000
Clones branch glazing works	€150,000			€150,000			€150,000	€150,000
<b>Recreation</b>								
Ulster Canal Greenway (Phase 2)	€350,000	€4,000,000	€7,100,000	€11,450,000	€11,450,000			€11,450,000
MUGA (Monaghan Town)	€250,000			€250,000	€250,000			€250,000
Belgium Park Sports Facility upgrades	€50,000	€70,000		€120,000	€100,000		€20,000	€120,000
Derelict Sites (Countywide)	€40,000			€40,000	€40,000			€40,000
Clones Skateboard facility	€50,000	€50,000		€100,000	€100,000			€100,000
<b>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Funding</b>								
Rossmore Park Cycle lane	€331,693			€331,693	€259,355		€72,338	€331,693
Hollywood	€50,000	€150,000		€200,000	€180,000		€20,000	€200,000
Sliabh Beagh Tourism Infrastructure ORIS 2020	€100,000	€400,000		€500,000	€450,000		€50,000	€500,000
Outdoor recreation scheme Mon MD misc.	€75,000	€75,000	€225,000	€375,000	€315,000		€60,000	€375,000
Outdoor Recreation Scheme CMXCB misc	€150,000	€150,000	€150,000	€450,000	€450,000			€450,000
Outdoor recreation scheme BCMD misc.	€220,000	€220,000	€220,000	€660,000	€660,000			€660,000
<b>Heritage</b>								
Tourism Interpretation signage & Conservation Plans	€110,000	€10,000		€120,000	€96,000		€24,000	€120,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€2,037,693</b>	<b>€5,125,000</b>	<b>€7,695,000</b>	<b>€14,857,693</b>	<b>€14,461,355</b>	€ -	<b>€396,338</b>	<b>€14,857,693</b>



Miscellaneous	2021	2022	2023	Total Expend.	Funding Source - Income			Total Funding
					Grants	Loans	Other	
<b>Capital Projects Department</b>								
Council HQ Redevelopment Project	€2,000,000	€6,000,000	€10,000,000	€18,000,000		€18,000,000		€18,000,000
Energy Improvement projects at Council Buildings	€200,000	€200,000		€400,000			€400,000	€400,000
Public Lighting Upgrade to LED	€415,000			€415,000			€415,000	€415,000
Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase 1 (Gate Lodge 2 Library & Public Realm)	€2,100,000	€750,000		€2,850,000	€2,137,500	€712,500		€2,850,000
Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase 2 (Market House & Market Sq Public Realm)	€500,000	€3,000,000	€3,000,000	€6,500,000	€4,875,000	€1,625,000		€6,500,000
Peace Campus Monaghan Town	€9,104,182	€7,000,000	€1,578,008	€17,682,190	€10,541,081	€5,590,109	€1,551,000	€17,682,190
Newbliss Former Area Office	€300,000	€600,000	€600,000	€1,500,000	€1,125,000	€375,000		€1,500,000
<b>Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD</b>								
Ivy Lane Carpark, Carrickmacross	€300,000	€200,000		€500,000	€450,000		€50,000	€500,000
Industrial Development/ Enterprise	€300,000	€300,000		€600,000			€600,000	€600,000
<b>Ballybay-Clones MD</b>								
Clones Serviced Industrial Sites	€150,000	€150,000	€150,000	€450,000			€450,000	€450,000
Ballybay Street Scape Phase III		€300,000	€100,000	€400,000	€400,000			€400,000
MD Public Lighting	€25,000	€25,000	€25,000	€75,000			€75,000	€75,000
Clones Renewal Phase II	€100,000	€1,000,000	€1,500,000	€2,600,000	€2,600,000			€2,600,000
Ballybay Renewal	€50,000	€1,000,000	€1,000,000	€2,050,000	€2,050,000			€2,050,000
<b>Monaghan MD</b>								
Car parking Monaghan Town, Acquire & Develop car parks	€550,000	€250,000		€800,000	€225,000	€550,000	€25,000	€800,000
<b>Urban Regeneration Fund</b>								
Monaghan Urban Regeneration Development Funding	€1,195,250	€4,367,124	€7,491,292	€13,053,666	€9,790,250	€3,263,417		€13,053,667

<b>Rural Regeneration and Development Fund</b>								
Ballybay Regeneration and Development Fund Project	€450,000	€500,000	€1,200,000	€2,150,000	€1,720,000	€430,000		€2,150,000
Clones Regeneration and Development Fund Project	€800,000	€1,100,000	€1,700,000	€3,600,000	€2,880,000	€720,000		€3,600,000
Clones Regeneration and Development Fund Project - Peacelink Gym Enhancement	€300,000	€800,000	€100,000	€1,200,000	€1,000,000	€200,000		€1,200,000
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD Rural Regeneration Project (3 projects)	€5,041,014	€1,262,383		€6,303,397	€5,673,057	€630,339		€6,303,396
Clones to Smithboro greenway	€100,000	€500,000	€3,000,000	€3,600,000	€3,600,000			€3,600,000
Ballybay to Castleblayney greenway	€20,000	€100,000	€1,000,000	€1,120,000	€1,100,000		€20,000	€1,120,000
<b>Town &amp; Village Fund</b>								
Ballybay-Clones MD Town & Village Fund	€360,000	€360,000	€360,000	€1,080,000	€972,000		€108,000	€1,080,000
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD Town & Village Fund (4 projects)	€250,000	€250,000	€250,000	€750,000	€675,000		€75,000	€750,000
Monaghan MD Town & Village Fund	€250,000	€250,000	€200,000	€700,000	€675,000		€25,000	€700,000
<b>Destination Towns (Failte Ireland)</b>	€350,000	€316,000		€666,000	€500,000		€166,000	€666,000
<b>Miscellaneous</b>								
IT Department - Additional 48TB storage node	€35,000			€35,000			€35,000	€35,000
Leader Projects	€1,500,000	€1,000,000		€2,500,000	€2,500,000			€2,500,000
MD Depot BCMD	€100,000	€200,000	€20,000	€320,000		€320,000		€320,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€26,845,446</b>	<b>€31,780,507</b>	<b>€33,274,300</b>	<b>€91,900,253</b>	<b>€55,488,888</b>	<b>€32,416,365</b>	<b>€3,995,000</b>	<b>€91,900,253</b>





## MANAGEMENT REPORT

DECEMBER 2020

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

**Clones Renewal Scheme Update**

Monaghan County Council received Funding Approval in April 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland programme to demolish 10 properties on Fermanagh Street and Analore Street, Clones and construct 19 new apartments and 2 new Townhouses in their place. In addition, Monaghan County Council received Funding Approval in January 2020 to demolish No. 63 Fermanagh Street, Clones and construct 3 No. Apartments, bringing the total number of units in the Clones Renewal Scheme from 21 to 24. Local Architectural firm Craftstudio are the Design Team Lead and the Employers Representative. The contractor Lowry Construction Ltd. is making good progress on site under difficult circumstances. This significant and noteworthy project is receiving national attention as a standout example of how to deliver social housing under difficult circumstances on brownfield sites, while contributing massively to renewal of the town centre.

The project is given high priority by Monaghan County Council and will provide the highest quality finished homes with a Building Energy Rating of A3 and above. Construction is progressing well on site with an increased construction budget of €4.9million including VAT resulting from the inclusion of 63 Fermanagh Street and an all-in project budget of circa €6million including VAT. Through a great project team effort within the current restricted working environment the first three properties at the former Boyle Sports (Site 2) are at substantial completion stage with a further 3 properties at the former Davey's Butchers (site 1) on Fermanagh Street nearing substantial completion also. The remaining 18 properties consisting of nine apartments at the former site of An Bonnan Bui, Flower Shop and 63 Fermanagh Street (Site 3), three apartments at the former site of The Busted Sofa Bar & 83 Fermanagh Street (Site 4), two new townhouses at 2A and 3 Analore Street (Site 5) and four apartments at the former site of The Abbey Gatehouse Bar (Site 6) will be completed through the course of 2021 with the final properties programmed for completion at the end of Q3 2021.

Monaghan County Council will continue to seek additional funding for Social Housing projects of this type at every opportunity that arises and proactively pursue opportunities for additional social housing provision in areas of Housing Need throughout County Monaghan.



Site 2 Boyle Sports"



Ready for Snagging for Substantial Completion





**Site 5 "2a & 3 Analore Street"**  
**Superstructure Blockwork commenced**

**Rosevale Housing Project – Photos and Update**

26 Social Houses to be provided at Plás an Bhrí, Bree, Castleblayney under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme



Monaghan County Council continues to make excellent progress under the Rebuilding Ireland Social Housing Programme.

Monaghan County Council has contracts in place for the provision of 26 houses at Plás an Bhrí, Bree, Castleblayney. The houses are under construction by Ballymar Development Limited. The finance of €5,530,000 for the construction of these homes is provided by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

The development comprises of the following house types:

- 4no 4-Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses (126m<sup>2</sup>)
- 16no 3-Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses (98m<sup>2</sup>)
- 6no 3-Bedroom Terraced Houses (98m<sup>2</sup>)

The works include open space, landscaping, new access road, drainage, street lighting and other siteworks as described in the Planning Application.

The main structure of the houses is by MHI (Modern Homes Ireland) who use an innovative system of building in the form of a modular steel frame volumetric method of construction. The houses are 80% constructed within a factory environment, prior to the delivery to site of 4 modules which make a single house. This process increases the speed of construction while ensuring excellent quality control. The 26 homes will be finished to a high standard and will have Building Energy Ratings of A2.

Works commenced in March 2020, the houses will be substantially completed and transferred to Monaghan County Council in late December 2020 with minor works and snagging to be completed in early 2021.



Photo of site prior to works ~ Early 2020



Photo of module being lifted into place ~ September 2020





Photo of Kitchen pre flooring ~ October 2020

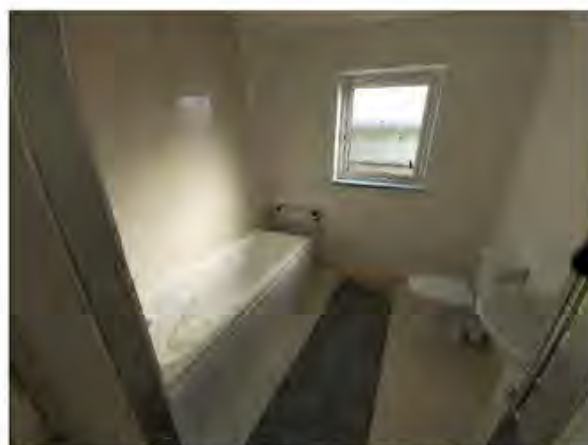


Photo of module Bathroom, tiled, plumbed, and fitted in factory ~ September 2020



Photo of 8 properties ~ December 2020



Photo of above 8 home modules + 2 additional modules ~ December 2020

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

#### Folly Court Overview and Update



Monaghan County Council received funding approval to the value of €1,029,757 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland programme to acquire and re-develop a 6-unit development Folly Court which is located on the Castleblayney Road in the town of Ballybay. The sale completed and the properties came into Monaghan County Council ownership at the end of November 2020. The preparation of tender documents to procure Contractor and Consultant is at an advanced stage. The development includes 6 single-storey 3 bedroom dwellings

with rear garden and parking to the front. The development is in a convenient location close to local amenities.

Monaghan County Council propose to bring these single storey dwellings up to a high standard with energy efficiency upgrades to the building fabric and installation of renewable energy central heating systems, fire stopping works to party wall, soffit boxes and at service penetration location, fire detection system upgrade and other necessary improvement works such as installing new kitchen and bathroom. Tender documents are currently being prepared and upgrade works are planned to commence in March 2021 and complete in June 2021.

### Gortakeegan Reconstruction Programme

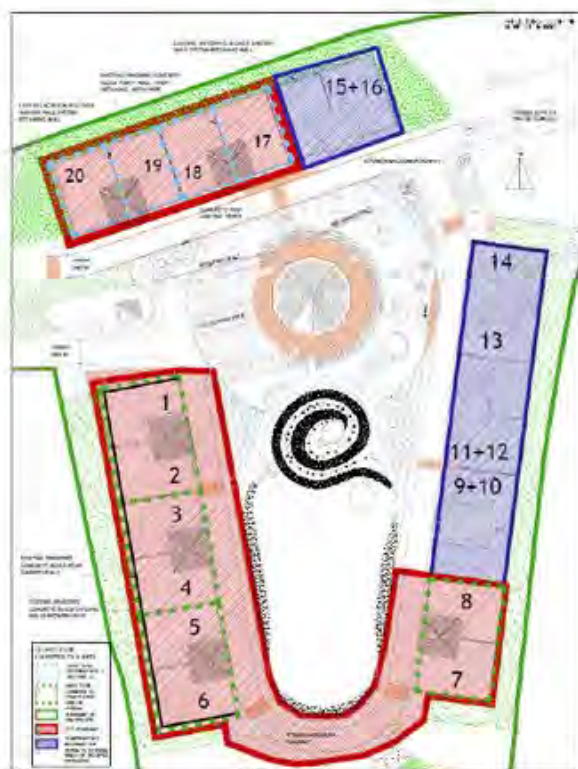
#### *Gortakeegan Final Phase Conversion Works to 12 Units (Final Phase)*

Housing Section has procured a Design Team, Assigned Certifier and PSDP for the main housing project at Gortakeegan which will involve the conversion of the remaining twelve existing halting day/utility units to dwellings.

Upon completion of Gortakeegan Final Phase Conversion Works to 12 Units;

- 8 units will be converted into 4no. 2 Bedroom dwellings
- 4 units will have a bedroom extension and create 4no. 1 Bedroom dwellings

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has approved funding of €774,088.64 for the final phase works. The final phase works commenced on the 30/11/2020, the appointed contractor is NC Plant Hire Ltd and the works will be completed in early Q3 2021 subject to no unexpected delays.



Gortakeegan Site Layout detailing completed works in Blue. Final Phase highlighted red.



## TRANSPORTATION

PATRICIA MONAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

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

Following the conclusion of the public consultation process on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridors on Monday, 5th October 2020, the N2 Project Team continues to consider feedback and submissions received before completing the Phase 2 Option Selection process. At this point it is hoped that the Preferred Route Corridors will be finalised and published by early 2021.

Although the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor public consultation process has now concluded, the project team remain available to be contacted. The project website [www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie](http://www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie) still has all information relating to the third non-statutory public consultation available (the virtual consultation experience can still be viewed on the project website), the project phoneline can be contacted on 087 340 3786, and queries can be submitted by email at the following addresses;

[ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie](mailto:ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie) or [ClontibretBorder@N2MonaghanLouth.ie](mailto:ClontibretBorder@N2MonaghanLouth.ie).

Minor Improvement Schemes**N54 Tullybryan Scheme:**

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

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

John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd completed 0.6km of carriageway resurfacing in Monaghan Town on Glaslough St and Dublin St and the footpath works on North road in 2020. To accommodate Christmas trading, and due to unforeseen conditions met at the North Road, the contractor will return at the end of March 2021 to resurface North Rd, Old Cross Square, Dawson St and Broad Rd.

**2021 Pavement Scheme – N54 Clonlura- 2.6km**

In November Westmeath NRO issued a draft PARR (Pavement Asset Repair & Renewal Report) for a 2.6km Pavement Scheme on the N54 Clonlura. Additional ground investigations are to be carried out in the New Year following which the report will be updated.

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

In October, the Donegal NRO commenced the preparation of a PARR Report for 5.8km Pavement Scheme along the N2 Castleblayney Bypass from Tullyvin Roundabout to Cremartin Roundabout.

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) are currently demobilising from site. The project involved the demolition of the old Blackwater masonry bridge which carries approximately 12,000 vehicles every day on N2 National Road over the Blackwater River at Coolshannagh. The associated works included the re-alignment of approximately 300m of the road on either side of the new bridge, new road drainage, street lighting, the provision of a new bus lay-by,



bus parking area and accommodation works at St. Macartans College and works at Lakeland Dairies. The project was funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



#### **N53 Ballynacarry Bridge Replacement:**

TII have given approval to progress the N53 Ballynacarry Bridge to detailed design stage.

#### **N54 Park Road (Margaret Skinnider Roundabout)**

In 2020 MCC Roads secured approval from TII for a new roundabout with safety improvements in Monaghan Town at the N54 / Park Road (Margaret Skinnider roundabout). MCC Roads have had discussions with the Monaghan Municipal District Elected members on the proposal. The Consultant is finalising the Part 8 Planning drawings and documentation. It is expected to publish the Part 8 Application in early Jan 2021. Following approval of Part 8 planning, the tender documents will be prepared, and Contractors procured. It is proposed that Construction of the new roundabout would be carried out in Summer 2021.

#### **N2 Tirraneil junction**

In 2020 MCC Roads secured approval from TII for or the widening at the N2 / LP01155 (Tirraneil) junction. Tender documents for the procurement of a Contractor were published on E-Tenders and the closing date was 11 December 2020. Construction works are expected to commence in Q1 2021

#### **N2 Tullyvaragh junction**

MCC Roads have had several discussions with TII Safety on the Safety improvement works proposed for the N2 Tullyvaragh / L8100 junction. The scheme proposed to go forward is to include the widening of the local side road (L8100), to improve visibility and the gradient of the dwell area at the junction. Previous design and Part 8 documents will be updated in the coming weeks.

MCC Roads attended a meeting with the Castleblayney – Carrickmacross MD on the 21st December 2020 to outline the details of the project. The members agreed the scheme should still progress as it will bring safety improvements to the layout and sight visibility at the L8100 side road junction despite some reservations with the design of the scheme as it does not include Right turning lanes off the N2 onto the local side roads, L8100 and L4500.



### **N54 Smithboro Pedestrian Crossing**

In 2020, MCC Roads secured approval from TII for a new controlled pedestrian crossing facility on the N54 in Smithborough Village. It is proposed to publish the Tender documents for the procurement of a Contractor in early Jan 2021.

### **Castleblayney Bypass (2+1)**

A 48-hour CCTV and traffic count survey at six junctions on the Castleblayney Bypass (2 +1) showed no recorded incidences of rear end shunts, near misses or heavy braking. MCC Roads are currently finalising the report summarising the investigation.

### **NP & NS Maintenance**

#### **TII Map Portal Funding (Defect management System)**

### **Fencing Retrofit Programme**

In 2020, three separate retrofit Fencing Contracts were completed on the National road network with 1,578m of timber post and mesh fencing installed on various locations on the N2 and N54.

### **Vehicle Restraint Systems**

Lagan Operations & Maintenance Ltd were contracted in 2020 to carry out repair / replacement of crash barriers at various locations on the National Road network. Repairs have been completed at nine sites and a further six are scheduled. Additional repairs are required due to barrier strikes and works are expected to continue into Jan 2021.

### **HGV Restrictions – Monaghan Town**

In 2020, Roads in conjunction with Monaghan MD prepared proposals for HGV restrictions on various streets in Monaghan Town. The following streets are being proposed:

- Dublin St, Glaslough St and Market Street
- High St & Park St (in southbound direction only)
- Canal Street & Mall Road

Consultation is ongoing with TII, An Garda Síochána and details of the proposals have been issued to local businesses and hauliers. Following feedback and review of the proposal it is planned to go to public consultation in January 2021.

### **Non-National Roads**

#### **Restoration Improvement (RI)**

The Restoration Improvement programme for 2020 is complete, 33.1km of Local and 12km of Regional roads were completed as part of Monaghan County Councils Restoration Improvement Works. The full Allocation has been spent and claimed.

#### **Restoration Maintenance (RM)**

The Restoration Maintenance programme for 2020 is complete, 85.6km of roads were completed as part of our annual RM programme.

#### **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2020**

13 Bridges were upgraded in 2020 and 9 Bridges have had site investigation works and design package complete. Applications have been made and plans prepared to continue and expand the programme of bridge rehabilitation in 2021.

#### **Local Improvement Schemes**

With a budget of 250k MCC completed 12 lanes in 2020 under the Local Improvement Scheme. The locations of the completed lanes are as follows: -

- Corleadargan
- Killeanly
- Glasmullagh
- Listinny
- Killyleck
- Devlin
- Greagh
- Dernaheo
- Lisalea
- Lisnafeddaly
- Corblonog
- Eden Island

#### Community Involvement Schemes

5.1km of Local roads has been completed as part of Monaghan County Councils CIS Schemes in 2020. The locations of the completed schemes are as follows: -

- LT81212 Drumhaman (Cmx/Cby MD)
- LP4901/LP4902 Gyproc Ltd (Cmx/Cby MD)
- LS8820 Gyproc Ltd (Cmx/Cby MD)
- Ballyalbany Presbyterian Church (Monaghan MD)
- Grove Turkeys Smithborough

#### Low Cost Safety Schemes

9 Low-Cost Safety Improvement Schemes were completed in 2020 at the following locations:

- L2331.L23313 – Coolkill, Rockcorry
- LP1400 Junction with LP1400 &LP1420
- R938 Dublin Rd, Castleblayney
- R162/R184 Junction Known locally as Hanratty's Cross
- R162 Drumacrutin National School
- R927 Pedestrian Crossing Carrickmacross
- LP39002/R190 Ballinadian, Ballybay
- Guardhill, Kileevan, Newbliss
- LS5111/5112 Edenmore Crossroads

An application has been submitted to DTTAS for 2021 Low cost Safety Schemes and the following schemes have been prioritised: (Please note that MCC is currently awaiting a decision on the extent of funding available for these schemes)

No.	Location	2021	Comments
1	R188/L56011 Drummuck, Corcaghan	€20,000.00	Improve sideroad visibility splays, and improve forward visibility and increase mainline driver awareness of the junction
2	Hasty's Cross, R186, LP1600 & LT16201	€10,000.00	Reduce speed and alert drivers of the crossroads.
3	LP4052 Ross Rd, Carrickmacross	€55,000.00	Reduce speed



4	R181/L4201 Tullynahinnera, Castleblayney	€30,000.00	Increase mainline driver awareness of the dangerous corner
5	LT-12002 Emy Lake	€30,000.00	Improve visibility and driver awareness
6	R179 Corcuilloge, Donaghmoyne	€30,000.00	Improve sight visibility at junction
7	L4210/L4201/L4200/L320 1 Drumhowan, Tullynahinera	€20,000.00	Improve sideroad visibility splays, and improve forward visibility and increase mainline driver awareness of the junction
8	LP1510 junction with LT15101 in townland of Creeve	€20,000.00	Improve visibility, driver awareness and increase space for traffic for manoeuvre
9	R179 Shercock Rd, Carrickmacross	€10,000	Reduce speed
10	L22803/R189 Drunanny Drum	€15,000.00	Improve sideroad visibility splays, and improve forward visibility and increase mainline driver awareness of the junction
11	Drumlester Crossroads: LS5130, LS1540, LS5113 & LS5112	€30,000.00	Improve visibility, driver awareness and increase space for traffic for manoeuvre
12	Creagh, Ballybay	€10,000.00	Improve sideroad visibility splays, and improve forward visibility and increase mainline driver awareness of the junction
13	LP1153 approaching Edenmore school and Creche	€10,000.00	Reduce speed and alert drivers on the LP1153 of their speed as they approach the school and creche.
14	Essexford Junction	€25,000.00	Warn road users of dangerous Junction
15	Corravakan	€15,800.00	Improve sideroad visibility splays, and improve forward visibility and increase mainline driver awareness of the junction
16	Clonkeen Cole, Clones	€15,000.00	Improve sideroad visibility splays, and improve forward visibility and increase mainline driver awareness of the junction
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€345,800.00</b>	

### Specific Improvement Grants

#### R181 Drumillard to Crossduff:

With a budget allocation of €370,000 the Part 8, Site Investigation Works and Preliminary design were completed in 2020 for this Scheme.

#### Brackley Bridge

With a budget allocation of €650,000 the Part 8, Site Investigation Works, Design and Tender process were completed in 2020 for this project.

#### CBGM Pilot Scheme:

A Cement Bound Granular Material (CBGM) is being piloted by MCC as an alternative to the conventional bitmac road surfacing. This product may be a cost-effective way of resurfacing local roads



with 30% savings achievable over bitmac alternatives. A total of 6 roads were completed as part of the CBGM Pilot Scheme for 2020 with 6.09km of roadway being upgraded.

#### Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme

Monaghan County Council reused 100% of recycled milling material to create the Low Energy Bound Material (LEBM) by screening an existing stockpile of millings located in Glenmore Quarry. This material was mixed with bitumen and binder rejuvenators to produce a low-cost product that can be used throughout MCC local road network. A total of 3 roads were completed under this scheme in 2020 with 5.2km of roadway being upgraded.

*Further funding is expected in 2021 to continue with both pilot schemes.*

#### Climate Change Adaptation

In September 2020, Monaghan County Council received an allocation of 310k for Climate Action Schemes. This funding will be allocated to bridge repair designs to ensure further scouring of each identified structure is prevented. The tender process is complete for the design of 24 bridges for the 2021 Bridge Rehabilitation programme.

#### Active Travel Allocation

Monaghan County Council received an allocation of €1,172,275 for Active Travel Measures in September 2020. The Active travel & Climate Action works have commenced on all schemes and the works are expected to be completed in Q1 2021. DTTAS have allowed for the funding for the projects to be carried over to 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 the formal Part 8 application will be submitted early in the New year. 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. DTTAS has indicated that there is likely to be a funding call for Greenway projects late next year and advised that projects with Planning permission in place, and land acquisition well advanced, will be in a strong position to secure funding.

#### Road Safety

An awareness campaign in association with Dr Ashraff Butt, A&E Consultant at Cavan General hospital focused on the number of increased admissions by hospitals due to Covid-19. An article was published in the Northern Standard and on the Monaghan County Councils Social Media sites. Dr Butt kindly agreed to take part in an interview with Northern Sound in relation to same and appealed to road users to behave responsibly and to not put more pressure on an already stretched system. Following on from a recent meeting of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee, an awareness campaign was conducted which focused on the safety of all road users over the winter period, an article on road safety and the importance of high visibility was published in the Northern Standard and on our Social Media pages.



This year's Christmas Road Safety message will have an emphasis on the dangers of drug driving and will be promoted in the Northern Standard and on our Social Media sites. Sgt Niall Leech has also agreed to be interviewed on Northern Sound in relation to this.

(Picture Courtesy of Rory Geary)



## COMMUNITY

PATRICIA MONAHAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

**LCDC/LAG**

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)/Local Action Group (LAG) held their monthly meetings on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020. As the LEADER Programme application process is coming to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 it was necessary to schedule an additional meeting of the LAG on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 to approve a large number of LEADER applications prior to the end of the Programme.

**Monaghan LEADER Programme 2014-2020**

	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 17 <sup>th</sup> December, 2020	€5,698,098	99.82%			112
Budget remaining for allocation at 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	€10,056				
Drawn down at 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020			€2,353,699.81		39
Budget to be drawn down at 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020			€3,354,454.93		

**Active Travel**

This year has seen a need for us to be extra aware of the need to control our carbon emissions, and the Council has acquired a number of electric bicycles, to be made available to staff as an alternative to taking the car when travelling between Council buildings for meetings or making relatively short trips. The arrival of the bikes completes one of the actions in the Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which was adopted earlier this year. Secure bike storage lockers have been provided at the Glen offices, Dublin St Planning offices, MTEK II, Carrickmacross Civic Building and Clones Civic Building, with funding from DTTAS's Jobs Initiative Active Travel Fund.

**Monaghan Community Alerts**

There are now over 4,600 subscribers to the Komeer/ Monaghan Community Alerts service. Since it launched in April 2019, the service has sent out over 2.2m alerts, of which some 350,000 have been as SMS messages. In addition to the county-wide 'Monaghan Community Alerts' group which is used by the Gardai to send urgent notices about criminal activity, 30 local communities have the ability to send messages to the subscribers in their area. Monaghan Co Co has used the service to send messages during the early days of the Covid pandemic and has also used it to reach subscribers in areas affected by contaminated water.



### Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

The committee were asked by Monaghan CYPSC and the Alcohol Forum to carry out a survey with their peers on their usage of alcohol and other drugs. The group complied an online survey which was completed by over 80 young people from across the County. The data from this survey was presented at a webinar hosted by the Alcohol Forum entitled "Drugs, Alcohol and the Rights of the Child". The findings and recommendations are being addressed in the CYPSC workplan for 2021.

### Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum

Following the release of Garda enforcement figures showing 106% increase in drug driving arrests made in the first six months of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019, The Road Safety Officer and Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum worked together on an awareness raising campaign. They enlisted the assistance of a local film making company and some young people to produce a Drug Driving film. The film focuses on the implications and lifelong effects a drug conviction can have on career & travel prospects. The film will be launched across all social media platforms on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December to coincide with the Christmas holiday period and relaxation of travel restrictions.

### Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign

Monaghan County Council have been allocated €67,225 to promote the Keep Well Campaign across three themes; Your County, Creative & Switching Off and Community Call. Activation programmes under the themes, an outline of activity and costs have been submitted to the Department. This programme commenced in December and will continue until March 2021. Key partners include Creative Monaghan, Monaghan Libraries, Age Friendly, Befriending services and Community Response Forum members. An extensive radio, press and social media campaign complements all actions to be delivered ensuring that the Keep Well messages are reaching all citizens in the County.

### Age Friendly Programme

#### Age Friendly Keep Well initiatives

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme has launched two community campaigns to support older people in the community this Christmas. Funded through the Keep Well Campaign, 5000 copies of each promotional leaflet have been distributed to shops, businesses and community groups across the county.

#### I just called to say.....

The "I just called to say" campaign is encouraging people in the community to check in on their older neighbours, in particular older people who are living alone.

#### Have you a spare chair.....

"Have you a spare chair or dinner" to share this Christmas encourages people to reach out to older people in the community who may be alone this Christmas due to travel restrictions impacting on their families travelling to Monaghan for Christmas.

#### Age Friendly Keep Well Booklet

8000 copies of 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, were distributed across the county. Monaghan Gardai and Monaghan Civil Defence have joined with the Monaghan Age Friendly programme to ensure that the booklets are delivered before Christmas.

#### HSE Health and Wellbeing – Digital supports funding

The HSE Health & Wellbeing department have provided a grant of €3,225 to Monaghan Age Friendly programme to provide age friendly tablets, with a managed service, to residential care homes in the county. The Age Friendly programme will source the tablets locally and distribute to the nursing homes in the county.



## Migrant Integration

### Monaghan Sanctuary Runners programme

"The Sanctuary Runners" was established in Cork in February 2018. Sanctuary Runners brings asylum-seekers and Irish people together for runs and races or just a walk in the spirit of Solidarity, Friendship and Respect. Monaghan County Council's Integration officer joined with some local runners to begin the Monaghan Sanctuary Runners programme. The first meeting took place in December, where people from St. Patrick's Direct Provision centre joined members of the community for a walk/run in Rossmore Park. The Monaghan Sanctuary runners programme will continue throughout 2021 and aims to expand to south Monaghan early in the new year.

### Celebrating Christmas across Cultures

Monaghan County Council's Integration Officer in partnership with NCCWN Dóchas for Women have established a Christmas craft making project. The project is engaging people living in Direct Provision and members of the wider community in county Monaghan to create some Christmas crafts for older people. Participants have been supplied two craft sets, one to make and keep and the other to make for an older person in the community. The completed craft pieces will be distributed to nursing homes and care homes in Monaghan.

### Women and Diversity in local government funding

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has awarded Monaghan County Council €13,000 to deliver a project that aims to increase the participation of women in all aspects of local government in County Monaghan. The project includes the establishment of Monaghan Women's Assembly, a platform to create opportunities for Elected members of Monaghan County Council to engage with women in the county on issues that impact on their lives and to highlight the barriers to participation in local government experienced by women. The project will also develop training and awareness raising resources for Elected members on diversity in local government.

### Accessibility

The Access Officer has been working with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre to address an access issue in the centre. A custom fit access lift has been designed to provide independent wheelchair access to the stage area in the centre. It is a screening room during the day as part of the exhibition experience. Breffni Mobility have been hired to acquire and install a lift that meets the specific requirements and building regulations. The annual disability budget will be used to part fund the installation of the lift in early January.

### Monaghan Public Participation Network

At a recent Monaghan PPN AGM, Monaghan PPN ended 2020 with a presentation to its members on all the work the PPN managed to achieve in what was a very difficult year for the community sector.

Over 65 members attended the event which was held online.

Present at the meeting was Cathaoirleach Cllr. Colm Carthy and Chief Executive Eamonn O'Sullivan along with other Senior Management of Community Section. Cllr. Carthy thanked the community sector for how they responded back in March in their own communities in response to the pandemic. He gave examples of the many supports they provided in response to calls through the Community Call Helpline and their presence on the Community Response Forum from its inception. He also congratulated the PPN on finding new ways of working through online meetings and training sessions. The Cathaoirleach finished by once again thanking the PPN on behalf of all of Monaghan County Council Elected Representatives for their commitment and dedication in their local areas.



The Chief Executive concurred with the Cathaoirleach in his thanks and appreciation to all those present at the meeting and to those who could not attend. He talked about the fantastic working relationship Monaghan County Council has with community groups and gave many examples of collaborative projects. He finished by outlining some of the key funding streams that the Local Authority administers, providing much needed investment into the County which benefits the quality of life for everyone.

A presentation was provided by the Resource Worker on the PPN key achievements in 2020 and plans for 2021.

### **Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)**

#### **Small Grant Scheme for Sports clubs (Covid19 Supports)**

Further to last month's report on Small Grant Scheme for Sports Clubs (Covid19 Supports) where we reported 40 clubs were awarded amounts up to €1500 for Covid19 related expenses in returning to sport.

To date (11 Dec 2020) 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. It is expected that the remainder will be drawn down early in the New Year.

### **Education & Training**

#### **Safeguarding 1**

Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated an online Safeguarding 1 workshop on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November with 11 participants completing the course successfully. A total of 69 participants completed Safeguarding 1 in 2020. MSP will continue to provide Safeguarding training into 2021 through online workshops for the foreseeable future. The option of returning to physical workshops will depend on Government guidance. It has recently been announced that both Safeguarding 2 & 3 will be available online in the coming months.

#### **Autism in Sport**

Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated an online Autism in Sport Workshop on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December with 10 successful participants receiving their Certificates from CARA (Sport Inclusion Ireland). This workshop aims to provide a better understanding of Autism focusing on the delivery of sport and physical activity. The workshop aims to help participants to recognise and understand key areas of difference, as well as looking at the practical strategies which will help to include people with autism in sport sessions.

#### **Older Adult and Disability Activity Plans**

Monaghan Sports Partnership along with Sport Ireland developed a 4-week physical activity plan for older adults and a 4-week physical activity plan for people with a disability. 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 a number of exercises as well as adaptations for those with limited mobility or with disabilities. To date over 200 disability booklets have been delivered to 10 services across the county. Each service will distribute the booklets to its individual users. Older Adult booklets are available upon request from MSP office. Both booklets are also available online.



## PLANNING

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

The Planning Office continues to be open to the public but pre-planning meetings are still being conducted remotely, with face to face meetings only being held in exceptional circumstances. Planners are conducting site visits on all planning applications and are available for phone calls Tuesday-Thursday mornings. However, due to the increase in Covid-19 cases within County Monaghan, the Planning Section was split into two groups from 19<sup>th</sup> October. This ensures that if one team is affected by someone testing positive, the other group should not be affected, and will be able to continue to provide a planning service.

**Development Management**

The number of planning applications received from January to mid December 2020 compared with the same time last year is as follows:-

	2019	2020
Extension of Durations	19	14
Permission Consequent	1	0
Outline Planning	11	8
Retention	76	62
Planning Permission	476	483
<b>Total Applications Received</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>567</b>
<b>Exempt Development Applications Received</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>54</b>

**Forward Planning**

Variation No.2 to the Monaghan County Development Plan, relating to the alignment of County Development Plan with National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, was adopted by the elected members at the December Council meeting.

Work 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**

Applications for funding for Built Heritage Grants in 2021 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which has recently taken over this responsibility remains open until 29<sup>th</sup> January.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

**Brexit**

Brexit is done but the outcome of the arduous negotiations currently taking place will determine the "level" of increased cost, in doing business. This is a time of transference and change regarding the business stakeholder community of Co. Monaghan and although many of them are hoping for trade deals, the reality is that customs paperwork will still need to be completed to allow for the physical clearance of goods at borders. It is this administration charge, in addition to possible duties and VAT, that will erode profit margins significantly. Anecdotally, many of the larger businesses have departments working on putting systems into place but it would appear that owing to Brexit fatigue and apathy many micro businesses may not fully realise the impact that it will have on their supply chains. Many of our micro businesses have stockpiled materials or others who, may be seasonal are content to wade it out and implement changes next Spring.

Over that past four and a half years Monaghan LEO have been raising the capacity of our businesses through the delivery of Customs Training workshops which were bolstered by bespoke Customs mentoring sessions. To date, 12 Customs training events were held with 250 importing/exporting businesses and the LEO hosted 1 Brexit Briefing conference with 58 attendees.

We as an enterprise support agency have been advocating innovation, lean and competitiveness as competencies to be developed by our stakeholders, enabling businesses to mitigate the onset of Brexit and have run the following programmes:

- Co- Innovate (Innovation programme) 63 businesses participated
- Lean for Micro 15
- Enterprise Excellence Programme 12

In December 2020 we commenced the recruitment of the Brexit specific programmes such as Superior Retailing and Exporting, Plan to Deliver Financial Capability and Innovation and Green Business Management Development Programmes in Spring 2020.

On 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Monaghan LEO delivered two up- to- date distilled Customs sessions for businesses who had limited preparations completed. These were hosted by Rose Tierney; a Customs and Trade Facilitator from Co Monaghan.

In early Jan 2021, we plan to deliver a specific "Distance Selling" segment of relevance to our eCommerce- B2C clients- who need to adapt polices and procedures in regard to registering as exporters and UK importers. Having consulted with businesses and to alleviate possible pain points, we are exploring the facilitation of authorising certificates of origin by a Co. Monaghan Chamber of Commerce.

**Business Information and Advisory Services**

We continue to be the first port of call to anyone thinking of starting a business. In 2020, we provided information and access to other government services, COVID/Brexit supports, gave advice on the start up process and what supports were available.

**Enterprise Support Services****Financial Supports**

A total of €441,494 was approved in financial aid for projects in 2020 with a potential to create an additional 61 jobs in the county. Although projects were slow at the start of the year and during the first lockdown, businesses in some sectors, especially engineering and food are continuing to trade strongly with plans for expansion in 2021.



### Trading Online Vouchers

We have seen a 586% increase in applications for Trading Online Vouchers with a total of 124 vouchers approved this year to a value of €288,127.98. This funding entitles business to avail up to €2,500 towards the development of an e-commerce platform.

### Business Continuity Vouchers

The government issued the Business Continuity Voucher as a COVID support instrument and LEO Monaghan processed 224 applications with a value of €358,037.

### Ecommerce Cluster

The ecommerce cluster has been meeting since September 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 been 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 rose significantly in 2020 (101%) and continued to be highly sought after support amongst the entrepreneurial base in Co. Monaghan. This year, 151 businesses have sought area specific support and common themes include: Business planning, Marketing, HR, Brexit/Customs and Health & Safety (COVID).

### Training

LEO ran 56 Training courses during 2020 with a total of 940 individuals attending. These figures exclude our Network related activity which is depicted under the "Entrepreneurship Support Services"

## Entrepreneurship Support Services

### Monaghan Business Tourism Network



The aim of this pilot Tourism Business network was to build a support that was based on shared goals and enhancing innovation and collaboration with our stakeholders. 9 themed events were held during the year at which 117 businesses attended.

The involvement and commitment of the 16 diverse companies over the complete programme was very encouraging and contribution and feedback was very positive throughout as the network began to evolve and connections were made. The outputs included 1) Embracing the Design Thinking Process as a method of taking a new approach to challenges and the new tourism environment. 2) Fostering a culture of creativity and innovation within participating companies as these skills have now become an essential contribution to problem solving in an unpredictable environment and 3) Learning of new skills both in digital and creativity that will promote working together both as a team and individually as a business.

### 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 provisional programme of events had been formulated for the 2020 programme, but, the network had to adapt to COVID19 circumstances. Events became virtual and casual meet ups and drop ins to member businesses were replaced by communications by telephone, email and social media.

Attendance, though down on last year, was sustained at a perfectly acceptable level and feed back has in general been very positive. Summary of 2020 Events: 10 events with 219 attendees.



## Student Enterprise Programme



Difig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office  
Monaghan

County Monaghan had resounding success at the Student Enterprise Awards which took place on Wed 27th of May. Students from both Patrician High School, Carrickmacross and Ballybay Community College have won accolades at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals in Croke Park. Supported by Local Enterprise Office Monaghan, an overall award was given for "My Entrepreneurial Journey" in the Junior category. The winning student was Fiachra Murray, from Patrician High School, who worked under the guidance of his teacher, Leona McKenna. His student enterprise was

called: 'Vet It'. Fiachra imagined himself as having set up a fictitious business and been on an entrepreneurial passage. He highlighted what he learned about his journey along the way.

Again, an overall National award was bestowed to business "Sofatop" in the Junior Category. The winning students from Ballybay Community College, were Ferne Duffy, Tess McFadden and Mary-Kate Black, who worked under the guidance of their teacher Eimear Harvey. Their student enterprise was called "Sofatop", which is a flexible and stylish tray, enabling you to curl up on the sofa and enjoy your cup of tea, safe in the knowledge that you can set it down within safe and easy reach.

## TOURISM

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

### LEADER Applications submitted

3 applications were submitted 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.

Specifically, the applications to LEADER were for the following initiatives in Monaghan:

**Application no. 1**      **Design and Installation of Interpretative Signage at Rossmore**  
Total Monaghan Costs = €89,751.75      Grant Aid of €67,313.81 sought

**Application no. 2**      **Conservation Management Plan for Rossmore**  
Total Monaghan Costs = €23,897.50      Grant Aid of €21,507.75 sought

**Application no 3**      **Conservation Management Plan for the Black Pig's Dyke (Scotshouse)**  
Total Monaghan Costs = €23,897.50      Grant Aid of €21,507.75 sought

### Outdoor Recreation Funding Submission

An application for developing tourism infrastructure on Sliabh Beagh was submitted under Measure 2. The focus is on low impact, sensitively designed interventions to enhance the outdoor experience, particularly walking and cycling, in the area surrounding Knockatallon. The total project costs are €197,696 with grant aid of €177,926 sought.

### Carrickmacross Workhouse Project Completed

The new visitor experience in the Carrickmacross Workhouse has been fully installed and completed. It is anticipated that it will be open to visitors early next year (depending on Covid 19 Restrictions).



### #MyMonaghan Christmas

This campaign has been well received with extensive engagement on social media, particularly for the Monaghan-made Christmas Hamper competition (approx. 1,000 entries). Feedback from participants indicated an increased level of on-line and click and collect sales. The campaign consisted of the following:

- Ads on Northern Sound and roll-out of posts via their social media accounts
- Half page ad in Northern Standard
- Dedicated section on monaghantourism.com with links to all participating businesses
- Christmas Hamper Competition
- Regular posts and blogs on Monaghan Tourism social media accounts
- National PR including RTE news item on Monaghan crafts (featured 14 Dec)

## FIRE & CIVIL PROTECTION

PAUL CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

### Fire Operations

**Operational Callouts:** Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) attended 25 emergency calls during Nov 2020. Call types attended predominantly included Domestic House & Chimney Fires (due to colder weather), Road Traffic Collisions and assisting AGS, and Monitoring Calls.

**Fleet:** Delivery of the new Fire Appliance is due in Feb 2021, while the new chassis for the water tanker and is due for delivery in March 2021.

**Training:** The development of the annual Training Plan has commenced and will take into account the deferred training unable for completion in 2020. The following training was completed in December:

- Emergency First Responder refresher
- Emergency Service Driving Standard Course
- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course.

### Fire Prevention & Building Control

Building Control activity in Nov/Dec included the processing of 6 No. Fire Safety Certificates (FSC's), 3 No. Disability Access Certificates (DAC's), 5 No. Planning referrals, 18 No. Commencement Notices along with inspection of 52 units.

Overall for 2020 the number of Commencement Notices increased marginally (circa 3%) on 2019 while the number of applications for Fire Safety and Disability Access Certificates reduced (circa 10%), indicating the relatively buoyant demand for housing and impact on the business sector of both Brexit and Covid-19.

The Fire & Building Control webinar held in November enabled safe engagement with local construction practitioners and covered several very topical issues influencing change within the industry such as:

- The new and extending role of the National Building Control Office and specifically the migration from paper BCAR applications (e.g. Fire Safety Cert's) to electronic applications via BCMS.
- The generating of a Part L Compliance Report for those constructing a single or a multiple of dwellings.
- Impact of Brexit on construction industry and achieving compliance post 01/01/2021.
- New fire safety guidance on open-plan apartments and timber roof truss design.

Other fire Safety activity included the use of both social media and local radios to inform the public of fire safety issues around the Christmas period the issuance of advice to traveler community.

### Civil Defence

Civil Defence activities in December 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 Nov 2020 included:

- 7 No. Transportation duties that include patient transfers to hospitals,
- 3 No. Ambulance duties at GAA inter-county games

Essential training and duties included:

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



## CLIMATE CHANGE &amp; ENVIRONMENT

ADGE KING, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

**Climate Action**

Some of the key Climate Action initiatives being undertaken in Q 4 2020 are listed below. These reflect not just the wide range of activity but also the involvement of a multiplicity of divisions across the Local Authority.

While each individual action will benefit the environment an important addition benefit is the knowledge, skills and expertise that staff are building in what is a new area of responsibility for LAs.

**Q4 2020 Activity:**

- First annual Climate Action Report completed and forwarded to CARO (Climate Action Regional Office) – of the 61 actions in the Climate Adaptation Plan, 8.2% completed and 60.7% are ongoing.
- Climate Action Steering Group continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis.
- In terms of energy usage, Monaghan County Council is currently ranked 8th best performing local authority in the country, having already achieved a 37% energy improvement by the end of 2019.
- Ongoing energy reduction initiatives include continuing the retrofitting of public lighting, the establishment of electric charging points through the EU INTERREG Faster Project Programme, the undertaking of Deep Retrofit Audits on a number of public buildings, replacement of ESB meters with SMART meters and the introduction of electric bicycles and charging cabinets.
- New Biodiversity and Heritage Plan 2020-2025 published.
- Rewetting of peat lands in Bragan via the CANN programme.
- Works has commenced in identifying council owned lands suitable for the planting of native woodlands under the Woodland Creation on Public lands scheme.
- Monaghan County Council is progressing a number of significant greenway projects including Smithboro – Middletown, Clones – Smithboro, Ballybay – Castleblayney, Carrickmacross – Kingscourt (“Hilly Way” walking and cycling route).
- Purchase of first Electric Sweeper in Ireland by Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD.
- Development being undertaken by the housing section include the building of BER A rated homes in Scotstown with all vacant houses being upgraded to BER B rating.
- Building capacity in relation to Green Procurement through dissemination of information and training support.
- Road adaptation initiatives including bridge rehabilitation, road levitation and trials using different road materials.
- Developing an environmentally friendly urban vegetation management plan 2021.

**National Waste Enforcement Priorities**

Circular WP 08/20 was issued to all Local Authorities on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The circular outlines the National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2021 as agreed by the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee. The priorities are as follows

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity
- Construction and demolition activity
- End of Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive and waste metal industry
- Waste collection – household and commercial
- Multi agency sites of concern

Environmental services must submit an annual environmental inspection to plan to the EPA outlining how these issues will be dealt with locally by February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



### EPA Cost of Waste Crime Report

Environmental services have participated in helping the EPA compile a report on the cost of waste crime in Ireland. Data has been submitted and an online interview with appointed consultants has been completed. Of interest to the EPA was how the border facilitates environmental crimes. The report will be completed in 2021.

### National Litter Pollution Monitoring Survey 2020

Environmental services have completed the surveying requirements for the NLPMS for 2020. The data submitted will be compiled by consultants, appointed nationally by Department, and is used as part of NOAC indicator E3: % LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

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

Environmental services with support from the finance and I.T. sections have developed a new portal for payment of litter fines online [www.fines.ie](http://www.fines.ie). The portal will make it easier for people to pay fines as well as making issuing the fines more efficient by utilising an app on a tablet by enforcement officers. The website is currently live, and the testing phase is almost complete.

### Upcycle Challenge 2020

As part of October Reuse Month, which is organized by [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the hugely popular annual Upcycle Challenge 2020 took place. The challenge was open to the public and invited participants to use their imaginations and create something new and useful, out of old unwanted or discarded items or materials.

There were nine winners across nine different categories selected from 259 entries from individuals, community organisation's, Men's Sheds, and schools across the country. A total of eight category winners were decided by a judging panel, who also chose three finalists for a People's Choice Award.

During November, the public voted for the three finalists on [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie) social media platforms. The Irish public decided the winner to be **Ann Mc Kenna from County Monaghan** who upcycles the clothes of people who died to make memorial bears for their loved ones.



### Stop Illegal Dumping Campaign

A new waste prevention campaign is taking place to ensure we all take responsibility for our own waste [#stopillegaldumping](https://www.mywaste.ie/stop-illegal-dumping). If you are involved with a community group in Co. Monaghan, you may access posters, social media posts etc. for use within your town and village and help spread the word <https://www.mywaste.ie/local-authority/>

### Food Safety

On 9 April 2018, an intelligence led investigation by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Louth County Council, Monaghan County Council, DAFM and An Garda Síochána discovered an illegal slaughterhouse and cutting plant operated by Barry McConnon at Corcreaghy, Co. Louth.

There were 4 untagged hogget lambs at the illegal slaughterhouse, a lean-to farmshed, in a pen without feed or water. Nearby there was a small barrel with an untagged head, legs and the offal of a



lamb. There were also piles of fleeces numbering over 20 in total. The lambs were destroyed, as it was impossible to determine where they originated from. The carcasses, along with the rest of the animal by-products, were removed to an approved knackery.

In the garage behind the nearby dwellinghouse, there was an illegal cutting plant, with a small chillroom. There was a wooden butcher's block, a bandsaw, stainless steel preparation tables, a slicer and a mincer in the cutting room. There were various knives, implements, bags and packets of dry ingredients for sausage making and curing. The chillroom was dirty and some of the equipment was dirty also. There was no water available. All the equipment was seized.

On 25 November 2020 at Carrickmacross District Court sitting in Monaghan, Barry McConnon pleaded guilty to six offences before Judge Denis McLoughlin. Barry McConnon was convicted for the offence of operating an illegal slaughterhouse, he was fined €2,500, paid €1,000 towards the costs and a forfeiture order was made in respect of all the equipment seized. The Judge adjourned the remaining 5 summonses to 10 March 2021 to determine if Barry McConnon is suitable for 240 hours community service in lieu of 3 months imprisonment. The charge for which Mr. McConnon was convicted relates to the operation of an illegal slaughterhouse.

In the Council's press release to Northern Sound Brendan Smyth, Monaghan County Council Veterinary Officer, stated: "In order to ensure the safety and integrity of the meat we eat, and the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter, all slaughterhouses must be approved and supervised. Operators who illegally by-pass the controls in place, for their own profit, are putting the public's health at risk."

#### **Dog Control**

The Dog and Litter Wardens plan to undertake joint patrols this month in the area of St. Davnet's Hospital, Monaghan.

## CORPORATE SERVICES

CATHAL FLYNN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

**Coiste Gaeilge**

Chraol an Coiste Gaeilge le tacaíocht ó Mhuineachán le Gaeilge agus an Oifig Ealaíon ceolchoirm on ionad Patrick Kavanagh ar líne don Oíche Nallaig na mBan an 6ú Eanáir.

Ghlac Zoe Conway le John McIntyre, an file Ciara Ní É, Eilís Lavlle agus Niamh Mhic Giolla Chomhaill le hamhranaithe eile ó Chomhaltas Bhaile Mhuineacháin páirt san cheolchoirm, iomlán as Gaeilge a bhí an oíche.

Ta fonn ar an Coiste níos mó d'ábhar as Gaeilge a bheith ar líne i rith 2021

The Coiste Gaeilge broadcasted a concert as Gaeilge from the Patrick Kavanagh Centre for Oíche Nollaig na mBan on 6<sup>th</sup> January with support from Muineachán Le Gaeilge and the Arts Office.

Zoe Conway with John McIntyre, the Irish language poet Ciara Ní É, Eilís Lavlle and Niamh Mhic Giolla Chomhaill with singers from Monaghan Town branch Comhaltas participated.

The event was entirely in Irish. The Coiste is keen to provide more online content as Gaeilge in 2021.

## HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CATHAL FLYNN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

**Retirement**

Kathleen McCrudden, Clerical Officer, Motor Tax Office retired on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**Training Programme – January 2021**

Name of Course	Dates	Numbers to be trained
Confined Spaces Rescue Training	11, 12, 13 & 14 <sup>th</sup> of January	3 Staff
Safe Pass	4 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 6 <sup>th</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10 Staff



**Eamon O'Sullivan**  
Chief Executive  
Monaghan County Council



Local Government Act 2001  
Section 142 (5)(f) (as amended)

*Report on proceedings at Conferences Attended*

Name of Participant	DAVID MAXWELL
Conference Title	AILG
Conference Venue	WEXFORD
Date(s)	25 JULY 2020
General Description of Subject matter of Conference (e.g. Water Pollution, Waste Management, Tourism etc.)	TO DISCUSS MOOREHEAD REPORT AND ARRIVE AT CONCLUSIONS ON REFF
Issues raised or discussed which I found particularly interesting/ informative and which are of relevance to the Administration of County Monaghan and our local communities	ABOVE
I received / did not receive "Handouts" or other conference material which might be of interest to other members and which I can make available.	ONLINE

On the whole, I consider that this conference was:

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
		✓		

Signed: Cllr. David Maxwell

Date: 1/11/20



Matt Carthy TD

Sinn Féin,  
Teach Laighean,  
Baile Átha Cliath 2.  
☎ 01-6184225  
✉ matt.carthy@oir.ie  
🌐 www.mattcarthy.ie  
7ú Nollaig 2020.

Carmel Thornton,  
Meetings Administrator,  
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin,  
An Gleann,  
Muineachán.



Carmel a chara,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 20<sup>th</sup> November last regarding the North-South Interconnector. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The members of Monaghan County Council will know that I have always supported the communities living along the proposed route of the Interconnector in their position that this important infrastructure can only proceed on the basis that it is developed using underground technology.

Having studied this matter and having engaged with experts on this issue, I am firmly of the view that the undergrounding of the project is both possible and feasible. Indeed, understanding the depth of public feeling and community activism on this matter I believe that it is only by undergrounding the interconnector that it will be developed in a timely and cost-effective manner at all.

During my time as a member of the European Parliament I hosted a delegation of interested parties to Belgium where we interacted with companies developing the ALLEGro interconnector project between Belgium and Germany. There are many similarities between the ALLEGro project and the North-South Interconnector; but there is one fundamental difference. The ALLEGro project will be undergrounded and will be completed much quicker. This is because the authorities in that instance prioritised the principle of public acceptance whereby that principle is not considered at all in the development of the Interconnector in Ireland.

Further to my election to the Dáil in February of this year, I have raised this matter on a number of occasions, particularly in engagements with An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, and the Minister for Climate Action, Communication Networks and Transport, Eamon Ryan. I enclose, for the information of the members, the transcript of these engagements. Unfortunately, the councillors will see that there is no commitment to the implementation of the Dáil and Seanad resolutions to complete an independent report on the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding the interconnector.

Constituency Offices/Oifigi sa Dáil Cheantair

Monaghan office  
21 Dublin Street,  
Muineachán.  
Phone/Guthán: 047-82917

Carrickmacross Office  
10 Monaghan Street  
Carraig Mhachaire Rois.  
Phone/Guthán: 042-9674001



Members will also be aware that recently the Minister with responsibility for this matter in the northern executive, Nicola Mallon, granted planning permission to the project as it pertains to Counties Armagh and Tyrone. Unfortunately, the legislative basis on this matter means that this issue rests with the line Minister unilaterally. There is no provision for other members of the executive, including the Sinn Féin members, to intervene or overrule that decision.

I have engaged with my party colleagues, north and south, on this matter. Recently, our party spokesperson on Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, Darren O'Rourke TD, hosted a meeting of our Dáil and Assembly representatives across the five counties affected by the North-South Interconnector along with our party president, Mary Lou McDonald TD, and Vice President, Michelle O'Neill MLA, to discuss this issue. At this meeting the Sinn Féin position as I have outlined was reinforced and all members recommitted ourselves to working alongside the campaigning communities to ensure that this project is developed only using underground technology.

I want to again assure the members of Monaghan County Council of my personal commitment to this issue. I will continue to liaise with the appropriate members of government at every opportunity. In the first instance, the objective must be to secure the implementation of the Private Members Resolution I referred to above. Considering that the Fianna Fáil party moved that resolution and are now in government, I continue to hope and expect that movement in this regard will be forthcoming.

As always, I am at the disposal of the members of your council and will readily accept any proposals or suggestions as to how I can assist in this campaign.

  
Is mise,  
Matt Carthy TD

Debate on Promised Legislation – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

On the Taoiseach's party's website, I read the following line: "Fianna Fáil stands by its commitment that this project can only proceed on the basis that the lines are placed underground". It is a line that was uttered by plenty of the Taoiseach's candidates in Cavan, Monaghan and Meath over the course of the most recent general election. I would like to ask him what is his position now, considering that the planning process was moved forward substantially when the minister from the Taoiseach's sister party in the North last night granted planning permission in that jurisdiction. The fundamental problem remains in place, which is that public acceptance simply is not there. Those of us who have followed this since 2007, a period in which the North-South interconnector has been met by delay after delay, recognise that the reason for those delays is the lack of public acceptance. Will the Taoiseach ensure his own party's pre-general election position is adhered to, and we fundamentally review this issue and move towards the undergrounding of the North-South interconnector?

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

Did I hear the Deputy correctly? Did he say the minister granted permission-----

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

Yes.

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

-----or did it go through the planning process in the North?

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

The minister has the final say.

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

Is the Deputy's party not a member of that Executive?

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

Unfortunately, it is a unilateral decision.

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

There is no such thing as unilateral in an executive or in a government.

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)



Yes, there is, actually.

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

The Deputy must accept collective responsibility.

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

I have asked the Taoiseach what his position is.

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

It is the duplicity that the Deputy's party consistently deploys in terms of its stances on various issues.

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

For the record, I will quote the line again: "Fianna Fáil stands by its commitment that this project can only proceed-----"

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

If it does not like the decision of the Executive, it is not its decision.

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

-----on the basis that the lines are placed underground".

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

It did the same on social welfare in the past on the Executive-----

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

What is the Taoiseach's position now?

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

I respect the planning process. Our position has been very clear about the North-South interconnector and we will work to see what can be achieved in that regard.

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

What is the Taoiseach going to do about it?

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

I have just given the Deputy the position. The planning process in Northern Ireland is not our function. The Deputy will criticise, delay and delay-----

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

I am asking what the Taoiseach is going to do about it in this State.

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

The Deputy is trying to criticise a colleague of his party in the Executive-----

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

The Taoiseach is the Head of the Government.

**Micheál Martin** (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

-----yet his party is part of that Executive.

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

What is the Taoiseach's position today?

**Seán Ó Fearghaíl** (Ceann Comhairle; Kildare South, Ceann Comhairle)

I call Deputy Durkan.

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

A Cheann Comhairle, the Taoiseach purposely refused to answer the question. It undermines the legitimacy of promised legislation. That is disappointing.



**Oral Questions to the Minister – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

**Darren O'Rourke** (Meath East, Sinn Féin)

72. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the recent representations he has received on the need to underground the North-South interconnector in view of the recent decision in Northern Ireland to grant planning permission for the North-South interconnector, including representations from elected representatives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25172/20]

**Darren O'Rourke** (Meath East, Sinn Féin)

I will not repeat my concerns on this topic from earlier. Has the Minister met or will he meet representatives of North East Pylon Pressure and Monaghan Anti-Pylon who have been campaigning on this issue for years? Sinn Féin, North and South, has been very clear and upfront in our position on the North-South interconnector.

**Eamon Ryan** (Dublin Bay South, Green Party)

As I said earlier, the North-South interconnector is critical to improving the efficient operation of the single electricity market and increasing security of electricity supply across the island of Ireland. It will also help us to move towards 70% renewable electricity, and other commitments that I mentioned earlier and will not repeat.

The decision last week by the Minister for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland to grant full planning permission to the project means that the project is now fully consented North and South. Since my appointment as Minister I have received a small number of representations on the project.

I now expect EirGrid and ESB Networks to engage openly and extensively 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.

I believe that this important infrastructure will meet the objectives I mentioned earlier. While EirGrid and ESB Networks are engaging with the community, it would not be appropriate for me to be involved in that process.

**Darren O'Rourke** (Meath East, Sinn Féin)

The Minister mentioned EirGrid's engagement involving community liaison officers and a mobile information unit. I would like the Minister to meet people in the community to see what those words mean in those communities. The way EirGrid has handled this project and how it is perceived have the opposite effect to that presented by EirGrid. The same is said of the sponsorship of local groups, organisations and events. It is not well received in the community. There needs to be a third way to find a solution to this. I believe an accommodation can be reached but it will be through real engagement.



**Eamon Ryan** (Dublin Bay South, Green Party)

The Deputy is representing the concerns of his constituents here, as he is absolutely right to do. This has been a highly difficult process for everyone. As well as the planning process and the other reports I have mentioned, there have been cases brought to the High Court and the Supreme Court, which held a two-day hearing on October 2018. That has not been an easy process for those involved. Irrespective of the history, which goes back 17 years, I have confidence that EirGrid is absolutely committed to carrying out a community engagement with the best of intentions to the highest standard with proper respect for local landowners and others who may live close to the projected lines. Complicating that further when it is EirGrid's responsibility to manage that would not help or benefit anyone.

**Darren O'Rourke** (Meath East, Sinn Féin)

The Minister in the North - not the Executive in the North - granted planning permission for the project in the North. My colleagues have called for the Minister to come before the Assembly and explain that decision. In February 2017 the Dáil passed a Fianna Fáil motion calling for no further work to be done on the North-South interconnector until a fresh analysis and a full community consultation were completed. That never happened. Fianna Fáil is leading the Government at this time. Does the Minister have the support of Fianna Fáil on this project? Is there cross-Government support for the project or is the Minister standing on his own, as Minister?

**Matt Carthy** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin)

Based on the Minister's utterances and his attitude on this issue, I can tell him that in ten years' time the North-South interconnector will not be built. Today I read transcripts from the previous time the Minister was in government when he then refused to listen to Deputies in this House, including Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin and others, who pointed out to him that without the principle of public acceptance being considered at least by EirGrid, this matter would not progress. At that time it was felt that the delays would involve legal actions and the planning process, but crucially the delays would be starting in real terms in relation to the construction phase. Therefore, it will not happen.

Deputy O'Rourke rightly pointed out some of the deficiencies with the report the Minister mentioned earlier. It went so far as to describe undergrounding of the North-South interconnector as a credible option. The figures the Minister quoted are spurious because they relate to undergrounding along the exact same route as proposed for the overhead lines.

That is not how undergrounding works. The local community has zero confidence in EirGrid. The local community will not engage with them.

The Minister has a responsibility to engage with the local communities because otherwise this project simply will not happen and it will be his fault.

**Eamon Ryan** (Dublin Bay South, Green Party)

I will answer Deputy O'Rourke's questions first. I stand here on behalf of the Irish Government in all its elements, just as the Minister, Ms Mallon, is representative of the



Administration up North. I imagine she made her decision in consultation with her colleagues in the same way that I consult with my colleagues regularly-----

[Matt Carthy](#) (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

No, she did not.

[Eamon Ryan](#) (Dublin Bay South, Green Party)

-----on the basis that this is a critical project for maintaining an all-island approach to energy. If we break that and lose an all-island approach to energy, it will be very expensive for householders here. We earlier mentioned the high cost of electricity. Failing to maintain an all-island approach and failing to have a united approach to the matter would bring considerable expense to Irish householders. It will bring severe difficulties in the long run and jeopardise security, the creation of employment and developing our island on a united connected basis. I presume it was on that basis that she made the decision. That is the same basis on which I stand here to answer the questions as best I can.

## Written answers

Tuesday, 7 July 2020

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

North-South Interconnector

[Matt Carthy](#) (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin)

73. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if local communities along the route of the proposed north-south interconnector which are of the view that the project should be undergrounded will be supported; if the project will be reviewed in view of the delays that have ensued to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [14498/20]

[Eamon Ryan](#) (Dublin Bay South, Green Party)

The North South Interconnector is critical to improving the efficient operation of the Single Electricity Market and increasing security of electricity supply across the island of Ireland. It will also help us to move towards 70% renewable electricity. 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. My Department published an independent study in October 2018 on undergrounding the interconnector. The study found that an overhead line remained the most appropriate option for the proposed interconnector. The study report is available on the Department's website.

This study was the latest in a series of studies that reached the same conclusion and whilst there have been delays in securing planning consent in both jurisdictions I do not intend to order a further review of the project.



## Written answers

Wednesday, 3 June 2020

### Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

#### North-South Interconnector

[Matt Carthy](#) (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

827. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of the north-south interconnector; if he will meet with representatives of the campaign groups that wish to see the project proceed using underground technology; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [9185/20]

[Matt Carthy](#) (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Fein)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#) | [Oireachtas source](#)

828. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if the north-south interconnector is still considered an EU project of common interest project following Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [9186/20]

[Richard Bruton](#) (Dublin Bay North, Fine Gael)

I propose to take Questions Nos. 827, 828 and 831 together.

The North South Interconnector is critical to improving the efficient operation of the Single Electricity Market and increasing security of electricity supply across the island of Ireland. It will also help us to move towards 70% renewable electricity. 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.

I have previously met public representatives in relation to the possible undergrounding of the north south interconnector and my Department has published an independent study on this in October 2018. It found that an overhead line remained the most appropriate option for the proposed interconnector. The study report is available on the Department's website.

EirGrid is the designated Transmission System Operator and its role includes the operation, maintenance and development of the electricity transmission network in Ireland. The construction of the North South Interconnector, and all related procurement activities, is an operational matter for EirGrid and ESB Networks and one in which I have no function. I am advised that due to the very long lead times that can arise in relation to projects of this nature and the benefits of a single joint procurement process to be undertaken and managed by ESB Networks, EirGrid sought approval from the regulators in Ireland and Northern Ireland to commence procurement. Following this approval, in September 2017, ESB Networks commenced a number of procurement processes in relation to the project. In June 2019, ESB Networks awarded a framework contract for the design, test and supply of steelwork in relation to the project. However, under this framework there will be no supply of materials and no critical procurement process for construction will be concluded until the planning process in Northern Ireland is complete.

The EU Projects of Common Interest (PCI) process seeks to encourage interconnection between Member States. The process is updated every two years and in the current, fourth, instalment, the UK was a full participant in the process as it reached its conclusion in late 2019.



# QUESTIONS

JANUARY 2021

## **Cllr S. Coyle will ask:**

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?
  - (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 being completed with the date that the application was received by Monaghan County Council?
  - (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?
2. 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
  - (b) Carrabarra Island, Scotstown Rd., Smithboro?
3. 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?
4. 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?

## **Cllr S. Conlon will ask:**

5. 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?
6. 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?

**Clr C. Carthy will ask:**

7. 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?
8. 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?
9. What plans are in place to deliver sufficient two-bed housing units (Council and AHB) throughout Co. Monaghan over the next two years?
10. 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?
11. 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?

**Clr A. Campbell will ask:**

12. 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?
  - (b) How long will this campaign go on for?
  - (c) Have Monaghan County Council any processes in place to monitor the impact of this 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?
13. 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?
  - (b) When will the call for this funding begin?
  - (c) What is the process for recommitted an un- used fund due to underspent or projects not going ahead.



14. 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.
  
15. 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?
  - (b) When will the remaining Broadband Connection Points be commissioned and in use?
  - (c) In regard to the primary schools: What schools will be getting these Highspeed Broadband Connections Points?
  - (d) What is the update on the installation and switch on for the primary schools?
  - (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 being delivered?

# NOTICES OF MOTION

JANUARY 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 B. McKenna will move:**

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.

## **Cllrs Bennett, Carthy, Keelan, P. Treanor will move:**

3. That this Council call 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.

## **Cllr S. Conlon will move:**

4. That Monaghan County Council write to Coillte enquiring what forestry plantations 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.



Dear Councillor,

We wish to notify you of the next online training webinar for local authority members which is being hosted by the AILG in conjunction with the OPR on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from 10am - 11:30am**. AILG and the OPR are currently involved in delivering a planning training programme which is specifically tailored for the elected members of planning authorities.

It is intended that the January webinar will focus on the factors that are taken into consideration by local authorities when making decisions on planning applications and also the decision-making on applications and appeals.

**Elected Members can register their interest by email to [info@ailg.ie](mailto:info@ailg.ie)**

The webinar entitled "**The Decision on the Planning Application and Appeal**" will cover two main topics;

- (i) ***The Decision-Making Process on Planning Applications in Local Authorities***  
Catherine McConnell will deliver this presentation. This presentation will focus on the factors that are taken into consideration by local authorities when making decisions on planning applications. Catherine is the Director of Services in Planning in Mayo County Council and she is a planner by profession. She has worked in a number of local authorities including Mayo, Sligo, Meath and Galway County Council.

- (ii) ***Decision-Making on Applications and Appeals***

The second presentation will be delivered by Terry Prendergast. This presentation will focus on the factors that are considered by An Bord Pleanála when the Board is making decisions on planning appeals and applications (i.e. Strategic Housing Development and Strategic Infrastructure Development applications). Terry was appointed to the board of An Bord Pleanála in 2017 for a five-year term. She is a professional planner and she was the principal planner with the Grangegorman Development Agency prior to her appointment to the board. She also lectured in planning in the Dublin Institute of Technology. She previously worked as an inspector in An Bord Pleanála and she worked with the Dublin Docklands Development Authority.

The presentations will last approximately 30 minutes. There will be a 30-minute Question and Answer session after the delivery of the presentations. Questions may be submitted online throughout the course of the webinar.