



Monaghan Matters

Monaghan County Council
Newsletter
Summer 2021



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Tourism



Libraries



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NEWS UPDATES

Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys Announces 24 Landmark Rural Regeneration Projects Nationwide: 19th April 2021

- Old Cinemas, Courthouses, Hotels, Convents, and Market Houses to be transformed into remote working hubs, libraries, e-learning, cultural, enterprise and community spaces
- Development of pedestrian zones, green areas and outdoor public spaces to breathe new life into town centres
- Focus on combatting dereliction, increasing the vibrancy of towns and regenerating iconic town centre buildings with new purpose

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced €75million for 24 landmark regeneration projects in rural communities across the country. The funding, which is being provided under the €1 Billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund will support the key objectives of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious new policy for Rural Ireland. A large number of the successful projects provide for the regeneration of vacant town centre buildings as remote working and hot-desking facilities. These projects will support remote workers and commuters to work from and remain in their own local community.

Announcing the funding on April 19th 2021, Minister Humphreys said: “Just three weeks ago, the Government launched Our Rural Future, the most ambitious and transformational policy for rural development in decades. “Today we are putting that policy firmly into action and delivering major investment aimed at town centre regeneration and supporting remote working. “These projects will breathe new life into towns and villages across the country making them attractive and vibrant places for people to live, work, socialise and raise a family.” Minister Humphreys continued: “When I launched Our Rural Future, I said I wanted to see innovative and exciting projects coming forward that would make a real and lasting difference in our rural towns and villages – that’s exactly what the projects we are announcing today are about. “It is absolutely clear that Local Authorities and communities across the country have picked up the ball on remote working and ran with it. I am delighted that so many of the successful projects today will see the development of remote working and hot-desking facilities in rural towns and villages. “These projects will not only enable people to live and work in their community but they will also see iconic town centre buildings given a new lease of life and increase footfall for local businesses. “Supporting the development of remote working facilities in places like Enfield and Carrickmacross will give commuters in those areas the choice to work locally rather than spend hours in traffic each day. “A large number of these projects also include significant public realm works such as developing new pedestrian areas in town centres, creating new green areas and developing new outdoor public spaces for community and cultural events – these projects will help to make our towns attractive, lived in and vibrant places. “Today you are seeing Our Rural Future in action – and this is only the beginning. In the coming weeks, I will be inviting new applications under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and bringing forward an enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme which will provide rural communities with more opportunities to make exciting and impactful projects like these a reality.”



Examples of Successful Projects include:

- €1.3m for Newbliss Enterprise and Digital Hub, Co Monaghan: This project will deliver the full regeneration and redevelopment of Newbliss Courthouse as an Enterprise and Digital Hub. The Hub will act a key driver for economic recovery, retaining talent locally, creating and supporting jobs, increasing footfall and activity and addressing a long derelict building in the heart of the village.
- €3.1m for C Tek II Co-working Enterprise Hub Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan: This project will deliver a new 1,450sqm Enterprise Hub and Co-Working Hub in Carrickmacross. The Hub will provide space for new start-up businesses, re-locating enterprises and co-workers seeking to work in the town. The completed Hub will help retain talent within the South Monaghan area, provide a regional base for former commuters and attract new start-ups from within the community and Northern Ireland.

Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys allocates €10.5 million for upgrade works on rural roads and laneways: 14th May 2021

*Funding to improve access to homes, farms and outdoor amenities
Every county to receive budget increase
Minister Humphreys: Supporting connectivity in rural Ireland is vital*

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has today (14 May 2021) announced the allocation of €10.5 million for repairs and improvement works on non-public roads in rural communities.

The funding, announced under the Local Improvement Scheme, will improve access to rural homes and farms, as well as outdoor amenities such as lakes, rivers, mountains and beaches. The €10.5 million allocation represents a 5% increase compared to 2020, with every county receiving an increase. Over €68 million has now been invested under the Local Improvement Scheme since it was re-introduced in 2017. The focus of the scheme is to support the continued improvement of rural roads and laneways that are not normally maintained by local authorities but which represent a vital piece of infrastructure for rural residents.

Announcing the €10.5 million in funding, Minister Humphreys said: “As part of ‘Our Rural Future’, the Government has committed to increasing the level of investment in the repair of non-public roads through the Local Improvement Scheme. “I am therefore really pleased today to announce a 5% increase in funding under the Local Improvement Scheme. “The Local Improvement Scheme is an important source of funding for small non-public roads and laneways leading to homes and farms as well as outdoor amenities such as lakes, rivers, mountains and beaches. “Since the scheme was re-introduced in 2017, close to 2,400 roads have been funded for repair works. This has made a real difference to the lives of over 10,000 landowners and residents in rural Ireland.”

Minister Humphreys added:
“I know there is a significant demand for funding under the Local Improvement Scheme right across the country. That is why I am today announcing increased funding for every county under the scheme, however, I am acutely aware that more is needed. I am working to identify if additional funding can be provided for LIS in 2021 and I would therefore urge each Local Authority to utilise the funding announced today, and complete the repair works on the selected roads, as soon as possible. “This would position them well to undertake repairs on additional roads before the end of the year should further funding become available.”

Local Authorities are responsible for identifying and prioritising roads for improvement works under the scheme, in consultation with residents/landowners. The funding provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development will be complemented by a local financial contribution from landowners/householders, as well as Local Authority resources. There will be a cap of €1,200 on the amount that any individual householder or landowner will be asked to contribute towards the cost of repairs to their road.



Castleblayney Market House and Market Square Public Engagement Report

The Market House in Castleblayney is the most significant building in the town, its vacancy and dereliction for more than 20 years have left a marked impact on Castleblayney, in terms of public pride and perception of the town, the relationship between residents and Monaghan County Council and the deterioration and vacancy levels in the surrounding streets.



An in-depth public engagement programme has identified priorities for a redeveloped Market House. A redeveloped Market House and a redesigned Market Square presents a unique and exciting opportunity to consolidate and support the town centre of Castleblayney, to be a catalyst for economic and social life in the town, and a worthy source of pride for Castleblayney residents.

The Vision presented in the report for a regenerated Market House and Market Square is one to sustain the building's significance for centuries to come.

This report will be used in the appointment of a full design team to develop the proposals to detailed design stage in order to apply for development consent and in applications for funding to ensure successful delivery of this project.

A redeveloped Market House and Market Square will be a transformative project in Castleblayney, it will bring employment, social and civic spaces back into the heart of the town, and will have impact far beyond the footprint of the building.

<https://monaghan.ie/planning/castleblayney-market-house-and-market-square-public-engagement-report/>

Ireland's Tidiest Town, Glaslough, welcomes completed watermain improvement works and improved drinking water quality

Irish Water working in partnership with Monaghan County Council, is delighted to confirm that works replacing over 1km of old problematic water mains in Glaslough is now complete. This will ensure improved water quality and a more reliable water supply to customers in the area.

The works involved the replacement of 1,164m of problematic water mains with high density polyethylene (plastic) pipes. The programme to replace the water mains in Glaslough was completed in December 2020. The works were carried out by Farran's Construction Limited on behalf of Irish Water as part of Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.

Coordinator of the Glaslough Tidy Towns, Louise Duffy, has welcomed the investment by Irish Water which will benefit the village and surround area: "Glaslough is a picturesque, magical village with impressive historical and architectural features, beautiful stone cut period buildings and a unique, vibrant and welcoming community. It is renowned for its beauty as a tourist destination, and we have worked hard to make it a special place to live and visit. Glaslough are the current winners of the National Tidy Towns Competition, which was achieved in 2019. Part of Glaslough's success in the competition is the strategic planning and works of the community in terms of protecting our environment and our resources. Glaslough were keen to work with Irish Water and Monaghan County Council to ensure the water mains replacement works were undertaken with minimum impact on the village. We are delighted that the works are now complete and that the village will now benefit from improved water quality."

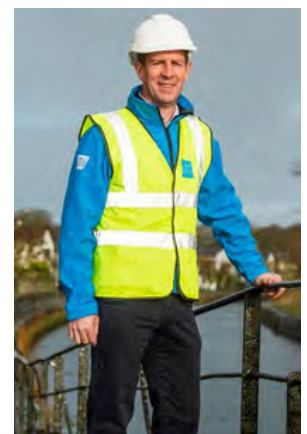
Explaining the details of what the project delivered, Irish Water's Leakage Reduction Programme Regional Lead Declan Cawley added: "We are delighted to confirm that sections of problematic water mains have now been successfully replaced in Glaslough. To improve drinking water supply and quality, reduce leaks and outages in the area and create operational efficiencies we decommissioned and replaced 1,164m of water mains along Main Street, Barrack Hill and the R185. We also took this opportunity to lay new water service connections from the public water main to customers' property boundaries and connect them to the customer's water supply as required." Declan added: "The works did involve some short-term water shut offs and traffic management measures which we understand causes inconvenience to the local community. However, we would like to take this opportunity to thank customers and businesses for their patience while we completed these essential works."

The important role that the customers and businesses of Glaslough had to play in this project are also discussed by Irish Water's Stakeholder Co-Ordinator and Communications Lead Grainne Carey. Grainne said: "The success of this project is also due to the public's participation in this project and in particular the close relationships built with the community of Glaslough. We were delighted to meet with members of the community prior to works commencing and explain the need for the works, the benefits of the works as well as providing technical details and introduce the project team including contractors." Grainne continued: "We were delighted to build upon the relationship we had throughout this project and meet with students from St Mary's National School, Glaslough. This also afforded us an opportunity to explain the project and develop awareness around water conservation and how to effectively manage this important resource in our schools and at home."

This project is one example of how we are working in partnership with Monaghan County Council to reduce leaks every day. Fixing leaks can be complicated with over 63,000 km of water pipe in Ireland. Most leaks aren't visible, resulting in precious water being lost but we are making progress. In 2018 the rate of leakage nationally was 46%, by the end of 2019 it was 42% and we are currently on course to achieve a national leakage rate of 38% by 2021.

The National Leakage Reduction Programme helps provide a more reliable water supply to Irish communities, reduce high levels of leakage and improve water quality. Its delivery means investment of over €500 million between 2017 and 2021 to reduce leakage and replace old pipes on the water network.

Further information on Irish Water's Leakage Reduction Programme is also available on the Irish Water website www.water.ie.



CORPORATE SERVICES

COISTE GAEILGE

'Gaeltacht na Fearnmhaí: an scéal nár insíodh'

Bhí oíche ar dóigh againn aréir ag an ócáid fhíorúil 'Gaeltacht na Fearnmhaí: an scéal nár insíodh' le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Ar an oíche, bhí painéal cainteoirí againn chun stair agus oidhreacht na Gaeilge i Muineachán a cheiliúradh. Linn ar an oíche bhí an Dr. Éamonn Ó Ciardha arb as an Churraichín, Co. Mhuineacháin dó; Dr. Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin ó Co. Lú; Dr. Conal Mac Seáin ó Co. Dhún na nGall; Ciarán Dúnbarrach ó Co. an Dúin agus d'éist muid le cúpla focal ó Bhrian Mac a' Bhaird as deisceart Mhuineacháin chomh maith leis an Dr. Pádraig Ó Baoighill arb as Rann na Feirste ó dhúchas dó, ach a bhfuil cónaí air i Muineachán leis na blianta fada. D'fhreastail os cionn 80 duine ar an ócáid seo beo agus tá sé feicthe ag na céadta daoine eile ina diaidh sin.

Is féidir amharc ar an chomhrá ar fad tríd an nasc seo thíos:

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/gaeltachtach-na-fearnmha>

The untold story of the Farney Gaeltacht

We had a fantastic night last night at our virtual event for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 'Gaeltacht na Fearnmhaí: an scéal nár insíodh'. On the night, we had a panel of experts to celebrate the history and heritage of the Irish language in Monaghan. With us on the night we had Dr. Éamonn Ó Ciardha from Currin, Co. Monaghan originally; Dr. Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin from Co. Louth; Dr. Conal Mac Seáin from Co. Donegal; Ciarán Dunbar from Co. Down, and we also listened to a few words from Brian Mac a' Bhaird from south Monaghan as well as Dr. Pádraig Ó Baoighill originally from Rann na Feirste but living in Monaghan for many decades now. Over 80 people attended this event live with hundreds more watching it back afterwards.

Anyone may watch the replay of the event through the link below:

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/gaeltachtach-na-fearnmha>



Gaeltacht na Fearnmhaí: an scéal nár insíodh

Plé faoi stair na Gaeilge i ndeisceart Mhuineacháin

Painéal Cainte:

Dr. Éamonn Ó Ciardha - Léachtóir staire agus Gaeilge

Dr. Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin - Saineolaí ar thraidisiún amhránaíochta Oiriaila

Ciarán Dúnbarrach - Údar an leabhar 'Cnuasach Focal as Oiriaila'

Brian Mac a' Bhaird - Scéalaí agus file de shliocht Mhic a' Bhaird, Corr Lí Ghoirm

Dr. Conal Mac Seáin - Léachtóir a scríobh 'The Life and Legacy of Henry Morris'

Dé Céadaoin 10 Márta 2021 @7.i.n.



An Coiste Gaeilge
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin



Déan do ghnó leis an gComhairle As Gaeilge

Tá Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin tiomanta do sheirbhísí a chur ar fáil don phobal trí Ghaeilge.

Le deanaí d'fhreastail trí bhall foirne déag ar chúrsa oiliúna maidir le conas déileáil le ceisteanna ón bpobal as Gaeilge. Ina theannta sin, rinneadh uasghrádú ar shuíomh gréasáin na Comhairle chun níos mó Gaeilge a chur san áireamh.

Tá sonraí faoi na seirbhísí Gaeilge ar fad atá ar fáil ar an suíomh gréasáin ar fáil ag <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/gaeilge-irish-language/>.

Fresin, Is féidir le Gaelgeoirí úsáid a bhaint as eloas@monaghancoco.ie le comhfhreagairt leis an gComhairle

Mar is gnách, is féidir leat an seoladh ríomhphoist seo a úsáid chun comhfhreagar leis an Chomhairle As Gaeilge eloas@monaghancoco.ie

Do your business with the Council As Gaeilge

Monaghan County Council is committed to providing services to the public as Gaeilge.

Thirteen staff recently attended a training course on how to deal with queries from the public as Gaeilge.

Additionally, the Council's website has been upgraded to include more Gaeilge.

Included on the website are details of all Irish language services available at <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/gaeilge-irish-language/>.

As always Gaelgeoirí can use eloas@monaghancoco.ie to correspond with the Council.



EOLAS@MONAGHANCOCO.IE

INNOVATION/IS

Our Public Service 2021 Innovation Fund Success for MyCoCo Project.

Project Title: MyCoCo
Funding awarded: €55,000
Project Lead: Monaghan County Council

Monaghan County Council in collaboration with: OGCIO, Cavan County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Laois County Council, Leitrim County Council, Longford County Council, Louth County Council, Sligo County Council and the Irish Road Haulage Association.

Local Authorities offer more than 1,000 diverse services to the public. Many of the services are provided using paper-based forms, payments are made by cheque and the applicant has very low visibility into the progress of their application. This project will develop MyCoCo – an online platform to provide these diverse services.

MyCoCo will be like the ‘Amazon’ for Local Authority services. Citizens, businesses and organisations can set up an account, browse the service catalogue, request service and add to basket, make payment, and track progress. MyCoCo will include MyGOVID and Digital Postbox offering our citizens a secure government-wide single sign-on for accessing local authority services. MyCoCo will provide Local Authorities full visibility of service offerings and provide baseline metrics that can then be used for key performance indicators.

MyCoCo will also facilitate a sustainable and cohesive office based and remote working environment and will provide standardised staff training which will result in reduced costs and ease of movement of staff between departments owing to the familiarity of the system. MyCoCo is a transformative solution that will provide better customer service and increase the efficiency of our service delivery.



Top Row: Karmel O'Keefe, Michael McLean (Monaghan County Council, Local Authority); Barry Leavy, Nuala Warren (Department of Public Expenditure and Finance); Stephen Brady (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council) and Mary Mahon (Kesh County Council)
Bottom Row: Eugene Brennan (Irish Road Haulage Association); John Wickham (Longford County Council); Jimmy O'Brien (Sligo County Council); Pat Connick (Laois County Council); Erika Terence (Cavan County Council) and Helen Dooly (South County Council)



BROADBAND

Rollout of WiFi4EU continues across County Monaghan

In March 2021, Monaghan County Council delivered broadband and WiFi Access Points to additional community centres across the county under the WiFi4EU scheme. Public Wifi has been installed in Iontas Theatre, Castleblayney, St. Michaels Hall, Donaghmoynne and in the newly refurbished Doohamlet Parish Hall. Broadband has already been installed in 30 community and public buildings, including Ardaghey Community Centre, Sliabh Beagh and the Patrick Kavanagh Centre. The addition of state-of-the-art WiFi will allow people using these buildings to have access to high speed broadband for future meetings and even to access public WiFi outside the buildings in the car park area.

Accessing WiFi4EU is a straightforward process that does not require the user to input any personal information or passwords. Users connect wirelessly to the WiFi4EU network and agree to the Terms and Conditions. All access is monitored to keep all users safe and free from harm.

This project has been designed to introduce broadband into public spaces and to enable communities to broaden the range of activities and to reimagine their community centres as places for work and for study.

The WiFi4EU project is co-funded by the European Union and the Government of Ireland, together with Monaghan County Council.

Access to broadband at community level is one of the key objectives in Monaghan's Digital Strategy. It is anticipated that this will enable the development of a range of digital services and digital training in community settings in the course of the next few years.



TOURISM

Monaghan Tourism Kicks off Summer 2021 Campaign

Monaghan is setting its stall as a must-visit staycation destination this summer, encouraging visitors to 'Make a Break for Monaghan' with a content-driven promotional campaign across local, national and social media, maximising visibility and emphasising the fact that Monaghan offers a change of scenery and pace, away from the crowds.

Fresh video footage re-imagined from the popular 'My Monaghan' series offers a glimpse of what awaits on a trip to the county, serving to place Monaghan centre-stage across digital and social media platforms and, in turn, attract visitors to the county this summer.

Insightful blog articles on a range of travel themes, from profiles of the most perfect picnic spots across the county, to features on the best free attractions and experiences to enjoy in Monaghan will further drive traffic to the Monaghan Tourism website – www.monaghantourism.com - where visitors can also browse a range of tempting special offers that are ready to book now.

Investment in the county's tourist attractions continues apace, with a range of new additions enhancing Monaghan's tourism offering for 2021, including: a brand-new state-of-the-art visitor experience at Carrickmacross Workhouse; a virtual guided Heritage Tour of Monastic Clones; studio tours and workshops at King's Forge Glass; a new outdoor adventure centre at Sliabh Beagh, and 'meet and greet' experiences at Glaslough Alpacas.

Visit Monaghantourism.com and follow @MonaghanTourism on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for all the latest news and special offers.

#MyMonaghan #makeabreakformonaghan



'Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme' 2021

The 'Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business' Scheme is a Failte Ireland Funding Programme which is being administered by the Tourism Unit for Monaghan County Council.

It provides funding for individual tourism and hospitality businesses to develop and increase their own outdoor seating capacity for the summer of 2021. This scheme will financially assist and support independent tourism and hospitality business owners to create outdoor dining experiences in a regulated and accessible manner.

The scheme is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other tourism and hospitality business establishments where food is sold for consumption on the premises and is open for applications until 30th September 2021.

Further information on the 'Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Scheme' can be found at: <https://monaghan.ie/outdoor-seating-accessories-for-tourism-hospitality-business-scheme/>



ROADS

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Schemes:

The N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme (32km) and N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme (28km) are both important projects to enhance key North/South and Regional connectivity and to improve road safety.

Preferred Route Corridors were published for each scheme in Spring 2021, and shortly afterward an important milestone was achieved when approval was received to progress to the next phase of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Design Process - Phase 3; Design and Environmental Evaluation.

Jacobs Engineering Ireland is the consultant engineer for both schemes, and they are advancing the projects through the planning and design process. Jacobs Engineering Ireland are planning a range of surveys which are scheduled to take place throughout the summer months;

- Topographical surveys will record ground levels and map buildings, structures, vegetation, rivers and other features in the landscape.
- Environmental surveys will include ecology surveys, agronomy and noise surveys.
- Ground investigation works are also being planned for later this Summer.

The N2 Project Team continue to work remotely, but can be contacted by landowners and members of the public via the N2 Project Phonenumber 087 340 3786, or by email as follows: ArdeeCastleblayney@N2MonaghanLouth.ie / ClontibretBorder@N2MonaghanLouth.ie.

News and updates will be posted on the 'Latest News' section of the project website www.N2MonaghanLouth.ie.



New Velocity Patcher

Monaghan County Council has invested in a state-of-the-art pothole repair machine as part of its commitment to maintain the county's roads.

The Department of Transport grant-aided the Velocity Patcher, which is operated by one staff member from the driver's cab.

The patcher can carry 12 tonnes of chippings and two tonnes of bitumen which enables it to work a full day without refilling.

It cleans out the pothole using compressed air before filling the hole with a computer-calibrated mix of hot material.



Active Travel

The National Transport Authority (NTA) confirmed a total funding allocation of €50 million for Active Travel Schemes throughout the country.

Monaghan County Council received an allocation of €3,985,620, 8% of the National allocation.

The aim of this funding is to support the development of high-quality urban cycling and walking infrastructure outside of the major cities.

An allocation was received for forty-seven schemes which include upgrading of footpath and cycle paths at locations throughout County Monaghan. Projects include Monaghan Town (Greenway Urban Link – N2), Clones (98 Avenue) and Carrickmacross, (Ross Road).

Additional Active Travel measures for pedestrians & cyclists are planned at Ballybay, Castleblayney, Magherarney, Rockcorry, Scotshouse, Scotstown, and Smithboro.

More information regarding the Active Travel Programme can be found at:

<https://activetravelmonaghan.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/active-travel-project-allocation-nta-2021.pdf>



ROADS

Eco-Friendly Driving Tips

Monaghan County Council Roads Section and Road Safety Officer has collaborated with the Climate Action Steering Committee to produce posters detailing eco-friendly driving tips for motorists.

ECO FRIENDLY DRIVING TIPS



Avoid sudden braking and rapid acceleration, be smooth and steady



Leave a large gap between you and the car in front in order to anticipate when to stop or slow down.



Slow down- a 10 km/h reduction on your motorway cruising speed can greatly improve fuel efficiency.



When driving on the motorway and your car has cruise control, use this during dry conditions! Maintaining a constant speed on extended trips conserves energy.



Time your approach to red traffic lights, slow down to avoid stopping completely

ECO FRIENDLY DRIVING TIPS



If you must stop for 30 seconds or more turn your engine off. Leaving the car running will burn more fuel than turning it off and starting it again.



On icy mornings defrost your windscreen and windows using a scraper and de-icer rather than warming the car up.



Check your tyre pressure regularly. Tyres 10% below the recommended pressure makes your engine work harder-increasing fuel consumption up to 2% more.



Use the correct engine oil for your vehicle. The manufacturers recommendation is carefully chosen to optimize engine performance



Empty your back seat and boot- added weight means increased fuel consumption.

ECO FRIENDLY DRIVING TIPS



Remove bike racks and roof boxes when not in use. They add weight and make your car less aerodynamic.



Don't wait around after starting your car, move off very shortly after you turn on the engine.



Make sure your car is well maintained and serviced regularly



At low speeds, air conditioning increases fuel consumption- open windows instead. At higher speeds, open windows will increase drag, so air con is more economical.



Cut down on electrics. Only use heaters, demister fans and other such features when necessary.

ECO FRIENDLY DRIVING TIPS



Check your route before setting off! Nothing wastes fuel like getting lost on the scenic route



Time journeys to avoid heavy traffic, this can help reduce collective CO2 emissions



Combine short trips into a single journey. Starting cold uses far more fuel.



Try to eliminate unnecessary use of your car. If making short journeys, consider active methods of travel such as walking or cycling instead.



Keep track of your fuel costs and compare over periods of time to see how much you can save.



If purchasing a new car, research its fuel consumption or consider moving to an electric vehicle

CLIMATE ACTION

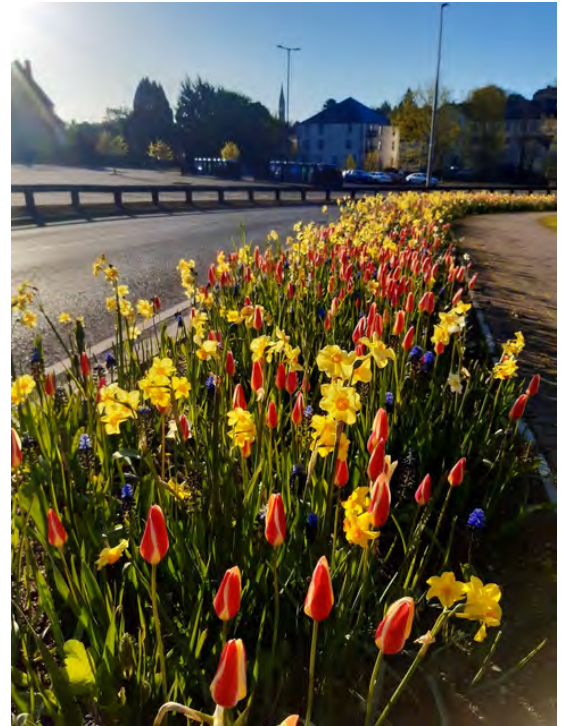


National Tree Week

The Environmental Awareness Officer and Horticulturist in collaboration with the Community Development Officer, distributed some native saplings to volunteers, schools and community groups around the county during National Tree Week.

Over 200 saplings were donated to groups, which will have an impact on reducing our carbon footprint, as they grow.

Pollinator Friendly Planting at Monaghan Shopping Centre in Monaghan Town.



Decarbonising Zone for County Monaghan.

Action 165 of the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 requires Local Authorities to identify and develop plans for one Decarbonising Zone and this is also underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021. A Decarbonising Zone is an area spatially identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation measures can co-exist to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs. The range of policies and projects developed are specific to the energy and climate characteristics of the spatial area covered by the Decarbonising Zone. Monaghan County Council has formally selected Monaghan Town as the proposed Decarbonising Zone for the county. This proposal was ratified by members at the April County Council meeting.

Reasons for selecting Monaghan Town as the decarbonising zone include

- It is the only town in County Monaghan that has a population significantly greater than 5,000 persons.
- It is a geographical area that has potentially the highest carbon footprint in the county.
- Will provide capacity to identify carbon saving initiatives across a wide spectrum of activity including industry, retail, leisure, residential, education and health.
- A significant number of key stakeholders, including government agencies are in the "zone", all of whom are also responsible for achieving the National Climate Change Targets.
- The indications are that most other rural counties are selecting their County Town as the Decarbonising Zone.

Monaghan County Council like all local authorities is now required to develop a Decarbonising Zone Implementation Plan by the end of Q4 2021.



An Approach to Decarbonising Zones in Ireland



Edible Orchard

Our project in Clones has taken off and is full of wonderful blossoms which will continue to bloom and harvest fruits over the coming months.

This Climate Action Initiative is a collaboration between Clones Town Team, Clones Tidy Towns and Monaghan Horticulturist and Monaghan County Council Environmental Services .

All 30 trees are native Irish trees and include a selection of apple, pear and plum trees and are planted in an area which is being left to rewild and which is also pesticide free, therefore creating a natural habitat managed for wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Site Office Rebuild Project

Construction work on the fire damaged site office at Scotch Corner is expected to commence in June. The building is a critical piece of infrastructure in that it will house all the monitoring equipment that is necessary to ensure that the landfill site and recycling facility continues to operate in compliance with all EPA requirements. Consultants on the office building were Fehily Timoney and Company and Craftstudio Architecture.

The contractor for the project is due to be formally awarded the contract before the end of May. Taking into consideration both design and construction costs the overall cost of the project is approximately €300,000. With a proposed 36-week construction programme, work on the office rebuild is expected to be substantially completed in Q1 2022.



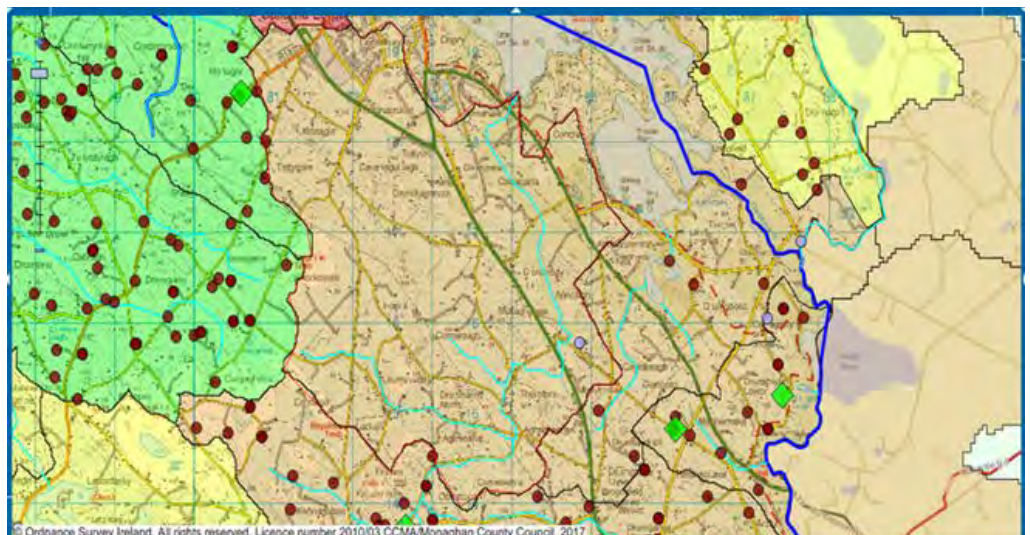
Farm Inspections and Investigate Assessment

The water team staff will begin investigative assessment in a new river catchment this year, namely the Annalitten Catchment. RPS consultants have previously completed farm surveys on behalf of Monaghan County Council recently, and follow up more detailed surveys will commence in Summer 2021.

All farms, businesses and suspect discharges in the catchment will be investigated.

SSRS assessment, which involves biological assessment of the aquatic invertebrates, will be carried out along the Annalitten stream in order to determine water quality changes and pinpoint problem areas.

Map to right: Annalitten Farm Surveys



In 2021 Monaghan County Council's National Repair Directory, RepairMyStuff.ie has again collaborated with WEEE Ireland and ERP, the electrical environmental compliance schemes, along with the Environmental Protection Agency to develop and expand the directory. With almost 900 business now listed, the directory continues to provide valuable support to the repair industry in Ireland and the wider circular economy.



The Repair industry along with local business man Vincent Macklin featured in the Irish Time recently, the article can be read here: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/consumer/when-the-music-industry-stopped-vincent-macklin-found-a-lockdown-fix-1.4529323>

Photo credit Irish Times Online



Musical Instrument Repair

Thanks to continued funding from the EPA, Environmental Services is running its Musical Repair and Reuse Scheme again this year.

Last year we partnered with Cavan-Monaghan Music Generation to put musical instruments to good use in local schools. A variety of instruments were collected and refurbished and repaired including banjos, mandolins, fiddles, electrical pianos. This year we are looking for instruments so if you have an instrument gathering dust at home please consider donating it to the scheme and we will ensure it is put to good use. Instruments can be dropped off at either of the Recycling Centres or email repair@monaghancoco.ie for collection.

Dréacht Phlean Bainistiú Bruscair 2021-2023

Tar éis réamhchomhairliúcháin, cuireadh Dréachtphlean Bainistiúochta Bruscair 2021-2023 i láthair ag an gcuinníú a bhí ag an gCoiste um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide agus Seirbhísí Comhshaoil i mí Aibreáin, le haghaidh molta, roimh chomhairliúchán poiblí ar cuireadh tús leis an 30 Aibreán ar feadh tréimhse ocht seachtaine go dtí an 25 Meitheamh 2021. Tá an dréachtphlean ar fáil le hamharc air agus aighneachtaí a dhéanamh ag www.monaghan.ie. Cuirfimid fáilte roimh aighneachtaí I nGaeilge

Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023

Following pre-consultation, the new Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023 was presented at the April Climate Action and Environmental Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting, for recommendation, prior to public consultation which commenced on the 30th April for an eight-week period to the 25th June 2021. The draft plan is available to view and make submissions at www.monaghan.ie



What's in your Bin Facebook Live

Clones Tidy Town's organised and hosted "What's in your Bin?" a live Facebook event on Wednesday the 21st of April. The purpose of this event was to bring awareness to what is recyclable and alternative uses to what may be re-used from your bin for other purposes. Topics which the Environmental Awareness Officer covered were the impact plastics have on the environment, alternatives to single use plastics, food waste, re-use of single plastic items, the benefits of repair and reuse. To view the video visit <https://www.facebook.com/clonesnoticeboards>



Infilling with Soil and Stone

Landowners should be aware that soil and stone imported to their lands may be classified as waste and will require authorisation under Waste Regulations. Waste Enforcement staff have visited a number of landholdings recently where soil and stone has been imported with the correct authorisation. This has led to considerable difficulties for the landowner with legal notices to remove material being issued. If you are interested in raising levels of fields the activity may require planning permission and authorisation under waste legislation, therefore Monaghan County Council would encourage all landowners to consult with Environmental Services before commencement on 042 9661240 and waste@monaghancoco.ie.

Waste Enforcement officer are willing to give advice to all landowners with prejudice.





Assessments

Green Schools assessments have commenced virtually for the 2021 year by the Environmental Awareness Officer. The purpose of the assessment visit is for the Environmental Awareness Officer to experience the school's Green Schools' Programme and to support the schools and committee on ensuring the seven steps of the programme have been implemented satisfactorily, advise the school as necessary and make recommendations on award of the Flag to An Taisce Green Schools.

Congratulations to Clontibret NS, Gaelscoil Ultain, Monaghan, Drumgossit National School, Tyholland National School and Castleblayney Convent Junior on completing their assessments

Schools Easter Competition Arts and Crafts Winners

Environmental Services commissioned a short Spring themed arts and crafts video from the Rediscovery Centre, Dublin and circulated it to all national schools within the county. A competition was also launched in which schools were invited to enter, by sending Environmental Services a picture of their wonderful creations. Thank you to all the teachers and students involved and to the schools who participated in the competition. The winners were Urbleshanny National School and Corcaghan National School.

Well done to all involved.



Secondary Schools.

Congratulations to the Transition Year Students from Beech Hill who reached the semi finalists in the ECO Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards with their "Bio Senses" Garden and "Plastic Greenhouse Fun". Monaghan Environmental Awareness Officer and Horticulturist are currently working with Beech Hill teachers and students on developing their "Bio Senses" sensory garden at the front of the school grounds, which they hope to commence in the coming week.



Spring Clean 2021.

Spring Clean 2021 was a massive success within the county with individuals, families and small groups organising litter picks within their local area. Over 800 pickers and 3000 bags were distributed as well as skips to communities throughout the north and south of the county.

Thanks to all that participated, your contribution to a litter free Monaghan is invaluable.



Muckno Park Litter Pick

A litter pick took place during April, throughout Muckno Park, Black and White Island, Castleblayney, which was organised by Aaron Maxwell and Trevor Power of M Power Youth Project, with their group of Transition Year students from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney in collaboration with Monaghan Volunteer Centre and Monaghan County Council Environmental Services and staff, who arranged the distribution and collection of litter pickers and bags.



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Quality Update.

The EPA has recently published updated Water Framework Directive (WFD) status ratings for water bodies in the county. This EPA data unfortunately identified a decline in WFD status at a number of locations, namely, at the County Bridge on the County Water River in the Oram area and at Lisakenny Bridge on the Magheracluone Stream.

The Magheracluone stream had been of high quality since 2000 so this decline in status at this location is somewhat disappointing. Environmental Services water team staff will shortly be commencing investigative assessment and river walks along these river stretches in June to try to identify causes for the drop in Water Framework Status at these locations.

Pictured to the right: Bridge at Lisakenny. Magheracluone Stream



River Name	Location	Reason for decline	Deterioration
County Water	County Bridge	Siltation	Q4 dropped to Q3-4
Magheracluone Stream	Lisakenny Bridge	Unknown	Q4-5 dropped to Q4

Table 1: The EPA Q-value classification system and its relationship to water quality

Q Value	WFD Status	Pollution Status	Condition*	EPA Quality Class
Q5, Q4-5	High	Unpolluted	Satisfactory	Class A
Q4	Good	Unpolluted	Satisfactory	Class A
Q3-4	Moderate	Slightly polluted	Unsatisfactory	Class B
Q3, Q2-3	Poor	Moderately polluted	Unsatisfactory	Class C
Q2, Q1-2, Q1	Bad	Significantly polluted	Unsatisfactory	Class D

Condition refers to the likelihood of interference with beneficial or potential beneficial use.

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE

Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN) Climate Conversation – Planning for Local Change



Monaghan Public Participation Network in collaboration with Monaghan County Council Environmental Services Section were delighted to be one of the PPN's who recently held a Climate Conversation which is part of an initiative of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

The conversations are happening across the country with the aim to give the Community and Voluntary Sector an opportunity to engage in the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021 and the key local priorities for the Climate Action Fund. Monaghan PPN Climate Conversation was facilitated by PPN Environmental Representatives Candice Moen and Liam Murtagh of Transition Monaghan.

A diverse group of volunteers brought their local expertise and knowledge to highlight what needs to be done to make Climate Action happen in County Monaghan in areas such as food, shopping, transport, energy and buildings and biodiversity. They also shared their hopes and concerns for now and future generations.

Leona Keenan PPN Resource Manager stated that “the PPN is delighted to have been a part of this initiative because we are the “go to” vehicle when Local and National Governments want to consult with the Community Sector on a local or national policy or plan. It was evident during the workshop that there is a real appetite from our members to be taking on initiatives to deal with local climate action. The feedback from the workshop will be used to develop further PPN training and environmental themed events later in the year”.



Establishment of Monaghan Migrant Integration Forum

The County Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy 'We Belong' was launched on November 16th 2020.

The three year strategy sets out Monaghan Local Community Development Committee's plan to ensure the integration of all those who live in County Monaghan. One of the actions within the strategy was for Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN) and Monaghan Integrated Development (MID) to collaboratively establish a Migrant Integration Forum which will be a community led forum to engage with members of the migrant community and ensure their voice is part of local decision making.

The Migrant Integration Forum wishes to give all members of the migrant community an opportunity to have a safe space to share their concerns and develop key initiatives that will encourage migrants to fully contribute to their communities.

The forum has held its inaugural meeting, which was very productive. The one key piece of work that emerged as a need, was for the forum to carry out a mapping exercise of what services are currently being provided across the county and where there are gaps. The forum will initially meet every month.

We are looking for new members. We welcome anyone who works with the migrant communities or is a migrant themselves. If you would like to be a member please email Leona Keenan (PPN Resource Manager) at ppn@monaghancoco.ie or Jacqueline O'Rourke (Monaghan Integrated Development) at jorourke@midl.ie

As the Monaghan Integration Strategy states, “The vision for Monaghan is one that celebrates the diversity of our communities. A county where everyone who lives, works and visits are valued, respected and supported to fully participate and contribute to their communities. By being friendly and by being ourselves, you will be making County Monaghan a better place for all”.

MIGRANT INTEGRATION FORUM

A forum to raise issues facing migrant communities and promote integration.

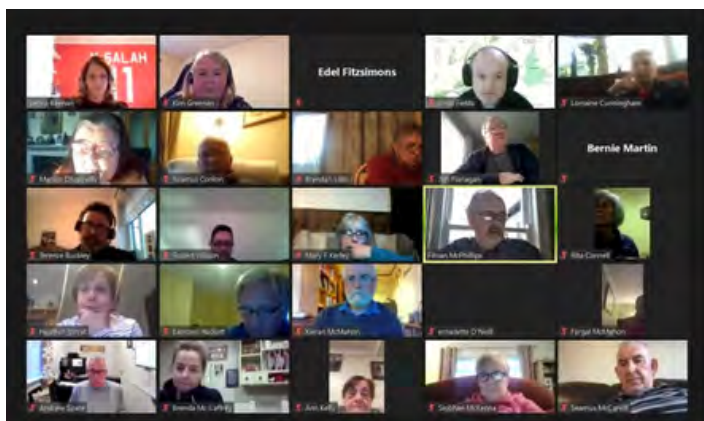
If you would like to join or would like more information contact:
 Leona: lmcdonal@monaghancoco.ie
 Jacqueline: jorourke@midl.ie / 0876738835

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and is funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

Monaghan PPN Supporting Communities to Stay Connected

Over 50 Community and Voluntary groups from across the county were recently represented as Monaghan Public Participation Network (PPN) hosted its first online networking meeting of 2021. A great mix of groups were in attendance representing social inclusion, environmental and community and voluntary sectors.

Monaghan PPN Resource Manager, Leona Keenan began the meeting by giving an overview of activities to date in 2021, including a consultation workshop on Monaghan County Council Litter Management Plan and a focused workshop on Climate Change. This was followed with examples of some key pieces of work for the year ahead including the establishment of a Migrant Integration Forum, feedback into plans such as the Climate Action Plan 2021 and Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan, a tailored training programme and many other capacity-building supports for the 580 community groups currently registered with the PPN. Ms. Keenan also welcomed the launch of “Our Rural Future” and informed everyone that Minister Heather Humphreys recognised the important role the PPN has to play as a key stakeholder in the delivery of initiatives from this strategy over the next five years.



Councillors Welcome Funding for Walking & Cycling Projects

The National Transport Authority has awarded €3,985,620 to Monaghan County Council to complete a number of walking and cycling projects during 2021. The funding marks the first year in a five year scheme aimed at supporting small local authorities such as Monaghan County Council to invest in urban walking and cycling infrastructure, to bring the level of infrastructure available in towns to a level where walking and cycling are attractive alternatives to the motor car for getting around town.

This is the heaviest investment in walking and cycling that the state has made in our rural towns and villages, and was flagged in last year's Programme for Government, where an unprecedented 20% of the national budget for transport was ringfenced for walking and cycling.

The reason that so much emphasis is being put on walking and cycling as forms of transportation is that they are seen as non-polluting transportation alternatives in a sector which is the second-largest contributor to carbon dioxide emissions (after agriculture), and therefore could be an important part of the solution in the drive to reduce the country's carbon consumption in the battle to control the pace of climate change.

The funding allocation to County Monaghan covers a broad mix of elements, including:

- funding to prepare mobility plans for the towns, to ensure that traffic flow will not be unduly affected by the introduction of cycle lanes or other proposed measures;
- funding to cover the design of pedestrianisation of some parts of town centres
- funding for lighting along a number of specific roads which are regularly used by walkers in Ballybay, Clones and Smithboro
- upgrading of the Monaghan Town Greenway, including introduction of protection measures to prevent motorists from parking on the contra-flow cycle lane in Canal St
- new footpaths in Ballybay, Rockcorry, Clones, Smithboro, Scotstown, Castleblaney and Carrickmacross
- in Monaghan Town new footpaths will include Tullyhirm Lane and Coolshannagh
- in Clones, funding has been secured to provide a Cycle Lane along 98 Avenue
- in Carrickmacross, funding has been secured to provide a Cycle Lane along Ross Road
- Funding to examine the options & prepare a design for a Pedestrian / Cycle Bridge has been provided for Scotshouse Village (from school down towards village), Inniskeen (across Fane), and in Monaghan Town for Horseshoe Bridge (Cortolvin) and Ballyalbany Bridge
- Funding has been secured for Pedestrian Crossings in Clones, Inniskeen and Annayalla
- Funding also has been secured to carry out a review and update the existing walking and cycling plans for Monaghan, Castleblaney and Carrickmacross.
- Funding has been granted to support St Michael's NS Corcaghan to implement some traffic calming measures on the busy Monaghan to Cootehill Regional Road
- Funding is also being made available to the Council to carry out some works at junctions to segregate cyclists from motor traffic and to open up walking routes which shorten journeys from residential areas into town centres.

In welcoming the allocation of funding, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Colm Carthy was strong in his praise for the work of Council staff, whose hard work in preparing a stellar application, he said, was critical in receiving such a high allocation. "I have no doubt that the fact that we were already so far ahead of many counties in having a Walking & Cycling Strategy prepared was also a factor in the NTA's decision-making process," said Cllr. Carthy, referring to the Council's Draft Walking & Cycling Strategy which is currently out for public consultation.

"The Council has become very aware of the importance of climate change in recent years, and we adopted a Climate Adaptation Plan in 2020. Using non-fuel-burning modes of transportation for at least some of our shorter journeys is a good start in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Walking and cycling are also good for you – not just for your physical wellbeing, but getting out in the fresh air is good for the head as well as the body. The Council also sees economic potential in developing walking and cycling infrastructure, as Tourism Ireland reports that these are the two activities which tourists report participating in the most whilst on holiday in Ireland. What better way to explore Kavanagh County could there be than on bicycles in twos and threes!"

Cycling Officer Carol Lambe was also present to mark the occasion. She explained, "When the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport first launched its Active Travel Programme back in 2012, we were able to avail of seed funding to prepare walking & cycling plans for Monaghan Town and Castleblaney. We also commissioned the development of the GoMonaghan brand and have maintained a website gomonaghan.ie ever since, where we post information on how to get to and around Monaghan on foot, cycle and bus. Unfortunately, despite that promising beginning, follow-up funding from the Department has been slow to arrive, and we were unable to press on with our ambitions until now. That doesn't mean to say that we haven't been thinking and plotting and working out what we would do if we had access to funding; I think being able to hit the NTA hard with a strong list of projects proves that. We have a strong inter-departmental team working together to ensure that we bring the maximum benefit into the county, to enhance the lives of the people of Co. Monaghan. I think people will be pleased with what they see emerge over the next few years."

Pictured to the left: Members and Staff of Monaghan County Council gather to mark the awarding of the county's first significant allocation of funding for Active Travel infrastructure. Photo Credit: Rory Geary, Northern Standard.



Monaghan County Council Invites Comment on Draft County Walking & Cycling Strategy

Monaghan County Council's Transportation & Community Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) is inviting the public to review the Council's proposed County Walking & Cycling Strategy. The document will influence how the Council supports the development of walking and cycling over the next five years. This will include infrastructure provision for both active travel (commuting) and recreation, and activities to promote the growth of walking and cycling in the county.

Launching the consultation, Cllr. Raymond Aughey, who is Chair of the SPC, said, "This document is very important, as it will form the basis for the Council's activity in the arena of walking and cycling. As we have seen as recently as last week, there is a lot of funding for walking and cycling at the moment, and it is therefore very important that we get this document right, and that best use of this opportunity is made, for the people of County Monaghan."



Pictured above: Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Transportation & Community Development and Cllr. Raymond Aughey, Chair of Transportation & Community SPC, launch the public consultation of the Draft County Walking & Cycling Strategy. Photo Credit Rory Geary, Northern Standard.

Also speaking at the launch, Patricia Monahan, Director of Services for Transportation and Community Development, urged the public to get involved and to have their say. "This is not a document that is going to sit on the shelf unused for the next five years," she said. "There is funding available for commuting infrastructure in towns and villages for making school environs safe so children can walk and cycle to school, and for recreational projects of significant scale, including looped walks and greenways.

There are real opportunities here to enhance the county's infrastructure, and to support people to walk and cycle more. Due to COVID-19, we weren't able to get out and talk to as many people as we would have liked as we prepared the document, so it's really important that we get as much input as we can now."

You can view the Strategy, and have your say by completing a short survey online, by going to: <https://gomonaghan.ie/walking-cycling-strategy>.



Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Chair helps to launch St. Macartan's College Cycle to School Initiative

The St. Macartan's College Cycle to School Initiative was launched by Transportation & Community SPC Chair Cllr. Raymond Aughey recently. This initiative will see the school make bicycles available to students who wish to cycle to school on a daily basis. This initiative is sponsored by Castleblayney native and St. Macartan's College past pupil Pádraig Sherry. The newly refurbished lay-by at the school includes bike shelters and will include lockers for cyclists for the safe storage of helmets and cycling gear. A drying facility will also be made available to the cyclists at the school. Speaking from his current base in London, the initiative's sponsor Pádraig Sherry said that he sees on a daily basis the increasing numbers of cyclists in and around London and feels that cycling to school is something to be promoted as a part of the school's Wellbeing Programme. School principal Raymond McHugh, thanked the initiative's sponsor Pádraig Sherry as well as Carol Lambe, Community Development Officer and Monaghan County Council's Smarter Travel Coordinator. Continuing, he stated that students should be encouraged and facilitated to cycle to school, especially when safe routes to school like the ever-improving cycle routes available to St. Macartan's College students are taken into consideration.

Monaghan County Council is a supporter of the St Macartan's Cycling Scheme. The initiative coincides with improvements to the cycling infrastructures which are scheduled to be undertaken by Monaghan County Council thanks to recently announced funding. The improvements will fill the missing pieces of cycle path from the Coolshannagh roundabout to the N2 cycle path to Emyvale and will provide a cycle link from the roundabout along the N2 bypass to the Dublin Road roundabout, thus providing a safe route to school for students living on that side of the town. With the existing greenway providing an east-west link across town and cutting through the town centre, it is possible for most town-dwelling students to cycle safely and quickly to the College.

It is envisaged that students who cycle to school will see many benefits from their choice of transportation:

- They will receive a health boost, improving their fitness levels without having to commit precious after-school hours to tedious time in the gym.
- They will arrive to school more alert and more able to retain information – this will be a great advantage for those wishing to do well in exams.
- Getting out in the fresh air along the greenway for a few minutes a day will help to destress and will improve mental wellbeing. We could all do with a bit of this at the moment.
- Cycling saves money.
- It can also save you some time – especially on a Friday afternoon. Sem students timed getting to the traffic lights in town by bike using the greenway at 10 minutes, and by car it took 20 minutes!
- Finally, and most importantly, cycling can help reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere by reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

The Council will be supporting the scheme through the provision of equipment and training and will be linking St Macartan's College to any active travel supports which become available from the Department of Transport over the next few years. Monaghan County Council Cycling Officer Carol Lambe said "We're really excited to see what St. Macartan's College are doing, and we hope to be in a position to come in and provide practical support to them so that the scheme can flourish. The Department of Transport has recently announced their intention to support rural Councils like ourselves with funding to enhance active travel infrastructure, and so we are hopeful that funding opportunities will open up to County Monaghan schools and businesses which will enable them to become more walking and cycling friendly. Monaghan County Council will do everything we can to ensure that Monaghan schools benefit from these opportunities as fully as possible."

St. Macartan's College teacher, accomplished triathlete and cycling enthusiast, Karl Kildea will advise the school on the purchase of the bicycles as well as provide bike maintenance classes for the cycle to school participants.

Further details are available by contacting the school office.

Monaghan Youth Emergency Card

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg are working on increasing awareness of the risks associated with drugs & alcohol and have produced wallet sized information cards that will be circulated to young people.

The cards outline the signs and symptoms and also the steps that should be taken in the case of an emergency. Cards will be distributed to schools and youth organisations in the county.

If you're interested in receiving a quantity of these cards for distribution, please contact fmcentee@monaghancoco.ie for information.



Cárta Práinne Óige Mhuineacháin

Tá Comhairle na nÓg Mhuineacháin ag obair ar fheasacht a mhéadú maidir le Druaí & Alcól, tá cártaí beaga eolais oiriúnach don vallait anois acu lena ndáileadh ar dhaoine óga.

Ar na cártaí mínítear cad ba chóir a dhéanamh chun deileáil le drugaí nó alcól i gcás práinne. Scaipfear na cártaí ar scoileanna agus eagraíochtaí óige an chontae.

Más maith leat líon áirithe cártaí a fháil déan teagmháil led thoil le fmcentee@monaghancoco.ie chun teacht ar bhreis eolais

Free sanitary products will be available in the toilet facilities in the public buildings of Monaghan County Council

Monaghan County Council is to provide free sanitary products in women's toilets in its buildings to support the campaign to end period poverty.

Period poverty is the lack of access to sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education, toilets, hand washing facilities, and/or waste management.

A proposal put forward by Monaghan Women's Assembly was raised at the May Meeting of Monaghan County Council by Sinn Féin Councillor, Cathy Bennett and seconded by Fianna Fáil Councillor, Aoife McCooey, both members of Monaghan Women's Assembly.



Free sanitary products will be available in the toilet facilities in the public buildings of Monaghan County Council

Supporting the #EndPeriodPoverty Initiative

Monaghan LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The Monaghan LEADER Programme 2014-2020 continued to attract high levels of interest and demand for project funding until the budget of €7.59m was fully allocated at the end of 2020. Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of project applications. Monaghan Integrated Development CLG (MID) is the implementing partner and Monaghan County Council is the financial partner for the Programme. Monaghan LEADER aims to develop sustainable rural communities throughout the county, by promoting social inclusion, economic development and stimulating enterprise, tourism, and community services while protecting the natural and built heritage of the county. The funding was awarded based on a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for Monaghan which set out the priority areas for the programme.

LEADER Programme - Progress at 31st December 2020

- The LAG held 12 monthly meetings, except August but met twice in December.
- At the end of 2020, 112 projects were approved to the value of €5,698,098 (99.82% of total budget)
- In December 2020 the programme was extended by three months, with a Transitional LEADER programme & additional budget announced at the same time.
- Monaghan LAG is still inviting applications for LEADER funding, if you are interested in making an application please contact Monaghan Integrated Development at 042 9749500.

LEADER Programme 2014 -2020 – Sample of Projects funded

Brehon Brewhouse Ltd., Carrickmacross Lace Co-op, The Down Syndrome Centre North East, Clontibret Development Association, Dundalk Salmon Anglers Association and Drumlin Trails Bike Hire.



MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Active Schools Week - Beginning Monday 26th April

Active School's Week 2021 took place from Monday April 26th to Friday April 30th.

As part of Active Schools Week 2021 Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated physical activity session in 10 different schools across County Monaghan where a total of 546 primary school children took part.

All activity sessions were conducted with adherence to all public health regulations.



Disability Services Online Activities

Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated a programme of online activity classes for service users attending disability day services across County Monaghan as well as those in residential services. These activities began on Monday the 12th of April with Line Dancing every Monday at 11am and Exercise to Music every Wednesday at 11am for a 6-week period. All activity sessions were delivered via Zoom.

A total of 95 participants took part from 10 different services across the county.



3-5K Jog to Run Improver Programme

Following on from the success of 0-3k Walk to Jog programme, Monaghan Sports Partnership launched an exciting new programme at the beginning of April. Again, this free 6-week programme is suitable for all ages and ideal for those who can jog for short bursts or approx. 3K distance, and would like to progress to being able to complete 5K with relative ease with the help of podcasts from an experienced coach. A total of 111 participants registered for this programme.

Let's Get Active – Online Activities

Due to extension of restrictions and the level of demand Monaghan Sports Partnership ran another 6-week block of online activities across March and April. These included activities for all ages, both young and old, and in total there were 112 participants who took part over the 6-week block. Activities included Circuits, Pilates, Cardio, Core, HIIT.



Wibbly Wobbly Balance Bike Programme:

Monaghan Sports Partnership's pre-school balance bike activity programme recommenced in early May where 20 newly serviced balance bikes were delivered to Newbliss Childcare Services.

Instructor Francis delivered a training session with staff and currently 44 little pre-school children are getting active and having fun on the balance bikes every day.

Playground Marking Stencils

In April, Monaghan Sports Partnership delivered the playground marking stencil kit to St. Mary's National School, Threemilehouse where upgrades on playground activities were completed. The stencils were then delivered to Rockcorry National School where upgrades were completed, and the stencils are currently with Gaelscoil Eois in Clones. Monaghan Sports Partnership are also in the process of acquiring a further two sets of stencil kits to facilitate all other interested schools, pre-schools and community groups.



walking with **fitWALK** IRELAND
poles
 taster sessions
 Take this opportunity to try out and learn about **Activator Poles** and **Nordic Poles**

SUMMER 2021

Activator Poles Tutor Training Workshops

During March & April 6 Monaghan Sports Partnership tutors along with Monaghan Sports Partnership CSDO Paul took part in Activator Poles Tutor Training Workshops.

There were five workshops in total and all tutors are now trained and will be available to deliver activator pole activity sessions to public groups on behalf of Monaghan Sports Partnership once restrictions allow it. Monaghan Sports Partnership also purchased a significant stock of activator poles which we aim to use in programmes this Summer. Activator poles have been found to have profound benefits to those suffering from balance or co-ordination issues, those with Parkinson's, MS, or recovering from stroke and anyone prone to falling.

Education & Training

Monaghan Sports Partnership ran the following courses for sports clubs' adult leaders, coaches, committee members and parents involved in children's sport:

Safeguarding 1 – Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness
 Monday 29th March, Wednesday 21st April, Monday 17th May

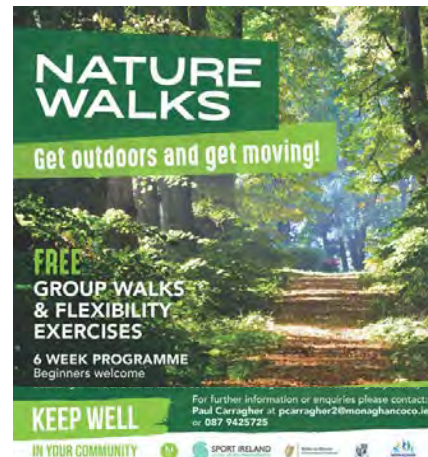


Nature Walks, Get Out and Get Active – Free Guided 6-Week Walking Programmes: Commencing Tuesday May 18th

Monaghan Sports Partnership launched FREE 6-week guided walking programmes at Rossmore Park, Monaghan and Lough Muckno, Castleblayney on Tuesday the 18th of May.

These walks are available to all adults, and all fitness levels were welcomed. Walks in both locations take place every Tuesday and Thursday mornings for the 6-week period. These walks are delivered with the aim of taking in the beauties of nature in these fabulous local amenities, and all participants take part in light flexibility exercises at the end of each walk.

There are walks at 10am for all adults and 11am for over 60's and vulnerable adults at both locations on both days. Walking group numbers are being kept small in line with Public Health Advice and social distancing regulations are being adhered to at all times.'



Online Webinars:

As part of Monaghan Sports Partnership's continued commitment to help support our sports clubs and community organisations, we collaborated with our colleagues in Cavan Sports Partnership to facilitate online webinars for clubs and groups:

Sports Club/Group Strategic Fundraising Webinar: Tuesday May 18th at 7:30pm

This webinar is ideal for members of all sports clubs and groups who have an ambition to continue to grow. This webinar assists clubs/ community groups to gain a broad understanding of a strategic fundraising process that is right for them.

The following topics were covered as part of this webinar:

- What does a strategic fundraising process entail?
- What fundraising methods should you be considering?
- What are realistic fundraising targets?
- How do you structure a capital fundraising campaign?

The cost of this webinar was €10 per participant and was heavily subsidised by Monaghan Sports Partnership and Cavan Sports Partnership.

Sports Club/Group Communications Webinar: Tuesday June 1st at 7:30pm

This webinar is ideal for members of all sports clubs and groups who would like help developing lasting relationships with members and how to get the best out of digital media. This webinar assists clubs/ community groups in understanding the value of good communication and the channels they can use to get their voice across.

The following topics will be covered as part of this webinar:

- Finding your voice as a club
- The tones required for different communications
- Breaking down Social Media
- Managing how your club is perceived by those yet to be a part of it

The cost of this webinar was €10 per participant and was heavily subsidised by Monaghan Sports Partnership and Cavan Sports Partnership.

MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES

KPMG Children's Book Ireland Awards

The KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards are the leading annual children's book awards in Ireland. The Awards identify, honour and promote excellence in books for young people by Irish authors and illustrators. They are the most prestigious in Ireland and offer one of the few opportunities for national and international recognition of Irish authors and illustrators. Monaghan County Libraries invited 10 children from across the County to become Junior Jurors and help decide the winners for 2021. Each of the Junior Jurors read the shortlisted titles before deliberating and casting their vote through online video conferencing.

- Hope against Hope written by Sheena Wilkinson
- Mip written by Máire Zepf and illustrated by Paddy Donnelly
- Savage Her Reply written by Deirdre Sullivan and illustrated by Karen Vaughan
- The Boldness of Betty written by Anna Carey
- The Falling in Love Montage written by Ciara Smyth
- The Haunted Lake written and illustrated by P.J. Lynch
- The Monsters of Rookhaven written and illustrated by Pádraig Kenny
- Why the Moon Travels written by Oein DeBhairduin illustrated by Leanne McDonagh

Keep an eye out for the Winner which will be announced at the end of May.



We are offering free Rainbow Book Bags to Young People, Schools, Youth Groups and other interested parties who are supporting LGBTQI+ Youth.
To request your Book bag email kmccague@monaghancoco.ie with 'Rainbow' in the Subject Line. (Numbers limited)

Rainbow Bags – Read to know you are not alone

In April 2021, Monaghan County Libraries were delighted to launch their 'Rainbow Book Bag' initiative which is targeted at young LGBTQI+ people in our County and the people who support them including Schools & Youth Groups. We are encouraging young people pick up a book and read to know they are not alone but also encouraging those who love and support them to educate themselves by reading about the challenges LGBTQI+ Youth may face.

Bags are available free of charge and contain a selection of themed titles. Rainbow Bags can be requested by emailing kmccague@monaghancoco.ie Please note numbers are limited and can only be delivered to Co. Monaghan addresses

ArtistWorks - Free online Music Lessons now available

Have you always wanted to learn an instrument? Well now you can from the comfort of your home with Monaghan County Library Service and ArtistWorks. Using your library card you can now access thousands of music lessons online. Switching off and being creative or learning something new and finding ways to relax can help our general wellbeing. So whether you are just starting out or you are interested in improving your skills, you can follow self-paced video lessons from some of the world's most sought after musicians and teachers. Access this great free resource anywhere. Go to <http://monaghan.rbdigitalglobal.com/> On your first visit, create a new account and complete registration.



Grow It Yourself – Free Seeds available



Our Digital Magazines have got a new look

As you may know, Monaghan County Libraries offer free digital access to hundreds of top Magazines. These were previously accessible through the RB Digital App. However, RB Digital have done some rebranding and so you can now find our Digital magazines using the 'Libby' App.

To get started with Libby simply download the app from your preferred App store.

Search for 'Monaghan County Libraries' as your library provider.

Then enter your Library Card number and PIN.

If you don't have your PIN just contact your local library and we'll be happy to share it with you.



Browse & Borrow again!

May 10th was a great day for Libraries. Libraries are once again allowed to open their doors to the public. After months of Home Deliveries, our Customers can now come in, peruse the shelves and borrow items. Carrickmacross, Clones & Monaghan Branches are now open Monday to Friday 11am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Late night opening is also available on Mondays from 6 – 8pm.

Please note lunchtime closing from 1-2pm in order to facilitate additional cleaning. Our smaller libraries in Castleblayney & Ballybay are offering a Contact & Collect Service only.



Contact & Collect Ballybay Library

Available from **Wednesday 12th May**



In need of some reading material for you or your family? Contact us to discuss your reading preferences and we'll put together a selection of books for you. You can then collect it at an agreed time.



Phone Lines open from
10am - 1pm
Wednesday & Thursday
(042) 974 1256



Your order will be carefully prepared by library staff who will take full precautions when handling the books.



Your order will be made available for collection at the agreed designated time only to ensure Social distancing.

**Carrickmacross Library
Browse & Borrow Hours
from May 10th 2021**

**MONDAY:
11AM - 1PM, 2PM - 5PM
& 6PM - 8PM**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY
11AM - 1PM & 2PM - 5PM**

Contact & Collect or Home Delivery also available.
Phone or Email to arrange.

PHONE: 042 9661148
Email: Carrickmacrosslibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Masks must be worn.
Visits limited to 30 mins

Please Note:
We are unable to offer Computer access or Study space

Contact & Collect Castleblayney Library

Available from **Tuesday 11th May**



In need of some reading material for you or your family? Contact us to discuss your reading preferences and we'll put together a selection of books for you. You can then collect it at an agreed time.



Phone Lines open from
10am - 1pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
042 9740281



Your order will be carefully prepared by library staff who will take full precautions when handling the books.



Your order will be made available for collection at the agreed designated time only to ensure Social distancing.

**Clones Library
Browse & Borrow Hours
From Mon 10th May**

**MONDAY:
11AM - 1PM, 2PM - 5PM
& 6PM - 8PM**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY
11AM - 1PM & 2PM - 5PM**

Contact & Collect or Home Delivery also available.
Phone or Email to arrange.

PHONE: 047 74712
Email: cloneslibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Masks must be worn.
Visits limited to 30 mins

Please Note:
We are unable to offer Computer access or Study space

**Monaghan Library
Browse & Borrow Hours
From Mon 10th May**

**MONDAY:
11AM - 1PM, 2PM - 5PM
& 6PM - 8PM**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY
11AM - 1PM & 2PM - 5PM**

Contact & Collect or Home Delivery also available.
Phone or Email to arrange.

PHONE: 047 81830
Email: monaghanlibrary@monaghancoco.ie

Masks must be worn.
Visits limited to 30 mins

Please Note:
We are unable to offer Computer access or Study space

Eye Spy Sliabh Beagh Wildlife Booklet:

The Library Service of Monaghan County Council reached out to the CANN project, which works to protect the environment of Sliabh Beagh, to see if there was a way of helping enrich the lives of local citizens by making the limited lockdown walks more meaningful. The CANN project (Collaborative Action across the Natura Network), funded by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, through the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), wants to encourage more citizen science on the mountain and took the opportunity of the Library's Keep Well COVID-19 funding to create this booklet.

The Keep Well campaign aims to show people of all ages how they can mind their mental health and physical wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to their daily and weekly routines. The CANN project believes that recording wildlife on a regular walk adds richness and encourages people to go out more often. The citizen science of data gathered in this way is essential to the long-term health of the mountain and the long-term health of the people encouraged to walk. Unless the CANN team knows what species live where, it is difficult to conserve them, and walkers can provide the eyes and ears to record this information.

The booklet features twenty species of birds, terrestrial animals, insects, and plants found on Sliabh Beagh. Spotter points are collected depending on how rare or common the species is. People are encouraged to use their mobile phones to scan a QR code to record what they see with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. QR technology is also used to link users to the bird song that might help them identify what they are looking at.

The booklet is available for free from libraries throughout County Monaghan and as an electronic pdf download on the County Council website www.Monaghan.ie.



Poetry Day Ireland

We marked Poetry Day Ireland 2021 with an insightful online event featuring local award-winning poet Caitriona Ní Chléirchín.

Caitriona hails from Emyvale and her poetry evokes the beauty and folklore of the area as well as her experiences of growing up close to the Aughnacloy border.

If you missed it, don't worry!

You can catch the replay at www.crowdcast.io/e/caitrionanic



Keep Well - Town Tours from your Sofa!

As part of our Keep Well campaign we've enlisted the help of local tour guides to record a wonderful series of videos which showcase the wonderful history of our local areas.

These videos are published every Friday evening on the Monaghan County Libraries Facebook Page. Learn about the hanging of Mary-Ann McConkey, how St. Macartan kept St. Patrick's feet dry, stories from Monaghan Courthouse, characters from Clones & much more.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Ireland is the first, is the first, and only, country in the world to have a national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18. Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme, a Creative Youth plan to enable the creative potential of children and young people. For 2021, we are joining forces again with our colleagues in Cavan County Council and Local Arts in Education Partnership to deliver a diverse online programme of activities for children and young people to engage in. From the magic of music and song writing to rapping the best beats, dance with Dublin Youth Theatre or illustrate your hours away, we will making totems and wigwams, whilst others will be getting behind the lens of a camera and dabbling in film making, to mediating storytelling with movement and music sessions or find out everything you need to know about creating horrific monsters and awful villains and how to make them into likable, well-rounded main characters... before murdering them horribly. Find out more and book at www.monaghan.ie/library



Keep up to date with all the Library News & events

We've recently launched a new Library Mailing List so we can keep you up to date with all the library news & events. If you would like to join the Mailing list please enter your name and email address at www.monaghan.ie/library/join-our-mailing-list/



Summer Stars Reading Challenge is Back!

Could your child read between 1 – 8 Books over the Summer months? Children work so hard to improve their literacy levels throughout the school year but they can often regress during the Summer months.

Stop that Summer Slump by getting them involved in our Summer Stars Reading Challenge which launches mid-June.

Check your local library for details.



EUROPE DIRECT INFORMATION CENTRE AT CLONES LIBRARY

Clones Library is the location for one of seven new generation Europe Direct Information Centres which began their work on the 1st of May 2021, after the European Commission announced the revamping of its network of information and communication points around Europe at the end of April.

The Centre in Clones Library is part of a community of 424 Europe Direct Centres around Europe whose purpose is to reinforce the important connection between EU institutions and citizens, helping to explain how Europe is combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, boosting recovery through NextGenerationEU, and tackling the green and digital transitions.

The new Europe Direct network will continue to provide timely and factual information on European matters but will also seek to engage with citizens regarding the state and future of the European Union. Seeing their role and mandate modernised, the new generation of Europe Direct Centres will organise citizens dialogues and participatory events, for example for the Conference on the Future of Europe. They will offer relevant information on EU policies and priorities to local media and multipliers and involve them in their activities. They will also help the Commission keep track of local sensitivities linked to EU policies. The new centres will equally promote active European citizenship in schools and coordinate with other EU networks in the regions, ensuring easier local access to information for citizens, organisations and businesses.



Andy Klom, acting Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland said: "Europe Direct Centres play a key role facilitating people's easy communication with the European institutions but they can also help citizens have a powerful voice in the ongoing EU-wide conversation on the future of Europe to which everyone is invited and every opinion matters. I wish every success to the new generation of Europe Direct Centres in Ireland and they can always rely in their important work on the full support of the European Commission Representation in Ireland".

For more information or to have your say on European Issues, you can contact lcarey@monaghancoco.ie for more information

WATER SERVICES

Wastewater Section Update

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020 works have been restricted with Government led advice as to what work was allowed during the period. This has meant the main objective for the wastewater section has been to maintain the critical infrastructure necessary for day to day operation of Monaghan's towns and villages.

It is important to acknowledge the excellent contribution made in difficult circumstances by all Water Services staff in order to achieve this.

Monaghan County Council Wastewater staff oversee:

- 32 no. Wastewater Treatment Plants
- 72 no. Pumping stations.

1. Daily Response Maintenance Issues

In order to maintain these facilities our staff deal with a significant amount of daily response maintenance issues which in the main fall under the following

Investigative Work Orders (IWO).



Mechanical & Electrical issues. (M&E)



Sludge Treatment.

Our staff and wastewater plants deal with all the public liquid sludge generated within the public network as well as some third-party imports from private sources.

All liquid sludge is processed to generate Sludge Cake for disposal.

Capital Works & Programmes.

In addition to the necessary maintenance works required for essential operation of the infrastructure. Water Services are still working on upcoming Capital Programmes see list below:

- Castleblayney Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade - €4.5m - returned to Water Services October 2020
- Carrickmacross Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade – Out to Tender May 2021
- Inlet Works Storm & Sludge Programme–Site Selection Ongoing (Clones)
- Small Towns & Village Growth Programme–Identified qualifying Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Solar Photovoltaic Phase 2 Programme – Monaghan Waste Water Treatment Plant
- National Wastewater Surveillance – Commenced May 2021
- Monaghan Area Drainage Plan - Progressing to Stage 4 –Recommendations for identified areas.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

County and National Student Enterprise Programme 2021

The Enterprise Education Initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities, is the most successful student enterprise programme of kind in the country.

An estimated 26,000 students from 490 schools around the country begin their entrepreneurial journey every year with the help of their teachers, student enterprise co-ordinators and Local Enterprise Office.

More than 600 students from 7 schools across County Monaghan took part in this year's programme coordinated by Fern Ross on behalf of Local Enterprise Office Monaghan. The students were competing at the County Monaghan Final on Thursday 25th March, which was held online at a virtual awards ceremony.



Senior First Prize: Matthew McVicar, Saint Maccartan's College Monaghan



Senior Runner Up: Ailbhe Clifford, Ella Harvey & Aisling Sherry, St Louis Secondary School Monaghan, Teacher Rachel McNally, Principal Margaret Conlon & Eilin Connolly, Assistant Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Monaghan



Senior 3rd Prize Michael McMorow, Shea Swift, Senan McCrudden, Daniel Douglas, Luke McManus; Saint Maccartans College Monaghan, Principal Raymond McHugh & John McEntegart, Head of Enterprise LEO Monaghan

In the Senior Category, the student representing County Monaghan at the National Finals is Matthew McVicar from 'Coppercase' who attends St Macartan's College Monaghan.

The 2nd place accolade went to Ailbhe Clifford, Ella Harvey & Aisling Sherry from St Louis Secondary School Monaghan with 'Spotify Screens'.

3rd place was awarded to GD Footballs from St Macartan's College Monaghan and team members; Michael McMorow, Shea Swift, Senan McCrudden, Daniel Douglas and Luke McManus.

'My Entrepreneurial Journey' is a new category in the competition and representing County Monaghan in the National final is first year student Sean Kerley from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney. Joint runners up in this category were Molly Ward & Erin McQuillan also from Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney.

Best Presentation was awarded to Sean McMonagle from Patrician High School with his business, Wooden Desktop Organiser.



My Entrepreneurial Journey Winner: Sean Kerley, Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney, Teacher Sinead Brady, Principal Eddie Kelly, John McEntegart, Head of Enterprise & Eilin Connolly, Assistant Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Monaghan



My Entrepreneurial Journey Joint Runner Up: Molly Ward & Erin McQuillan, Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney, Teacher Sinead Brady, Principal Eddie Kelly, John McEntegart, Head of Enterprise & Eilin Connolly, Assistant Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Monaghan



Best Presentation: Sean McMonagle Patrician High School Carrickmacross, Teacher: Leona McKenna, Principal Patrick Duffy, John McEntegart, Head of Enterprise & Eilin Connolly, Assistant Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Monaghan

The highly sought 'Innovation Award', sponsored by Monaghan County Fund, was presented to Matthew McVicar from St Macartan's with his business; Coppercase.



Innovation Award Winner: Matthew McVicar, Saint Macartan's College Monaghan, Principal Raymond McHugh, John McEntegart Head of Enterprise, LEO Monaghan, Teacher, Jack McCarron and Seamus McDermott The County Monaghan Fund



The runner up prize was presented to Banrion Jewellery from St Louis Secondary School Monaghan and the team members; Tara Gillespie, Hannah Skeath, Aoihbheann Fields.

Innovation Award Runner Up Tara Gillespie, Hannah Skeath & Aoihbheann Fields St Louis Secondary School Monaghan, Teacher Rachel McNally, Principal Margaret Conlon & Eilin Connolly, Assistant Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Monaghan

Sponsored by Monaghan IT Forum, the Social Media Award also went to Spotify Screens from St Louis Secondary School Monaghan who's team included; Ailbhe Clifford, Ella Harvey & Aisling Sherry.

The judging panel for all categories on the day was made up by Edel Treanor, Mullan Lighting and Conchubhair MacLochlainn from Acmhainni Teoranta.

Speaking at the County Final, John McEntegart Head of Enterprise Monaghan County Council, congratulated the students, saying "We were delighted this year that participation in the programme continued in light of external challenges. Many thanks to the teachers and principals for their continued support and commitment to the Student Enterprise programme through these changes. Our national finalists are excellent ambassadors for the programme and we wish them the very best of luck in the national final on May 14th." He continued: "What our students are learning from the programme is that with the right supports and encouragement, they can take an idea from the classroom and develop it into a real-life business. The skills they learn along the way, such as business planning, market research, selling and teamwork, will help them become more entrepreneurial throughout their future careers".

Congratulations to the Monaghan winners at this year's National Student Enterprise Programme Final! The winners were Sean Kerley, Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney for My Entrepreneurial Journey National Winner and Matthew McVicar from St. Macartan's College, Monaghan won under the category Senior First Prize for his Coppercase mask holder.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

County Monaghan had resounding success at the Student Enterprise Awards which took place on Friday 14th of May.

Students from both St. McCartan's College, Monaghan and Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney both won accolades at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals in Croke Park, organised by the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for secondary schools. The National Finals ceremony took place online for the second year running, broadcast through Facebook and YouTube and hosted by RTE's Rick O'Shea.

Supported by Local Enterprise Office Monaghan, an overall award was given "My Entrepreneurial Journey" in the Junior category. The winning student was Sean Kerley, from Our Lady's Secondary School. Sean 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.

Supported by Local Enterprise Office Monaghan an award of first prize in the senior category was given to Matthew McVicar, from St. Macartan's College for his business COPPERCASE, Matthew designed a case lined with copper for storing face masks, the copper has an antimicrobial effect which kills bacteria and virus including COVID-19 in 3 minutes.



Senior First Prize: Matthew McVicar,
Saint Maccartan's College Monaghan



My Entrepreneurial Journey Winner:
Sean Kerley, Our Lady's Secondary School Castleblayney, Teacher Sinead Brady,
Principal Eddie Kelly, John McEntegart, Head of Enterprise & Eilin Connolly, Assistant
Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Monaghan

BEST OF LUCK TO OUR FINALISTS IN

**Student
Enterprise
PROGRAMME**

**NATIONAL FINALS
ON 14TH MAY**

www.StudentEnterprise.ie

Local Enterprise Office
Making It Happen



#MakingItHappen #StudentEnterprise

Supported by



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Údarás Áitiúla Éireann
Local Authorities Ireland



**Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Monaghan**

HOUSING

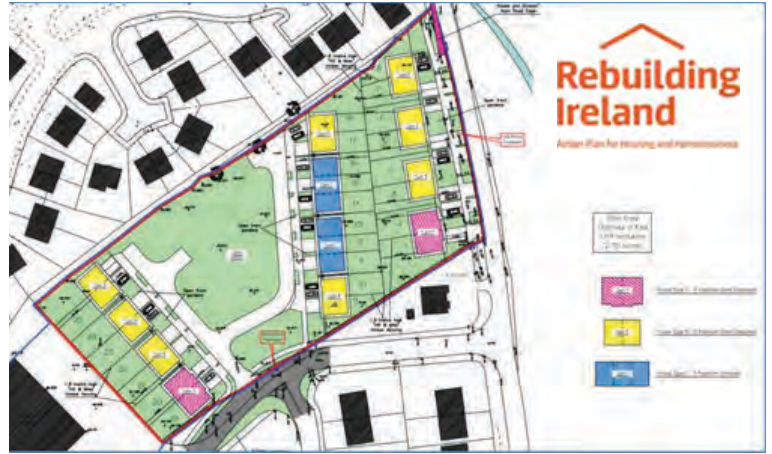
26 Social Houses at Plás an Bhrí, Bree, Castleblayney under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme

Monaghan County Council continues to make excellent progress under the Rebuilding Ireland Social Housing Programme. Monaghan County Council agreed contracts for the provision of 26 houses at Plás an Bhrí, Bree, Castleblayney. The houses have been constructed by Ballymar Development Limited.

The finance for the construction of these homes has been provided by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

The development comprises of the following house types:

- 4 no. 4-Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses: (126m²)
- 16 no. 3-Bedroom Semi-Detached Houses: (98m²)
- 6 no. 3-Bedroom Terraced Houses: (98m²)



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. Use of Air Source Heat Pumps for space and water heating to avoid reliance on fossil fuels. All materials used for construction were specified to achieve a high quality, durable and low maintenance finish and appearance.

The 26 homes are finished to a high-quality standard and will have an energy efficiency Building Energy Ratings of A2. Works commenced in March 2020, the houses were substantially completed and transferred to Monaghan County Council in late December 2020 with minor works and snagging to be completed in early 2021 prior to allocation.

Due to an excellent team of designers, contractors and Monaghan County Council staff, 26 new high quality and energy efficient homes have been completed towards Rebuilding Ireland in 12 months which includes delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.



Photo of site prior to works: Early 2020



Photo of site works completed: April 2021



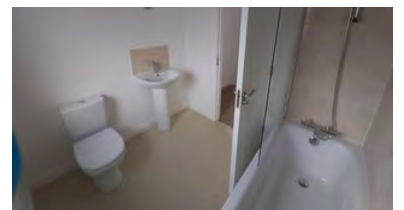
Photo of foundations completed prior to modules arrival: August 2020



Photos of module being lifted into place: September 2020



Photo of site works completed: April 2021



Photos of kitchen, completed module Bathroom, tiled, plumbed, and fitted in factory and of typical Bedroom

MONAGHAN FIRE AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Ballybay Fire Appliance 2021

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection took ownership of a new state of art fire engine on 15th April 2021 following a two-day training and familiarization session with the coach builders HPMP Ltd. This appliance will be located in Ballybay and will be identified by its call sign MN11A1.

The appliance is built on a Scania P320 chassis with a larger crew cab which will provide improved safety and comfort for its crew. In addition the vehicle is equipped with the latest technology and design features to meet a modern fire service. Ensuring a greener future for our communities is an extremely important consideration at the design phase of any project. The main part of the appliance is manufactured from a co-polymer body incorporating a bespoke design with extra storage, ensuring that this appliance is suitable for an efficient operational response for the community of Ballybay and its surrounding environments.

The design of this appliance has resulted in a lighter body with low maintenance costs. In addition the appliance is built on a EURO VI engine which further reduces emission levels compared to the previous model. The appliance also houses a Prima P2 30/10 pump, this pump has replaced the older world series 30/10 which is traditionally seen across the Irish service fleet. The P2 pump is a multi-pressure light alloy pump which is designed to be placed midship and rear mounted on the appliance for increased efficiency and reduction in maintenance and service costs.

Additional specifications include;

- 1800 Litre water tank which is complimented with a 100litre Class A foam tank.
- TSI Flowmeters to ensure that firefighters can tackle fires in a safer and more effective manner;
- CAFS suppression system to allow for an efficient extinguishment of Class A fires;
- Full LED tank system – pump bay gauges to assist operators and incident commanders in their decision making at operational incidents
- Extra reflective markings which will improve visibility for other road users in low light;
- Extra 'repeater' lights on the appliance to make driving through town traffic easier; and

Finally the appliance is fitted with a number of additional safety devices allowing for a safer working environment. One such device is the introduction of a new safety enhancement gantry lock system which locks the gantry pivot into place while in use and freeing up fire-fighters to deal with other pressing matters on the fire ground. The shredded Battenberg feature (rear locker) is a unique design and the grey lockers have been added to give this appliance a refreshing modern look.

Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection would like to wish the crew of Ballybay Fire Brigade safe driving and fire-fighting when responding to incidents of an emergency nature within the functional area of County Monaghan.



Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection recently issues a Fire Safety Advice Note issued in relation to Wildland/Gorse/Forest Fires

The aim of the Fire Safety Advice Note is to bring to the attention of landowners important and necessary information surrounding the minimum requirements when considering to undertake controlled burning. Controlled burning is used to describe the planned and deliberate use of fire as a land management tool. Wildland/Gorse/Forest fires can be described as uncontrolled and unwanted fire in an area of combustible vegetation that usually starts in rural areas.

Information can be obtained from the following link <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/01773-fire-management/#fire-plan>

It is important to note that Under Section 39 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), it is prohibited to burn vegetation growing within one mile of a wood which you do not own, without giving written notice at least 7 days in advance to your local Garda Station, and the forest owner, who has the right to object by counter-notice. It is an offence under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended by Section 46 of the Wildlife Act, 2000) to burn, from 1st March to 31st August in any year, any vegetation growing on any land not then cultivated.



Under Section 74 of the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 fines for breaches of the Act range from €635 to €63,490 and prison terms from 3 months to 2 years or both a fine and a prison term.

Any person engaged in illegal burning may also be held responsible for any injury or damage caused by the fire, and the local Fire and Rescue Service may issue a callout charge for costs associated with illegal fires.

There is an exemption under the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations, 2009 and Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 that allows farmers to dispose by burning untreated/uncontaminated wood, trees, trimmings, leaves, bushes or similar materials generated by agricultural practices.

Controlled burning and burning of similar materials generated by agricultural practices require that An Garda Síochána (within one mile of a wood which you do not own), the Local Authority and the Fire Service Regional Control Centre is notified in advance.



Fire Safety Advice

Wildland Fire – Gorse Fire – Forest Fire

• What is Wildland/Gorse/Forest Fires

- Wildland/Gorse/Forest fires can be described as uncontrolled and unwanted fire in an area of combustible vegetation that usually starts in rural areas.

• Advice for Landowners

- It is an offence to carry out controlled burning of land or vegetation between 1st March and 31st September of any year.
- Before you consider setting a controlled fire you must consider the following:

Considerations	Yes	No
Is a fire absolutely necessary?		
Have I confirmed the Forest Fire Danger Warning notice status?		
Have I checked weather conditions including wind direction?		
If I start a fire can I stop it?		
Am I within 1 mile of a woodland or a forest?		
Is my fire plan thoroughly prepared?		
Have I sufficient help and equipment to control the planned fire?		
Is my neighbour's property safe?		
Have I notified An Garda Síochána and the Local Authority?		
Have I notified the Fire Service Regional Control Centre?		
Have I means of communication should an emergency arise?		
Have I considered the financial consequences of an uncontrolled fire?		

If you answer no to any of the above or have even the slightest doubt about any of these answers the advice is simple – **DO NOT BURN.**

• Department of Agricultural, Food & Marine

- Go to www.gov.ie/en/publication/642e6-forestry/#fire-management for more information and current Forest Fire Danger Warnings in effect.

'Notice to Burn' Application Forms are available on the Monaghan County Council website <https://monaghan.ie/firebuildingcontrol/controlled-burning/>

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection can be contacted on 047-30520 for further information and guidance.

Follow Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection:

- https://twitter.com/monaghan_fire
- <https://www.facebook.com/monaghanfireandrescue/>



STOP stands for: **S** - Smoke alarms **T** - Test your smoke alarms weekly **O** - Obvious dangers **P** - Plan your escape route

Building Control

Monaghan County Council Building Control Section has seen a significant number of Commencement Notices published on the Building Control Management System coinciding with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and return to work of the construction industry. The pent-up demand has now placed in greater strain on the construction industry to deliver and has also coincided with a number of Building Control queries from the public. Hence it is timely to remind the public of their responsibilities in terms of compliance with the Building Control Regulations'.

The Building Control Regulations apply to new buildings, extensions, material alterations and changes of use of buildings. They promote observance of the Building Regulations by supplementing powers of inspection and enforcement given to Building Control Authorities.

The Building Control Regulations regulate:

- Commencement Notices and 7 Day Notices
- Fire Safety Certificates, Revised Fire Safety Certificates and Regularisation Certificates
- Disability Access Certificates and Revised Disability Access Certificates
- Statutory registration of building control activity

Failure to submit a Commencement Notice is an offence and will have serious consequences which cannot be regularised at a later date. You may have difficulties in selling your property if you cannot prove that the statutory requirements relevant to the property have been met.



Joint inspection with National Building Control Office and Monaghan County Council Building Control Section at timber frame housing development in Monaghan.

Monaghan Civil Defence

The new Civil Defence HQ in Monaghan has been the command centre for all Civil Defence deployment during the COVID-19 Pandemic. From the beginning of 2021 alone Civil Defence Volunteers have completed over 120 duties in Monaghan and continue to be actively supporting the HSE and the local community in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and acting in response to requests from the Community Helpline.

Examples of the tasks Civil Defence volunteers have undertaken during this period include:

- Transportation duties: Duties include patient transfers to hospitals, nursing homes, testing & vaccination centres, transporting persons from accommodation centres to other locations to allow for self-isolation.
- Medical cover at outdoor events & Irish Blood Transfusion Service.



Civil Defence Volunteers transporting public to COVID-19 Test Centre.

HERITAGE



Eye Spy Wildlife on Sliabh Beagh Booklet

This booklet is part of the Keep Well Campaign funded by the Irish Government.

The booklet was developed by the Heritage Section, CANN Project and Monaghan Library Service and helps to promote the importance of blanket bogs such as Sliabh Beagh by exploring some of the special species found there.

It is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines.

Recording wildlife on your regular walk adds extra richness and will encourage you to go out more often.

Visit by The CANN Project website to see the Eye Spy Wildlife on Sliabh Beagh: <https://thecannproject.org/publications/eye-spy-wildlife-on-sliabh-beagh/>

Sliabh Beagh is a biodiversity rich upland blanket bog site, located in north County Monaghan and stretching into Fermanagh and Tyrone.

It is home to many important and endangered wildlife species, including the Hen Harrier, Curlew and the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

Monaghan County Council is a partner of the Interreg CANN project, and you can get further information through our Heritage Office by contacting psherlock@monaghancoco.ie or rsheehan@monaghancoco.ie

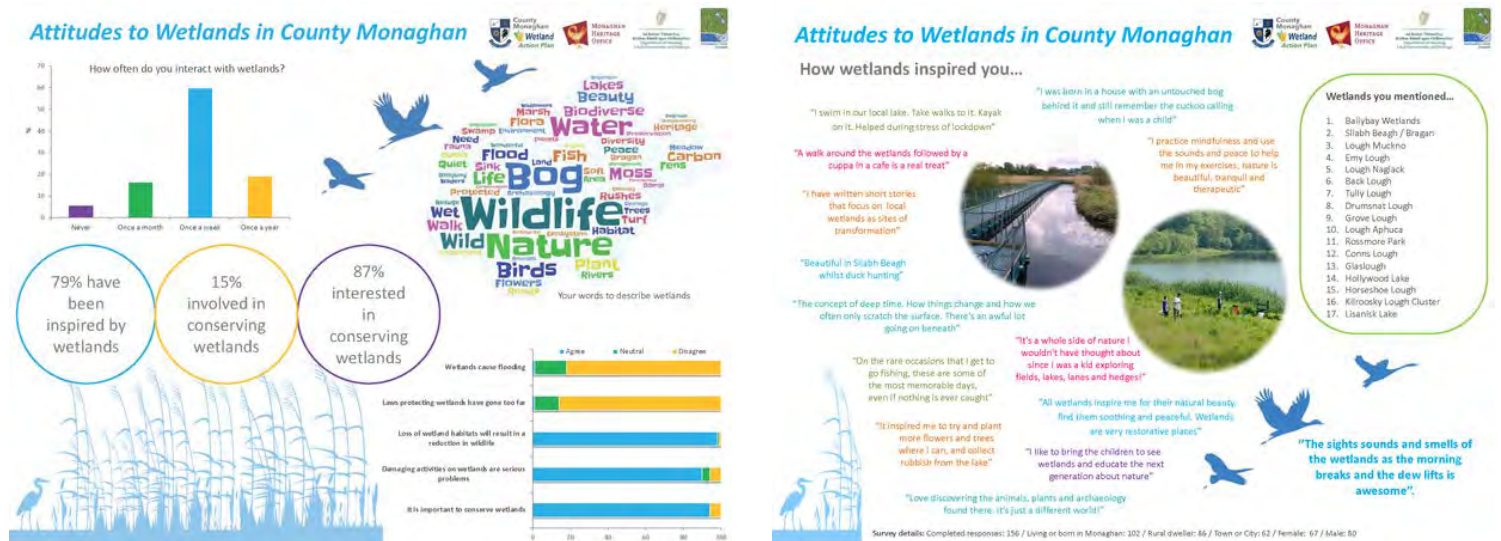
Monaghan Wetland Action Plan Public Survey on Attitudes to Wetlands

Funded through the Department of Local Government, Housing and Heritage – Biodiversity National Action Plan and Monaghan County Council.

During April 2021 people were asked to complete a questionnaire on a range of topics relating to people's attitudes and knowledge about wetlands in County Monaghan, which would inform the development of the County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan.

The infographic below shows a summary of findings from the 156 completed surveys submitted. The project team would like to thank all those who completed a survey and for the additional valuable information they provide on many wetlands in the county.

You can download the infographic PDF here: <http://www.wetlandsurveysireland.com/news/mwap-public-survey-on-attit.html>



MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Lá Fhéile Pádraig Shona Daoibh Go Léir.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

The Court House in Monaghan Town was illuminated for Saint Patrick's Day.



BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Clones Business Hub

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District was delighted to secure Part 8 Planning Permission at May's County Council Meeting for the proposed Business Hub on the site of the old cinema on Fermanagh Street, Clones.

The proposed development consists of:

1. Two storey building of 632sqm for office use and associated facilities.
2. Provision of car parking.
3. Development of new public realm space to north of site.

The estimated cost of this project is just over €1.5million and the development of this project would be a massive boost to the local economy.



Interactive Heritage Tour

Clones Town Team in conjunction with the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District are in the process of launching a new Interactive Heritage Tour for Clones Town.

Funded through the Municipal District, this tour will use the latest QR technologies giving the visitor to Clones a unique insight into what some historians call Ireland's 'most historic town'.

This self-guided tour will take the visitor on a journey of the many important national and historic monuments within Clones Town.

The main aims of this project is to improve the overall visitor experience to Clones Town and to highlight what Clones has to offer.

This tour will take you all the way back to the early Christian Motte and Bailey, the 10th Century Round Tower all the way up to the development of the home of Ulster Football, St. Tiarnach's Park.

In the day of the 'Staycation', Ballybay-Clones Municipal District looks forward to welcoming tourists to Clones Town which in turn will lead to a much-needed financial boost to the local economy.

Clones Heritage and Economic Plan

Having secured LEADER Funding, Clones Town Team procured the services of The Paul Hogarth Company to develop a Heritage and Economic Plan for Clones Town.

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District was delighted to get the support of our local elected members who agreed to fund the match funding element for this project.

The project has been a collaboration of all local interest groups in the town.

The Municipal District would like to acknowledge the work of Clones Tidy Towns. This document is 'a blueprint' for Clones Town over the next 10 years.

The plan is due for launch at the end of May 2021.



Weed Killing

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District has procured the services of Shaffrey Landscapes to trial pesticide free weed killing in Clones this year using Foamstream – an eco-friendly hot foam solution that kills weeds, moss and algae.

Foamstream is a cost effective, versatile, and environmentally safe solution for controlling unwanted vegetation on all surfaces, in all weather, all year round.

The system saturates the weeds in hot water that is thermally insulated with a biodegradable foam

The works began in mid-May and have been welcomed by local interest groups including Clones Tidy Towns.



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council