

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, on Monday 6th September, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr A. Campbell, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Coyle, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, and Truell.
Cllr Conlon attended remotely via TEAMS
Mr. P. Clifford, A/Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan Director of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn and Mr. P. McGuinness A/Director of Services, Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, Ms. N. Woods, Ms S. Long, Assistant Staff Officer and Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy with the families of Brendan Óg Duffy, Fionán Callan, Michael Hoey and Adam McCormick RIP on their recent tragic bereavements.

All members and the Chief Executive associated themselves with the expressions of sympathy. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed, subject to public health guidelines, that future meetings of Monaghan Co Co would conclude when all Agenda items have been dealt with.

The Cathaoirleach conveyed his best wishes to Mary Mc Garvey, Meetings Administrator in her new role and looks forward to working with her.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the names of Cllr P Treanor and Sinn Féin Cllrs as follows:

"That this Council is very concerned about the recurring difficulties in relation to access to School Transport for students in County Monaghan. That we write to Education Minister, Norma Foley T.D. and the Chief Executive Officer of Bus Eireann, and request a joint meeting to seek an urgent resolution, and to demand that all students are offered transport to their school of choice."

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed to enter 'into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motion submitted as urgent business.

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

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Carty, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 05 July 2021

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 5th July 2021, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding Insurance & Community Sector.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding the Free Travel Scheme for people with Epilepsy.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding the Free Travel Scheme for people with Epilepsy.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D regarding state accommodation for students with Epilepsy.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D. regarding Epilepsy Ireland.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Mr. Roderic O’Gorman, T.D. regarding counselling services for victims of Domestic, Sexual and Gender -based Violence (DSGBV).
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D. regarding psychological and counselling services for victims of Domestic, Sexual and Gender -based Violence.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine Mr. Charlie McConalogue, T.D, regarding the importance of Italian honeybees.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Sport and an Gaeltacht, Mr. Jack Chambers T.D. regarding bi-lingual package on consumer goods in Ireland.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D regarding Electric vehicle charging points.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding bereavement leave in relation to a miscarriage or stillbirth.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding means test for Carers Allowance.
- Letter from the OPW regarding the exhumation of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly at Glasnevin cemetery.
- Letter from Coillte in response to Cllr Conlon’s query regarding Forestry Schemes.
- Letter from the State Examinations Commission regarding campaign of Epilepsy Ireland.
- Letter from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding victims of Mica, Pyrite & Pyrrhotite and in relation to a stop of LPT.
- Resolution from Limerick City & County Council regarding campaign of Epilepsy Ireland.
- Resolution from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council regarding the purchase of goods & services from illegal occupied territories/ illegal settlers.
- Resolution from Wicklow County Council regarding Automated Defibrillators.
- Resolution from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding ‘Rights of Nature’.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D. regarding a new loan support to pandemic -impacted businesses.
- Letter from Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr. Darragh O’Brien T.D, regarding the Launch of Housing for All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that the Council commend all employees in the Water Services section on the excellence of the service provided to customers throughout Co Monaghan and fully support the 3,500 workers to protect and secure their full and proper conditions in the ongoing talks involving the Government, Irish Water, Local Authorities and Trade Unions on water sector change, with the holding of an early referendum to place the ownership and delivery of water infrastructure in public hands for the common good in the constitution vital.

(This motion, if adopted, to be forwarded to Minister O'Brien, Oireachtas members for Cavan-Monaghan and relevant trade unions)

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council reissue its proposal to Minister Jack Chambers, TD in relation to Bi-Lingual packaging.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed that the Council ask the Minister for Housing to consider that the threshold for applying for council housing would be increased. The income threshold is presently between 25,000 and 30,000 to qualify for social housing. This needs to significantly increase as council housing applicants are presently falling into middle ground where they do not qualify for local authority housing and they do not qualify for mortgage.

On the proposal of Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr McCooey, it was agreed that the Council ask the Minister of Health and the Minister for Justice to give us a breakdown of how much is allocated to these specific supports in their departments. Presently domestic abuse victims cannot receive the necessary supports because of inadequate funding to rape crisis centres and Tearmann. The Council also asks that the Minister for Health considers an increase to the supports for Psychological supports and counselling supports for victims of domestic abuse.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr Bennett, it was agreed that the Council, in instances where a motion is being passed over to another Department Minister, that Monaghan Co Co Executive forward the agreed motion to suggested Department also to try and speed up potential responses.

On the proposal of Cllr McCooey, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council seek further information from the relevant authority in relation to wait times for therapeutic counselling services for victims of domestic violence, rape and gender based assault. We wish to see how the funding, including the increased €4.7 million actually translates and is experienced by the service users.

In response to a request from Cllr Conlon, it was agreed that John Murray, Director of Housing, would provide a report on 'Housing for All' at the October Co Co Meeting.

3. To consider proposals under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the following disposals:

- (i) Ms Patricia Monahan, Director of Transportation, Community & Rural Development, referred to the Section 183 notice which had been circulated in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Coolshannagh, Monaghan Town (Lakeland Dairies Co-Op).

P. Monahan stated that the purpose of this S183 was to regularise land registration in this area following the construction of the Blackwater Bridge. She advised that the area on the map outlined in 'red' should be registered to Lakeland Dairies and the area outlined in 'blue' should be registered to Monaghan Co Co.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Maxwell it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of land at Coolshannagh, Monaghan Town (Lakeland Dairies Co-Op) in accordance with the terms of notice dated 23 July 2021 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

- (ii) Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services, referred to the Section 183 notices which had been circulated in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Latlorcan, Monaghan (Creche)

Mr. C. Flynn stated that this S183 had previously been approved by the Council for disposal in April 2021 but it was necessary to re-issue the Section 183 Notice for Council approval as the purchaser had changed its trading name from D. Flack to Hallmark Estates Ltd.

On the proposal of Cllr Aughey, seconded by Cllr Gilliland it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of land at Latlorcan, Monaghan (Creche) in accordance with the terms of notice dated 13 July 2021 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider recommendations from Standing Orders and Procedures Committee

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Services referred to the recommendations, circulated to all members, which had been received from Standing Orders & Procedures Committee.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr McKenna, it was agreed that the Council approve the recommendations from Standing Orders and Procedures Committee.

5. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1/1/2022 - 31/12/2022

Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to Overdraft Accommodation in the amount of €10m for the year 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

6. To consider the Draft Development Contributions Scheme 2021-2026

T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner advised that, following the conclusion of the six-week public consultation period under Section 48(4) and (5) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), no submissions were received. He stated that there are very little changes to charges and that Monaghan County Council has one of the lowest contribution schemes in the country.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, it was agreed that the Council adopt the Development Contributions Scheme 2021-2026.

7. To consider Baseline Study on Poultry Sector in Monaghan Report

Cathaoirleach A. Campbell welcomed Ms Bernadette Guinan, Waste Management Director with consultants Fehily Timoney & Co to the meeting. P. Clifford, Deputy Chief Executive outlined that this report was presented to a joint meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC and the Climate Change and Environment SPCs in July. He advised that new EPA guidance had significant implications for intensive agricultural developments (pig and poultry houses) in North Monaghan. There are significant restraints on the development of new and existing poultry houses within 10km of three Natura sites, Lough Oughter, Kilrooskey Lake Cluster and Sliabh Beagh.

Ms Guinan began her presentation by quantifying the scale of the problem in her presentation to members. She stated that the impact of the EPA guidance will be on new applications and will only impact the existing poultry sector if producers are seeking to increase or expand their operations.

During the course of Ms Guinan's presentation, she provided the following:

- Overview of the Poultry Sector in Ireland
- Overview of the Poultry Sector in Monaghan
- Key findings of EPA Ireland's Air Pollutant Emissions 1990-2020 Report
- Environmental Reports Identifying Challenges
- Ricardo & Katestone Project 2021 – report on impact of ammonia from intensive agriculture on Natura 200 sites in Cavan – Monaghan
- Key findings of EPA Research
- Assessment of Ammonia and Nitrogen
- EPA Guidance on Licence Application
- Other significant emissions
- Recommendations

P. Clifford, Deputy Chief Executive, thanked Ms Guinan for her presentation and advised members that he is seeking the Council's approval to set up an Industry Led Task Force to work in a positive manner to ensure the adaptations need are put in place and the industry takes those measures needed to facilitate the future development of the sector.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council ask that Minister for Agriculture, Charlie McConalogue, instructs the Department to be part of the Task Force being set up and that the Task Force includes representatives from the Department, EPA, members of the industry and Monaghan Co Co.

(This motion, if adopted, to be forwarded to Minister McConalogue and Oireachtas members for Cavan-Monaghan)

On the proposal of Cllr Gilliland, seconded by Cllr Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council support and establish an Industry Task Force in accordance with the recommendations of the Baseline Study of the Poultry Sector in Co. Monaghan. This Task Force should include all stakeholders involved in the Poultry Industry and the Department of Agriculture.

Further to Cllr Gilliland's proposal:

Cllr Maxwell proposed, seconded by Cllr Gilliland, that the two relevant SPC Chairs are deemed members of the Taskforce and report back to the Council in due course.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms Guinan for her presentation to the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr Coyle, it was agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to finish the Agenda.

8. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30th August, 2021.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30th August, 2021 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 30th August, 2021 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

9. To receive Management Reports – July & August 2021

The members noted the Management Reports for the months of July & August which had been circulated with the agenda.

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

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle, seconded by Cllr O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council demand of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD and the Government, the immediate correction of the anomaly in the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where a tenant resident in a Part V dwelling, cannot purchase their home, despite their Tenancy Handbook stating to the contrary.

(This motion, if adopted, to be forwarded to Minister O'Brien and Oireachtas members for Cavan-Monaghan)

10. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed the members there was no matters for consideration under this item.

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of meetings held on 5th July, 2021

Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on the 5th July, 2021 were responded to by the relevant officials.

12. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

An update on this matter had already been provided in the Management Report.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

The members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter from Mr. Mark Foley, CEO, Eirgrid regarding the North/South Interconnector.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D regarding high voltage cabling underground.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D regarding North/South Interconnector/ NEPP & MAPC.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D regarding North/South Interconnector.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D regarding North/South Interconnector.

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded and it was agreed *that this Council note the response from the Eirgrid CEO Mr. Mark Foley in which he indicated that Eirgrid has established a good relationship with many of the affected landowners and in light of this comment , that we write to Mr Foley requesting that he responds back to council indicating what percentage of the affected landowners are content to allow the project to proceed on their lands.*

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded and it was agreed *that in light of the letter from Eirgrid CEO indicating that construction of the north south interconnector will commence in late 2022 - That this Council writes to all Oireachtas members for this constituency requesting that they “up the anti” at Dáil level to insure that the under grounding of the NSI is debated - as under grounding is the only acceptable way that this project can be delivered.*

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded and it was agreed *that this Council writes to local Minister Heather Humphreys TD requesting that she use her influence at Government level including raising the NSI at cabinet in order to avoid conflict with local landowners & the community affected by the proposed over grounding of the NSI.*

Cllr Keelan proposed, Cllr Gilliland seconded and it was agreed that this Council write back to Mr Mark Foley Eirgrid CEO requesting that his office outlines in detail to the members of Council as to how this project can be constructed on private lands and how hundreds of new accesses can be created onto private property, where no consent from the property owners exists, given that these critical issues were not addressed in the response from Mr Foley dated July 5th last.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

The members noted the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Special EU Programmes Body regarding Ulster Canal Greenway – request for additional funding.
- Acknowledgement email from the Department of Infrastructure, Belfast regarding the Ulster Canal.

15. Questions

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. How many individuals/families have been on Monaghan County Council's Housing List since before the 2014 Council amalgamation (including those who are being facilitated through HAP or RAS schemes) and can the housing section outline: **77 Households in Total**
 - reasons behind delays in allocations?
Reply: There are 77 households who have been on the waiting list since 2014, including those facilitated through HAP and RAS. Of the 77 households just under 60% have indicated, following offers being made of local authority accommodation, that they wish to remain in their current accommodation financially supported through HAP and RAS.
 - Plans in place to house these applicants in Council/AHB units?
Reply: Of the remaining applicants a significant number are single persons (21). As members are aware an increased emphasis has been placed in the capital programme for the provision of smaller units to address these needs. These applicants will obviously be considered when suitable accommodation becomes available in accordance with the Councils Scheme of Letting Priorities.
 - A breakdown of family size?
Reply: 48 (1Bed) 13 (2Bed) 10 (3Bed) 5 (4Bed) 1(5Bed)
 - A breakdown in numbers per Municipal District?
**Reply: Monaghan MD (40) (18-HAP, 10-RAS, 6-HOME, 2-RS, 4-PRIVATE)
Clones/Ballybay MD (17) (5-HAP, 1-RAS, 6-HOME, 1-RS, 4- PRIVATE)
Carrickmacross MD (20) (5-HAP, 3-RAS, 9-HOME, 1-RS, 2- PRIVATE)**
2. Has the HSE confirmed a date for opening/operation of the Carrickmacross Group Home?

Reply: The HSE has confirmed that the Carrickmacross Group Home will be open in Quarter 4 of 2021 and the funding for the service has been secured nationally. The service provider for the Group Home has been procured and formally appointed. A Director of Nursing has been appointed and the recruitment process for additional staff required commenced four weeks ago. The HSE is currently preparing a communication plan for engagement with the proposed residents and their families to ensure proper engagement and sharing of information when appropriate.

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

3. In view of continuously soaring rent costs in recent years, when was the Housing Section last notified by the Department of Housing and/or Department of Social Protection of an increase in rent supports such as the Housing Assistance Payment? I ask also for the Housing Section to provide a breakdown of HAP payments available by category of applicants.

Reply: HAP was introduced in 2014, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government increased capping limits nationally in 2017.

Monthly HAP capping limits for County Monaghan

| Single Person in Shared accommodation | Couple in Shared accommodation | Single person | Couple with no children | One adult, or couple with one child | One adult or couple with 2 children | One adult, or couple with 3 children |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| €200.00 | €220.00 | €330.00 | €390.00 | €500.00 | €515.00 | €530.00 |

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

4. In light of the fact that outdoor leisure activities, like walking, running, cycling are important for the physical and mental wellbeing of our community, has Monaghan County Council established detailed records and maps of public rights of way to all heritage sites and public leisure facilities in the county?

Reply: Monaghan County Council does not have detailed records and maps of all public rights of way in the County.

Policy CFP of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 – 2025 states that it is a policy of the Council to identify and preserve existing public rights of way to recreational areas, and to commence the process of mapping and listing public rights of way in the County over the lifetime of the Plan, as resources allow. Work has not commenced on this process.

5. How many Social Housing Applicants are on the Council's waiting list, per M.D.? How many of these are receiving support through H.A.P., R.A.S., etc? **1,121 Households in Total**

Reply: Monaghan MD (555) (297-HAP, 32-RAS, 83-HOME, 7-MTR, 79-PRIVATE, 57-Transfers)

Clones/Ballybay MD (185) – (81-HAP, 8-RAS, 36-HOME, 38-PRIVATE, 22-Transfers)

Carrickmacross MD (381) – (149-HAP, 9-RAS, 71-HOME, 95-PRIVATE, 57-

Transfers)

6. How many new Social Housing Units are expected to be delivered during 2021, 2022 and 2023?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has achieved excellent progress under the Rebuilding Ireland social housing delivery programme. Monaghan County Council's Rebuilding Ireland target set by the Department of Housing for 2018 to 2021 inclusive is to deliver 226 social housing units. The actual number to be delivered by Monaghan County Council is predicted to be 447 by year end of 2021. That is 98% more than the target of 226. It is expected that 100 social houses will be delivered in 2021 *. At present it is anticipated that circa 130 social houses will be delivered in 2022 and a similar number in 2023. Monaghan County Council intends to continue to examine every opportunity to increase social housing delivery and to apply for additional funding to increase social housing where possible.

***Excludes voids and casual vacancies (on average an additional 50 social houses become available for re-letting every year)**

7. What options have tenants if a landlord refuses to accept H.A.P.?

Reply: Applicants or tenants who feel that landlords are prejudiced against them because the HAP scheme is being used/proposed to pay their rent – and where they have good evidence to back this up – should bring the case to the Workplace Relations Commission.

The Workplace Relations Commission adjudicate in cases of equality and discrimination. The Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 added a 10th ground into the acts – the housing assistance ground. These are all the grounds on which discrimination is outlawed by the Equal Status Acts:

- **The gender ground**
- **The civil status ground (formerly marital status)**
- **The family status ground**
- **The sexual orientation ground**
- **The religion ground**
- **The age ground**
- **The disability ground**
- **The ground of race (includes 'race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins')**
- **The Traveller community ground**
- **The housing assistance ground (only in the provision of accommodation)**

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

8. (a) What is the up to date position in relation to the rollout of high-speed broadband across County Monaghan under the national broadband Ireland scheme (NBI)
(b) In terms of connections to homes and businesses what is the target for this year 2021, is it expected that these targets will be achieved?

Reply: In County Monaghan, there are 15,282 premises in the Intervention Area of the National Broadband Plan (NBP), which includes homes, farms, commercial businesses and schools. This equates to 46% of all premises in the county. Under the NBP, Monaghan will see an investment of €60M in the new high-speed fibre network. This will enable e-learning, remote monitoring of livestock or equipment, e-health initiatives, better energy efficiency in the home, and facilitate increased

levels of remote working.

In terms of County Monaghan, over 3,200 premises are currently available for order or pre-order. Of this, almost 2,000 premises can be connected (subject to an order being placed) from 30th September. The remaining c. 1,200 premises are expected to be available for connection (subject to an order being placed) between September and November 2021.

The NBP is also rolling out Broadband Connection Points nationwide. At time of writing, 228 of these sites are now 'live' and have both internal and external broadband access. In June, the 200th BCP site was recently launched at Drumhowan Community Centre. These BCP facilities - which include sports clubs, community centres and tourist sites – are providing free public access to high speed internet in the rollout area. There are 16 Broadband Connection Points in Monaghan, including the likes of Monaghan GAA Centre of Excellence, Latton Resource Centre and Corduff Community Centre. Thirteen of these BCPs have already been connected, with Clara Hall, Cremartin GAA Community Centre and Corvally Hall due to be completed before end of year.

You can also find out the location of your local BCP at www.nbi.ie. 20 primary schools are also being connected in Monaghan under the National Broadband Plan.

9. In terms of legal fees, what is the average cost per annum to this Council for all legal advice including property conveyancing etc. How much would have been paid out in the last three years for this vital service?

Reply: The amount paid in legal fees for each of the last three years is as follows

| | |
|------|----------|
| 2018 | €168,181 |
| 2019 | €133,522 |
| 2020 | €107,688 |

10. In commending the Council Housing section in conjunction with a number of approved housing bodies for the progress that has and is been made in delivering housing units for our citizens in our towns and some village areas, what plans have the Council in conjunction with approved housing bodies to build social and affordable housing units in the village areas across the South Monaghan area including Inniskeen village?

Reply: Monaghan County Council advertises regularly for Expressions of Interest in the sale of land and/or houses from Property Owners and Developers and this process has yielded significant results in the main towns and has also benefited the villages and rural areas. Through this process Monaghan County Council is working on potential opportunities to deliver social housing in Inniskeen and Annyalla and is also examining future potential for social housing in other villages and rural areas throughout County Monaghan where there is an identified need for social housing. Monaghan County Council will continue to seek every opportunity to increase social housing provision in all areas of housing need; to reverse rural decline, increase the sustainability of small towns and villages and strengthen the viability of local services for the wider rural community.

11. Has the Council any information from the Department/Government as to when an affordable housing scheme will be rolled out in our county, given raising property

prices and housing rents and also given how difficult it is for families and individuals to get onto the social housing list?

Reply: The Department issued details in Circular 23/2021 relating to an Affordable Housing Fund which is a replacement for the previous Serviced Sites Fund. It is indicated that the scheme has to be considered in conjunction with the Government's new housing strategy – Housing for All" and the review of the National Development Plan - of which we are waiting details of.

Upon receipt of the full package of legislation, the information will be reviewed and opportunities will be identified and progressed where funding can be drawn down and affordable housing can be provided.

12. In relation to rural planning, has the planning section any information or concerns that rural planning for one off housing in County Monaghan may be restricted by the Department/ Government in the time ahead, given that in some neighbouring counties the building of a family home in the countryside is very restricted?

Reply: The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government issued *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing* in 2005. It is understood that a review of this document has been proposed for some time but has not been completed. The Planning Authority is unaware when this review will be carried out, or of policy changes that may be contained within any new guidelines. In the absence of the publication of new Departmental policy or guidance on this matter, there is no expectation that rural housing policy in County Monaghan will be reviewed during the lifetime of the current Development Plan.

16. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

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

- David Tracey, Monaghan MD and Monaghan Fire Service, on the death of his mother, May, RIP
- The Hume Family, Derry, relatives and friends of the late Patricia Hume (Pat), wife of the late John Hume, Noble Peace Prize recipient
- Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, his wife Pauline, his son Oisin, extended Clarke and Campbell families on the death of Kathleen Clarke, Mother in law of Cllr O'Hanlon
- Edward Kelly on the death of his mother Mariea Kelly, former Castleblay Town Council member.
- Miramichi City Council on the recent passing of Shelly Williams, former Assistant to the Director, Caring Friends Activity Center, Miramichi

It was agreed a vote of congratulations would be extended to Marie Kelly, Magheracloone who has been shortlisted with United Kingdom and International Emerging Artist Awards 2021 for one of her paintings.

Urgent Business:

Cllr P Treanor proposed, Cllr N. Keelan seconded

"That this Council is very concerned about the recurring difficulties in relation to access to School Transport for students in County Monaghan. That we write to Education Minister, Norma Foley T.D. and the Chief Executive Officer of Bus Eireann, and request a joint meeting to seek an urgent resolution, and to demand that all students are offered transport to their school of choice."

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____