

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, on Monday 11th October, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr A. Campbell, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Coyle, Conlon, Connolly, Gilliland, Keelan, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, McKenna, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, and Truell.

Mr. P. Clifford, A/Chief Executive, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Ms. P. Monahan Director of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn and Ms. N. Woods, A/Director of Services, Mr. Peadar McGuinness, A/Senior Engineer, Ms. S. Finnegan, Senior Staff Officer, Environment, Ms. M. Walker, Social Worker, Housing, Mr. D. Hurley, Housing Officer, Housing, Mr L MacCinna, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing, Ms. C. Lambe, Administrative Officer, Community, Ms. S. Long, Staff Officer and Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach extended congratulations to the IT Department on their recent success in Our Public Service Future Tech Challenge. Their project ‘MyCoCo app’, an ‘all Local Authorities services in one portal’ secured Monaghan Co Co a prize of €100,000 in Amazon consultancy and hosting services.

The Cathaoirleach conveyed his best wishes to Nuala Woods, A/Director of Services 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 S. Coyle and Fianna Fáil members as follows:

‘That Monaghan County Council demand of An Taoiseach Michael Martin T.D.; the Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D.; the Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Green parties; that they ensure that farmers, farm families and the Agricultural Sector are fully protected during Climate Action and CAP reforms, as the Industry is vital to economic activity in County Monaghan and throughout the Irish economy’.

(Motion if adopted to be circulated to An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste, Green Party Leader, Minister for Agriculture, all Oireachtas Members from Cavan-Monaghan and Monaghan IFA).

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, 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 S Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 06 September 2021

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6th September 2021, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the State Examinations Commission as requested by Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D regarding state accommodation for students with Epilepsy.
- Letter from the House of Oireachtas on behalf of the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Disability Matters, Mr. Michael Moynihan, T.D regarding adopted motion to support the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland.
- Acknowledgement of email from the Office of the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D regarding school transport for students in Co. Monaghan.
- Acknowledgement of email from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine Mr. Charlie McConalogue, T.D, regarding the poultry industry.
- Acknowledgement of 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 Mr. John Judge, SIPTU regarding the support of workers in Water Services.
- Acknowledgement of Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D, regarding Water Services/ Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D, regarding replies to parliamentary Questions addressed in Dáil Éireann regarding the poultry sector.
- Letter from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District regarding Scam Telephone calling/messaging.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding Streetscape Enhancement Grant Scheme 2021 extension of works to be completed.

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

- Letter from the Office of the Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Ms. Hildegard Naughton regarding funding for domestic abuse support services
- Letter from the Chief Executive of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding Syringes for Cuba /End the Blockade Campaign.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D, regarding replies to parliamentary Questions addressed in Dáil Éireann regarding the North South Interconnector/ poultry sector/ Water supply infrastructure.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien T.D, regarding social housing income threshold.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the Council supports the Ballybay-Clones MD motion calling on the Minister for Communications Eamonn Ryan, TD and relevant agencies, An Garda Síochána etc, for an immediate investigation and the prosecution of all involved in Scam Telephone calling/messaging, as it is causing great

annoyance and distress to many people, particularly the elderly.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that the Council reissue its correspondence to Minister Jack Chambers, TD in relation to a feasibility study being carried regarding the provision of bi-lingual (Irish/English) packaging on consumer goods on sale in Ireland.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that the Council reissue its correspondence to Minister Norma Foley, TD and the Chief Executive Officer of Bus Eireann requesting a joint meeting seeking an urgent resolution to the recurring difficulties in relation to access to School Transport for students in County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council reissue its correspondence to Minister for Agriculture, Charlie McConalogue, TD requesting him to instruct the Department to be part of the Task Force being set up to tackle expansion crisis in the Monaghan poultry sector and that the Task Force includes representatives from the Department, EPA, members of the industry and Monaghan Co Co.

Cllr P Treanor proposed, Cllr B McKenna seconded that the Council support the motion 'Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade' from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

Cllr P.J O'Hanlon proposed, Cllr D Maxwell seconded that the Council do not support the adoption motion 'Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade' from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

Following a discussion a recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Bennett, Carthy, Conlon, Keelan, McKenna, P. Treanor *Total 6*

Against: Cllrs Campbell, Connolly, Coyle, Kerr-Conlon, Maxwell, McCooey, McElvaney, O'Hanlon, and Truell, *Total 9*

Abstention – Cllr S.Treanor. *Total 1*

The Cathaoirleach declared Cllr O'Hanlon's proposal carried.

3. To consider Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023

Ms. S. Finnegan, Senior Staff Officer, Environment Section outlined the report on submissions received during the public consultation process of the Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023. She advised that 6 submissions had been received in total. S. Finnegan provided a summary of the submissions received and recommendations for incorporation into the Draft Litter Management Plan.

Ms Finnegan responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr A. McCooey, it was agreed to approve the Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023.

4. To consider Walking & Cycling Strategy 2021-2026

Ms C. Lambe, Administrative Officer, Community Section provided an overview of the Walking & Cycling Strategy 2021 – 2026 to members. She stated that each LA was requested to develop a strategy with the aim of promoting ‘healthy lifestyles’. She advised that the Strategy takes cognisance of the National Physical Activity Plan, National Cycle Policy Framework and Climate Action.

She outlined commitments in the Programme for Government in relation to funding, Active Travel, new Safe to School measures and Greenways. She stated that the development of a County Cycle Network Strategy will determine how long-distance routes will link into the longer regional routes. Ms Lambe outlined the key actions of the strategy under each of the 5 Themes.

She outlined the role of the Active Travel Unit and highlighted the need for development of Recreational Trails in terms of resourcing and maintenance issues.

Ms Lambe responded to queries from the members.

On the proposal Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed to approve the Walking & Cycling Strategy 2021 – 2026.

5. To receive presentation from Mary Walker regarding the Draft Regional Homeless Action Plan

Ms Mary Walker, Social Worker outlined the Draft Regional Homeless Action Plan 2021 - 2023. She advised that the Housing Act provides for a number of areas which must be addressed in the plan:

- Prevention of Homelessness
- Reduction of Homelessness both in extent and duration
- Provision of Services including emergency accommodation

She outlined the actions/preventions undertaken in the region during the life of the 2018 – 2020 Plan:

- Tenancy Sustainment in the Region
- Housing First
- Move on Assistance
- Permanent Tenancies
- Emergency Accommodation provisions

She highlighted some of the issues of the Covid pandemic in relation to the provision of homeless services. Ms Walker then responded to members questions.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, it was agreed to approve the Draft Regional Homeless Action Plan 2021 – 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council support Tearmann Domestic Violence Services in their work and further call on Ministers Heather Humphreys and Roderic O’Gorman to address the absence of refuge accommodation in County Monaghan by providing the necessary resources to establish this humanitarian need.

6. To receive presentation on 'Housing for All'

N. Woods, Senior Executive Officer, D. Hurley, Housing Officer and L. MacCinna, Senior Executive Engineer from the Housing Department delivered a presentation on the recently launched Government Housing Strategy “Housing for All” and Monaghan Co Co’s own programme for housing provision in the coming years.

D. Hurley stated that the main actions in the plan were to be undertaken under the pillars of:

- Supporting home ownership and increasing affordability
- Eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion Increasing new housing supply
- Addressing vacancy and efficient use of housing stock

N. Woods, Senior Executive Officer, informed the meeting that there are currently 1,129 people on the housing waiting list in Monaghan. She explained the Net Housing Need figure for Monaghan of 386 and advised that this is the figure that the Department looked at when setting a target for Monaghan Co Co under the Housing for All programme. Monaghan Co Co has been advised of a target of 361 under the Housing For All programme.

L. MacCinna, Senior Executive Engineer, outlined the Council’s success in returning vacant housing properties to use, stating that this is something that is done well in Monaghan. He stated that Monaghan Co Co was looking at a very significant delivery of housing in Co Monaghan over the period of the Housing for All programme and highlighted Monaghan Co Co’s successes in delivery of previous housing programmes. Monaghan Co Co’s target under Housing for All is 361 but Housing have a pipeline target of 551 in mind. L. MacCinna also provide detail on the Councils Energy Efficiency works to date and an update on Approved Housing body activity.

N. Woods, L. MacCinna and D. Hurley responded to members questions. Cllr P. Treanor, Chair of the Housing SPC, thanked them for their informative presentation and acknowledged the work of all housing frontline staff.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that this Council write to the Department of Housing to convey its rejection of the Housing Needs Analysis figures for County Monaghan, and the formula the Department uses to determine the level of finance and supports required to tackle the housing waiting lists of over 1000 applicants in our county.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council write to the Department of Housing and Department of Finance seeking an increase of the woefully inadequate levels of HAP and RAS payments to Council housing applicants.

On the proposal of Cllr S Gilliland, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that Monaghan Co Co Housing section would prioritise the list of vacant properties in Ballybay with a view towards regenerating these properties for housing for young working families, O.A.P.s and people who wish to downsize to assist in regeneration of the town and at the same time, provide housing for those who need it under the new Housing for All scheme.

7. To consider nominations to Housing, Cultural and Social SPC & Monaghan LCDC Committee

The members noted the nominations received from Monaghan PPN - *Housing, Cultural and Social SPC* (Environment seat) and the Monaghan LCDC (Social Inclusion seat) in relation to filling the two vacant positions on the Public Participation Network.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that Mr. Eddie O'Gara, Transition Monaghan be ratified to fill the vacant position on the SPC for Housing, Cultural and Social Activities on behalf of the Environment sector.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that Mr. Brendan Lillis, Monaghan U3A be ratified to fill the the vacant position on the Monaghan LCDC on behalf of the Social Inclusion sector.

8. To consider nominations to An Coiste Logainmneacha

The members noted the nomination received from Conrath naGaeilge in relation to Mr. Matthew McUaid to An Coiste Logainmneacha.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that Mr. Matthew McUaid be nominated to An Coiste Logainmneacha.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 28th September, 2021.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 28th September, 2021 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 28th September, 2021 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

10. To receive Management Reports – September 2021

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

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

11. To Fix a date for Statutory Budget 2022 Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell, it was agreed to hold the Statutory Budget meeting on the morning of the 16th November, 2021 from 10 am – 1 pm.

12. Business submitted by Chief Executive

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

13. Matters arising out of the minutes of meetings held on 6th September, 2021

No matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on the 6th September, 2021.

14. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan advised members that approval to award the contract for Ground Investigation in relation to the Clontibret to the Border scheme had not yet been granted as a delay had been experienced in the procurement of the ground investigation works.

15. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

Cllr S. Coyle asked the executive if any further correspondence had been received from Eirgrid and stated that the absence of a response from last months meeting correspondence spoke volumes.

On the proposal of Cllr Coyle seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that this Council request the Minister For Climate Action, Communications and Transport, Eamonn Ryan TD and the Government to direct Eirgrid to immediately cease all works on the 400 kv North South Interconnector as an over ground project, as the communities and their people are totally opposed and clearly will not allow the project to proceed over ground.

On the proposal of Cllr Keelan seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed that this Council support a motion of no confidence in Eirgrid, given its inability to bring forward plans for the under-grounding and delivery of the north south interconnector in line with the wishes of the local community, campaigning groups , and public representatives at council and Oireachtas level, and also given the astonishing revelation that Eirgrid cannot guarantee the supply of electricity into the near future and beyond.

(This motion if passed would be sent to all the Oireachtas members for this constituency including An Taoiseach Michael Martin TD , Leo Varadkar TD and Eamon Ryan TD)

Cllr Noel Keelan proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that this council supports a motion of no confidence in Minister Eamon Ryan TD, with responsibility for Environment Climate Action and Communications for his lack of engagement with local communities, campaigning groups, council, and Oireachtas members in relation to the undergrounding and delivery of the north south interconnector and also for his failure as line minister with responsibility for energy to guarantee the supply of electricity

This motion if passed would be sent to all the Oireachtas members for this constituency for a response.

Following some discussion, Cllr Keelan agreed to withdraw his motion.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

Cllr P. Treanor advised members that Waterways Ireland had delivered a presentation setting out timescales for works on the Clones Marina Project and currently carrying out

planning and design work on the route from Clonfad to Castlesaunderson.

Cllr P.J. O’Hanlon acknowledged Minister Humphreys role in this project.

17. Questions

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. A number of funding announcements were made during the year regarding Active Travel, Outdoor Recreation etc – could the Executive give a breakdown on projects in each Municipal District regarding commencement dates and expected completion dates (including footpaths, cycle lanes, amenities etc)?

Reply: Active Travel – Approved Projects 2021

MONAGHAN MD

Project Location	2021 Allocation	Construction/Design	Start Date	Finish Date
Monaghan County - Urban Mobility Plans	€150,000.00	Design	Q1 2022	Q4 2022
Monaghan Town - New Greenway - N2	€250,000.00	Design	Q1 2022	Q4 2022
Upgrade of existing Monaghan Town Greenway	€250,000.00	Construction	Q2 2022	Q3 2022

Footpath/Cycle Path Schemes:				
Mall Road Monaghan	€150,000.00	Construction	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
North Road Monaghan	€20,000.00	Design	Q1 2023	Q1 2024
Woodview to Mall Road	€50,000.00	Construction	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Woodview to Glen Road	€50,000.00	Construction	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Tullyhirm Lane	€140,000.00	Design	Q4 2022	Q2 2023
Coolshannagh	€65,000.00	Design	Q2 2022	Q4 2022
Scotstown Village	€40,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q1 2022

Pedestrian Bridge Works				
Monaghan Town - Ballyalbany & Mullaghmatt(Design)	50,000.00	Design	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
Monaghan Town - Mullaghmatt (Construction)	100,000.00	Construction	Q1 2023	Q3 2023
Monaghan Town - Ballyalbany (Construction)	100,000.00	Construction	Q1 2023	Q3 2023

Pedestrian Crossings;				
Annayalla School	€20,000.00	Design	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Other Schemes:				
Dublin Street Regeneration Project				
1(A) Roosky Masterplan.	€50,000.00	Design	Q2 2022	Q4 2022
Safe to School Infrastructure	€80,000.00	Construction	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Low Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	€200,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q2 2022

CARRICKMACROSS/CASTLEBLAYNEY MD

Project Location	2021 Allocation	Construction/Design	Start Date	Finish Date
Detailed review and design of the Castleblayney & Carrickmacross: Active Travel Town Walking and Cycling Strategies and Town Public Realm and Economic Plans, 2019.	€150,000.00	Design	Q1 2022	Q4 2022
Footpath Schemes				
Coill Darach and Knockturnagh Housing Developments, Castleblayney	€30,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q3 2022
R178, Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross	€100,000.00	Design	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
R179, Oriel Road to R178 @ Carrickmacross Cemetery	€75,000.00	Design	Q2 2022	Q4 2022
The Lurgans, Carrickmacross	€120,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q3 2022
Junction of R181 (Keady Road) and R182 (Oram Road) to Castleblayney N.S.	€120,000.00	Design	Q3 2022	Q2 2023
Killanny Rd (LP4700)	€54,000.00	Construction	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Drumillard, Castleblayney	€50,000.00	Construction	Q1 2023	Q2 2023

Streetlighting only

Ross Road, Carrickmacross	€75,000.00	Construction	Q3 2021	Q2 2022
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Pedestrian Bridge Works

Inniskeen Village - Design	35,000.00	Design	Q4 2021	Q3 2022
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Pedestrian Crossings;

Inniskeen Village	€30,000.00	Construction	Q1 2022	Q3 2022
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BALLYBAY / CLONES MD

Project Location	2021 Allocation	Construction/Design	Start Date	Finish Date
Footpath/Cycle Path Schemes:				
R162 Monaghan Road Ballybay	€100,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q3 2022
Carn Lane Clones	€110,000.00	Construction	Q3 2021	Q1 2022
Cannons Lane, Clones	€80,000.00	Construction	Q3 2021	Q1 2022
LT21101 Tirnahinch Road, Clones	€50,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
R193, Rockcorry	€70,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Smithboro Village	€30,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Magherarney, Smithboro	€40,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Streetlighting Only				
Mullanamoy Lane Clones	€75,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
R212, Scotshouse Road, Clones Town	€40,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q2 2022
N54 Smithboro	€20,000.00	Construction	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
98 Avenue, Clones	€151,620.00	Design	Q4 2021	Q3 2022

Pedestrian Bridge Works				
Scotshouse Village - Design	60,000.00	Design	Q4 2021	Q3 2022

Pedestrian Crossings;				
Annayalla School	€20,000.00	Design	Q3 2021	Q1 2022
Analore Street, Clones	€25,000.00	Design	Q4 2021	Q2 2022
Inniskeen Village	€30,000.00	Design	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Corcaghan R188	€20,000.00	Design	Q3 2021	Q1 2022

Additional Schemes				
Low Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	€200,000.00	Design/Construction	Q4 2021	Q2 2022

Above is the preliminary programme for the proposed NTA Active Travel projects and may be subject to change.

CLÁR 2021 Scheme – Approved Projects

MD	Project	Project Description	Amount Allocated
Ballybay/Clones	Clones Town FC	Provide a turning space, lighting and parking measures at the carpark.	€48,539.56
Ballybay/Clones	Aughnamullen Community Centre	Upgrade of carpark, Addition of footpaths, planters and LED lighting.	€50,000.00
Carrickmacross/ Castleblaynet	Mullyash Day Care Centre	Construction of a new carpark to include laying of concrete, drainage works & all other ancillary works, line markings for parking spaces and drop off zones.	€19,919.70
Ballybay/Clones	St Enda's NS Scotshouse	Provision of safe car parking	€30,217.50
Ballybay/Clones	Drumhawan Community Centre	Drumhawan outdoor recreation area and sensory garden.	€50,000.00
Monaghan	Mullan Tidy Towns & Community Development	Development of a community play area within Mullan Village	€50,000.00
Ballybay/Clones	Ballybay Allotments Community Garden	The development of allotments and community garden at the rear of Ballybay Men's shed.	€35,586.00
Ballybay/Clones	Newbliss Childcare Services	To provide a sensory garden at the community childcare facility.	€44,360.00
Total funding received			€328,622.76

Announcements on the Town & Village and Outdoor Recreation Schemes are due in October and November, respectively.

Name of Scheme	No. of applications submitted by MCC	Value of Grants requested by MCC	Announcement expected
Town & Village Renewal Scheme	8	€1,007,794	October 2021
Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme	5	€1,029,350.95	November 2021

Town and Village Renewal Scheme – Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021

Monaghan County Council received an allocation of €220,000 in August 2021 under this scheme and selected the towns Monaghan, Ballybay and Carrickmacross. The focus of this measure is to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades of defined areas within selected rural town/village centres.

2. Can the executive confirm the number of vacant housing units that have been noted in the county to date, with an MD breakdown, and what measures are being put in place to bring them back into use?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is continuing to progress the Vacant Homes Programme and is collating information regarding all properties inspected for vacancy. Since the inception of the Vacant Homes Programme and after reviewing initial desktop information the Vacant Homes Office carried out onsite inspections identifying 168 vacant homes, 28 in Monaghan MD, 97 in Ballybay - Clones MD and 43 in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD. Once vacancy is confirmed Monaghan County Council issues information regarding possible options to bring vacant properties into use such as the Repair and Lease Scheme and engages with owners if interest is initiated. In addition, Monaghan County Council is bringing vacant derelict properties into use through housing renewal projects ongoing and to commence, subject to funding, in towns and villages throughout County Monaghan. Monaghan County Council’s Vacant Homes Office is registered with www.vacanthomes.ie where the public can provide the details of any vacant homes in their locality and the website will automatically notify the Vacant Homes Office by email.

Monaghan County Council will continue gathering information and surveying vacant homes to provide a holistic profile on vacancy throughout County Monaghan with the intention of encouraging the use of vacant homes wherever possible towards revitalising and repopulating the areas that are most affected by vacancy.

3. What additional housing units will be made available to those on the council housing list (council, AHB etc) between now and the end of 2021, with a MD breakdown?

Reply: Due to the Government shutdown in construction activity from in January 2021 as part of the national effort to halt the spread of COVID-19, a number of social housing sites in County Monaghan were not permitted to remain open as they were not nearing completion. This has had a direct affect on the delivery of social housing in 2021 providing a shortened 9 months construction period for these sites.

If no further delays are encountered, it is now predicted that 101 new social houses will be completed in 2021. Please see Table below for number of units, location and delivery breakdown. The sizes of homes to be completed are as follows; 2-bedrooms 40%, 3-bedrooms 50% and 4-bedrooms 10%.

ReBuilding Ireland/Housing For All			
Municipal District	Units already delivered in 2021	Remaining Units to deliver in 2021	2021 TOTAL (Projected)
Monaghan		6 (MCC)	6
Ballybay - Clones	19 (AHB)	6 (MCC)	25
Carrick - Castleblayney	37 (AHB)	32 (AHB)	69
Acquisitions & Part Vs (County Wide)	1 (MCC)		1
TOTAL	57	44	101
<i>Please note the above figures do not include the projected 60 Voids that will be completed in 2021 by MCC.</i>			

Monaghan County Council proactively manages Housing construction projects to ensure that delays are avoided or minimized if unavoidable.

Clr C. Bennett asked:

4. In relation to the loss of staff member Bernie Bradley, when will a new social inclusion officer be in place? Bernie carried out very good and important work, I would encourage Monaghan County Council to seek a replacement for this position ASAP. This work needs to continue for the betterment of our County.

Reply: The process of filling the vacancy is well advanced and it is expected to have a Social Inclusion Officer in place by End November early December 2021.

5. Can Monaghan County Council please explain why Aldi have decided not to build in McNallys car park. Have Aldi decided to look at other sites? Will Monaghan County Council now use this site for car parking again.

Reply: Aldi originally applied for planning permission to develop a foodstore at the Junction of St. Macartan's Road and the Glen Road in 2016. This original application (planning ref 1689) was refused in March 2017 due to concerns over flooding, its impact on the Ulster Canal and urban environment.

Following pre-planning consultation, Aldi's second application for planning permission (ref 17453) was approved by Monaghan County Council in April 2018, but appealed to An Bord Pleanála, who granted planning permission for the development in March 2019 (ABP ref 18-301542).

One of the conditions of this permission required Aldi to reroute a public storm water culvert that traversed the site in agreement with the Council. Monaghan County Council provided design and technical assistance to Aldi in relation to the rerouted culvert. However, Aldi did not progress plans to commence works and develop the site.

Monaghan County Council had leased the property for use as a car park since 2006 and Aldi renewed this lease with the Council in 2019, when it acquired the site from the original owners. Solicitors, representing Aldi, notified the Council in August of its intention to terminate the lease with effect from 30 September 2021. Planning permission for development of a foodstore and associated car park expires in March 2024.

6. Following on from a previous question/motion I had submitted, in relation to Monaghan County Council and the need for an Irish Language officer. Have Monaghan County Council made any advances in securing an Irish language officer in partnership with another neighbouring Council.

Reply: Monaghan County Council's Irish Language Scheme was approved by The Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Mr. Jack Chambers T.D., Beidh an scéim i bhfeidhm ar feadh tréimhse 3 bliana ó 27 Nollaig 2020. Tá cóip den scéim ar fáil anseo; <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/sceim-na-gaeilge/> Nial Ó Conchúir, Oifigeach Gaeilge is implementing the actions identified in the Scéim in conjunction with Corporate Services.

Cllr S. Coyle asked:

7. Can Monaghan County Council give a full update on the progress for the construction of a New Fire Station for Ballybay, the members of Ballybay Fire Service are to be commended on the excellence of the service, they provide to the town and surrounding hinterland, however their current Fire Station facilities are not fit for purpose, in terms of space, training, office etc, will Monaghan County Council prioritise immediately the construction of a New Fire Station in Ballybay, to equip the local based Fire Fighters with a modern day equipped base?

Reply: The need for a new Fire Station in Ballybay has been appraised and acknowledged, and the search for a suitable site to fulfil the needs of a modern Fire Service for today and in the future has been ongoing for some time.

Unfortunately, progress has been hampered by several constraints, specifically in

addressing both the topographical and flooding challenges of Ballybay Town and surrounding area.

Consultants are currently advancing a preliminary proposal for a site at Corrybrennan, Ballybay to address the needs of Ballybay Fire Service, and we are awaiting approval from the National Directorate for Fire Emergency Management (NDFEM) to proceed to the next project stage.

8. Will Monaghan County Council give a detailed report on the construction/allocation of Social Housing in County Monaghan over the last 5 years, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021-
- (a) How many were constructed by Monaghan County Council?
- (b) How many were constructed by Approved Housing Agencies?
- (c) How many were constructed by others and purchased by Monaghan County Council?

ReBuilding Ireland/Housing For All						
Municipal District	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Projected)	TOTAL (Projected)
Monaghan County Council Direct Build & Turnkey Construction	39	32	64	44	12	191
Monaghan County Council Acquisitions & Part Vs	31	16	26	25	1	99
MCC TOTAL	70	48	90	69	13	290
Approved Housing Body Construction/acquisition	13	50	53	25	88	229
AHB TOTAL	13	50	53	25	88	229
COMBINED MCC + AHB TOTAL	83	98	143	94	101	519

Please note the above figures do not include Voids that were completed between 2017-2021 by MCC.

YEAR	MCC ALLOCATIONS
2017	115
2018	105
2019	180
2020	102
2021	100
	602

2021 Figure as at 01.10.2021

YEAR	AHB LEASE ALLOCATIONS	AHB CASUAL ALLOCATIONS
2017	9	
2018	51	
2019	53	
2020	23	
2021	53	
	189	75

2021 Figure as at 01.10.2021 Estimated Approx 15 per year

9. Can Monaghan County Council give a detailed report on the numbers of applicants on the Housing Waiting List for Social Housing Support in each of our County towns/villages etc. in each of our Municipal Districts, in the following categories-
- (a) Family homes of 4 bedrooms plus?
- (b) Family homes of 3 bedrooms?
- (c) Single persons over 55 years?
- (d) Single persons under 55 years?
- (e) Other types of applications?

MONAGHAN MD	1BED		2BED	3BED	4BED	4+BED	TOTAL
	Under 55	Over 55					
Ballinode	4	6	4	1	1	0	16
Carrickroe	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Clontibret	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Emyvale	7	6	4	7	3	1	28
Glaslough	6	2	4	3	0	0	15
Knockatallon	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Monaghan	117	65	140	125	23	4	474
Scotstown	1	2	5	5	3	0	16
Tydavnet	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tyholland	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
TOTAL FOR MONAGHAN MD AREA							557

CLONES/B'BAY MD TOWN/VILLAGE	1BED		2BED	3BED	4BED	4+BED	TOTAL
	Under 55	Over 55					
Ballybay	19	8	13	5	3	0	48
Clones	25	11	22	20	5	1	84
Doohamlet	1	0	3	0	1	0	5
Newbliss	4	3	3	1	1	0	12
Rockcorry	2	0	1	2	0	0	5
Scotshouse	0	2	3	3	1	0	9
Smithboro'	0	2	3	1	2	0	8
Threemilehouse	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
TOTAL FOR CLONES/BALLYBAY MD AREA							174
CMX/CBY MD TOWN/VILLAGE	1BED		2BED	3BED	4BED	4+BED	TOTAL
	Under 55	Over 55					
Annyalla	1	0	2	4	2	0	9
Carrickmacross	86	36	48	24	9	7	210
Castleblayney	63	21	39	18	10	1	152
Inniskeen	1	3	1	3	0	0	8
Magheracloone	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Oram	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
TOTAL FOR CARRICKMACROSS/CASTLEBLAYNEY MD AREA							384

10. Can Monaghan County Council outline in detail their plans to construct New Houses and there location to address the above waiting lists for Social Housing over the next 3 years?

Reply: Monaghan County Council intends to increase the number of social houses being constructed in County Monaghan through a combination of town and village housing renewal projects, new build construction and through collaboration with Developers and Approved Housing Bodies. Monaghan County Council's "pipeline" for delivery of social housing includes projects in towns and villages throughout County Monaghan. Under Housing for All the targets below have been set for Monaghan County Council by Central Government:

Extract from Social Housing Delivery Targets

The social housing targets for Monaghan County Council are set out in the table below. Targets for 2022 are based on the social housing pipeline notified to the Housing Delivery Coordination Office.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Build	125	56	57	61	62	361

Monaghan County Council intends to achieve and where possible and allowed exceed the

delivery targets above. The following figures give an indication of the ambitious intentions of Monaghan County Council over the next 3 years subject to funding:

Municipal District	2022	2023	2024 onwards	Total
Monaghan MD	42	55	64	161
Ballybay-Clones MD	27	9	40	76
Carrick-Castleblayney MD	68	60	67	195
Total	137	124	171	423

11. Can Monaghan County Council Water Services Section, give a full update on Water Scheme Water Bans/Disruption during the summer, where households were not allowed to use water for consumption/food preparation etc, due to Manganese in the source i.e. Newbliss. This is a terrible inconvenience to all families, particularly with young children or elderly persons living in the house?

Reply: to follow from Irish Water

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

12. (a) What is Council policy on housing transfers?
(b) how many housing transfers have been requested in the last two years?
(c) how many have been granted?
(d) how many have been refused what would be a typical reason for a refusal?
(e) how many individuals or families have been granted more than one or two transfers over the last two to three years?

Reply: In order for transfers to be considered there must be a material change in the households housing need which can be demonstrated. This change in need should not have been a factor in the first allocation of housing support to justify a transfer. Transfers will not be considered within two years of an allocation of housing support. Social Housing tenants, including applicants, may be considered for transfer from their current Social Housing Support to another type of Social Housing Support under the following circumstances.

- 1. Overcrowding.**
- 2. Where elderly and other small households wish to surrender family type accommodation and move to smaller accommodation.**
- 3. Medical/ compassionate reasons.**
- 4. Exceptional circumstances.**

Notwithstanding the above, tenants seeking a transfer must fulfil the following requirements to the satisfaction of the housing authority: -

- a) Hold tenancy in their present dwelling for a period of at least two years.**
- b) A clear rent account for at least six months.**
- c) All service and other charges paid up to date.**
- d) Kept their dwelling in satisfactory condition.**
- e) Complied with all conditions of their Letting Agreement, and**
- f) Have no record of anti-social behaviour.**

There have been 51 Transfers approved in the last 2 years. The typical reasons for the Housing Authority refusing applications for transfers are firstly on the grounds that they do not satisfy the general criteria to apply for a transfer e.g. have not held a tenancy for 2 years/ haven't a clear rent account etc. Following that applications are refused on the grounds that their reasons

do not justify a transfer - that the tenants are adequately housed, that there has been no change in family situation or circumstance, that they may be making a case on exceptional grounds that there is anti-social behaviour but there is no record of complaints of the same.

13. (a) How many private home housing adaptation grants for older people and those with a disability

have been grant aided this year 2021?

(b) what is the breakdown ie, mobility aids, housing aid for older people, housing adaptation,

(c) how many applications are still awaiting a decision?

(d) what is the total cost of this grant aid?

Reply: To date in 2021, Monaghan County Council Housing Section has approved 285 applications to a value of €2.2m - 61 HGDs, 184 HOPs and 40 MAGs with a further 25 HGDs, 40 HOPs and 22 MAGs currently being assessed.

In March, Monaghan County Council received an initial Department allocation of €1,286,225 for the year. Based on the volume of applications received, Monaghan County Council requested additional funding of €713,775 which was approved, resulting in an overall total allocation for 2021 of €2.0m for the delivery of Housing Grants.

14. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the Dundalk to Cavan regional route R179 in particular the route in our county from Essexford bridge and on to Shercock town?

Reply: Consultants Roghan O'Donovan and Aecom are undertaking a Network Safety Analysis of the route between Dundalk to Cavan. The intention of this analysis is to provide a logical list of locations to be earmarked for engineering intervention. A steering committee consisting of the design team, technical staff from Cavan, Louth and Monaghan County Councils as well as the Department of Transport meets monthly to progress the project. A final report is expected to be produced in draft format in Q4 of 2021.

15. How many new housing units is it hoped will be provided by Monaghan County Council and other approved housing bodies in Carrickmacross town in the next six to twelve months and beyond, what is the breakdown of these units in terms of size and providers etc?

Reply: Monaghan County Council and other approved housing bodies in Carrickmacross town propose to provide 107 new social houses by 2022. Please see Table below for number of units, location and delivery breakdown.

MD	Project Name	MCC or AHB	No of Units	Delivery Date	No of 2 Bedroom	No of 3 Bedroom
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radharc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	14	Q4 2021	8	19
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radharc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	13	Q4 2022		
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Lakeview Apartments, Drummond Radhairc	AHB	12	Q4 2021	12	-
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross	AHB	13	Q4 2021	12	7
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross	AHB	14	Q4 2022	14	-
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Nafarty, Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross	MCC	41	Q4 2022	4	37
TOTAL			107			

16. In terms of road safety on the N2 what is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the very dangerous Tullyvaragh junction and what plans have the Council in conjunction with the TII to enhance road safety on the N2 in advance of the upgrading of this national primary road which is many years away?

Reply: The design report for the Tullyvaragh Junction realignment is nearing completion which will facilitate proceeding to Part 8 planning. It is expected that Part 8 planning will be lodged in Q4 of 2021.

Significant safety assessments and works have been carried out along the N2 over the past number of years, which includes junction realignments, the provision of right-turn-lanes and median hatching. MCC Roads engineers will continue to liaise with the TII's safety section to deliver any additional short-term interventions that may be deemed necessary based on the TII's road safety assessment processes.

18. Notices of Motion

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr B. McKenna seconded:

1. That this Council write to the HSE, the Department of Health and Minister Stephen Donnelly TD seeking the expansion of services at Monaghan General Hospital by increasing the opening hours of the Minor Injury Unit to a 24-hour 7-day week service.

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

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr D. Maxwell seconded:

2. Monaghan County Council supports the call, by the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District, in December 2017, for the Minister for Health to legislate for a 'soft opt-out' system for organ donation in this state.

We also:

- Call for the proposed legislation to be passed through the houses of the Oireachtas without further delay
- Call on Government to have plans in place for an information campaign to be ready roll out as soon as legislation has concluded

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

19. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

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

- The family of the late Helen Martin, former employee of Monaghan Co Council
- The family of the late Gerard O'Gorman, former employee of Monaghan County Council
- John Lennon, Roads Section, and the Lennon family Tullycorbet on the death of their Uncle John Duffy

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

- Conor Duffy (Glasough Harriers), Knocknamaddy, Ballybay, Co Monaghan who broke the Monaghan record for the marathon in the recent Berlin Marathon and finished in the top 25 running a time of 2-22.
- Carrickmacross Emmetts Ladies Football team who beat Castleblayney in the Junior Ladies final
- Donaghmoynne Ladies football team on winning their 19th Senior Co title in a row beating Emmet Óg

Urgent Business:

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr A. McCooey seconded that Monaghan County Council demand of An Taoiseach, Michael Martin T.D.; the Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine, Charlie McConologue T.D.; the Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Green parties, that they ensure that farmers, farm families and the Agricultural Sector are fully protected during Climate Action and CAP reforms as the Industry is vital to economic activity in County Monaghan and throughout the Irish economy “.

(Motion if adopted to be circulated to An Taoiseach, An Tanaiste, Green Party Leader, Minister for Agriculture, all Oireachtas Members from Cavan-Monaghan and Monaghan IFA).

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

20. Conferences

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Celtic Conferences	A Practical Guide to Budget 2022	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	15th to 17th October 2021	
Celtic Conferences	The Fair Deal Scheme	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	5th to 7th November 2021	Cllr. Richard Truell Cllr. David Maxwell Cllr. Sean Gilliland Cllr. Aidan Campbell
LAMA	Autumn Training Seminar	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo P91Y762	3rd Nov 2021	Cllr. Seamus Coyle Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. Richard Truell Cllr Sean Conlon
LAMA	Autumn Training Seminar	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo P91Y762	4th Nov 2021	Cllr. Colm Carthy Cllr. David Maxwell

				Cllr. Sean Gilliland Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Celtic Conferences	Health & Safety in the Workplace	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	24th to 26th September 2021	Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Celtic Conferences	The Fair Deal Scheme	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	1st to 3rd October 2021	
Celtic Conferences	Mental Health & Wellbeing	O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	8th to 10th October 2021	Cllr. Paudge Connolly
AILG	<i>Elected Members Training Programme</i>	The Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre, Waterford	Sat 18 th Sept 2021	Cllr. Seamus Coyle
AILG	<i>Elected Members Training Programme</i>	The Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow	Thur 23rd Sept 2021	Cllr. Brian McKenna Cllr. David Maxwell
AILG	<i>Elected Members Training Programme</i>	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo	Sat 2 nd Oct 2021	
AILG	<i>Elected Members Training Programme</i>	The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co Galway	Thur 7th Oct 2021	Cllr. Richard Truell Cllr. Seán Conlon Cllr. Colm Carthy

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____