

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Garage Theatre, on Monday 01 November 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr A. Campbell, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. P. Clifford, A/Chief Executive, Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn and Ms. N. Woods, A/Director of Services, Mr. S. MacConghail, Arts Officer, Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner, Ms. S. Long, Staff Officer and Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: Cllrs Keelan, S. Treanor & Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 11 October, 2021

On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11th October 2021, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Email from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, TD, regarding Tearmann Domestic Violence Services.
- Acknowledgement email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding Farmers, farm families & the Agricultural Sector are fully protected during Climate Action & CAP Reforms.
- Resolution from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District regarding the Local Employment Services staff and job clubs and opposes the privatization of this service.
- Resolution from Ballybay-Clones Municipal District regarding BOI, Clones.
- Resolution from South Dublin County Council regarding boycott of all Israeli goods.
- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding all Local Authorities to fly the Palestine Flag on November 29th in solidarity.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding Mica, Pyrite, Pyrrhotite.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, TD regarding the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, TD regarding organ donation.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, TD, regarding school transport for students in Co. Monaghan.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, TD, regarding Tearmann Domestic Violence Services.

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

- Email from Irish Water regarding the second quarterly update on the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

- Email from Senator Joe O'Reilly, TD regarding responses received in relation to Eirgrid & Farmers, farm families & the Agricultural Sector are fully protected during Climate Action & CAP Reforms.
- Email from the Minister for Justice, Social Protection, and Rural & Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, TD, regarding Eirgrid & Farmers, farm families & the Agricultural Sector are fully protected during Climate Action & CAP Reforms.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister of State, Ms. Hildegard Naughton, TD regarding Tearmann Domestic Violence Services.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that the Council support the Ballybay-Clones MD motion supporting the staff of the Local Employment Service and Job Clubs and opposing the privatisation of this service. It was agreed that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD and all the Oireachtas members in the Cavan Monaghan Constituency and the members call on the Government to halt the tendering process for this service until proper engagement with stakeholders can develop a more suitable model.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that the Council support the Ballybay-Clones MD motion to initiate public consultation locally and regionally to determine a new use for the Bank of Ireland building in Clones. The motion asks that dialogue be initiated with the current owners with a view to avoiding long term vacancy and beneficial use for the MD, the county and the central border region.

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded, that this Council support the motion by Kerry Co Co calling on Local Authorities throughout the country and all Government Services to fly the Palestine Flag on November 29th which is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 10 for, 6 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllr B. McKenna proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded, that this Council support the motion by South Dublin Co Co calling the Irish and International Supermarkets operating here to join the Boycott of all Israeli Goods as a response to the current and never-ending Murderous Campaign against the Palestinian People including thousands of innocent Men, Women and Children.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 6 for, 10 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed that that this Council seek itemised data from Irish Water of the Waste Water Treatment Plants under its responsibility in County Monaghan in relation to the quality of discharge of final effluent, and meeting the criteria for minimum standards as required for a Certificate of Authorisations (CoA) issued by the EPA over the past 3 years relating to each WWTP.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed that that this Council acknowledge the Ministers letter of acknowledgement dated October 26th in relation to the increase in opening times of the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan Hospital, and

furthermore awaits his substantive response in addressing the overdue need in enhancing health care provision for County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that this Council acknowledge the Ministers letter of acknowledgement dated October 22nd in relation to the overdue provision of a domestic violence refuge and support of Tearmann Domestic Violence Support Services for County Monaghan, and furthermore awaits his substantive response in addressing this critical humanitarian issue.

It was agreed to include in Cllr Conlon's proposal, Cllr Bennetts additional proposal to ask the Minister why Monaghan does not have a refuge centre whilst other counties do.

Responding to members queries, Ms N Woods, A/Director of Services outlined the rationale for the selection of the Oram plant for upgrade by Irish Water under the STVGP and assured members that Monaghan Co Co continue to work with Irish Water to pursue funding for other plants.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice at Main Street, Newbliss

Mr P Clifford, Deputy Chief Executive, referred to the Section 183 notice which had been circulated in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Main Street, Newbliss, Co Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr H. McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of land at Main Street, Newbliss, Co Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 19 October 2021 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider the Chief Executive's Reports prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the following:

A Hughes, Senior Planner, referred to the Part VIII report which had been circulated in in respect of the demolition of existing partially built duplex units (4 no. units) and construction of 3 no. two bedroom two storey townhouses and 4 no. two bedroom semi detached bungalows at lands to rear of 11 to 17, Main Street, Ballybay, Co Monaghan. He advised that no submissions had been received during the public consultation period.

On the proposal Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed to approve the demolition of existing partially built duplex units (4 no. units) and construction of 3 no. two bedroom two storey townhouses and 4 no. two bedroom semi detached bungalows at lands to rear of 11 to 17, Main Street, Ballybay, Co Monaghan as detailed in the Chief Executive's Reports prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

5. To consider nominations to An Coiste Logainmneacha

Mr C. Flynn, A/Director of Services, advised members that Brian MacDomhnaill had been nominated through the PPN to sit on An Coiste Logainmneacha committee.

He also advised members that Mattiú McUaid has left his role with Muineachán le Gaeilge and Nollaig Mac Giolla Thuille has been nominated to replace him on An Coiste Logainmneacha.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr A. McCooey, it was agreed that Mr. Brian MacDomhnaill & Mr. Nollaig Mac Giolla Thuille be nominated to An Coiste Logainmneacha.

6. To consider the Artist Support Grant 2021 & the Arts Partnership Grant 2021

The members considered the report from the Arts Officer recommending the allocation of grants under the Artist Support Grants Scheme 2021 & the Arts Partnership Grant 2021.

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Artist Support Grants Scheme 2021 & the Arts Partnership Grant 2021:

Artist Support Grant 2021

Emerging Talent Category

	Applicants	Amount Recommended
1	Emily McGardle, Corduff	€400
2	Joanne Lynch, Latton	€400
3	Sharon Maas, Monaghan Town	€400
4	Benedict Lamb O Sullivan Scotstown	€400
5	Eimhín Farrell, Castleblayney	€400
6	Mary Scott, Monaghan Town	€400
7	Breda McGuigan, Monaghan Town	€400

Established Artists Category

	Applicants	Amount Recommended
1	Kevin Murray, Ballybay	€600
2	Paul McCloskey, Carrickmacross	€600
3	Pádraig Ó Baoighill, Monaghan	€600
4	Declan Gorman Monaghan Town	€600
5	Evelyn Conlon, Rockcorry	€600
6	Sarah Wren Wilson, Glaslough	€600
7	Niamh O' Connor, Ballinode	€600
8	Claire McCabe, Rockcorry	€600
9	Dara MacGabhann, Lisnalong	€600
10	Gráinne Hunt, Carrickmacross	€600
11	Denise McCabe, Tullynahinera	€600
12	Shane Ward, Ballybay	€600

Arts Partnership Grant 2021

	Arts Partner Grant Applicants	Amount Awarded
1	The Garage Theatre	€17,000
2	Clones Film Festival	€9,000
3	Ballybay Comm Arts Init	€2,500
4	Féile Patrick Byrne	€3,305
5	Scoil Cheoil na Botha	€4,200
6	Muckno Mania	€2,650

7	Íontas Theatre	€ 20,000
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7. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 19th October, 2021.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 19th October 2021 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 19th October, 2021 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, it was agreed that the date of the Statutory Budget meeting be changed from Tuesday, 16 November 2021 to Monday, 15 November 2021 at 10.00 am. Venue to be confirmed.

8. To receive Management Reports – October 2021

The members noted the Management Report for the month of October 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 P. Connolly, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed that this Council request TII to carry out an audit on the N12 at Knockaconny in view of the number of accidents at this corner.

On the proposal of Cllr H. McElvaney, seconded by Cllr P. Connolly, it was agreed that this Council review the earlier trials (approximately 10 years ago) of CBGM pilot trials in the now Ballybay-Clones area and report back to this Council.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that that this Council write to TII in relation to the N54 Tullybryan Realignment Scheme seeking approval of the requests submitted by the Roads Section and expedite the advancing of this scheme in an immediate timeframe.

9. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Deputy Chief Executive informed the members Mr E. O’Sullivan’s absence is extended until end of November 2021. The members extended their good wishes to Mr O’Sullivan for a speedy recovery.

10. Matters arising out of the minutes of meetings held on 11th October, 2021

No matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meetings held on the 11th October 2021.

11. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services informed the members that the update on this item had

been included in the Management Report.

12. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

The following correspondence was received in relation to the North South Interconnector:

- *Email from Brendan Smith, TD in relation to responses to Dáil Eireann parliamentary questions*
- *Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher in relation to the North South Interconnector*

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Environment, Climate & Communications, Eamonn Ryan TD expressing its disagreement that a 'comprehensive assessment of the undergrounding option' was carried out and ask that he commission such an assessment.

It was also agreed to include Nicola Mallon, Deputy Leader SDLP in the correspondence.

13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on Ulster Canal project.

14. Engagement with DKIT

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Michael Mulvey, President; Mr Paddy Malone, Chair of Governing Body; Ms Irene McCausland, Vice President for Strategic Planning, Communications and Development and Ms Siobhan Molloy, Marketing Department of Dundalk Institute of Technology joined the meeting to update members on DkIT's ambition and vision of becoming a Campus of a Multi-Campus Regional Technological University.

Mr Mulvey commenced the presentation with an overview of DKIT and progress to date highlighting the key milestones achieved.

He outlined DkIT's vision of a campus of a Multi-Campus Regional Technological University:

- Regionally embedded and regionally focused
- Positively contributes to the educational, economic, social and cultural development of a unique and strategically significant region
- Crucial role in addressing national priorities
- That is accessible, dynamic and student-centred
- Where teaching and learning is research informed and employer relevant

The presentation concluded by highlighting DkIT's 'Call to Action' –

- Seeking open and public show of support for DkIT TU ambition
- Seeking support at regional level and endorsement by local councils with a view to showing regional unity and intent
- Seeking support at a national and government level in terms of need to ensure DkIT TU ambitions are achieved.

Mr P Clifford, D/Chief Executive, welcomed Mr Mulvey and his team to Monaghan and thanked them for their presentation. He stated that Monaghan has a strong affiliation with DkIT. DkIT forms a key part of the eco-structure for business in the region.

Mr Mulvey and his team responded to members queries.

On the proposal of Cllr A. McCooey, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council write to the chairman of the Higher Education Authority, Mr. Michael Horgan and Minister of Higher Education Simon Harris TD, to express our support for the transition of DkIT to become a Technological University and request it be expedited in so far as possible.

Graduate retention in our county and region is of paramount importance as is our desire for the county and region to be an attractive place for young people to live, study

15. Questions

Cllr S. Coyle will ask:

1. Can Monaghan County Council give an update on proposed works to address the serious concerns expressed for safety at Scotch Corner (R184-2/LS07410/LS07311), Ballybay, as visibility is poor on all sides with huge volumes of traffic passing through this junction on a daily basis, HGVs etc. The safety concerns were acknowledged in the motion adopted by Monaghan County Council with Scotch Corner the dividing line of Monaghan M.D. and Ballybay-Clones M.D.?

Reply: Monaghan MD is awaiting delivery of gateway signage and road signs to address the issue at this location. Following installation of the signs, buff anti-skid surfacing will be applied on the R184 at the approach to the junctions from Clontibret & Ballybay directions as agreed with Ballybay Clones MD.

2. Will Monaghan County Council give a full briefing/update on the works to be carried out on the collapsed culvert/bridge on the LP03002, Derrygooney, Latton-Bawn. The road has now been closed for a number of weeks which is causing huge traffic disruption, inconvenience to local farmers/landowners, H.G.V.s travelling to local food processing facilities from farm yards the adjacent, Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park, St. Patricks Church, Bawn, as large volumes of traffic, travel the LP03002, Hut Cross to Bawn on a daily basis. What is the estimated reopening date, for the road to traffic at this stage?

Reply: Following the emergency closure of the bridge on the grounds of public safety, the contract to repair the damaged masonry arch, including rebuilding the upstream/downstream spandrel and parapet walls, has been awarded. The proposed works fall outside of the Inland Fisheries Instream permitted works period of July to September. As a result, Monaghan CC has applied to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment seeking a Derogation Licence under the Local Authorities (Works) Act 1949 to undertake the works. Subject to the granting of the Derogation Licence, it is hoped that the works will commence in November. The works are programmed to last three to four weeks.

3. Where a Taken in Charge Estate roadway or a Monaghan County Council constructed Housing Estate roadway falls into a very poor state of repair, potholed etc, can Monaghan County Council Hosing Section give assistance to the Municipal District to carry out full and essential Restoration Programme Works as these are not public roadways?

Reply: When a roadway in a housing estate is Taken in Charge it becomes a public roadway and is assigned a road number and is added to the Roads Schedule to allow

allocation of Roads funding if appropriate. The responsibility for maintenance of public roads including housing estate roads that have been Taken in Charge is the responsibility of the Municipal Districts.

4. As we prepare for another winter of frost, rain & snow, many of our roads, local and regional are in a poor state of repair, with the winter weather's going to have a massive impact, leaving many of them practically, impassable by spring 2022. Can Monaghan County Council give an estimate of the Kilometres of local and regional roads per Municipal District (Monaghan, Ballybay-Clones, Carrickacross-Castleblayney) in need of complete Road Restoration Programme Works and the total cost of these works?

Municipal District	KM roads in PSCI 1-4 category*	as a % of all roads	Estimated cost of full restoration €**
Ballybay/Clones	102km	13.7%	€11.9 million
CMX/Castleblayney	167km	24%	€ 20.2 million
Monaghan	149km	16%	€18.1 million
Total	418km	53.7%	€50.2 million

*Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI).

PSCI rating system is a pavement inspection methodology used to evaluate the condition of Regional and Local Roads in Ireland. The manual describes types of defects for Irish roads and provides a simple 1 to 10 scale based on pavement defects to visually rate pavement surface condition.

N.B. Rating is between the range of 1 (worse) – 10 (best)

**** approximate measurements and an averaged tendered rate works used in calculations.**

Cllr C. Carthy will ask:

5. Can the Housing Section give a breakdown of units rented under both the HAP & RAS schemes in Co. Monaghan (by Municipal District)?

Reply: There are currently a total of 567 active HAP supported tenancies in County Monaghan, broken down into the following Municipal Districts

Monaghan	275
Ballybay Clones	103
Carrickmacross Castleblayney	157
Remainder – Inter authority movement (other LA's)	32

There are currently 162 active RAS supported tenancies in County Monaghan – breakdown by MD below.

Monaghan	95
Ballybay Clones	16
Carrickmacross Castleblayney	51

6. Has Monaghan County Council applied for additional funding from Government to provide more Electric Vehicle charging stations in public spaces?

Reply: Monaghan Co Council has not applied for additional funding from the Government to provide more Electric Vehicle charging points. Monaghan Co Council is however participating in the FASTER Project. The FASTER Project has been awarded €6.40m to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels by encouraging increased use EV's across the Border Region of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland. It will carry out the design, installation and operation of 73 rapid charging points at easily accessible areas of defined need, across all three regions. It is anticipated that the provision of these new charging points will encourage more citizens to opt for a 'greener', more sustainable form of travel. 2 No 50kW rapid chargers will be installed on County Monaghan as part of the FASTER Project.

Cllr R. Truell will ask:

7. I am requesting that Monaghan County Council provide an update on the progression of the establishment of the Digital Hub in Newbliss?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received Part 8 planning permission for the regeneration of the former Newbliss Courthouse as a remote working and enterprise hub in February 2021. In April 2021, funding of €1,396,132 inc VAT was approved through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. Following an updated application by the Council additional funding has been confirmed in October 2021 bringing the total budget for the project to €1,852,258 inc VAT. This budget is inclusive of all design team fees, construction and fit-out costs, contingencies and all associated ancillary costs.

A Design Team, led by Hall Black Douglas Architects, has been appointed to oversee the detailed design, tendering and construction stages and are currently progressing the detailed design, liaising with our project partners Enterprising Monaghan who are providing advice in relation the typical operation and management requirements of these types of facilities. It is intended to go to construction in April 2022 with substantial completion scheduled for August 2023.

8. I am requesting that the Housing Department of Monaghan County Council identify the number of derelict and vacant dwelling units within Newbliss village with the future intention of possible purchase and refurbishment for allocation to those on the housing list for the area.

Reply: Monaghan County Council Housing Section along with the Ballybay Clones Municipal District are currently involved in identifying privately-owned vacant and derelict properties in Newbliss and are engaging with property owners to encourage them to bring their vacant properties back into use. Housing Section has identified 7 vacant/derelict privately-owned properties within the village and has contacted property owners to determine their plans for these properties. Discussions are ongoing and further action will be taken towards resolving the issue of privately-

owned derelict and vacant properties in Newbliss.

In general, good progress is being made towards bringing privately-owned vacant homes into productive use and Monaghan County Council is committed to identifying privately-owned vacant and derelict properties in our towns and villages with the aim of bringing further properties into use and encouraging owners to address their vacant and derelict properties.

Cllr S. Conlon will ask:

- 9.** Following the completion of road safety improvement works at the Margaret Skinnider roundabout, has appropriate bi-lingual name plate signage been ordered to replace that previously located on the roundabout?

Reply: On completion of the landscaping and planting at the roundabout, a custom made bilingual sign will be installed following consultation with Monaghan MD Members.

- 10.** With the recent completion of works and handover by the contractor of the Advanced Technology Unit at Knockaconny on the Armagh road:

- (a) What is the current level of interest among potential clients to occupy the building, and have any lease agreements been signed?
- (b) With three Electric Vehicle Charging Points on site, and with a view to encouraging the use of electric vehicles, will a promotional campaign commence to attract users from the adjoining business and educational campuses of its availability?
- (c) For the purpose of creating additional business and commercial development opportunities at lands between the Advanced Technology Unit and Combilift roundabout, has any progress occurred in constructing a new link road (as indicated in the County Development Plan) between these two strategic sites?

Reply: The queries in (a) and (b) will be referred to IDA Ireland, who developed the new Unit and are presumably seeking clients for it. In relation to (c), Monaghan County Council is presently preparing a Strategic Assessment Report on the proposed roadway with the aim of attracting funding for its design and construction.

- 16.** Regarding the County Development Plan, and in relation to zoned residential lands throughout the County that have had housing developments completed since 2019 or currently in progress, has the process of re-designating lands from 'Proposed Residential A / B' to 'Existing Residential' occurred that will create new sites to facilitate additional housing projects?

Reply: The Monaghan County Development Plan has allocated more than sufficient quantum of lands to facilitate the projected population growth and housing requirements over the period of the development plan from 2019 to 2025 in line with government guidelines and the core strategy. However, the Housing Needs and Assessment Report, due to be completed in early 2022, will review the housing need within the county across all tenures, providing a robust evidence-based rationale to support decisions on housing provision within the plan.

- 13.** Regarding the Short Rotation Coppicing Willow planted at the Clontibret and Knockatallon ANSWER project sites (Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling):

- (a) How many acres were planted in 2012 and how many acres of the willow plantation have been harvested to date?
- (b) What has been the amount of funding generated by the selling of the harvested willow to wood chip processors?
- (c) What is the duration of the lease with the land owners and the cost of the associated fees at the plantation sites, and what agency is responsible for payment of the fees?
- (d) Is there a timescale scheduled for the upgrade works at the Waste Water Treatment Plant at Clontibret that will address compliance issues with current discharge standards?

Reply: to follow from Irish Water

Cllr N. Keelan will ask:

17. What is the up to date position in relation to resolving the outstanding environmental and other issues & progressing the taking in charge by Monaghan County Council of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff?

Reply: The Planning Authority is working in conjunction with the Municipal District to resolve outstanding problems relating to the operation of the wastewater treatment system serving this development. A report has been prepared identifying faults with the plant and has recommended remedial measures.

15. In relation to the recently launched (Housing for All) government policy document, does this policy include an affordable housing scheme for County Monaghan?

Reply: Housing for All includes a variety of affordable housing schemes which were outlined to all members at the September council meeting and for which a summary of the same document was issued.

The two schemes outlined in the document were:

- **A new *First Home* affordable purchase shared-equity scheme. This scheme, which will be delivered via a partnership between the State and participating banks, is aimed at first-time buyers needing support to purchase new-build homes in private developments. This is a nationwide scheme.**
- **The second scheme is the new Local Authority led Affordable Purchase scheme. As previously outlined in presentations, qualification is subject to various criteria including whether Monaghan is suffering acute affordability constraints. This has to be demonstrated through a Housing Needs Demand Assessment which is currently being progressed through the Planning Section. It is of concern that from our interim assessments this may not be a scheme that Monaghan County qualify for.**

County Monaghan is an affordable place to live. Approximately 100 second-hand properties are currently advertised for private sale in County Monaghan at the following prices:

- **31 properties at less than €175,000**
- **18 properties between €175,000 and €200,000**
- **12 properties between €200,000 and €225,000**
- **11 properties between €225,000 and €250,000**
- **14 properties between €250,000 and €300,000**
- **14 properties at more than €300,000**

16. In relation to the ongoing scourge of illegal dumping & littering across our county and the recent report published by the Irish business against litter (IBAL) how does Co Monaghan fair in this report?

Reply: Monaghan: 20th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A creditable improvement for Monaghan, regaining its Clean status from 2019. The three approach roads to Monaghan all warranted the top litter grade, creating a positive first impression of the town. Other top-ranking sites included Church Square and Hill Street, both of which presented very well. The Diamond Centre has been highlighted in many previous IBAL surveys and there was no improvement this time around – it wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping, despite the best efforts of Monaghan Tidy Towns' humorous anti-litter notices.

N54 Castleblayney Approach Road: Grade A. A very good first impression of the town with road surface, markings, signage in good condition. Shrubbery was in good order.

Bring Centre at Tesco: Grade B. The level of litter / broken glass at this facility was such that it was verging on Grade C status. Items had been stuffed between and behind the units, with cardboard boxes simply abandoned on the ground.

Church Square: Grade A. This town centre environment presented very well with attractive 'olde' style street lamps, tree planting, street bins, bollards, seating etc. in very good condition. Colourful flower boxes and picnic tables looked well. The main 'greening' of this area was an artificial surface, almost like an astroturf pitch, an interesting choice in an otherwise historic environment.

GAA / Athletics Grounds: Grade A. A large expanse of green space and associated parking – all was in good order with regard to litter. The area appeared to be well maintained.

R186 Tydavnet Approach: Grade A. An excellent site in terms of litter and general presentation. Large expanse of grass area was in good order.

R162 Ballybay Approach Road: Grade A. There were no litter issues along this road. Area 'Managed for Wildlife' was suitably maintained and there was a very visual dog fouling notice.

Hill Street: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this town centre street. Many of the old buildings presented very well, some with colourful flower boxes to the front.

The Diamond Centre: Grade D. A persistently poor site, there was no improvement noted at The Diamond Centre. It wasn't just casually littered but clothing items had been discarded in the car park and there was dumping behind the wooden at the storage area beside the cinema – very close to the plentiful Monaghan Tidy Towns 'litter awareness' posters which are being flagrantly ignored. Piles and piles of cigarette butts had accumulated on the ground and broken glass was a health hazard.

Miscellaneous Site at car servicing area on grass at Applegreen Petrol Station: Grade A. hugely improved site compared to IBAL 2020 visit – this time around it was

created a tidy impression with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Bring Centre in Long Stay Car Park: Grade B. (Broad Road) A somewhat improved site compared to IBAL 2020 visit. Recycle bins were freshly presented and the area to the front was generally quite clean. The area to the rear of the bottle / can units brought down the litter grade.

17. In order to give some certainty and allow homeowners, local residents, farming and the business community plan ahead, when is it hoped to have a detailed design for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney & Clontibret to the border road scheme?

Reply: Both projects are currently at Phase 3 of the TII's design process (Design & Environmental Evaluation).

Surveys and investigations to inform the design of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme are ongoing and are nearing completion. Once all required information has been received, Jacobs will prepare initial design drawings for discussion with affected landowners. Feedback will then be considered, and amendments may be made, before finalising the design and land take requirements. It is anticipated that by Q4 2022 the Phase 3 design for the scheme will be complete and the project will be in a position to seek approval to progress to the next stage of the process (Phase 4; Statutory Approvals).

While surveys are progressing on the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme, the award of the N2 Clontibret to Border Ground Investigation Works contract has been delayed pending clarification of the 2022 funding allocation. This will delay the completion of the Phase 3 design process – an updated programme will be developed once the 2022 allocation for the scheme is known.

18. Given that the sale of petrol and diesel cars are to be banned by government from 2030 what plans have Monaghan County Council in conjunction with other stakeholders including government to roll out public fast charging points across the county, how many charging points are currently available & where are they located?

Reply: A summary of the EV Charging Points in County Monaghan is detailed in the table below

	Town	Location	# of Chargers	Charger Size/Type	Provider	Tariff	Eastings	Northing	Point ID
1	Clones	Town Centre Car Park	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	€0.268/kWhr	250156	325976	C8AAb
2	Monaghan	Rooskey Vale	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	€0.268/kWhr	267551	333610	C8NPC
3	Monaghan	Circle K/ Topaz, Emyvale Rd	3	1 x 43kW AC43	E-Cars	€0.305/kWhr	267839	335561	C5D6Z
				1 x 50kW CHADEMO		€0.305/kWhr			
				1 x 50kW Combo CCS		€0.305/kWhr			
4	Cblayney	Off Thomas Street	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	€0.268/kWhr	282815	319605	C825F
5	CMX	Market Street	3	1 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	€0.268/kWhr	284067	303946	C74KJ
				1 x 50kW CHADEMO	E-Cars	€0.305/kWhr			
				1 x 50kW Combo CCS	E-Cars	€0.305/kWhr			
6	CMX	Louis Convent, Castle Street	2	2 x 22kW Type 2	E-Cars	€0.268/kWhr	284135	303488	C61EN

16. Notices of Motion

Cllr R. Truell proposed, Cllr Bennett seconded:

1. I am requesting that Monaghan County Council investigate the potential for the establishment of defined walking trails/ cycle trails in Dartrey Forest. This is to include the investigation of possible funding streams, the compilation of funding applications and meeting and negotiation with Coillte and the parkland owners to come to an agreement for an overall masterplan for the forest. This parkland which currently operates as a commercial forest, offers a fantastic opportunity to provide a major tourist attraction for the county with not only offering ample space for walking and cycle trails but there is also a long history associated with the buildings and monuments which would also attract tourists to the area.

It was agreed also to include Castleshane Forest park in the proposal.

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

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr S Coyle seconded:

2. That this Council discusses the issuing of a notice of payment letter (to be circulated prior to meeting) to homeowners seeking to sell their properties that were previously classified as Unfinished Housing Developments whereby the contractor vacated the site before completion of works, and the seller is requested to pay outstanding development charges in compensation to the Council....€4,602.09 in a recent case involving a sale at Wylies Hill Ballybay.

Cllr Conlon introduced the motion by referencing a letter issued by the Planning Authority to a solicitor acting for a property owner in Wylies Hill, Ballybay.

Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner, informed the Members that were legacy issues relating to this development, which first received planning permission in 2001, over 20 years ago. He stated that the notice referred to in Cllr Conlon's motion was not a demand for payment, but that it was a letter issued in response to a Solicitor's query relating to development contributions. Mr Hughes advised that during the economic collapse in the economy, the developer had left the estate in poor condition and that the LA had intervened and resolved issues relating to roads, footpaths and water services. He advised that approximately one third of levies had not been paid by the developer. He stated that in 2012, sales in the estate commenced again and that on foot of this, Solicitors had enquired about the status of development contributions. He stated that the Planning Authority was required to provide comprehensive responses and as a consequence had advised solicitors that contributions were outstanding. Mr Hughes stated that MCC spent 3 years pursuing the developer for contributions and but ultimately this was unsuccessful, and that these contributions had been written off in 2015. Mr Hughes advised that since about 2016 the Planning Authority had corresponded with solicitors in respect of 7 properties and had issued them all with similar correspondence as that which was the subject of the motion. In all these cases the sales of the properties had completed without further contributions having been paid. In conclusion, Mr Hughes stated that the outstanding contributions were not being pursued.

18. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

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

- Castleblayney Faughs Minor Team and Management on winning Division 1 Minor Championship

19. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following conferences/training events by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
Celtic Conferences	Mental Health & Wellbeing	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	3 rd - 5 th Dec 2021	
AILG	Elected Members Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	Clayton Hotel Galway, Monivea Road, Ballybrit, Galway, H91 D526	6 th Nov 2021	
AILG	Elected Members Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	The Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny	10 th Nov 2021	Cllr D. Maxwell Cllr S. Gilliland Cllr. R. Truell Cllr. B. McKenna Cllr. S. Coyle

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____