

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 04 April 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr A. Campbell, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. J. Murray, A/Chief Executive, Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn and Ms. N. Woods, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator & Ms L. Brannigan, Senior Staff Officer.

Apologies: Mr P Clifford

On the outset, the Cathaoirleach acknowledged and thanked Brendan Buckley and Dermot Brannigan on all their work over the past 24 hours in providing emergency for 40 Ukrainians who arrived in Monaghan on Sunday morning.

J. Murray, Deputy Chief Executive advised members that the Ukrainians are in emergency accommodation in the Civil Defence office at present and that Monaghan County Council are awaiting further instructions from IPAS. Mr Murray will keep members updated as developments happen.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 07 March 2022

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 07th March 2022, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence.

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

- Letter from the office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability.
- Letter from the Office of the Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., regarding anti-bullying.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Michael Martin, T.D., regarding fuel prices.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding patient charges.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from the Office of Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D., regarding representations made to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., in relation to road restoration works.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Planning and Local Government, Mr. Peter Burke, T.D., acknowledging that he had received correspondence regarding the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 which had been forwarded by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien T.D..

2.1 The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had

issued, was also circulated:

- Email from the Minister for Social Protection and Rural & Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys acknowledging regarding road restoration works.
- Letter from the Coordinator of Ballybay-Clones MD, Mr. Kevin McNally, regarding Ukrainian refugees.
- Letter from the Coordinator of Ballybay-Clones MD, Mr. Kevin McNally, regarding the war in Ukraine.
- Resolution from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding Planning Policy Requirements and County Development Plans.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr R Aughey, it was agreed that this Council acknowledge the correspondence from the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD and the new initiatives at Monaghan General Hospital. Monaghan County Council express serious disappointment that the RCSI Hospital Group have no plans to extend the operating times of the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan General Hospital and demand of the Minister, Government and RCSI Hospital Group that the MIU at Monaghan General Hospital be extended to 24 hour, 365 days a year.

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr R Aughey, it was agreed to support the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District motion demanding the Russian Government to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukraine and to end the deaths and suffering of innocent people. The generosity of the Irish people, Irish Government and agencies working with the Ukrainian people are to be commended, while all associates of the Russian invaders are to be condemned.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donoghue TD and Minister for Transport, Eamonn Ryan TD seeking Government to stall the scheduled increase in carbon tax set to occur in May.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD and the Chief Executive of the HSE, Paul Reid for the purpose of imploring on them to utilise Monaghan General Hospital through extending operational hours at the Minor Injuries Unit and increasing bed capacity in an effort at reducing the trolley crisis within this region that saw record breaking numbers during March.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Michael McGrath TD, requesting that this Council are kept informed of any proposed reforms/penalties to be introduced under the Ethics in Public Office Act.

3. To consider Section 183 notice relating to the Disposal of Land at Onomy to St. McCartan's Trust

C. Flynn, Director of Services, referred to the Section 183 notice dated 07th March 2022 which had been circulated in relation to the Disposal of Land at Onomy to St. Macartan's Trust.

On the proposal of Cllr A McCooey, seconded by Cllr A Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve the Disposal of Land at Onomy to St. Macartan's Trust in accordance with the terms of notice dated 07 March 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider Section 183 notice relating to the Sale of Land at Latlorcan for Creche Development

C. Flynn, Director of Services, referred to the Section 183 notice dated 09th March which had been circulated in relation to the Sale of Land at Latlorcan for Creche Development.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr R Aughey, it was agreed that the Council approves the Sale of Land at Latlorcan for Creche Development in accordance with the terms of notice dated 09 March 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

In accordance with the Ethics Framework, Cllr Maxwell declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the meeting room whilst the matter was being dealt with.

5. To receive a presentation on Lough Muckno

Ms Bernie White, LAWPRO; Ms Martina Smith, Ms Donna McEvoy and Mr Peadar McGuinness were welcomed to the meeting to provide an update on Lough Muckno water quality.

Ms Nuala Woods, Director of Services, introduced the presentation and advised members that the Co Council had made a Department submission to have Lough Muckno included as a Catchment Project Area for Action in the new national River Basin Management Plan which will run from 2022 until 2027, with the project to be led by the Council itself and supported by LAWPRO.

Ms White, LAWPRO, stated that the Water Framework Directive tried to involve all users of water and tried to give communities a voice in the protection of their waterways. She stated that 47% of Irish water bodies were unsatisfactory in terms of quality. Agriculture was the most significant pressure, impacting over 44% of water bodies in Co Monaghan.

Ms Donna McEvoy, Environment Section, outlined Muckno's Road to Recovery project and the reasons why Monaghan Co Co chose Lough Muckno as a special project. Ms McEvoy stated that phosphorous was the significant issue contributing to the 'bad' water quality designation assigned to Muckno by the EPA.

Mr Peadar McGuinness provided an update on the Castleblayney Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade project.

Ms Woods, Ms White, Ms McEvoy, Ms Smith and Mr McGuinness responded to members queries. The Cathaoirleach thanked all of the Ms Woods and her team and LAWPRO for their comprehensive presentations.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr B McKenna, it was agreed that this Council write to Minister for Local Government Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Finance Paschal

Donoghue TD, and Irish Water seeking increased resource allocation to provide for appropriate infrastructural upgrades that will assist the work of the Local Authority Waters Programme in reversing the continuing decline of water quality in County Monaghan.

6. To consider Proposed Variations to the Monaghan County Development Plan

The members noted the reports which had been circulated in relation to the proposed variations No 3 & 4 of the Monaghan County Development Plan.

Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner, referred to the proposed Variations and Chief Executive's reports circulated which relate to Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan and Roosky Lands Master Plan. Mr Hughes advised that that the public consultation process has been completed and a significant number of submissions were received and have been considered in the reports.

Mr. Hughes confirmed that a meeting had taken place with the members of Monaghan MD who broadly supported the proposal. Cllr Aughey confirmed that the MD Members were supportive of the variations and had agreed to meet with one objector.

On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed to adopt proposed Variation No 3 Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan and proposed Variation No 4 Rooskey Lands Master Plan.

7. To consider nominations to the Peace Partnership Board

Ms P Monahan, Director of Services, outlined the requirement of the funders, SEUPB, that a PEACE Plus Partnership Board be established to deliver the Local PEACE Plus Action Plan. Ms. Monahan outlined the four membership pillars that are recommended for inclusion in each Peace Plus Partnership and advised that the LCDC is now seeking the nomination of 4 elected members to sit as Peace Partnership Board Members on Pillar 1.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, **Cllr A Campbell** and **Cllr S Treanor** were nominated to the Peace Plus Partnership board.

On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, **Cllr A McCooey** was nominated to the Peace Plus Partnership board.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, **Cllr C Bennett** was nominated to the Peace Plus Partnership board.

8. To consider the Arts Partnership Grant 2022

The members considered the report from the Arts Officer recommending the allocation of grants under the Arts Partnership Grant 2022. The Arts Officer responded to members queries.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Arts Partnership Grant 2021:

	Arts Partnership Grant Applicants	Amount Awarded
1	Castleblayney Drama Festival	€4,000
2	The Garage Theatre	€ 19,000
3	Ballybay Arts Initiative	€ 4,000
4	Íontas Theatre	€ 22,000
5	Féile Patrick Byrne	€ 3,840
6	Muckno Mania	€ 3,000
7	Clones Film Festival	€10,000
	Total	€ 65,840

9. To approve Monaghan County Council's Draft Annual Report for 2021

The members considered the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2021 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. C. Flynn, A/Director of Corporate outlined the main highlights of the report undertaken during a difficult year due to restrictions placed on the Council as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

A number of members commended staff on the volume of work undertaken during the year and the significant progress being made in the delivery of services across all sections of the organisation.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy it was agreed to adopt the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2021 as presented.

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr A McCooey, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Government to implement rates based on Audited Accounts from each business and disband the current system based on sq footage.

10. To note the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Programme of Work 2022-2023

The NWRA programme of work for 2022-2023 was noted by members.

11. To consider recommendations from the Corporate Policy Group

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15th March 2022 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle seconded by Cllr R Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15th March 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

12. To receive Management Report – March 2022

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

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon it was agreed that this Council

requests the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD and the Government to reintroduce legislation to extend the duration of planning permission grants for one-off housing, business development and agricultural related developments as per conditions rescinded in September 2021 in light of the Covid pandemic of the past two years, the shortage of construction labour and the current increase in the cost of construction materials.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan , seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council forward to Minister Ryan TD and to our Oireachtas members for this constituency, the report which outlines the crisis we have in county Monaghan in terms of our road network and the need for a substantial injection of funding to bring our road network up to an acceptable standard and that we await a response on this very important issue.

On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr A McCooey, it was agreed that this Council write to Irish Water requesting them to inform members of Monaghan County Council in relation to how many km off asbestos water pipes we have in County Monaghan. Also, to provide details on their plans and timeline for completion of the full removal of any remaining asbestos pipes.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that the Roads Section of Monaghan County Council provide a report for the May meeting regarding the decline in road surfaces that were undertaken last summer.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council set to planning a civic reception to welcome the Nelson Doyle Dancers from our twinned region of Miramichi New Brunswick to Co Monaghan where they will be staying for three nights August 6th - 9th while touring Ireland, and that we formally invite the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland Nancy Smyth to join in our welcome celebrations.

It was agreed that this proposal be forwarded to the Twinning Committee for consideration.

13. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Deputy Chief Executive informed members that there were no matters for consideration under this item.

14. Matters arising out of the minutes of meetings held on 07th March 2022

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 07th March 2022.

Cllr D Maxwell requested that his attendance be noted at previous Council Meeting of 07 March 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed to re-write to Minister Heather Humphreys TD requesting of the Minister an opportunity for a delegation to meet her and relevant officials to discuss issues of significant importance affecting our constituents including the North South Interconnector and the Monaghan Hospital Minor Injuries Unit.

15. To receive report from Members attending Conferences/Training events

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. Coyle, Carthy, Connolly, Conlon and McKenna in relation to their attendance at the following conference/training events:

- AILG – Personal Safety, Risk and Social Media – Co. Cork
- AILG – Annual Training Conference – Co. Donegal
- AILG – Elected Members Personal Safety – Co. Westmeath

16. Update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

The following correspondence was received in relation to the N2 National Primary Road Schemes:

- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Michael Martin, T.D., acknowledging that he had received the correspondence regarding National Road Funding – N2 Clontibret to the Border, Co. Monaghan.

17. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

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

- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding the health and safety issues expressed in relation to Eirgrid and funding for the roadworks programme.
- Letter from Eirgrid regarding the North South Interconnector Development.
- Email from Minister for Social Protection & Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D. regarding the health and safety issues expressed in relation to Eirgrid.
- Letter from Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D. regarding North South Interconnector response received.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that this Council, in thanking Mr Foley for the responses to the elected members questions, we write to the Eirgrid CEO seeking updated information in relation to how many landowners have agreed to the terms of agreement for access to lands etc

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr S Coyle it was agreed that this Council write to Minister Heather Humphreys TD and to the Oireachtas members for this constituency advising them of Eirgrid's and it's agents intention to force their way onto to lands where no agreement exists with the land owners. What action, if any, will your office take to ensure that confrontation and conflict is avoided with the local community including the farming community.

18. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

19. Questions

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. Are there plans to formulate a forum of stakeholders (MCC, CMETB, Dept of Social Protection, MID, SVP, HSE etc) to help deal with the Ukraine Refugees that are coming to Co. Monaghan? If so, will charitable groups, like foodbanks, be included?

Reply: A Community Response Committee has been established to enable key statutory and community agencies to discuss the supports that they are providing and to identify any gaps or duplication in service delivery. It is envisaged that the role of the committee could change when further guidance is provided by central government. The Red Cross and SVP are members of the committee. Agencies that support the foodbanks in the county such as Teach na nDaoine and Monaghan Integrated Development are also members of the committee.

2. What measures will be implemented by our new Vacant Homes officer to try and bring unused, vacant and derelict properties back into use in the short term?

Reply: Monaghan County Council's Vacant Homes Officer continues to make progress in determining vacant and derelict properties throughout the county. This is a continuous process of gathering information through site visits, contact with residents and property owners and notifications received through the www.vacanthomes.ie website where vacant properties can be reported by members of the public. Once a property has been identified, ownership of the vacant/derelict properties, which in most cases are not registered with the Property Registration Authority, is ascertained through various means.

Through engagement and investigation Monaghan County Council has discovered that some properties initially thought to be derelict and vacant have in fact people living in them which results in further investigation and engagement with property owners with regard to improving the appearance of their buildings or initiating Private Rental Inspections where applicable to make sure that the properties are compliant with the required standards for rental accommodation.

Monaghan County Council can buy and renew some vacant and derelict properties subject to demand and funding approval and can consider the purchase, demolition and rebuilding of older derelict properties in areas where there is a social housing need. It is important to note that Monaghan County Council cannot purchase vacant and derelict properties in areas where there is no social housing need or properties that are not suitable for use as social housing however by engaging with property owners to determine what their plans are for their vacant property they are encouraged to look at ways to improve the appearance of their property or renovate for accommodation or sell on the private market. Housing Section is continuing with the process of tackling vacant and derelict properties and seeking Department funding where feasible to initiate further Renewal Schemes which will reduce the vacancy rate and dereliction in our towns and villages whilst also developing, supporting and enhancing the social and economic development of these locations for the benefit of all and in particular for the benefit of the people that live in them.

According to the latest report on vacancy and dereliction, published by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, County Monaghan has one of the lowest residential vacancy rates in the region at 6.9% which is down 35.3% compared to 2015. At present Monaghan County Council is focusing on addressing the high residential vacancy rates in County Monaghan, in particular Ballybay (9.3%) and Clones (5.9%) and is also working on tackling residential vacancy in other towns in County Monaghan.

3. What procedures are being looked at to improve the quality and durability of our road patching to ensure greater longevity?

Reply: CBY/CMX MD are trialling a Hotbox Bitmac pothole repair system to try and improve the quality and durability of the repairs. However, it must be noted that pothole repair is only a temporary measure to help prolong the life of the road until a permanent overlay is completed.

4. When is it expected that the locations of Publicly Accessible AED's (Automated External Defibrillators), already compiled by MCC, will be entered onto Google Maps?

Reply: We do not currently have a date identified. It is very important that any information we put on Google is accurate and kept up to date. We are currently examining the means by which we could keep the information up to date.

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

5. Regarding projects which have been funded under the Rural Regeneration and Development fund which was a government commitment of €1 billion to be invested in rural Ireland over the period 2019 to 2027. With significant funding coming to County Monaghan through this fund under both Category 1 and also Category 2.

(a) What projects has Monaghan County Council received funding for since this funding stream was introduced?

(b) What is the break down between Category 1 and Category 2 fundings?

(c) How much was received for each project?

(d) What is the current status of each project?

(e) How much has Monaghan County Council drawn down on each of these projects to date?

Reply: Please find details of allocations, expenditure and drawdowns in relation to Rural Regeneration and Development Fund projects in Co. Monaghan as at 31 March 2022.

Project Name	RRDF Ref	RRDF Category	Project Status	RRDF Grant Funding	Expenditure to 31 Mar 2022	RRDF Grant Drawdown to Date
Clones Regeneration	RF0074	Cat 2 (80%)	In Progress	€377,250	€407,275.13	€137,915.90
Ballybay RRDF	RF0075	Cat 2 (80%)	In Progress	€410,400	€101,267.66	€70,036.89
Carrickmacross Regeneration	RF0072	Cat 2 (80%)	In Progress	€632,000	€180,284.70	€163,780.05
Castleblayney Enterprise Centre	RF0026	Cat 1 (80%)	Construction	€2,138,650	€1,194,889.69	€875,614.62
Cby Market Square Regeneration Phase I (Gate Lodge 2 Library)	RF0102	Cat 1 (75%)	Construction	€2,611,150	€730,581	€557,631
Cby Market Square Regeneration Phase II (Market House & Market Square)	RF0126	Cat 2 (75%)	Design & Planning	€295,000	€61,013	€45,760
Newbliss Enterprise and Digital Hub	RF0160	Cat 1 (90%)	Pre-Tender Stage	€1,696,785	€0	€0
Carrickmacross C.Tek	RF0159	Cat 1 (90%)	Tender Stage	€3,490,946	€3,207	€0
Carrickmacross Workhouse		Cat 2 (80%)	Verification	€288,608	€0	€0
Lough Egish Food Park Extension		Cat 2 (80%)	Verification	€585,810	€0	€0

6. With significant funding coming to Monaghan County Council under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme since 2016 and each year since and with The Town and Village Scheme being one of a series of national and local support measures designed to rejuvenate small rural towns and villages throughout Ireland, under the Department of Rural & Community Development's Rural Development Investment Programme.

- What is the breakdown of the successful projects?
- How much was approved for each of these projects?
- Has all the projects being completed and funding all drawn down?
- What projects are in the pipeline for this funding?

Reply: Since the scheme was launched in 2016 Monaghan County Council was allocated a total of €4,370,536 for a total of 61 projects throughout the county. The majority of the projects progressed, and many are completed. A full breakdown of successful projects and grant amounts is shown below: (a), (b) & (c):

Town & Village 2016

T&V project location	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Ballybay	€42,250.00	Completed
Carrickmacross	€67,750.00	Completed
Castleblayney	€38,750.00	Completed
Glaslough	€26,500.00	Completed
Inniskeen	€20,250.00	Completed
Monaghan	€100,000.00	Completed
Rockcorry	€42,250.00	Completed
Scotstown	€42,250.00	Completed
Cumulative Total	€380,000.00	

Town & Village 2017

T&V project location	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Ballybay	€40,000.00	Completed
Carrickmacross	€40,000.00	Completed
Castleblayney	€40,000.00	Completed
Clones	€100,000.00	Completed
Doohamlet	€100,000.00	Completed
Emyvale	€20,000.00	Completed
Knockatallon	€100,000.00	Completed
Monaghan	€100,000.00	Not proceeding
Newbliss	€20,000.00	Completed
Oram	€20,000.00	Completed
Cumulative Total	€580,000.00	

Town and Village 2018

T&V project location	Project	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Ballybay	<u>Public Realm</u> Complete access roads, services, footpaths to create a town centre car park at Main Street.	€100,000.00	Completed

Carrickmacross	<u>Market House & Workhouse</u> Develop phase II of Market House - 3 artisan studio wings. Improve visitor experience at CMX Workhouse. Provide Coach parking bays.	€200,000.00	Completed
Castleblayney	<u>Public Realm of Market Square</u> providing a setting for the 'Big Tom' statue. Coach parking bays at the Commons car park.	€100,000.00	Completed
Clones	Serviced Industrial Site	€100,000.00	Completed
Emyvale	Upgrade Playground to accommodate different age groups of children & adults and also children with disabilities	€75,000.00	Completed
Glaslough	Village enhancements	€80,000.00	In progress - completion date May 2022
Inniskeen	<u>Kavanagh Trail</u> Develop branding and logo for Kavanagh trail. Develop Kavanagh trail & Signage.	€75,000.00	Completed
Latton	<u>Public Realm</u> Provision of footpaths & street lighting to connect with the sporting facilities.	€66,500.00	Completed
Scotshouse	Creation of a new Community Park	€72,000.00	Completed
Cumulative Total		€868,500.00	

Town & Village 2019

T&V project location	Project	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Annyalla	Footpaths and public lighting	€78,657.00	Ongoing
Ballybay	Extension of public lighting on R162 to Cuan Mhuire Floodlighting landmarks – churches Enhanced entrance to Town park Landscaping R162 Cootehill Road	80,000.00	In progress - completion dated April 2022
Carrickroe	Playground	€73,594.00	Completed
Inniskeen	Public Realm Plan – address parking, recreational amenity	€20,000.00	In progress - completion dated April 2022
Lough Egish	Footpath connecting Catholic church with Lough Egish Food park and Aughnamullen GAA grounds	€100,000.00	Completed
Monaghan	Clean section of Ulster Canal, planting and haven for wildlife	€57,600.00	In progress - completion dated April 2022
Oram	Memorial garden to Big Tom Enhancement works to entrances to village and signage	€60,245.80.00	Completed

Scotshouse	Refurbishment of foot bridge, footpaths, landscaping, fencing and upgrade Public Lighting	€99,439.00	In progress - completion dated March 2022
Cumulative Total		€569,535.92	

Town & Village Covid Accelerated Measure – Round 1

T&V project location	Project	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Ballybay	Provision of outdoor seating & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign	€25,000	Completed
Carrickmacross	Provision of band stand canopy, seating & picnic benches adjacent to Civic Office, & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign	€40,000	Design completed - unable to deliver on the Canopy as the costs had soared - Project completed
Castleblayney	Provision of Public Information digital notice board, walking trail map, public seating & picnic benches in Lough Muckno Park & Mindszenty Park & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign	€22,320	In progress - completion 31 March 2022
Clones	Provision of outdoor seating within Clones town centre & an Age Friendly Business promotion campaign	€25,000	Completed
Monaghan	Large screen for town centre events, pop-up canopies, seating (mobile), green space set-up at Courthouse Square & Town centre marketing promotion activity	€25,000	Completed
Cumulative Total		€137,320.00	

Town & Village 2020 Covid Accelerated Measure -Round 2

T&V project location	Project	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Broadband Connection Points (9 villages)	To equip Broadband Connections Points (BCP's) at 9 community centres within Co. Monaghan	€39,817	Completed
Inniskeen	Poetry Jukebox at Patrick Kavanagh Centre	€25,000	In progress - completion 31 March 2022
Latton	To install a perspex canopy covering the footpath approach & external area of community centre & 4 seating benches within the village	€25,000	Completed

Monaghan MD 12 villages	Provision of outdoor equipment for 12 villages in Monaghan MD, including pop-up canopies & mobile seating	€25,000	Completed
Ballybay Clones MD 9 villages	Installation of seating in 9 Villages in Ballybay/Clones MD	€40,000	Completed
Cumulative Total		€154,817.09	

Town & Village 2020 Covid Accelerated Measure -Round 3

T&V project location	Project	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Glaslough	Enhancing the Market & Fairs Capacity in the Village	€39,398.87	Completed
Knockconan	External Porch and enhancements to aid access to Blackwater Valley Learning Centre/Community Centre	€8,172.00	Completed
Scotshouse	Upgrade works to Walking Trail	€22,858.61	Completed
Threemilehouse	Adaptations to Community Centre	€40,000.00	Completed
Cumulative Total		€110,429.48	

Town & Village Main Scheme 2020

T&V project location	Project	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Carrickmacross	Carrickmacross - Public amenity enhancements including provision of dog walking park, two biodiversity garden parks, the provision of seating and landscaping.	€98,261	In progress - due for completion August 2022
Clones	Clones - Public realm enhancement including diversion of cabling, new heritage public lighting standards, pedestrian prioritisation and car park upgrade.	€200,000	In progress - due for completion August 2022
Clontibret	Clontibret - Installation of footpath and public lighting.	€81,315	In progress - due for completion August 2022
Doohamlet	Doohamlet - Public realm enhancement including, upgrade of carpark, provision of street lighting, upgrade of footpath and resurface gravel paths in the community park	€100,000	In progress - due for completion August 2022
Emyvale	Emyvale - Public realm enhancement works including undergrounding of overhead cables and upgrading of footpath with LED public lighting columns.	€200,000	In progress - due for completion August 2022

Inniskeen	Inniskeen - To implement a Bike Rental Scheme to operate from the Patrick Kavanagh Centre.	€26,967	In progress - due for completion August 2022
Latton	Latton - The provision of new footpath and public lighting	€100,000	In progress - due for completion August 2022
Cumulative Total		€806,543.00	

Town & Village 2021

T&V project location	Project	T&V Funding allocated	Notes
Clones	Clones - Public realm enhancements to Fermanagh St., The Diamond, inc. rainwater goods repair, painting, colour scheme & removal of wall, provision of green space / garden at junction of Fermanagh St. & car park & review of on street parking	€231,759	Awaiting letter of offer from DRCD - completion date TBC
Drum/Rockcorry	Drum/Rockcorry - Health checks, economic audits	€45,000	Awaiting letter of offer from DRCD - completion date TBC
Inniskeen	Inniskeen - Car park, landscaping, village enhancements	€250,000	Awaiting letter of offer from DRCD - completion date TBC
Monaghan	Monaghan - Market St. Park St. paint scheme, repairs, consultant conservation architect	€136,635	Awaiting letter of offer from DRCD - completion date TBC
Threemilehouse	Threemilehouse - MUGA, fitness equipment at 3 locations, landscaping	€100,000	Awaiting letter of offer from DRCD - completion date TBC
Cumulative Total		€763,394.00	

(d) Projects are selected when funding rounds are announced based on invited Expressions of Interest received and from existing town, village and community plans and in accordance with the applicability of the funding scheme criteria set out by the Department.

7. Regarding the bad water quality of Lough Muckno and now with the Integrated Catchment Management plan being put in place now in place which is in line with the approach being adopted at a national level to try and improve water quality.

a. When do we hope to have this complete and what is the current status of this?

Reply: Integrated Catchment Planning will form Phase 2 of the “Muckno Road to Recovery” project. Phase 1 of the project is essentially a scientific study aimed at collecting data and

carrying out investigative work on the lake body to help inform the development of the Integrated Catchment Management Plan. Part of the Phase 1 work will also involve identifying the baseline reference status of the lake by determining the historical status conditions of the lake using diatom and sediment dating analysis and to develop a lake recovery model in terms of phosphorus reduction. It is expected that Phase 1 of the project will take approximately 15 months to complete following which we aim to have adequate data to facilitate Phase 2 of the project i.e. the development of an Integrated Catchment Management Plan.

b. What level of engagement has Monaghan County Council with the Local Authority Waters Programme where at a recent online public consultation event where they indicated that three quarters of Monaghan's rivers and lakes are failing to meet water quality standards?

Reply: The 31 local authorities coordinate water quality management across a five-region structure: Border, Midlands and East; South East, South West and West. This national structure allows for engagement, collaboration and knowledge sharing relating to the delivery of improvement measures at both regional and local levels. Each of the five regions has a Regional Operational Committee (ROC), with membership including operational staff from the respective local authorities including Monaghan County Council, LAWPRO, EPA, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, NI Loughs Agency, Department of Agriculture and other public bodies. A Director of Services chairs these committees, which allow for effective knowledge transfer and tracking of progress on implementation of measures set out in the RBMP. In addition, A local authority Chief Executive chairs each of the five Regional Management Committee (RMC). The committees are a vital link between decision making at higher levels in the RBMP Governance Structure and implementation of plans by local authorities. Locally, Monaghan County Council staff engage with the local LAWPRO team in various ways including dealing with any referrals made by LAWPRO in respect of water quality issues. In addition, there was significant engagement with LAWPRO during the characterisation stage during the development of the draft River Basin Management plan. The catchment characterisation assessment stage focused on identifying the waterbodies that are at risk of not meeting the Water Framework Directive environmental objectives of achieving at least good status and helps to identify the significant pressures on each waterbody that is At Risk of not meeting its objectives. Once pressures are determined, measures can then be identified and targeted specifically at these pressures.

c. With the Local Authority Waters Programme stating that the principle causes of poor water quality in Monaghan coming from surface water run-off from towns and villages, agriculture activities, waste-water treatment and septic tanks what measures are being put in place to alleviate this?**Reply: Monaghan County Council has prepared an RMCEI work plan in conjunction with the EPA which is based on the water quality national enforcement priorities that were communicated to all local Authorities in December.**

These national water enforcement priorities are as follows:

- Pressures from agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage).
- Pressures from agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)
- Domestic Waste water Treatment Systems/septic tanks
- Discharge Licences
- Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring

In the Monaghan County Council RMCEI plan for 2022 staff resources have been allocated to carry out work programs in all of the priorities areas as listed above.

In relation to surface water run-off from towns and villages this in an area that has been gathering momentum recently with the publishing in November 2021 of the DHLG best practice guidance document “Nature Based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and surface water run-off in Urban Areas” The document aims to assist all of those involved in activities relevant to the management of rainwater and surface water runoff in urban areas.

For local authorities it is acknowledged that the progression and development on Nature-Based solutions will require a multidisciplinary approach across the various units in the local authority.

8. With regard to the water quality of Lough Muckno and the ongoing work by Environmental staff around the “Muckno Road to Recovery Plan”

a. What is the update on the farm inspections that are part of this work?

Reply: To date in 2022, Environmental Services staff have carried out 22 Farm Inspections in the Annahale_10 sub-catchment which is a tributary of Lough Muckno. Thirteen Farms were found to compliant whilst 9 farms were issued with advisory/warning letters. These farms will be subject to a follow-up inspection and additional enforcement actions can be initiated up to and including legal action or cross-reporting if necessary.

b. What is the update on the targeted septic tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan?

Reply: Under the new National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems 2022-2026, in areas of Higher relative risk to surface waters (Zone 1), there will be focused inspections with the aim of making significant progress in these areas as quickly as possible to contribute to the river basin management plan goals. The Lough Muckno surrounding area comes within this risk zone. Monaghan County Council will be carrying out a minimum of 33 inspections this year with some of these proposed in the Muckno catchment. Over the period 2023-2026 a minimum of 41 inspections are proposed each year.

c. What short term measures can be put in place to improve the water quality as a result of this work?

Reply: In line with the national water quality priorities communicated to all local authorities in December 2021, staff from Environmental Services will be implementing a number of measures in the Muckno catchment in addition to progressing the “Muckno Road to Recovery Project” These measures include:

- A plan of targeted farm inspections has commenced in the Annahale_10 catchment areas.
- More investigative assessments planned for later this year, to include in stream assessments and river walks in the catchment.
- Continued enforcement of section 4 discharge licence in the catchment.
- Reporting of all Planning Applications in the catchment by Environmental Services, with particular emphasis on water quality protection measures/conditions.
- Responding to any pollution Complaints responding to water quality breaches / incidents with subsequent follow-up and enforcement if necessary.
- Continuation Operational and Investigative Surface water Monitoring including ongoing WFD sampling of Lough Muckno and sampling of tributaries feeding into Muckno.
- Septic tank inspections

d. How and when is Monaghan County Council engaging with the local stakeholders?

Reply: The Environmental Services unit of Monaghan County Council has been liaising

with Ben Malone the Community Water Officer for the Border Region with a view to engaging further with the local community and stakeholders on the “Muckno Road to Recovery Project”.

9. What is the update on the progress of the N2 Active travel schemes for the four segments and what is the update on the Clandillon Civil Consulting scheme?

Reply: Clandillon Civil Consulting are continuing to work closely with Monaghan County Council to progress the N2 Active travel schemes. Preliminary Designs for the four segments are currently in progress.

Environmental studies are ongoing, and further ecological surveys will be required as the preliminary design develops. Land acquisition may be required in certain sections as existing constraints have been identified onsite. The extent of land acquisition required will become clearer as options are assessed and the design is developed.

When completed, the four sections of cycleway will provide an additional 6.9km of cycle path along the N2 and link up with the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway on the N12 north of the Coolshannagh Roundabout.

In addition to these four TII-funded schemes on the N2, MCC is currently progressing a €2.5m programme of Active Travel projects across the county, funded by NTA

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

10. While acknowledging the essential maintenance works carried out at the Sliabh Dubh estate in Corduff to date by Monaghan County Council, when is it hoped to complete the taken in charge by this local authority process?

Reply: Monaghan county Council has previously carried out remedial works to this development. Further significant works relating to the repair of the waste water treatment package plant are scheduled to be completed in April. Upon completion of these works, the Planning Authority shall progress the taking in charge application to conclusion.

11. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading of the Dundalk to Cavan regional road (R178) in particular the area from Essexford bridge to Shercock town which is in a poor state of repair and not fit to accommodate the numbers of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) that travel this route on a daily basis in safety?

Reply: The Department of Transport (DOT) and County Council Senior Engineer working group meet regularly to identify strategically important sections of this route that can be advanced in the coming years which includes the R178 between Essexford bridge to Shercock. It is planned to apply for funding for this section along with other Strategically important sections of Road in the county under the DOT Strategic Improvement Scheme when the current R181 Lough Egish to the Cavan Border scheme is completed.

12. As a follow on from the debate at the march meeting In relation to Lough Muckno, when is it hoped to have the terms of reference for the feasibility study available , who will be responsible for drafting the terms of reference , will they be made available to the elected members at the earliest opportunity?

Reply: Officials from Monaghan County Council are currently preparing work to facilitate the preparation of terms of reference for a feasibility study on the future of Lough Muckno, as agreed by the Council in December 2021. Preparatory work will continue over the

coming months and involve consultation with a number of specialists. Members will be informed of progress as the project continues.

13. In relation to freedom of information requests, approximately how many (FOI) requests have been made to this council in the last three to four years including the three municipal district councils, how do these figures compare to (FOI) requests going back five to seven years, what information is generally requested?

Reply: All FOI requests are dealt with by Monaghan County Council FOI Officer, they are not dealt with at municipal district level.

Year	No of Requests
2015	62
2016	83
2017	75
2018	94
2019	83
2020	64
2021	59

The type of information sought is very wide ranging and varied and relates to all services provided by Monaghan County Council.

14. Given that the Covid restrictions have thankfully for the most part come to an end, what will a full return to work for council staff and the general public look like in terms of blended working arrangements (working from home/working in our civic offices etc) Will there be significant costs involved in facilitating working from home arrangements, will these costs be paid out of the council own resources?

Reply:

Return to the workplace

As from Monday the 14th of March 2022 all staff have made a full return to the office and are operating on Pre-COVID work patterns.

Blended Working

A Blended Working Framework is currently being developed for the Sector which will allow employees, where the role is appropriate, to combine on and off-site working. The work being undertaken remains the same but the location where it is being undertaken is flexible. In terms of working arrangements blended working will not of itself change the nature of the role or the substantive duties to be carried out by the employee, however, it will require all employees to be more flexible in the undertaking of their duties both in the remote and office-based environment.

Monaghan County Council are in the process of planning for a blended working environment and will implement Government Policy on blended working following the completion of the legislative process and the completion of a blended working framework for the sector.

The rollout of remote working, over the pandemic, will reduce the impact of blended working setup costs, particularly in relation to the provision of ICT infrastructure and laptops, all of which have been provided for at this time.

20. Notices of Motion

Cllr S. Coyle proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded:

That Monaghan County Council requests An Taoiseach, Michéal Martin TD, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD and the Government to demand of the British Government, the immediate withdrawal of the requirement for non-Irish EU Citizens to apply online for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) before crossing the Border into Northern Ireland, an unworkable requirement of the Nationalities and Borders Bill passed by the Parliament of the U.K. This will cause huge problems for non-Irish EU Citizens, their families, employers etc, undermining the Good Friday Agreement, the Common Travel Area and the UK Withdrawal Agreement from the EU, creating significant restriction on freedom of movement on the Island of Ireland, effectively imposing a hard border on the Island of Ireland.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, 2 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr S Treanor indicated that he wished to withdraw his name from the Peace Partnership Board. It was agreed that Cllr R Truell will replace Cllr S Treanor.

21. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Catherine Elliott, County Librarian on the passing of her father Peter Moley Rosnaglough, Newbliss, Monaghan.
- Deirdriu McQuaid, Executive Librarian and wider family on the passing of her Uncle Brendan McDermott

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

- Colaiste Oirail on winning the All Ireland Ladies Post Primary School Senior B Final on Friday, 01 April 2022.
- Monaghan GAA on retaining their Allianz National Football League Division 1 status for 2023
- Castleblayney Lakers U14 All Ireland

22. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon seconded by Cllr D Maxwell it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following training event by the members listed.

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Conference /Training Event	Venue	Dates	Estimated Cost per Member	Members Selected
LAMA	Spring Training Seminar	Training Event	Hotel Kilkenny	11 th & 12 th April	Fee: €150 Travel: €228 Subs: €255	Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr David Maxwell
AILG	Webinar 3 “Housing for All – Pathway 1 and 2”	Training	Online	6 th May 2022 10.00am – 11.30am	Online	Cllr Seán Conlon Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Sean Gilliland Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Cathy Bennett Cllr Brian McKenna
AILG	“General Data Protection Regulation and the Elected Member”	Training	Module 2 (In-person)	Thurs 12 th May (Southern Region) Sat 14 th May (Northern and Western/ Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly)	Locations TBC	Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Sean Gilliland Cllr Richard Truell Cllr Séan Conlon Cllr Cathy Bennett Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Noel Keelan

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____