



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Your County, Your Monaghan

ISSUE 1 - 2022

*SPRING / SUMMER
NEWSLETTER*



Welcome

A message from Deputy Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council

I would like to welcome you to the first edition of Monaghan County Council's staff newsletter since Spring 2021.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank each and every staff member and the elected members for their hard work and commitment during such unprecedented times for all of us. Monaghan County Council has exceeded all expectations in providing a range of economic and social supports in response to challenges arising from the pandemic. The efforts of all of us has made the last two years a little less traumatic for the people of our County.

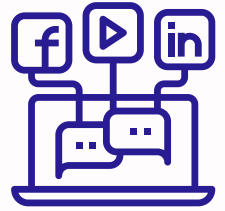
The aim of our Newsletter is to share information and news of interest to staff on what's going on in our Council. We look forward to providing you with a regular newsletter and if you would like to suggest news to be included please email the Communications Team at communications@monaghancoco.ie

John Murray





#MONAGHANCOUNTYCOUNCIL



Tag us on social media !

See below our exact social media handles for tagging/engaging on all digital platforms, don't forget to tag/mention us in any events that are associated with Monaghan County Council.



@Monaghancoco



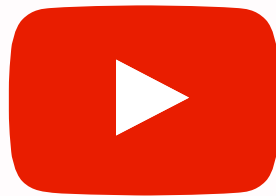
@MonaghanCoCo



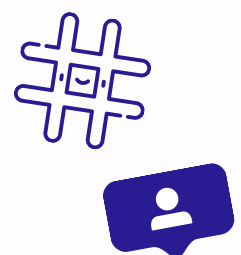
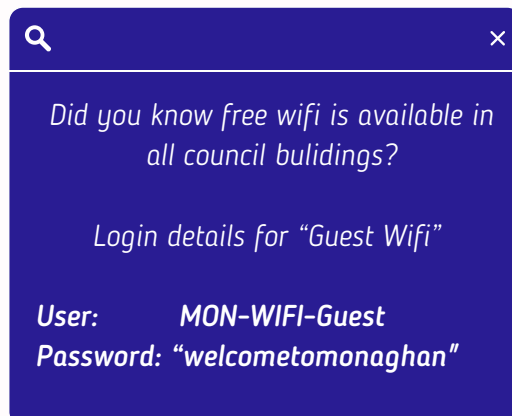
Monaghan County Council

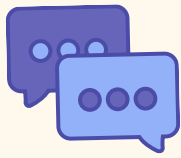


@monaghancountycouncil



Monaghan County Council





Hello from

MCC COMMUNICATIONS



In April 2022 a new Communications Team has been set up within Corporate Services Department.

The team is made up of Bernie Moen, Communication Officer and Niamh Murray, Clerical Officer. Bernie has worked for over 15 years in the Council and has experience of a number of sections within the Council and most recently was in Human Resources. Niamh has only recently joined Monaghan County Council and previous to this worked in Combilift as Digital Comms Officer. The team bring a diverse set of skills and knowledge to the Communications Team.

Together they will be setting new communication objectives aligned with the Council's plans and strategies.

Their goals will identify and improve communications within our local authority - not only for streamlining work purposes but also for communication and engagement with the general public. Recent developments in innovation and social media will positively impact on our communication across all departments of the Council and the team hope to instil a new and fresh communications unit and deliver a sustainable platform into the future. We encourage all staff to engage and provide any feedback you may have to evolve our newsletter or on anything relating to communications, please feel free to contact Bernie (ext:1481) or Niamh (ext:1518) or email us communications@monaghancoco.ie

Contact us:

Please keep us in mind and send on any stories, social media posts or communication matters to the below address!

Email:

communications@monaghancoco.ie



Bernie

Communications Officer



bmoen@monaghancoco.ie



1481



FOLLOW



@Monaghancoco



@MonaghanCoCo



Monaghan County Council



@monaghancountycouncil



Monaghan County Council



Niamh

Clerical Officer - Communications



nmurray2@monaghancoco.ie



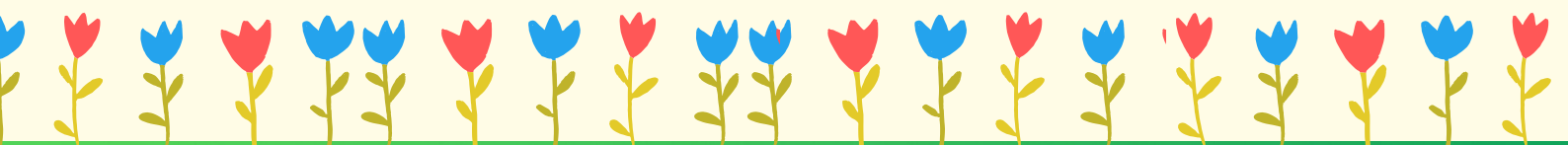
1518

Annual Spring Clean

Registrations for the National Spring Clean 2022, which calls on all communities, schools, businesses and groups within the county, opened in March.

This is Ireland's longest and largest anti-litter campaign and takes place during the month of April. Free kits were available to those who registered as were skips and litter pickers provided by Environmental Services, Monaghan County Council.

The Municipal District is supporting our tidy towns & community groups with their Annual Spring Clean, providing litter pickers and bags. The outdoor staff are co-ordinating collection of waste.



Monaghan Peace Campus

- Monaghan Peace Campus Project will provide a new four storey mixed use community building, comprising of a Cultural Heritage Centre, Library, Youth Facility, Shared Community Multi-Functional Space with External Community Space and Underground Parking.
- The Construction phase of this project commenced in July 2020 and is currently ongoing. Covid19 had a severe impact on progress with closure of site for over 4 months.

WORKS COMPLETED TO DATE:

- ✓ Substructural works including Piling, foundations and services.
- ✓ Construction of the Level 0 car park Slab.
- ✓ Construction of Building Level 1 concrete slab, columns, stair cores including Level 1 external community space.
- ✓ Construction of Building Level 2 concrete slab, columns and stair cores.
- ✓ Construction of North Road perimeter retaining wall.

Learn more here: <https://monaghan.ie/monaghan-peace-campus/>

WORKS CURRENTLY ONGOING:

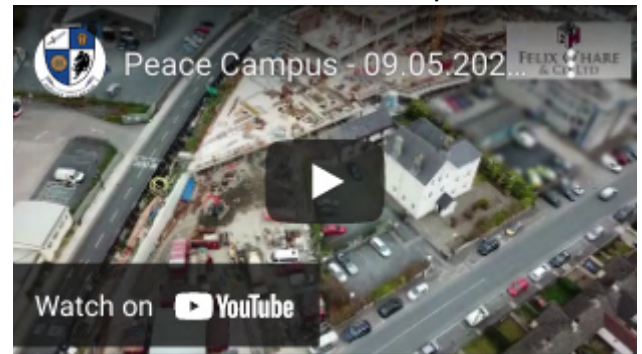


- Construction of Building Level 3 concrete floor slab.
- Construction of Perimeter walls to Level 1 external community space.
- Masonry works to ESB substation incl finish brick work.
- Masonry works to Electrical switch room and plant room at level 0.
- Installation of Electrical services containment at Level 0.



Link to watch: <https://youtu.be/9cCWTjUUMw>

Drone video of site in April 2022



Link to watch: <https://youtu.be/5A9CcrCGm2E>

June 2021
Substructural
works
including pile
caps, tanks,
underground
services.



October 2021
Construction of
Level 0 car park
concrete slab
and columns



December 2021
Construction of Level 1
concrete slab for
building
and external
community spaces



February 2022 – Commencement of Building Level 2



April 2022 – Construction of Building Level 3.



Covid 19 Monaghan Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony

An event which recognised the efforts of volunteers in Monaghan during Covid 19 took place during National Volunteering Week. The event took place on Thursday 19th May in the Four Seasons Hotel and was held in partnership with the Monaghan Volunteer Centre.

Minister Heather Humphreys was one of the guest speakers on the night and presented commemorative pins and letters of appreciation on behalf of an Taoiseach Michael Martin.

The fantastic traditional music played by Tullycorbet Comhaltas greatly added to the enjoyment of the event.



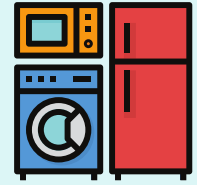
Ceremony of Remembrance & Reflection

In conjunction with the National Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection held on 20th March in Dublin, Monaghan County Council hosted our local Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection at St Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney on Friday, 18th March. This was an opportunity for all to pause and reflect, take time to remember all those who lost their lives during the pandemic and to pay tribute to everyone who has contributed to how we have faced the challenges together. The ceremony commenced with the beautiful voice of Amelia McCormack singing 'Absent Friends'. Ms Daphne Holmes-Greer, Fr Adrian Walsh and Mohammed Tausmiah Talukder, representatives of various clerical denominations, delivered poignant and hopeful reflections. Ms Gillian Oliver, who sadly lost her father to Covid, lit a candle in memory of all those who lost their lives. The poetry recitation by David Maine of 'The Dash' and the references to Kavanagh by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aidan Campbell in his address were beautifully delivered and very relevant to the occasion. The ceremony concluded with the laying of a wreath accompanied by lone trumpeter, Sean Smith.





Electrical Collection Day 8th April 2022.



A free electrical recycling day took place on the 8th of April in Monaghan Town. From fridges to phones, laptops to lawnmowers, toys to power tools, batteries and everything in between, were dropped off during the event.

A record number of people turned out during the day to drop off their collections of unwanted or broken electrical items, so thank you to all. Figures will be published once available, of the quantity collected.



The next free Electrical Collection Day will take place in Castleblayney on the 10th of June 2022 and Friday 26th of August in The Mart, Clones.



Roads & Transport



Monaghan County Council's Non-National Bridge Rehabilitation Programme continues with the recent completion of refurbishment works on the Bridge at Drumalt completed in March following an emergency bridge closure.



Works on the Brackly Bridge project continue. It is anticipated that the L-4210 works will be completed by the end of May. The works along the R-180 will then commence and be substantially completed by the end of June.





Introduction of Electric Vehicles to Monaghan County Council



Monaghan County Council recently took delivery of 3 new Peugeot eExpert Electric Vehicles. These are the first EV's to be added to the council's fleet.



It is a requirement that all Local Authorities act as exemplars in their efforts to reduce their electrical energy, thermal and transport fuel consumption as well as reduce their Carbon Emissions. There are reduction targets for these that must be met by 2030 and 2050.

The use of EV's to replace existing diesel-powered vans is one way to work towards Transitioning to a Low-Carbon & Resilient Society. Replacing 3 diesel-powered vans with EV's will offset approximately 8,340 kg (8.34 Tonnes) CO2 per annum.





Active Travel Unit

In the Programme for Government published there was significant and ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes. Monaghan were successful in securing an allocation which allowed for the establishment of our Active Travel Unit in August 2021. 3 staff have been appointed to the Unit and targeted funding secured from the NTA will make walking and cycling in our towns and villages safer and sustainable.

The range of projects to be delivered include infrastructure such as Upgrades along our existing Greenway, footpath/cycleway provision, streetlighting, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges and safe to school infrastructure. Work is progressing at various stages on schemes across the County.



A Walking and Cycling Inter department Team has been established and held their first meeting. The new Walking & Cycling Forum, with representatives from external agencies with an interest in Walking & Cycling will allow for 2-way communication between the LA and the community in all matters Active Travel.

Some small steps with regards to community engagement have commenced already.

Local company, Bike Green are in the process of providing accredited cycling training to students in each of the 12 Secondary Schools in the County.



Bike week this year will took place from the 14th – 22nd May with a range of activities planned across the County. Young and old were encouraged to get involved and get on their bike! Watch out on the Councils social media channels for the highlights and more details.

Active Travel Unit - School Initiatives

Students in local primary schools had an opportunity to tell us why they think it's important to increase awareness of the benefits of cycling. Our Active Travel Art competition in conjunction with the Road Safety Officer and Monaghan library received over 200 applications.



The Green schools committee in Drumgossat National School and the #andshecycles Ambassadors in Beech Hill College told us why they cycle to school and what we can do to encourage more to do the same.

Staff E-bike scheme

Our Staff E-bike scheme which launched late last year has been a great success with various staff from across the County availing of the bikes.

Some have used them for attending meetings locally, as well as carrying out checks as part of their work or just for enjoyment on their lunch break. We are eager to add to the fleet of bikes this year with the purchase of 2 more bikes for 2 new locations.





HOUSING FOR ALL



It is anticipated in 2022 that Monaghan County Council will provide 130 new social houses with a budget of over €31 million.

The breakdown of sizes of new social houses in 2022 will be 55% (72 properties) 1 or 2 bedrooms, 35% (45 properties) 3 bedrooms and 10% (13 properties) 4 bedrooms houses. This is an increase of 15% in 1- or 2-bedroom sized houses in 2022, compared to 2021.

Works have ongoing or finished on the following developments:

Radharc na Drummond Carrickmacross

12 apartments at Radharc na Drummond Carrickmacross have been completed by the developer and are ready for transfer to North & East Housing Association. The four ground floor apartments are fully accessible and are potentially suitable for people with disabilities and/or diminished mobility. The eight apartments on the upper floors are accessed via stairs that have been designed with shallow steps and additional landings to make them more easily accessible for older people and ambulant people with disabilities or medical conditions. It is anticipated that that the apartments will be occupied in June 2022.



Folly Court, Ballybay

Monaghan County Council received funding approval of €1,029,757 to purchase and re-develop 6 single-storey houses at Folly Court in Ballybay. A-rated BERs were achieved through Energy Efficiency upgrades and installation of renewable energy heating systems. Fire detection systems were upgraded, new kitchens and bathrooms were installed, and the houses were fully renovated internally and externally and re-designed as far as possible towards Universal Design Guidelines to be fully accessible and suitable for older people and people with disabilities. This development is not fully occupied



Clones Renewal Scheme:

Monaghan County Council received Funding Approval in 2019 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Rebuilding Ireland programme to demolish 11 properties on Fermanagh Street and Analore Street, Clones and construct 22 new apartments and 2 new Townhouses in their place. The all-in project budget is circa €6million including VAT. The first six properties have already been delivered A further 9 properties will be handed over in Q2 2022. The remaining properties will be completed by the end of Q3 2022. This project will have a major impact on the social and economic outlook for Clones Town and environs.



Lúí Na Greíne Housing Development Scotstown

Monaghan County Council's Housing Section along with Wynne, Gormley and Gilsenan Architects, Lead Designer and E.R. and Lowry Construction Ltd, Main Contractor are reviving this derelict/unfinished housing estate in the heart of Scotstown. The total project budget is just below €7million and includes the completion of 4 derelict unfinished houses and the construction of a further 28 new houses, all built to the highest standard with a Building Energy Rating of A3 and above.

The project is to be handed over in three Phases. Phase 1 consists of four OPD's and two 3-bedroom semi-detached houses. This phase was handed over in Q4 2021 with tenants receiving their keys in early Q1 2022. Phase 2 consists of 12 semi-detached 2-storey houses and was handed over to Monaghan County Council on the 15th of April with tenants receiving their keys on the 18th of April. It is planned that Phase 3 will be completed by the end of Q2 2022.



PLANNING



In March the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage confirmed the list of projects recommended by Monaghan County Council for funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022. Nine applications for works to protected structures across the County will receive funding ranging from just over €2,000 up to the maximum of €15,000. In April the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage also confirmed the list of projects recommended by Monaghan County Council for funding under the Historic Structures Fund.

Two projects were selected for funding of €200,000 and €20,000 each, one of which is the Rossmore Mausoleum.



Consultants were appointed in March to carry out the Housing Need and Demand Assessment and provide a review of housing provision in County Monaghan. The wide ranging and comprehensive report will analyse existing housing provision in the County Monaghan and review the progress on the delivery of housing units on zoned residential land in the County Development Plan 2019-2025. The report will provide recommendations in terms of long-term strategic views of housing need across all tenures, provide a robust evidence base to support decisions about new housing supply, wider investment and housing related services and inform an overall national housing profile, inform policies about the proportion of social and affordable housing required, and provide evidence to inform policies related to the provision of specialist housing and housing related services.

The consultants will be expected to carry out a wide ranging consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders including the approved housing bodies, local planning agents, local developers, owners of land zoned proposed residential land, local estate agents, and financial institutions.

At the April Council meeting the Elected Members adopted Variations Nos 3 and 4 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 – 2025 in respect of the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan and the Roosky Lands Master Plan, respectively. These plans will provide a framework for the redevelopment of these areas and it is hoped they will contribute significantly to the revitalisation of Dublin Street and the surrounding town centre. Monaghan County Council also received a grant offer of €247,952 under the Heritage Council's Historic Towns Initiative programme, in respect of Dublin Street, Monaghan. The project aims to re-establish residential use in historic Dublin Street, Monaghan and includes for external enhancements to 8 buildings, internal refurbishment to 2 buildings for residential use, including addressing regulatory processes. The project will be delivered over 2022 and 2023.



Image of what is envisaged for the backlands North of Dublin Street.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project

Environmental Services have commenced work on a novel water quality project on Lough Muckno called the "Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project". As part of this project a team of scientists from NUI Galway will be taking cores from the Lake sediment over the weekend of 6-8th May. The analysis of the lake sediment will involve taking 2m deep lake cores, analysing the samples and inputting the data into models which can be used to predict lake recovery times. The coring will allow changes in water quality in the lake to be tracked and will allow lake recovery times to be predicted based on current pollutant inputs into the Lake. This preliminary project will subsequently help inform the development of an Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Plan which is the approach proposed nationally through the River Basin Management Plan.

The ICM approach will help identify the significant issues in the catchment and help focus on implementing the right remedial measure in the right place as we strive to improve water quality in Muckno. As a result of the development of The Muckno Road to Recovery Project, Environmental Services has lodged a submission to the Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government requesting the inclusion of the Lough Muckno as a Catchment Project Area for Action (AFA) in the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027. It is proposed that Monaghan County Council would lead this AFA with support the Local Authority Waters Programme.

National Environmental Enforcement Priorities 2022

In late February 2022 Environmental Services prepared the annual RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) Environmental Inspection Plan 2022 (RMCEI Plan), which was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. The RMCEI Environmental Inspection Plan is a document detailing the framework of environmental inspection targets to be undertaken by Monaghan County Council within national environmental priority areas for the year ahead. All local authorities are required to produce an annual RMCEI plan to provide for consistency in regulation locally and nationally and for efficiency in staff management.

In preparation of the 2022 plan consultation took place with the following stakeholders;

- Senior Management and staff involved in delivering the plan
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Connaught Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA)
- Strategic Policy Committee for Climate and Environment
- Local Authority Water Programme Office (LAWPRO)

In preparing our RMCEI plan for 2022 particular cognisance was taken of the following National Environmental Enforcement Priorities in the areas of Water, Waste and Air/Noise.

Table 1: National Enforcement Priorities 2022 – 2024.

Water	Waste	Air/Noise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage) • Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading) • DWWTS/Septic Tanks • Discharge Licences/Misconnections • Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Illegal Waste and Multi-Agency Sites of Concern • Construction and Demolition Waste • End of Life Vehicles and Metals • Household and Commercial Waste • PRIs and Local Priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Fuel • Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use • Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs) • Air and Noise Control (including Planning) • Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Scotch Corner Site Office Rebuild

In early Spring 2022 Monaghan County Council completed the design for the new site office building at the Scotch Corner landfill facility that was badly damaged by fire back in Spring 2019. It had been originally intended to commence construction in 2021 but works did not progress due to covid restrictions.

Since then management agreed to proceed with be a revised modular type building which will expediate the construction process. In line with the Council’s climate action objectives it is hoped that the new site office will achieve an A BER Energy rating. The procurement competition for the rebuild has been substantially completed and it is intended to formally appoint a contractor during May 2022. It is expected that works expected to be substantially completed by Q3 2022.

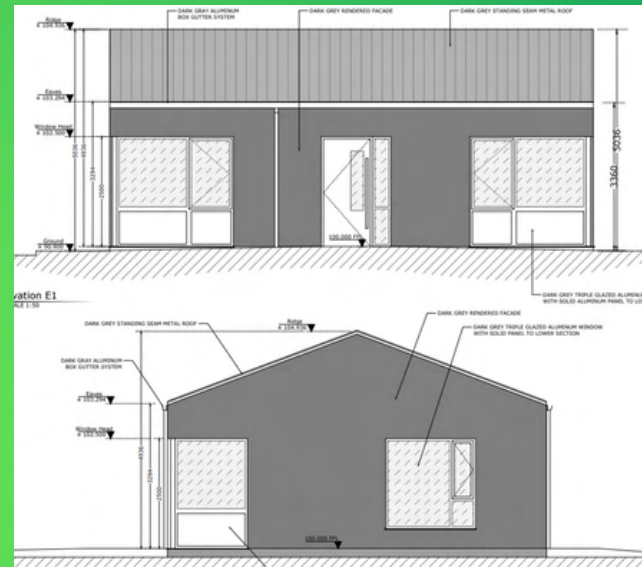


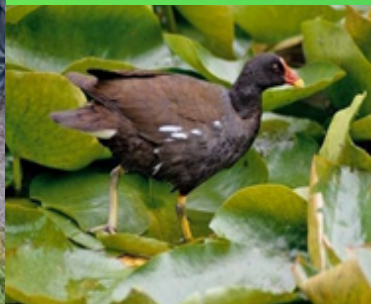
Fig 1: Sectional Elevations of Scotch Corner Site Office.



Bioblitz – Greenway Monaghan

A Bioblitz took place along the Greenway (Graham’s side) on Friday 8th of April, which was organised and facilitated for schools, by the Environmental Awareness Officer. Gaelscoil Ultain were present in the morning and St. Macartan’s College in the afternoon.

A special thanks to our schools who took part, Monaghan Tidy Towns who funded this event, Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell and MD Cathaoirleach David Maxwell, who were present on the day.



Environment Fund 2022

The Environment Fund closed on the 4th March 2022 with applications currently being assessed.

Following assessment, the proposed recipients will be presented to the April CPG and full Council meeting in May. Projects include painting and maintenance of estates and community areas, planting in schools and general environmental related projects.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS 2022



EPA – Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN)

Following the submission of a business case to the LAPN/EPA by the Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO), to secure funding for the Carrickmacross Toy Library, Monaghan County Council were delighted to receive funding in the sum of €2,000 on their behalf. The toy library reuses toys, by renting them out to members for a three week period and on payment of a small fee thus preventing them ending up in landfill. **For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/CMXToyLibrary>**



Edible Orchard – Scotshouse

The Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) collaborated with Scotshouse community groups, Board of Management from Scoil Enda and Michael Carroll, MCC Horticulturist, to host an interactive planting day to establish an apple orchard in the appropriately named Achadh na hAbhla, Scotshouse Park. This new addition to the park and village hosts 20 mature native Irish apple fruit trees. The purpose of this orchard is to raise awareness of the climatic benefits of trees to communities and their contribution to biodiversity and pollination.

As National Tree Week takes place from 20th of March to 26th of March, it was an apt time to have completed this project. GRM to all involved.



Tree Planting – St. Louis Secondary, Carrickmacross.

Staff and students of St. Louis have been working hard developing their extensive school grounds into a biodiversity area to promote outdoor teaching and learning. As part of this “out of the classroom” approach, Sharon Finnegan, Environmental Awareness Officer and Michael Carroll, Horticulturist, joined students and teachers and planted a variety of fruit and native trees in one section of the biodiversity area.

St. Louis Secondary School Tree Planting



Best window/Float Display – St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Environmental Services held a competition as part of the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations under the following themes – climate action, reduce, reuse, recycle and anti litter, where entries were judged and prizes awarded to first, second and third place. In Carrickmacross the following were declared the winners, as nominated and voted upon, by members of the public via an online competition.

Comhaird gheas mór to all who entered.



Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection

Recruitment process

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection had a successful recruitment campaign in February and early March for the position of a retained fire fighter in Castleblayney, Monaghan and Clones for Fire Stations and the selection process has commenced.



What is involved in becoming a FireFighter?

- The role of a retained fire-fighters offers a unique opportunity to serve your local community and learn new skills. Firefighters are called upon to tackle a wide range of emergency situations. Incidents vary from tackling fires and rescuing people from burning buildings to dealing with chemical spillages and road traffic collisions.
- A sensitive approach is required when dealing with members of the public who may be distressed and confused. In addition, fire fighters in Monaghan are also involved in the promotion of Fire Safety in the community through Fire Safety Week and through the Schools Safety Programme. The role can be intensely physically demanding, and fitness is crucial. Anyone interested in becoming a fire-fighter should follow Monaghan County Council website at <https://monaghan.ie/humanresources/>



*April 2022:
Pre-interview
assessment of
candidates for position
of Retained Fire-Fighter.*





Retirement

In March 2022 John Reavy retired after over 20 years' service. During that time John has successfully completed an array of fire service courses and has served the people of Clones with dedication and commitment. He will be sorely missed by everyone within the fire service in Monaghan for his friendship, leadership, experience and ability to deal with emergency situations in a practical manner.



New Fleet

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection recently received delivery of 2 No. 4 x4 Ford Ranger people carriers. The new vehicles will replace existing Fire Service support vehicle in accordance with MFCP fleet policy. It is now planned to deliver Emergency Services Driving Standard training to all 4x4 off-road vehicles. These off-road vehicles enable the transportation of additional equipment to that already carried by the frontline Class B appliance. 4X4 transport has also proven to be very versatile when dealing with severe weather issues similar to what was encountered during the severe weather events of recent years.



Ballybay Fire Station

Draft plans have been prepared for the provision of a new fire station in Ballybay. The new fire station will facilitate the following:

- Appliance bay to house two vehicles
- Station Office / Watch room
- Compressor & Breathing apparatus Maintenance Room
- Storage & PPE Cleaning room
- Kitchen Facilities & Lecture Room
- Shower / Toilet Facilities (Male and Female)
- Drill yard comprising a drill tower.
- Car parking facilities for 9 cars



Initial sketch design of proposed new Fire Station Ballybay

Launch of "Be Summer Ready" Campaign

BE SUMMER-READY



Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection has already received 'Forest Fire Danger Ratings' this year and we are entering the time of the year when land is susceptible to gorse fires.

The Government has launched the "Be Summer Ready" campaign and booklet. The launch of the campaign highlights ways to be safe this summer including water and fire safety.

We advise people to familiarise themselves with the information in this campaign. For further information contact <https://bit.ly/3FvqDX4>

Fire Preventations

Home fire safety talk in Clones Court House to the Clones Hen Shed



Wildland Fire Management

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection has collaborated with Heritage Section in the development of a Wildland Fire Response Plan for Sliabh Beagh. The Plan follows-up in the form of a Report commissioned by Monaghan County Council & The Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) and prepared by the Pau Costa Foundation. The specific objectives of the report has been to gain an understanding of the fire risk and landscape management required, to improve cross-border coordination and capacity to control wildfires and reduce the impact of fires in peatland habitats, and to enhance landscape resilience through sustainable management practices (ecosystem management, agriculture, conservation...).



HOME FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES

On average 36 people die from fires each year in Ireland. The majority of these fatalities occur in the home and of these fatalities; the highest percentage of which involve people over 55yrs and living alone.

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection provide advice to local communities to reduce the risk of fire in the home, and the public to follow these three golden rules.

1. Install smoke alarms to give early warning and test regularly
2. Prepare an evacuation plan and then practice it regularly
3. Look around and eliminate the hazards

Click here for further information on fire safety guidelines for Summer: <https://monaghan.ie/firebuildingcontrol/fire-safety-in-the-home/>

Is my home safe from fire?



Building Control



Monaghan Building Control Officers have conducted various types of inspection from the beginning of the year. Most notable building works ongoing at the moment include the following:



The Ridge Incubation Hub Building, Castleblayney November 2021 and March 2022 A 3 storey steel-frame building above a lower ground floor/basement area with a total lettable space calculated at 842m² (9,063 sq/f).



Carrickmacross Primary Care Centre

Carrickmacross Primary Care Centre will provide accommodation for circa ten GPs and will also include services such as Primary Care, Mental Health services and a dentistry clinic, as well as a physio and an on-site chemist. The newly built Primary Care Centre will provide local access to many services including General Practice.



North Monaghan Primary Care Centre

Refurbishment, St Davnet's Monaghan includes the major refurbishment of the old Blackwater House unit and its eventual transformation into a new Primary Care Centre. Once this project is completed the St. Davnet's Campus will become the main Healthcare Campus for North Monaghan, providing GP practices, Primary Care Treatment and Therapy facilities, Mental Health Services, Dentistry and administration and support facilities.

This development will also provide approx. 160 car parking spaces, a construction costs of approx. €10m and is due for completion in Q3 2022.

Loft Conversion - Fire Safety - The guidance document can be found <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b9d03-loft-conversion-guidelines/>

Public Consultation

Public consultation has commenced on a number of Building control related issued most notably the following:

- The Minister of State for Local Government and Planning has recently invited submissions, observations and comments on a proposed amendment to the Building Regulations Part M (Access and Use). To take part in the Public Consultation and submit your comments go to **buildingstandards@housing.gov.ie**.
- Legacy Buildings: The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, TD, established a Working Group to Examine Defects in Housing.

To assist in progressing this matter the Working Group is asking people to provide information on their experiences of defects in apartment and duplex buildings constructed in Ireland between 1991 and 2013. The survey can be accessed at: **<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/7e319-online-survey-in-relation-to-defects-in-apartment-and-duplex-buildings/>**

MONAGHAN CIVIL DEFENCE ACTIVITY

Monaghan Civil Defence Service has provided crucial emergency accommodation for refugees from the war in Ukraine. The first group arrived via Poland and consisted primarily of families with young children and elderly persons.

Over 40 Monaghan Civil Defence volunteers have been essential in the setting up and maintaining a secure emergency accommodation facility for displaced persons from Ukraine. This service has received overwhelming gratitude from those affected by this conflict.



Other Civil Defence Duties

Civil Defence Volunteers continue to support the local community and Principal Response Agencies in a variety of ways, in 2022 to date these duties include:

- Transporting patients to the COVID-19 test centre.
- Assisting the Irish Blood Transfusion Service at local clinics.
- Transporting patients to medical appointments in Monaghan, Dublin, Drogheda & Navan hospitals and also providing transport assistance to HSE medical staff, and to local meals on wheels during severe weather events.
- Providing Pre-hospital Care at sporting events



Civil Defence Vol's supporting the provision of Emergency Accommodation



Civil Defence Volunteers assisting 'Meals on Meals' during Storm Eunice & Franklin



Civil Defence Volunteers transporting a patient for treatment to St Luke's Hospital, Dublin



Civil Defence Volunteers at the St Patrick's Day Parade 2022



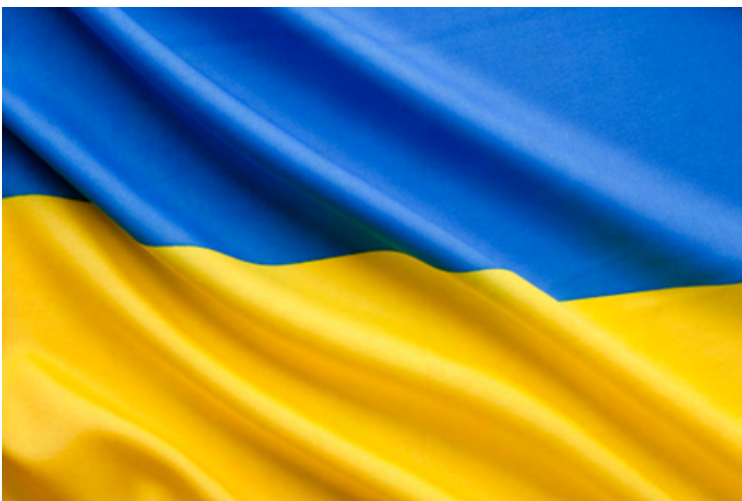
UKRAINIAN REFUGEES UPDATE

On Sunday April 3rd, forty Ukrainian refugees were sent by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) to the designated temporary rest facility in Monaghan town at the Civil Defence building. The group, who travelled to Ireland via Poland, comprised of families with young children and single men and women.

The rest facility was set up to accommodate a maximum of forty people safely and comfortably. Over ten days, a dedicated team of Civil Defence staff and volunteers, with local authority staff, provided efficient and appropriate operation of the rest facility to ensure that residents' immediate physical, medical, safety and welfare needs were met.

Community Response Forum

Monaghan County Council has established a multi-agency Community Response Forum to provide a coordinated response to a comprehensive variety of services to Ukrainian refugees in county Monaghan.



Our thoughts are with all those effected by the Ukrainian conflict.



MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARY



Launch of Farney Army Activity book

Monaghan County Library staff have developed a pretty unique literacy activity book aimed at 5th & 6th class Primary School children. We've called it 'The Farney Army Activity Book' and it is packed full of GAA themed literacy & numeracy activities. You can develop your writing skill as you prepare a pre-match speech for players, test out your journalistic skills by writing a Match report, hone your numeracy skills by devising a club budget or even learn a little about sports nutrition by coming up with a Pre-Match meal plan. There's plenty to keep young supporters busy!

We were delighted to have GAA stars Ellen McCarron and Ryan McAnespie help us launch the initiative.



Monaghan Libraries offer free book bags to all children starting school in September

All children starting school in September 2022 can get a free Book Bag at their local library. The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting school in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any library throughout Monaghan.

- Each 'My Little Library Book Bag' contains:
- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
 - A story card on going to the library
 - A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
 - Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder
- Book bags are available in both Irish and English.

Inviting all children starting school this year to come and collect their Book Bag, Karen Mc Cague said: "Monaghan County Council Library Service are delighted to be involved in the First 5 My Little Library initiative and we can't wait to welcome all the 4 and 5 year old children in to collect their book bags and begin their library membership journey. Reading is so beneficial for learning, imagination and creativity, and stories can really help children to understand and deal with the steps they take as they grow, like starting school.

We hope that once they visit the library to pick up their book bag, our new library members and their families will come back regularly to keep their bag filled up with borrowed books and to take part in storytimes, classes and all the other events we have to offer at the library."

More supports to help the transition to primary school are available on the Let's Get Ready page on Gov.ie.

Bags of stories and fun for every child starting school in 2022!

Pick up their FREE Little Library Book Bag at your local library

Libraries Ireland logo, Office of Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth logo, Right to Read logo, Sláinte Ádhúil Éireann logo



Monaghan County Libraries

Memory Box Collection

Borrow a box of activities to stimulate memories & conversation

Memory Boxes now available to borrow through Monaghan County Libraries

We know spending time together, doing things you love, smiling, chatting and discovering, improves wellbeing. That's why we have put together a range of Memory Boxes containing products and activities that bring joy and connection to people with dementia and their care-givers.

In our boxes you'll find a range of items which have been specifically developed by 'Relish', a company who are committed to improving the wellbeing of people with dementia. Every one of their products is designed to affect the different levers that lead to overall wellbeing. We've also included a beautiful selection of photography books to use as a starting point for reminiscence and conversation. For more details on the boxes please visit www.monaghan.ie/library/memory-boxes



Visit of An Taoiseach Micheál Martin to Monaghan County Museum

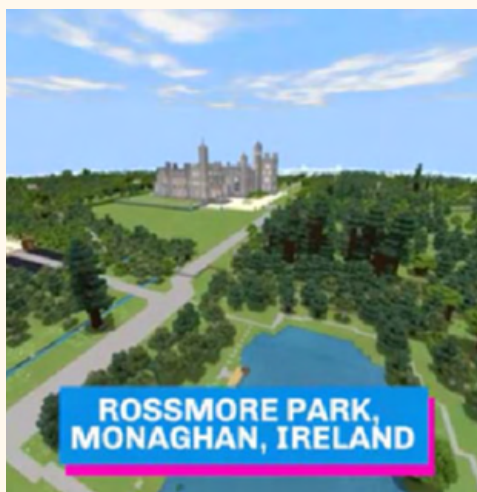
Staff of Monaghan County Museum at "Experiences of Border Minority Communities"
L – R front row: Liam Bradley, Curator Monaghan County Museum; An Taoiseach Micheál Martin; Cllr. Aidan Campbell, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council; L – R second row: Pauline Tilson, Education and Events Officer; Patricia Barbour, Office Administrator and Marketing; L – R back row: Denise Henry, Registrar; Theresa Loftus, Exhibitions & Research Officer; Anna McCann, Collections Officer.

Monaghan County Museum was delighted to welcome An Taoiseach Micheál Martin to the “Experiences of Border Minority Communities – Historical Perspectives” conference hosted by the museum in November 2021. The conference took place as part of the State’s Decade of Centenaries Programme and sought to explore historical aspects of partition through the experiences of local experts, historians and curators from both sides of the border. In his opening address An Taoiseach welcomed the reflective and inclusive nature that the centenary programme has fostered in exploring our past and noted how “...County Museums, Archives and Libraries have played a central role ...” leading “the way within their communities in delving into, interpreting and presenting the stories of 100 years ago”.

An Taoiseach thanked the curator Liam Bradley and all his staff for their hard work in organising the event. The event was live-streamed and is available to view Monaghan County Museum YouTube Channel (available at Monaghan County Museum YouTube Channel).



MINECRAFT WORLD OF ROSSMORE



What started out as a week-long children’s summer camp in Monaghan County Museum, where participants were challenged to recreate Rossmore Castle using the Minecraft platform, has evolved into an educational cross-border project with the AmmA Creative Learning Centre in Armagh. The result is an innovative Game-Based Learning experience that explores the once magnificent Rossmore Castle and its grounds through a virtual rebuild. It is now possible to explore a full 3D replica of Rossmore Castle, plant a pollinator garden in the Walled Gardens, locate the Giants on The Giant Trail, combine chemicals in the Gas House and much more, all through the Minecraft Platform.

Launched in Autumn 2021 to schools across the country, the Minecraft World of Rossmore was enthusiastically welcomed and featured on national radio and television. To support those less familiar with the Minecraft platform, the museum, and our cross-border partners AmmA Creative Learning Centre have delivered a successful in-school programme to 16 schools in the County Monaghan area over the winter term. This project is ongoing, and Monaghan County Museum are excited to see schools continue exploring The Minecraft World of Rossmore! Find out more at ammacentre.org/rossmore or visit our website www.monaghan.ie/museum

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED THROUGH THE CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME





Students from St. Joseph's National School, Knockatallon enjoying the in-school programme of the Rossmore World of Minecraft

RECENT EVENTS

With Covid-19 restrictions relaxed Monaghan County Museum has been delighted to welcome people back to some in-house events. These included:

International Women's Day: Flower Arranging Workshop

To celebrate International Women's Day, Monaghan County Museum and Cavan Monaghan ETB teamed up to host a Flower Arranging workshop in the museum gallery.



Then, in April the Easter Workshop for children saw the museum gallery once again become a hive of activity. The gallery buzzed with creativity as the young artists produced 3D Easter decorations.

Archaeology Summer Camp

In July, children will have the opportunity to take part in our week-long Archaeology Summer Camp. They will enjoy gaining hands-on experience of excavation, artefacts, clothes, weaponry and games.



Forthcoming Events

Cruinniú na nÓg



On June 11th, as the summer begins, Monaghan County Museum will welcome children to celebrate Cruinniú na nÓg with them in a facilitated workshop to explore Storytelling in Shadow Art.

more to Monaghan

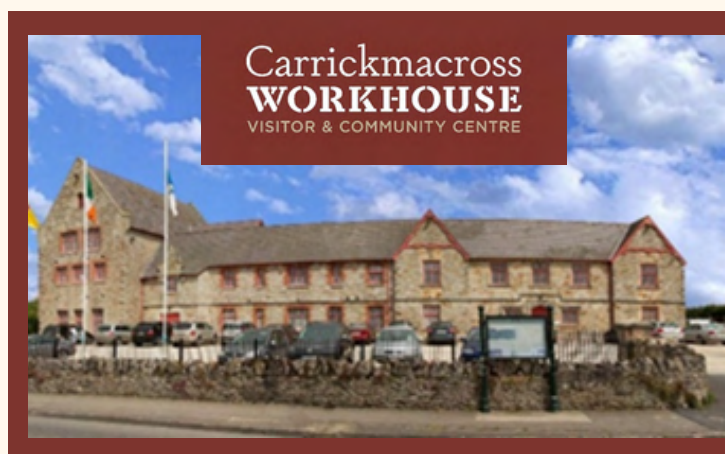
Official Launch of the Carrickmacross Workhouse and Rossmore Family Cycle Trail

The Official Launches for the new interpretive exhibition experience at **Carrickmacross Workhouse and the Rossmore Family Cycle Trail** at Rossmore Forest Park took place on Thursday 14th April 2022. Minister Heather Humphreys TD was present to officially open these new visitor experiences for the county.

Carrickmacross Workhouse, built in 1841 to house the poor, has been beautifully restored and now serves as a visitor and community centre. The visitor exhibition experience at Carrickmacross Workhouse, funded by the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, has undergone an impressive refurbishment that now includes a spell-binding audio-visual element and striking exhibits by local artists.

One-hour guided tours awaken history, and passionate guides tell the story of life, death and emigration during the Great Famine in a compelling yet sensitive way. The original children's dormitory which overlooks the on-site mass famine graves is especially poignant. The Carrickmacross Workhouse project was also recently successful in the 2021 LAMA All-Ireland Community & Council Awards, winning the Silver Award in the 'Best Heritage Project' category.

The **Rossmore Family Cycle Trail** is a 2.7km looped trail found within the confines of Rossmore Forest Park that will enable families and young cyclists bike in a safe and scenic off-road environment. The project was funded under the Outdoor Recreation Funding Scheme 2019, with match funding provided by Monaghan MD. The cycle trail was designed following consultation with key stakeholders such as Coillte, Emyvale Cycling Club and Cycle Ireland, and after a full tender process a contractor was appointed in Autumn 2021. The project was completed in April 2022.



'My Monaghan Pooch' Competition



Monaghan is a brilliant place to explore with your four-legged friend, with acres of parks and forests, luscious lakes, quiet country roads with breathtaking drumlin scenery and beautiful, unspoilt wilderness terrain. Throughout the month of February, the Monaghan Tourism Unit promoted and ran the 'My Monaghan Pooch' competition, encouraging participants to tag Monaghan Tourism in their pup's Monaghan outdoor adventures using the hashtag #MyMonaghanPooch.

The competition received a great response publicly and one lucky pet won a 'Pawlection Box' of goodies from Harry's Dog Bakery, whilst some very worthy runners up also received fabulous prizes.

Find out more about pet-friendly breaks in Monaghan here - <https://monaghantourism.com/pet-friendly-monaghan-dog-friendly-accommodation-dining-and-outdoor-adventures-in-monaghan/>

more to Monaghan

New EZExploring Town Trail Maps for county Monaghan

The Monaghan Tourism Unit, in conjunction with EZExploring – www.ezexploring.ie, are currently working on a suite of new town trail maps for the county.

Specifically targeted at families and children, the EZExploring maps have great potential for enhancing the tourism offering available in local towns, making them more attractive as a destination for families and domestic visitors staying locally. The maps provide a fun activity based trail that can be completed within a short radius, encouraging visitors to get out and about, solve the clues and explore and engage with their immediate surroundings, learning more about the unique characteristics and heritage of each town along the way. Trails can be completed at leisure over the course of a few hours, allowing visitors dwell longer within the town and enjoy additional activities such as dining and shopping as part of their experience.

The Story of Castleblayney

Many people will be familiar with the name of Castleblayney, but few will know the story behind the name. The name 'Castleblayney' is derived from the Gaelic 'Caisleán Bliainín', which means 'the castle of the blayney'. The name 'Blayney' is derived from the Gaelic 'Blainín', which means 'the castle of the blayney'. The name 'Castleblayney' is derived from the Gaelic 'Caisleán Bliainín', which means 'the castle of the blayney'.

Don't forget to Tick the box!

- 1. Read Castleblayney**
This inspiring initiative is known as the Read Castleblayney and is located at the entrance to Hazel Castle and Estate. A project initiated and led by the local community, it aims to provide a place of learning and inspiration for all. The project is a joint venture between the local community and the local authority. It is a place where the local community can learn about the history of the town and the castle. It is a place where the local community can learn about the history of the town and the castle. It is a place where the local community can learn about the history of the town and the castle.
- 2. The Annex Coach House and Stables**
This large stone complex was built in 1855 near the walled garden, near a carriage, and the orchard, where the trees still bear apples. The buildings here also housed the stables and the coach house. The stables were built in 1855 and the coach house was built in 1855. The stables were built in 1855 and the coach house was built in 1855. The stables were built in 1855 and the coach house was built in 1855.
- 3. Hope Castle**
Even to this day, the architecture and the embellishments of Hope Castle are still appreciated among the people who visit it. The castle had three upper floor windows. The castle had three upper floor windows. The castle had three upper floor windows. The castle had three upper floor windows.
- 4. Barney's Green**
Can you find the sign which stands in the middle of Barney's Green? These stone garden markers are an old off the estate when it was dark. The estate garden markers are an old off the estate when it was dark. The estate garden markers are an old off the estate when it was dark. The estate garden markers are an old off the estate when it was dark.
- 5. 1828 Memorial**
In 2008, to commemorate the 180th-Anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, a Community Garden of Remembrance was created within Barney's Green. This beautiful memorial was designed by Helen Shaw and it stands as a testament to the bravery of the soldiers of the 18th century. The memorial was designed by Helen Shaw and it stands as a testament to the bravery of the soldiers of the 18th century.
- 6. Church Street**
The gate forms the Church Street entrance to Hazel Castle. The gate forms the Church Street entrance to Hazel Castle. The gate forms the Church Street entrance to Hazel Castle. The gate forms the Church Street entrance to Hazel Castle.
- 7. St. Michael's Church of Ireland**
Monaghan is a town of many churches and the local history is rich. The local history is rich. The local history is rich. The local history is rich.
- 8. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**
This is the site of St. Mary's, a Catholic church which houses several ancient windows donated by the Duke of Devonshire, a local landowner. The church was built in 1855 and the windows were donated by the Duke of Devonshire. The church was built in 1855 and the windows were donated by the Duke of Devonshire.
- 9. Anna House**
This Anna House was constructed following the death of the local Lord Fitzpatrick, Castleblayney's local lord. The house was built in 1855 and the windows were donated by the Duke of Devonshire. The house was built in 1855 and the windows were donated by the Duke of Devonshire.
- 10. Victorian Pool Bath**
Had been using them when they were under British rule. The pool bath was built in 1855 and the windows were donated by the Duke of Devonshire. The pool bath was built in 1855 and the windows were donated by the Duke of Devonshire.
- 11. Dr. John J. Clarke**
This man-carrying music celebrates the work of famous photographer Dr. John J. Clarke. The man-carrying music celebrates the work of famous photographer Dr. John J. Clarke. The man-carrying music celebrates the work of famous photographer Dr. John J. Clarke.
- 12. Eugene Muller Hughes Medal**
This medal recognizes the achievements of GAA star Eugene Muller Hughes. The medal recognizes the achievements of GAA star Eugene Muller Hughes. The medal recognizes the achievements of GAA star Eugene Muller Hughes.
- 13. Music Wall of Fame**
Castleblayney is often referred to as the 'Music Wall of Fame'. The Music Wall of Fame is a wall of fame for the local music scene. The Music Wall of Fame is a wall of fame for the local music scene.
- 14. A. Frederick of Thoburn**
The establishment of the border, the closure of the Great Northern Railway and the 'Theoburn' sheep impacted 19th-century Castleblayney. The establishment of the border, the closure of the Great Northern Railway and the 'Theoburn' sheep impacted 19th-century Castleblayney.

Take a self-guided tour & explore Castleblayney
Be the local, the historian, the artist, and become the EZExploring...

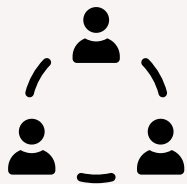
Easy Peasy Leisnery Striv...
Keep it simple, find the picture clues, find the clues, find the clues, find the clues.

Ready Steady Get!
Feeling competitive? Make your own quiz, find families and friends, to complete a quiz, share your quiz, find families and friends, to complete a quiz.

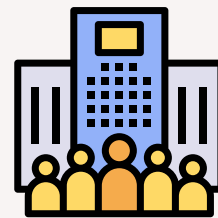
Castleblayney
easily explore
Baile na hIarla
Find the clues and tell the tales...

Hope Castle and the Hope Diamond
The first castle at the site was built by Edward Blayney. It was captured in 1649 by Hugh MacDonnell MacDonnell and the Blayney family were killed. Towards the end of the 18th century the 12th Lord Blayney, William Thomas, commissioned a new, more Georgian style house at the site that was designed by Robert Wrigley. Wrigley also designed Castleblayney in County Down.

Big Tom Memorial
This sculpture by Helen Shaw celebrates one of the most famous men to fall from Castleblayney, much-loved Big Tom McBride. Big Tom and the memorial and Big Tom and the memorial are a testament to the bravery of the soldiers of the 18th century.



COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE



SOCIAL INCLUSION NEWS

Launch of Age Friendly Ambassador

Seamus McDermott was officially confirmed as the Age Friendly Ambassador for Monaghan at the Launch of the Croke Park Age Friendly Stadium on Thursday 7th April. The Croke Park GAA Stadium has undertaken a substantial process of ensuring their facilities are equipped for population ageing which led to it being certified as the first Age Friendly Stadium in the world.

The event also provided the opportunity to launch the roles of the Age Friendly Ambassadors who represent every county in Ireland. The Ambassadors role involves networking and encouraging community members to participate in local activities that cater to older people's needs and interests. Seamus was delighted to represent Monaghan at the event and was accompanied by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Aidan Campbell and Barry Eaton, Age Friendly Programme Manager.



Photo: Age Friendly Ambassador launch: Cathaoirleach Cllr. Aidan Campbell, Seamus McDermott & Catherine McGuigan (Age Friendly Ireland).



Africa Day 2022

Africa Day, designated by the African Union as an annual celebration of the continent's unity, falls on 25th May each year. Along with the celebrations that take place around the world, local communities across Ireland organise events to mark the day.

Funding of €7,000 has been received from Irish Aid from the Department of Foreign Affairs for events to take place in Monaghan as part of Africa Day 2022. The project is being led by Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre who have brought together a committee made from representatives of the African communities in Monaghan. An Africa Day event is planned for **Saturday 28th May** which will include a celebration of African culture, food and heritage. Please see www.africaday.ie website for more details.

Inclusive Cycling

MSP partnered with Bike Green Cycling training to deliver an Inclusive Cycling programme in 3 Autism support services in primary schools in Monaghan. The participating schools were St. Tiarnachs N.S. Clones, St. Marys N.S. Threemilehouse and Scoil Naomh Pádraig Corracrin. A total of 50 children participated in the programme across the 3 schools and the feedback from principals has been fantastic. Community based cycle training is planned for end April 2022.



Football for All Skills

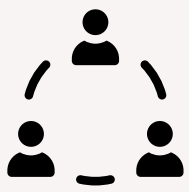
MSP partnered with the FAI Community Development programme to support Football for All skills programme in 2 Autism support services in primary schools in Monaghan, this time at St. Marys N.S. Clontibret and St. Oliver Plunket N.S. Loughmourne. A total of 42 children participated in the programme and enjoyed the activity



Tricycle resources for adult disability services

With funding support through the HSE Section 39 Funding scheme, MSP purchased 5 Adult Trikes to support independent activity within adult disability day services in the County. The following services received a tricycle: Camphill Community Service (Ballybay), Day Activation Unit, (Monaghan), Cairde Activation, (Clones), Errigal Truagh Special Needs, Steadfast House (Carrickmacross) (2 services).





COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE



SPORTS PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Community Participation – Active Adults 50+

MSP kicked off our Spring programme 2022 in various locations across the county with almost 300 participants signing up for the new programmes. Activities for our over 50's included:

- Aqua Aerobics – Coral Leisure Monaghan Town (20)
- Gentle Yoga – Monaghan Town (14), Corcaghan (18), Newbliss (18)
- Gentle Pilates – Tydavnet (13), Emyvale (13), Clontibret (12)
- Activator Poles – Carrickmacross (8)
- Walk n' Tone – Rossmore Park (9)
- Chair Aerobics – Lisdoonan (12), Carrickmacross (18)
- Line Dancing – Monaghan Town (35), Tullycorbett (25), Ardaghay (20), Aughnamullen (15)
- Strength & Conditioning - Monaghan Town (16)
- Tai Chi & Pilates – Donaghmoynne (15)
- Jazzercise – Doohamlet (12)



Safeguarding in Sport

Safeguarding in sport for sports club volunteers continued to be offered online with 3 courses completed Jan-April 2022 and 34 participants in attendance in total

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Sports Leadership training course

The Sports Leadership course is an accredited UK course that is delivered in Ireland through Local Sports Partnerships. The course delivery has been greatly affected by the pandemic but we were delighted to re-instate the course with one School in Q1 2022.

The course is designed to develop basic leadership / coaching skills amongst young people and encourage them to impart those skills within their own community. The course involves both guided & peer-to-peer learning and supervised leadership to ensure that learners have all the skills they need to lead basic physical activities to other people. It teaches modules such as Communication skills, organisational skills, officiating, changing and adapting activity. 31 Transition Year students completed the programme at Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney.



Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport

Following on from the first ever course held late last year, MSP facilitated another workshop in mid-February. This workshop is designed specifically to support coaches of girls 12-17 years of age and enable them to create a positive experience of sport and physical activity for girls in their formative years and enhance the environment where girls can enjoy their sport leading to greater participation. A total of 18 sports coaches attended this workshop.

STREAT SCHOOL LTD. WINS TOP COUNTY ENTERPRISE AWARD DURING LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK



Sean McCleary and Nikita McCrory from Streat Schools Ltd in Glaslough are this year's winners of the Monaghan Enterprise Award for 2022, Local Enterprise Office Monaghan has announced.

Street School Ltd took the top prize of € 2500.00 and will now represent Local Enterprise Office Monaghan at the 22nd National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House in Dublin on the 2nd June.

Streat School Ltd. manufacture and brand bespoke coffee & hot food trailers for customers. They also offer their unique industry expertise and mentoring in the form of workshops & seminars to help both startups and existing businesses.

Streat School Ltd. will now be competing against 30 other finalists from every local authority area for a share of the €35,000 winners prize fund as national judging gets underway in May. Categories this year include 'Best Export Business,' 'Best Start-Up' and 'Innovation,' in addition to eight regional awards. There are also two new National Enterprise Awards this year with a "One to Watch" award and a "Sustainability / Green" award.

Companies from Monaghan have enjoyed success in the National Enterprise Awards in the past. In 2019, Michael and Una Murphy of Rivval clinched the Regional award.

The Monaghan Enterprise Awards took place as part of a very successful Local Enterprise Week programme of events. There was over 220 physical and virtual events taking place across the country, organised by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices from March 7th to 11th.

36 other local businesses were also shortlisted this year, and they were all introduced at the online event by MC for the occasion, Aine Kerr. A native of County Monaghan, Áine is co-founder and COO of Kinzen, a regular on broadcast media, a Fellow of Columbia University's Sulzberger Leadership Programme and an award-winning journalist.

Other winners at the Monaghan Enterprise Awards held online on Friday 11th March, included Juno Composites Ltd. for Innovation, Ramfit Ltd in the Export category, The Kick Company for Sustainability, Old Carrick Mill Ltd. for a Pivot award and Gillanders Town and Country for Ecommerce. Best Established Business went to Streat School Ltd and Best Start up went to Glaslough Chocolates.

Among the special guests at the ceremony were Aidan Campbell, Cathaoirleach, Monaghan County Council, Paul Clifford, Deputy Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council and Deirdre Craven, Enterprise Ireland who represented the judging panel.





COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE NEWS

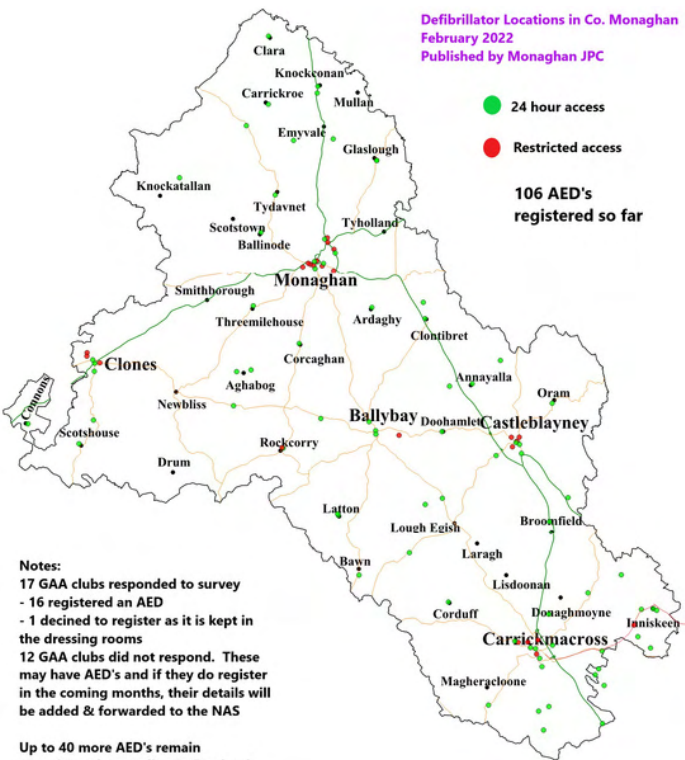


Newbliss Killeevan Community Plan Launched

Minister Heather Humphreys paid a packed Acorn Centre in Newbliss a visit on 4th April last to launch a Community Plan for Newbliss and Killeevan. The plan was prepared by the Community Dept team in consultation with the community, and identifies a number of key initiatives which are designed to improve life in the area. The Plan can be downloaded from the Community section of the Council website, www.monaghan.ie



Pictured at the launch of the Newbliss Killeevan Community Plan are: (back row l to r) Mary Graham, Patrick Martin, Patricia Monahan, Cllr Pat Treanor, Kevin McNally, Alan Johnston (Chair Monaghan LCDC), Betty Corr (Front row l to r): Deputy Niamh Smyth TD, Cllr Aidan Campbell Cathaoirleach MCC, Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Affairs and Minister for Social Protection, Jim Graham, Chair of Killeevan Development Group, Cllr Richard Truell, Cathaoirleach of Ballybay Clones MD



Defibrillator Initiative

As part of a Joint Policing Committee initiative, the Community Dept organised a comprehensive campaign to encourage holders of defibrillators to register them with us. Holders were asked to supply the GIS co-ordinates for the location of their defibrillator, which was passed to the National Ambulance Service so that when a person calls for an ambulance in an emergency situation, the NAS operator can see on their system if there is a defibrillator nearby which might be brought to the scene in case it is needed before the ambulance arrives. Information has also been collected from holders on the make of AED, whether it is being stored in an external heated cabinet and whether there is an active CPR group in the area providing training in its use. This information will help the Council to plan future initiatives to support defibrillator holders and improve the coverage of the county by AED's and CPR-trained volunteers, making Co. Monaghan a safer place to live.

Pride of Place

The results of the 2021 IPB All Ireland Pride of Place competition were announced at a gala awards ceremony in Killarney on 16th May. Monaghan County Council was represented by Aughnamullen in the population category. Teach na nDaoine family resource centre in the community resilience category, where they were nominated for their work during the Covid crisis in setting up and running a county-wide food bank, and Carrickmacross Workhouse represented the county in the Community Tourism category. **Congratulations is in order as Aughnamullen received the runner up award in the population category.**





Drain Blocking on Sliabh Beagh

An area of drains was blocked within the Eshbrack Bog NHA (Natural Heritage Area) on Sliabh Beagh in February. 120 peat dams were installed in two long drains at the northern end of the NHA.

The main aim of drain blocking is to raise the water table level in the drains and to rewet the blanket bog. Best practice guidance issued by the NPWS was used to ensure minimal damage and disturbance was caused to the blanket bog, species & habitats. Plastic digger tracks were used by the contractor to minimize disturbance to the bog surface and vegetation. The works took a total of 5 days to complete with a specialist contractor employed.

Visit of Scottish partners

We recently welcomed our Scotland colleagues from the CANN Project to Sliabh Beagh. We gave them a tour of the Sliabh Beagh blanket bog and looked at some of the conservation works being carried out including drain blocking & invasive species removal. Similar works are being carried out on bogs in Scotland with peatland conservation being a high priority. It was a great day discussing blanket bog restoration and comparing different types of conservation works being carried out in the different CANN regions.



Wildfire management plan

A wildfire management plan has been developed for the Sliabh Beagh region. The first in person meeting to discuss the wildfire management plan took place in the Sliabh Beagh hotel in March. A wide range of stakeholders were represented at this meeting to discuss key aspects of the plan and how wildfires can be managed going forward. The main aims of the plan going forward is to: Compile knowledge to allow stakeholders to gain an understanding of the fire risk in the area, encourage cross – border actions to sustainably manage the landscape and enhance landscape resilience through sustainable management practices. A fire occurred on the northern part of Sliabh Beagh in March 2022 where a significant area of the bog was burned. This destroyed valuable habitat for some of the key species found on Sliabh Beagh.



Heritage Section

Invasive species removal

Extensive self-seeding conifers and rhododendron removal took place within the Sliabh Beagh SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and the Eshbrack Bog NHA (Natural Heritage Area).

27 hectares of invasives was removed from the Sliabh Beagh SAC and 10 hectares from the Eshbrack Bog NHA. Rhododendron and self-seeding conifers are two of the main species which threaten native peatlands. Rhododendron blocks the light and excludes native bog vegetation through competing for space. Self-seeding conifers dry out the bog surface and change the soil conditions to favor woodland succession.

BEFORE



AFTER



Coiste Gaeilge

Le déanaí bhronn Coiste Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin deontais ar son ócáidí le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge, sin an Ceiliúradh is mó ar ár dteanga agus cultúra tharlaíonn in aghaidh bliana in Éirinn. Gabhann an Coiste buíochas leo siúd ar fad a eagraíonn na hócáidí seo chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa chontae.

Monaghan County Council's Coiste Gaeilge recently awarded grants totalling €1200 for groups to put on events during Seachtain na Gaeilge, the biggest Celebrations of our native language and culture that takes place each year in Ireland. The Coiste thanks all the organisers of the events for promoting the Irish Language in the County.

Ag seo na hócáidí atá i gceist:

Group	Activity
Muineachán Le Gaeilge	Ócáid oscailte oifigiúla na hOifige
Comhaltas Baile Mhuineacháin	seisiún ceoil a reachtáil
Comhaltas na Botha	Ceardlann ceol
CLG Muineacháin	POP Up Gaeltacht
Coiste Scór Uí Rathgaille	A Sean-nós singing workshop facilitated by Fleadh All-Ireland winner Katie Boyle
Chonradh na Gaeilg Craobh Aireagal an Triúcha	Tae agus Plé

The events funded are listed above

The Coiste is also delighted to have awarded 36 scholarships to Students attending Gaeltacht Summer Courses in 2022. Best of luck to them!



Municipal Districts



Ballybay/ Clones



Washington and Lee choir

The Washington and Lee choir, from Lexington Virginia performed in the Sacred Heart Church Clones on April 20th, the event was hosted by The Canal Store Clones with financial assistance from the Municipal District. The choir have a connection to Clones through former choir member, Luke Quigley son of Clones natives Caroline (Hanberry) & Bosco Quigley.

Men's Shed

The Men's Shed Ballybay have developed allotments with vegetable plots and planters, through the Clár funding scheme for Community Gardens and Allotments.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

On April 14th Minister Heather Humphreys officially opened Community Parks in Scotshouse and Ballybay. The development of these parks was funded by the Town & Village Renewal Scheme granted by the Minister.

Ballybay Community Park



Scotshouse Community Park



Planters



Vegetable Plots

Clones to Smithborough Greenway

Public consultation for the Clones to Smithborough Greenway were held on 14th March in Clones Courthouse and 23rd March in Smithborough Community centre. The consultant is currently finalising his report regarding the route selection.



Public Consultation Smithborough

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

Clones Monastic Centre

Lowry Construction is proceeding with works to the former Lennard Arms. These works consist of stripping out the building and asbestos removal.

The Municipal District office is finalising an application for funding under Category 1 of the Rural Regeneration Development fund for the next phase of works for the development of a visitor centre/museum.



Lennard Arms Hotel

Motte & Bailey

The Motte and Bailey situated in Clones forms part of the overall Heritage Project for Clones that received funding through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. A motte-and-bailey castle is a European fortification with a wooden or stone keep situated on a raised area of ground called a motte, accompanied by a walled courtyard, or bailey, surrounded by a protective ditch and palisade.

This project will see the conservation and restoration of the structure which will be open to visitors.



Monaghan

Official opening of the Cycle Trail at Rossmore Park, Monaghan

Monaghan Municipal District were delighted to welcome Minister Heather Humphreys to the official opening of the Cycle Trail at Rossmore Park, Monaghan. The sun beamed for the cutting of ceremonial ribbon and we were delighted to welcome our Elected members along with Senator Robbie Gallagher, Monaghan County Council officials, Coillte officials and members from the Emyvale Cycling Club.

This trail is a welcome addition to the Rossmore Park and Monaghan Municipal District are thankful to Minister Humphreys for her support in this project.

Winners of St. Patrick's Day Parade Floats/Windows

Monaghan Municipal District were delighted to invite the winners of our St. Patrick's Day Parade Floats/Windows to a presentation ceremony at our Municipal District meeting on 21st April. It was great to see the return of our Parade this year and in such colour and joyful festivities too! We congratulate our winners and thank all the participants of the Parade.



Monaghan Municipal District wish to thank Bernie McElvaney for her excellent and loyal service to Monaghan over the last number of years.

Bernie has been a leading member of our team and on behalf of our Elected Members and our administration team, we wish her a happy and enjoyable retirement.

Carrickmacross

Return of the St Patrick's day Parade

2022 saw the return of a hugely successful St. Patrick's Day Parade to Carrickmacross Town. The large crowds in attendance were roundly entertained by local bands and some very imaginative floats.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was a 3-craft formation fly-over by the Irish Air Corp.



Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan

Following extensive consultation with community partners and the wider public, the MD Executive, in conjunction with The Paul Hogarth Company, has developed a Public Realm Spatial Plan for the village of Inniskeen. Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District would like to thank everyone that participated in the consultation process. It is through your feedback and continued support that the Public Realm Spatial Plan has reached fruition. The Plan is scheduled for official launch in early June 2022.



Castleblayney



Elsewhere in Castleblayney, the MD's ongoing partnership with the Town Regeneration Team saw the arrival of a new resident, "Dòchas", at Lough Muckno Park. The sculpture was "christened" by local school Children.

In Castleblayney Town, the construction of the "The Ridge" Remote Working and Enterprise Hub continues apace, with works due to be completed by the end of Q3/early Q4 2022.



"The Ridge" Enterprise Hub, McGrath Road, Castleblayney