

The background of the cover features a tall, cylindrical stone tower, likely a round church tower, standing against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with several old, weathered gravestones of various shapes and sizes. A large, semi-transparent yellow circle is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text.

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL
ANNUAL REPORT**

2021



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

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Foreword

We welcome the publication of Monaghan County Council's Annual Report for 2021.

This Annual Report is a testimony to the resilience, commitment and professionalism of the Elected Members, Management and Staff of Monaghan County Council who, despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, provided leadership, expertise and innovative solutions to ensure both an appropriate response to Covid-19 challenges and continuity of Council services to the citizens and communities of our county.

2021 demonstrated the Council's ability to adapt and implement change successfully through hard work, innovation and collaboration. This work was recognised through the nomination and winning of several awards in 2021. We continued to embrace new ways of working and implemented business continuity plans to ensure unwavering service delivery in line with the objectives detailed in our Corporate Plan.

The Community Response Helpline, which was set up in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, continued to operate in 2021. Community Department staff coordinated a community wide response to the pandemic crisis, taking calls from vulnerable people and assigning calls for assistance to a wide array of volunteers, particularly from within the GAA, Gardai, Civil Defence and others. A total of 356 calls were received to the helpline during 2021. We would like to acknowledge the support, dedication and co-operation of staff in the Community Department together with Civil Defence, the Gardai and in particular the community groups who made it possible to continue to deliver this service throughout the pandemic.

Throughout 2021, our priority remained focused on protecting the health and well-being of the people of Monaghan and our own staff alongside the delivery of essential services. As an organisation we worked with our business community to provide supports and protections which would mitigate the impacts of restrictions and loss of revenue. We worked with national government to ensure the rapid roll out of financial supports and adapted our own policies and procedures to facilitate society and business to operate where permitted. We have to acknowledge also the exceptional support of Government in financial terms to the local authority sector, without which we would not have been in a position to sustain services.

Climate change continues to be a major challenge for us at National and International level with policy responses required in terms of, not only, mitigating the causes of climate change, but also in adapting to the inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Monaghan County Council is committed to playing a lead role in the protection of the environment and the enhancement of Monaghan's natural and built environment. Monaghan County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 represents a proactive step in the process of adaptation planning to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change. During 2021, despite the Covid pandemic, significant progress was made in progressing the measures and actions contained within the strategy and within the National Climate Action Plan 2019. The Council has made substantial progress over a relatively short period, but these are only the first steps in a journey where the country is in now legally committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Monaghan County Council is the first Local Authority to complete the retrofit of all its public lighting. This project was funded through our Council's own resources, plus some TII funding for national routes, with a payback period of 7 years through reduced energy and maintenance costs. A total of 5,800 public streetlights were upgraded over the 4-year lifetime of this project which resulted in energy savings of 1.82GWh (equivalent to €270,000) and over 530,000kg of CO₂ emissions has been offset. As well as energy savings and CO₂ emission reductions, there are additional safety benefits such as improved illumination on our roads, villages, towns and public spaces and additional environmental benefits such as reduced light intrusion, light pollution and skyglow from the LED lighting. This project has greatly assisted Monaghan County Council on its energy-reduction journey, having now met and exceeded the 2020 energy target the Council is well on its way to the new 2030 target.

The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 ceremony took place in November 2021. The Excellence in Local Government Awards showcase best practice in local government and recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government that can often go unrecognised. The Excellence in Local Government Awards are held in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Monaghan Co Council again excelled receiving nominations in 11 categories reflecting the level of quality and innovation we deliver across all our services.

The three winning projects on the afternoon were:

- **Supporting Tourism Category - Patrick Kavanagh Centre and the branded Kavanagh Trail**
- **Festival of the Year Category - Cavan Monaghan Online Science Festival 2020**
- **Disability Services Provision Category - My Right to Vote – General Election Voter Education**

In 2021 the Council continued to advance proposals for the regeneration and development of lands to the rear of Dublin Street and at Roosky. Development proposals for three contiguous areas are currently being progressed: Dublin Street South, Dublin Street North and Roosky Lands.

New build projects were the main focus of the capital expenditure programme in 2021 and Monaghan County Council completed six houses at Ard an Radhairc in Carrickmacross, six houses at Luí na Gréine in Scotstown and six houses at Folly Court in Ballybay. In total 108 additional social houses were provided in 2021 through a mix of new build and acquisitions. The Covid related shutdowns in construction activity in 2021 had the effect of shortening the construction period in 2021 to just 9 months which caused a number of projects originally programmed for completion in 2021 to be delayed until early 2022. A further 64 new built social houses were provided in conjunction with Oaklee Housing, Tuath Housing Association and North & East Housing Association. Two houses were acquired on the open market by Monaghan County Council and 50 social houses owned by Monaghan County Council were re-let in 2021.

2021 was another very busy year for the Local Enterprise Office. The challenges of BREXIT and COVID remained for all businesses and Monaghan LEO engaged proactively to support businesses prepare and adapt to the new trading environment. This was a priority focus for 2021 as businesses adapted inwardly and outwardly to the regulatory changes from 1st January 2021. Monaghan LEO hosted 3 Brexit specific events at which 115 businesses attended. This is in addition to 8 businesses who availed of BREXIT/Customs related mentoring.

In 2021, Monaghan County Council developed a Digital Strategy to encourage and empower communities and businesses to harness the benefits of a digitally enabled county. Monaghan's Digital Strategy will run from 2021 – 2025. Informed by interviews and surveys with businesses, citizens and voluntary organisations, the strategy aims to embrace the digital revolution and position the county so that everyone can access and exploit digital opportunities to improve their homelife, work and access to public services.

2021 proved to be yet another successful year for Monaghan County Council with MyCoCo online portal being awarded funding under the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's Our Public Service Innovation Fund 2021 and declared outright winners of the Cloud Category in the first ever Future Tech Challenge. MyCoCo is an online citizen portal being developed in collaboration with 10 local authorities led by Monaghan County Council. It is a secure build-to-share solution that will deliver local authority services digitally for all citizens and all local authorities to avail of.

In other areas of innovation, Midland Construction Ltd. was awarded the contract to construct the new Bioconnect Research and Innovation Hub at Knockaconny, Monaghan in December 2021. Work on the €4.3 million Research and Innovation Centre for the agri-food sector will commence in January with an expected completion date in December 2022. Whilst the Data Value Hub, funded by Monaghan County Council and Enterprise Ireland, provides a dedicated Digital Innovation facility for enterprises across the North East

region. The Hub assists local and regional enterprises to benefit from technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Edge Computing and Autonomous Things, to expand and develop new processes and products.

In October 2021 the Value for Money Unit in the Local Government Audit Service produced a report entitled “An overview of vacant/void social housing in Local Authorities”. The report looked at the year 2019 and it reconfirmed Monaghan County Council’s excellent performance in this function with this local authority having the second-best performance in the Country in 2019. Whilst the number of properties available for re-let in 2020 decreased, housing section continued this good work with a further improvement on times through the use of direct labour.

Michael Gallen's Opera 'Elsewhere', based on the true story of a protest in an asylum in Monaghan in 1919, premiered and completed its sell out run at the Abbey Theatre on Saturday 20th November 2021. The journey which Monaghan County Council started with Michael in 2017 is moving to an international venture, where in spring of 2023 it will be touring to Antwerp, Berlin, Rotterdam & Rouen.

This partnership between Michael Gallen, Castleblayney and Monaghan County Council started in 2017 when the Council awarded a sum of €600 to Michael through the Artist Support Scheme. In the intervening years through Bursary Schemes, the Value-Added Scheme and Creative Monaghan funding to both Michael, as an individual, and Straymaker (his production Company), a total of €65K was awarded by Monaghan County Council. Total production value of Elsewhere so far exceeds €600,000 all from the humble beginnings of the €600 awarded by Monaghan County Council back in 2017. Both the economic and creative return invested back into the county, not only in the tangible form of money but the holistic, artistic intangible form together with the creative imprint, positive energy and buzz caused by the 33 members of the crew and cast being resident in the county is viewed by the Council as a project that we are very proud of.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the support, dedication and co-operation of all staff, throughout the organisation - both indoor and outdoor. We would like to thank the elected representatives for their ongoing co-operation and support throughout the year. Much of what we do can only be achieved by working in partnership with our various stakeholders and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their on-going support and co-operation.

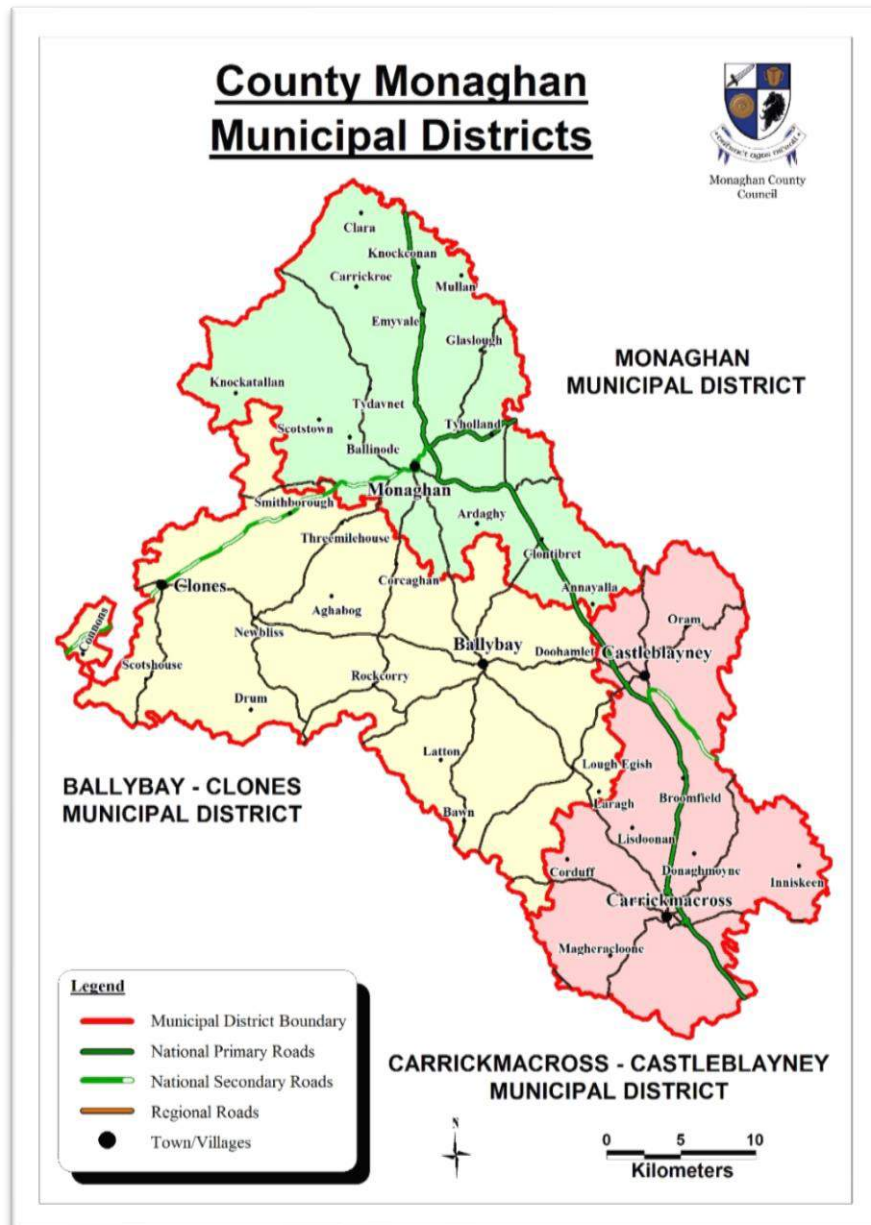
Looking back on another challenging year, we realise how we have had to continue to work with and endure the restrictions which have affected every aspect of our family, work and social lives. Many staff and members have suffered the loss of family and friends and the grieving process has been severely disrupted by the Government restrictions around funeral rites and ceremonies. Monaghan County Council were deeply saddened by the untimely loss of three staff members in 2021, Michael Kelly, Raymond Logue and John Lennon. We will keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers always.



Eamonn O'Sullivan
Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council



Aidan Campbell
Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council



Mission Statement

*Monaghan County Council provides
High Quality, Sustainable Public Services
to enhance the
Economic, Environmental and Cultural Wellbeing
of our People and County.*

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The following are the Elected Representatives for the County of Monaghan:

BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Seamus
COYLE (FF)



Cllr Pat
TREANOR (SF)



Cllr Sean
GILLILAND (FG)



Cllr Hugh
MCELVANEY (IND)



Cllr Richard
TRUELL (FG)

MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Sean
CONLON (SF)



Cllr Cathy
BENNETT (SF)



Cllr Brian
MCKENNA (SF)



Cllr Raymond
AUGHEY (FF)



Cllr David
MAXWELL (FG)



Cllr Seamus
TREANOR (IND)



Cllr Paudge
CONNOLLY (IND)

CARRICKMACROSS-CASTLEBLAYNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Aidan
CAMPBELL (FG)



Cllr Mary
KERR-CONLON (FG)



Cllr Aoife
MC COOEY (FF)



Cllr PJ
O'HANLON (FF)



Cllr Noel
KEELAN (SF)



Cllr Colm
CARTHY (SF)

Finance

Rates Waiver 2021

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage offered support for businesses affected by the COVID 19 restrictions through the commercial Rates Waiver for 2020 and 2021. This Waiver was available to a targeted cohort of Rate payers in 2021 and amounted to €3,695,929 for the year. The waiver was applied as a credit directly to the rate payers accounts and did not necessitate an application from the business.

MCC Covid related costs

In December 2021 Finance submitted a claim to the Department for additional expenditure and unrealised income in 2021 resulting directly from COVID 19. The expected income in relation to this is €306,548.

Reconciliation of Statement of Financial Position (SoFP) and review of Statement of Comprehensive Income (SoCI)

The Finance Section carry out regular reconciliations and reviews of balances on the SoFP, thus adhering to best practice recommendations. This ensures that debts are collected as quickly as possible, funding for capital projects is identified and transactions are monitored and reviewed on a timely basis, loans are reconciled to statements and fixed assets are reconciled to other available registers such as iHouse and the Property Asset Register. In addition to this, Finance carry out a quarterly analysis of actual versus budgeted revenue expenditure and income to ensure that all expenditure and income are accurately posted and are recognised in the correct period. No audit adjustments have been required in the Council's accounts.

Treasury Management

From April 2017, Bank of Ireland have applied negative interest charges to Local Authorities with credit balances on their bank account over €1m. In order to eliminate these interest charges, Finance staff monitor the bank balance and transfer excess funds to an Investment bank where it can earn interest on deposits.

Finance also monitor capital balances to ensure that sanctioned loans required to fund projects are drawn down at the optimum time.

Reduction of cumulative deficit

Due mainly to the abolishment of the Town Councils in 2014, Monaghan County Council had a cumulative opening deficit at the beginning of 2014 of €3,309,389. The Council is committed to reducing the deficit on an annual basis. Normally, this cumulative deficit reduction is achieved by attaining a revenue surplus in the annual accounts. The surplus is achieved through accurate budget preparation, cost reduction awareness and careful monitoring of actual spend versus budget. In 2021 the surplus achieved was higher than normal due to a transfer of historical Water Services credit capital balances to Revenue. The cumulative deficit has been reduced from the highest level of €3.3m in 2013 to €1.9m at 2020 year-end.

Housing

Housing Capital Building Programme

A total of 108 additional social houses were provided in 2021 through a mix of new build and acquisitions. The Covid related shutdowns in construction activity in 2021 had the effect of shortening the construction period in 2021 to just 9 months which caused a number of projects originally programmed for completion in 2021 to be delayed until early 2022. Furthermore, whilst some houses have been completed in Q4 of 2021, allocations will commence in Q1 and Q2 of 2022, to allow for Health and Safety measures to be in place during ongoing construction works.

New build projects were the main focus of the capital expenditure programme in 2021 and Monaghan County Council completed six houses at Ard an Radhairc in Carrickmacross, six houses at Luí na Gréine in Scotstown and six houses at Folly Court in Ballybay.

A further 64 new built social houses were provided in conjunction with Oaklee Housing, Tuath Housing Association and North & East Housing Association.

Two houses were acquired on the open market by Monaghan County Council and 50 social houses owned by Monaghan County Council were re-let in 2021.



Photo of six houses purchased and renovated by Monaghan County Council at Folly Court in Ballybay.



Photo of new Monaghan County Council houses at Ard an Radhairc in Carrickmacross



Photo of new Monaghan County Council owned houses at Luí na Gréine in Scotstown

Approved Housing Bodies

There are currently 19 Approved Housing Bodies working in County Monaghan. In 2021 Approved Housing Bodies delivered 88 social homes through a mix of new build and acquisitions:

- Through the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF),
 - 45 homes in Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD area have been delivered.
- Through the Capital Assistance Scheme
 - 19 new homes in Clones
 - 4-bedroom unit in Monaghan Town for people with Intellectual disabilities*
 - 5 properties in Castleross*
- Through the Mortgage to Rent scheme 15 properties are now being managed by AHBs* (*note: these are excluded from 2021 allocations)

Remedial Works

The majority of the works included under the Mullaghmat Remedial Works Scheme contract with the firm Brendan Loughran & Sons Limited have been completed with the exception of minor snagging which will be completed in early 2022.



Photo of renovated houses with new windows, fascias, soffits, gutters etc.

Monaghan County Council is currently planning additional work in Mullaghmat as part of the effort to continue to improve the upkeep of the area under the Housing planned maintenance programme with the ongoing cooperation and assistance of residents and Teach na nDaoine.

Casual Vacancies / Voids

Monaghan County Council dealt with 50 Casual Vacancies in 2021 at a cost of €1,052,814. The houses were prepared for reletting at an average cost of €21,056 each in an average time of approximately 13.59 weeks. Monaghan County Council does not have any long-term vacant houses (Voids).

Housing Maintenance

In 2021 a budget allocation of €750,000 provided for reactive & planned general maintenance of the Council's housing stock. The Housing Section received and logged in excess of 1700 repair requests in 2021. The key areas of housing maintenance for occupied dwellings include:

1. **Response Maintenance** which involves responding to tenant emergencies and reported repair requests. The Housing Maintenance Department continues to engage with tenants to provide appropriate information in relation to these responsibilities.

2. **Planned Maintenance** involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2021 targeted planned maintenance works were focused on upgrading the building fabric and ensuring the safety within properties. This included heating upgrades, septic tank upgrades, electrical works and wall insulation.

Renewal Schemes

The ongoing work at the derelict sites in Clones as part of the Clones Renewal Scheme continued in 2021 with 6 of the 24 units delivered in a currently challenging environment for a scheme of this nature.

Monaghan County Council received final funding approval, with permission to commence works on site to renew 2 vacant houses at No. 13 McCurtain Street and 13 Church Hill Clones. In addition,

Monaghan County Council have received tenders to renew a fire damaged derelict site at 12 Church Street and have appointed a Design Team to address an unfinished housing development in Ballybay town centre where 4 derelict properties exist along with a vacant derelict site.



Clones Renewal Scheme

Vacant Homes

Monaghan County Council is continuing to progress the Vacant Homes Programme and is collating information regarding all properties inspected for vacancy. Since the inception of the Vacant Homes Programme and after reviewing initial desktop information the Vacant Homes Office have identified 180 vacant homes, 30 in Monaghan MD, 107 in Ballybay - Clones MD and 43 in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD.

Monaghan County Council's Vacant Homes Office is registered with www.vacanthomes.ie where the public can provide the details of any vacant homes in their locality and the website will automatically notify the Vacant Homes Office by email. At the end of 2021 there were 27 properties registered vacant on the website. These properties will be investigated and collated with the properties already recorded.

Homeless Services

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the assessment of people who present to their offices for social housing support and who state that they are homeless. In 2021 there were 60 persons presented themselves as homeless. Of those who presented, 18 were assessed as homeless, with the necessary supports being provided to them.

Traveller Accommodation

Monaghan County Council are delivering their Traveller accommodation programme through the

provision of Social Housing, Approved Body Housing and HAP assistance. Furthermore, the final phase of the redevelopment of Gortakeegan Halting Site was completed in December 2021. With the completion of the project there are now 14 houses available comprised of eight one-bedroom houses and six 2-bedroom houses.



Gortakeegan Halting Site

Housing Grants

In 2021 an initial allocation of €1.286 million was increased to €2million due to the continued high up take of housing grants in the County. Housing Section approved 342 housing grant applications, paying out on 286 applications and recouping in full on 277 applications.

Monaghan County Council continues to be at the top of the Departments 'drawdown table' for 2021, a testament to the great work being undertaken by all involved in promoting and delivering the various schemes.

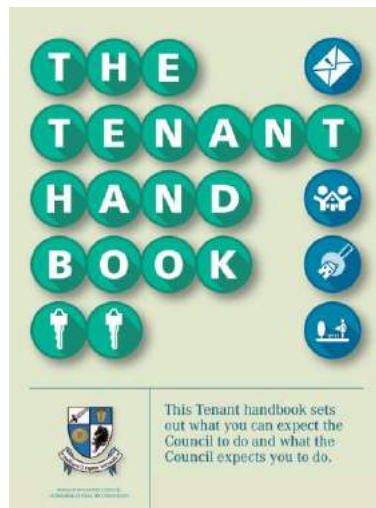
Tenancies

The Tenant Liaison Officer, in 2021, was mainly involved in dealing with Breaches of Tenancy. The number of cases opened in 2021 is outlined below. There were 51 Breaches of Tenancy cases which were categorised under the following headings:

- Category A - Drug Activity:
- Category B - Non-Drug Related Antisocial Behaviour Activity (e.g. property damage or actions hostile to a person): 16
- Category C - (Other- breaches of tenancy): 35
- In respect of these matters the investigations of the cases resulted in the following
 - 1st warning, Tenant Notifications issued: 4
 - Statutory Warnings served (Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2014.): 4

- Abandonment Notices served: 1
- Dwellings taken back into MCC possession following the service of statutory tenancy Warnings/Notices: 4

The tenant liaison office continues to communicate Monaghan County Council's policies to new tenants in training and information sessions. Such pre tenancy sessions numbered 76 last year.



Housing Allocations 2021

In 2021 Housing had 122 housing allocations an increase from 98 allocations in 2020. The breakdown per MD and unit type allocated is as follows

2021 Allocations by Municipal District	
Ballybay / Clones	30
Carrickmacross / Castleblaney	56
Monaghan	36
Total	122

2021 Allocations by Property bed size	
1 Bed	4
2 Bed	41
3 Bed	58
4 Bed	19
5 Bed	0
Total	122

Summary Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) 2021

Monaghan County Council prepared in 2021 a Social Housing Assessment Summary in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. The purpose of the Assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support.

Housing Assistance Payment

HAP continues to play an important role as a form of social housing support for those with a long-

term housing need. 102 tenancies commenced in 2021 and there was a total of 566 active HAP supported tenancies as at 31st December 2021. Since the introduction of HAP in October 2014, 349 individuals/families in HAP supported tenancies have since been allocated Local Authority tenancies or tenancies provided by Approved Housing Bodies.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The total number of properties providing social housing under the RAS scheme was 176 at year end 2021 with 73 households in private rented properties and 103 households in properties held by approved housing bodies.

Health and Safety Unit

Operational Plan

The Health and Safety Unit (HSU) set out the health and safety targets to be achieved in the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) 2021. The HSU documented its programme of work in the HSU Operational Plan 2021. This programme of work was successfully achieved and the requirements of the ASDP 2021 met. The HSU reviewed the Operational Plan on a weekly basis as part of our Weekly Team Planning Meetings. The plan was further reviewed with the Director of Service and the HSU during the MonStat Meetings.

The unit reviewed and updated HSP55 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide in line with national updates throughout the year. The unit conducted regular COVID-19 inspections in buildings and work site locations throughout 2021. Overall, we noted good compliance.

The following is a summary of the main work conducted by the HSU in 2021:

- Annual Service Delivery plan developed and implemented.
- Corporate Safety Statement and HSU Corporate Risk Register reviewed six monthly.
- HSM11 MCC Ladder Register and HSM12 Defibrillator Register developed and added to the Online Health and Safety Manual.
- Fire Section documents reviewed and added to the Online Health and Safety Manual.
- Veterinary Procedures reviewed. Procedures VSSOP12 and VSSOP13 developed as result of review. New Veterinary Online H&S Manual set up.
- Quarterly defibrillator testing, maintenance and cleaning carried out.
- 38 (HSP22 to HSP55) x Generic Hazard and Risk Assessments developed and added to online generic procedures.
- 38 Municipal District Generic Hazard and Risk Assessments developed and the online manual
- 20 Generic Procedures reviewed.

- Quarterly consultation with each member of the Safety Committee and the COVID-19 Employee Representatives.
- HSM01 to HSM12 Safety Registers updated monthly.
- 12 x Monthly Reports issued on time.
- HSMS Update Online Training delivered to all employees.
- A number of events delivered for Workers' Memorial Day in April.
- Two issues of Safety Link developed and issued with very positive feedback from employees.
- Daily events delivered for Health and Safety Week in November.
- 30 x Safety Briefings developed and delivered to all employees.
- 13 x Section Health and Safety Manual Audits conducted, and reports issued.

Inspection Programme

The 2021 Inspection Programme was successfully completed. The following table outlines the inspections completed by the HSU:

Target Number of Inspections:	Actual Achieved:	% Achieved:
232	273	118%
Inspection Conducted:	Number Conducted:	
HHS Spot-checks	78	
Road Works	82	
Yards	05	
Water	16	
Housing	22	
Corporate/Capital	08	
Environment	12	
COVID-19	41	
Other	09	

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The following table outlines Hazard and Risk Assessments completed by the HSU in 2021:

Assessment Type:	174 Hazard & Risk Assessments conducted in total
Water Services	61
Generic Procedure H&R	38
MD Procedure H&R	38
Vet Procedures H&R	14
Buildings / Workstation	12

Yards/Landfill	07
Playgrounds	03

Workstation	01
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Water Services

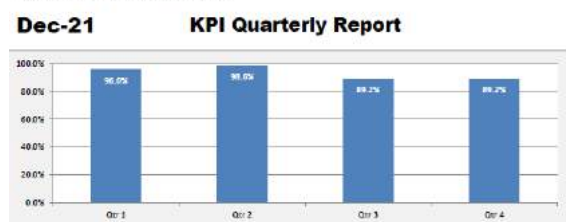
Monaghan County Council operates and maintains public water and wastewater services on behalf of Irish Water through Annual Service Plans.

Annual Service Plans ensure service continuity to the customer, value for money and compliance with targets set by regulators - Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Initiatives necessary to achieve performance levels are dependent on capital investment by Irish Water and implementation by the Council of transformation initiatives. Performance is measured quarterly by Irish Water through regular meetings.

In 2021 Monaghan County Council achieved the following quarterly scores under the SLA.

Local Authority and Irish Water ASP Reporting Tool 2021



Quarterly Scores 2021 Annual Service Plan

Monaghan County Council is also the Water Services Authority in relation to the supervision of Group Water Schemes and small private water supplies under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014.

It administers payment of grants and subsidies towards running costs of Group Water Schemes and grants to upgrade the assets of Group Water schemes, private water supplies - Well Grants - and Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems.

The section is also responsible for ensuring redundant water and wastewater assets are supervised and maintained to ensure a clean, safe and sustainable environment. It also co-operates with the council's planning section and government departments to supervise the upgrade and subsequent transfer to Irish Water of non-public water and wastewater infrastructure within private developments.

Covid 19 Response

Provision of quality water and collection and treatment of urban wastewater is a critical service that continued through 25 caretakers and plumbers who attended to their work daily with support provided by technical and administrative staff working remotely. In 2021, staff responded to 1888 customer incidents.



Sampling Drinking Water Quality

In May, the National SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Wastewater Surveillance Programme commenced at Monaghan and Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plants.

The programme measures the level of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater in wastewater catchment areas and effectively operates as an early warning system for future possible waves of COVID-19 infection.

Samples are lifted by Monaghan County Council staff.

Capital Investment Programme

Irish Water is responsible for the delivery of capital upgrades within the county.

In May the National Water Resources Plan was published. This 25-year strategy will ensure a sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water supply for everyone. It sets out how supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term will be balanced.

Phase 2 of the NWRP comprises the development of four Regional Water Resources Plans (RWRPs) which will go to public consultation in 2022.

Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme delivers improvements in drinking water quality, leakage, wastewater compliance, business efficiencies and customer service. Several major infrastructural projects completed construction

recently at Kilkit Water Treatment Plant and Castleblayney Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The following table details projects currently ongoing or at planning in Monaghan.

Contract	Description of Works	Status
Leakage Reduction programme	Mains Rehabilitation Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cortolvin and Park Rd, Killyconnigan 1.5 KM Newbliss / Clones Road replacement 2,8Km cast iron water main. Backyard services Monaghan Town and Ballybay 200 properties 	Construction
		Tender Stage
Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	Upgrade to intake works and installation of outfall pipe.	Tender Stage
Monaghan Drainage Area Plan	sewer network that is fit for purpose is essential to support business and social development in Monaghan	Design
Small Towns & Villages Growth Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glaslough WWTP Newbliss WWTP Clontibret WWTP Oram WWTP Knockatallon WWTP 	Design

Leakage Reduction programme

Cortolvin Park Road, Killyconnigan, Monaghan:
Works commenced in 2021 on replacing 1.4Km of asbestos water mains under the Mains Rehabilitation Scheme in the Killyconnigan area of Monaghan Town.

Newbliss Village – Killeevan Road:

Over 2.8Km of water main was replaced on the Killeevan road outside Newbliss Village in 2021. The works are scheduled to be completed in quarter one of 2022.

These works benefit customers in County Monaghan by replacing ageing watermains with new and improved plastic pipes, which strengthen and reinforce the water network. The immediate impact will see an improvement to water supply in the area as well as minimising disruptions in the customers water supply by reducing leakage and improving water quality.

The following schemes to go forward for design and construction in 2022.

- Removal of backyard services from Devin Reilly, St Macartan's and Dr McKenna Terraces in Monaghan town.*

This scheme will also facilitate the removal of old asbestos watermain to circa 126 properties in these areas.

- Removal of backyard services O'Duffy Terrace Ballybay*

This will involve installing new boundary boxes to the front of circa 46 properties in publicly accessible areas.

Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Construction of a new 3.3 km final effluent pipeline extending from the Wastewater treatment plant to the Longfield River. The works also involve upgrade to elements of the existing wastewater treatment plant – including new final effluent and inlet pumping stations and new access road off Oriel Road. These upgrade works will improve operational performance and compliance with statutory legislation.

Construction is likely to commence in 2022.

Drainage Area Plan – Monaghan Town

Irish Water is continuing its work to safeguard wastewater services in Monaghan town by undertaking surveys of the existing sewer network in partnership with Monaghan County Council. The Drainage Area Plan process is overseen by ARUP Consultants and involved CCTV surveys and installation of rainfall, flow, depth and conductivity monitors in the sewers and manholes as part of stages 1 & 2. The data collected presents a clearer picture as to what defects and capacity issues exist in the sewer network and where future upgrades should be prioritised.

Small Towns & Villages Growth Program

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme will provide capacity in Irish Water Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) to cater for growth in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan. Monaghan County Council has been allocated €1.238m funding under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

- Glaslough WWTP
- Newbliss WWTP
- Clontibret WWTP

- Oram WWTP
- Knockatallon WWTP

The five settlements identified are those that have the least headroom in terms of capacity per Population Equivalent treatment and compliance with current discharge standards.

In October 2021 Irish Water indicated that Oram Wastewater Treatment Plant had been identified for funding under this program.

Minor Works Completed in 2021

During the year Monaghan County Council, in cooperation with Irish Water, completed enhancements to a number of treatment plants. In many instances these works were completed following representations by elected members to Irish Water on behalf of their local communities.

Project	Description
Scotshouse WWTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of overgrown vegetation • Cleaning of ponds including inlets/outlets • Construction of access lane • Installation of platforms for inspection of outlets
Ballybay WWTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of RAS/WAS pipework
Smuth an Mhuileann PS, Emyvale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement works to pumping station
Ballinode WWTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety improvements to site entrance



Safety Works Ballinode WWTP

ANSWER project (Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling)

Part funded by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

This project uses sewage sludges (and similar wastes) as a form of fertiliser for Willow growing. ANSWER is about developing low carbon and environmentally sustainable solutions for dealing with organic waste, while simultaneously creating renewable bioenergy.



Harvesting Willows Knockatallon

Monaghan County Council planted two sites in 2012 - Knockatallon and Clontibret - with willow irrigated with municipal effluent as part of this project.

In June 2021 the first harvesting of crops was undertaken with the willow woodchips transported for energy conversion to Edenderry Power station from a site in Knockatallon. It is envisaged that harvesting will occur once every three years into the future subject to ground conditions.

Taking in Charge – Unfinished Developments

In 2021, the water and planning sections advanced several projects in unfinished housing estates. These works are required to ensure schemes can ultimately be taken in charge by Irish Water. These works are funded by a combination of existing development levies and construction bonds.

The following estates are due to have works completed in 2022.

Scheme	Works	Status
Mullagh Glas Monaghan	Upgrade pumping station and network	Construction
Glaslough Green	Upgrade pumping station and network	Tender
The Alders Ballybay	Upgrade pumping station and network	Tender



Mullagh Glas Monaghan - before



Mullagh Glas Monaghan - After

Rural Water Programme

The Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan is administered by Monaghan County Council.

The programme provides measures to address deficiencies in:

- Group Water Schemes
- Group Sewerage Schemes
- Private Supplies where no alternative group or public supply is available.
- Private Domestic Wastewater Treatment systems (DWWTs) whereby the applicant qualifies under the Housing (Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020.

Subsidies

Annual subsidies are administered by Monaghan County Council towards the cost of providing domestic water to group water schemes in the county. €3.6m in subsidy payments were made to twelve group water schemes in 2021 by the Local Authority.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2019-2021

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme consists of measures which reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector - from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent water contamination and ensure that drinking water is safe and meets quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Capital grant amount of €535,208 was administered to seven group water schemes in 2021 in the county under the MARWP.

Well Grants

25 well grant applications were processed in 2021 by the Local Authority and €75,660 grant aid paid to applicants towards upgrade/remedial works or the installation of treatment systems to their private water supply.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

Under the Water Services Amendment Act 2012: - Monaghan County Council undertakes inspections of private wastewater treatment systems. 49 inspections were undertaken by Local Authority staff in 2021 under the National Inspection Plan resulting in 23 advisory notices issued to householders. Fifty percent of 2020 required inspections were included in 2021 inspections as none were carried out in 2020 due to covid-19. €20,000 grant aid was paid to eligible applicants in

2021 towards upgrade/remedial works to their domestic wastewater systems.

Asset Transfer

Section 12 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 provides for the transfer of Water Services Assets to Irish Water, which is given effect by Ministerial Order. To date 129 folio numbers have transferred to Irish Water with 7 transferred in 2021.

There are approximately 64 folios yet to be transferred as some assets contain more than one folio.

Detailed work is ongoing preparing supporting material for the transfer of these assets which includes the subdivision of folios and associated mapping, the registration of unregistered sites, the establishment of legal rights of way and the resolution of outstanding title anomalies.

Environmental Protection

The Environmental Services unit is responsible for implementing EU and National Environmental Policy and legislation to protect the Environment of County Monaghan

In the Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024, the council committed to the promotion and protection of a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable, and to progressing the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. In this regard, the Council's priorities and objectives for the Environment services unit are outlined in Appendix 11 together with the performance standards to be met.

In summary the objectives include

- Implement the County Monaghan Litter Management Plan 2021-2023.
- Implement the Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021
- Operate Scotch Corner Landfill in accordance with EPA Licence requirements
- Implement the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and associated Water Framework Directive requirements
- Progress Climate Action measures.

Climate Action

During 2021 Monaghan County Council continued to progress the implementation of the actions contained in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 which was adopted by Monaghan County Council in September 2019. In October 2021 Environmental Services submitted the second implementation progress report to the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office which demonstrated that considerable progress was made in progressing the measures and actions contained within the strategy and within the national Climate Action Plan.

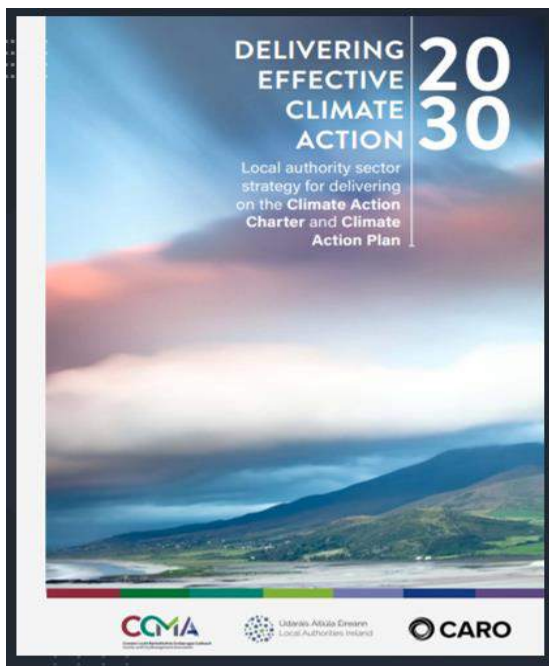
Some of the major milestones achieved to date include:

- Climate Action Steering Committee in place with all sections represented.

- Monaghan County Council in partnership has piloted Climate change training programs for staff with further training scheduled through CARO.
- In terms of energy usage, Monaghan County Council is among the best performing local authority in the country, having already achieved a 48.56% energy improvement by the end of 2020.
- New Biodiversity and Heritage Plan 2020-2025 published, and a new Wetland Action Plan prepared.
- Work has commenced on identifying council owned lands suitable for the planting of native woodlands under the Woodland Creation on Public lands scheme.
- Sub-regional Deep retrofit Audit project progressed in 2021.
- Work ongoing with the Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Planning Office in implementing the Regional Waste Plan with a focus on the circular economy.
- Purchase of first Electric Sweeper in Ireland by Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD.
- Construction of BER A rated homes in Scotstown.
- Successful application by Municipal Districts Under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Scheme 2021 for Flood Alleviation Works.
- Further progress made in the retrofitting of public lighting.
- Progression of the "Hilly Way" walking and cycling route.

The actions being implemented by Monaghan County Council under the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 are categorised under the following thematic areas;

- Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations.
- Infrastructure and Built Environment.
- Land use and Development.
- Drainage and Flood Management.
- Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure.
- Community Health and Wellbeing.



During 2021 the Government signed into law the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. This will place a greater onus on Monaghan County Council to progress additional measures in 2022 and beyond to ensure the council plays its part in achieving net-Zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade. The Act provides the framework for Ireland to meet its international and EU climate commitments and to become a leader in addressing climate change and local Authorities such as Monaghan County Council are expected to play a pivotal role in helping Ireland fulfil these commitments. Whilst the Council has made some very real progress in a relatively short period of time these are the first initial steps in a journey where Ireland country is in now legally committed to achieving the 51% emission reduction by 2030 and the target of Carbon neutrality by 2050.

A key component of the 2021 Act is that Local Authorities must prepare individual Climate Action Plans which will include both mitigation and adaptation measures, which are to be updated every five years. Local Authority Development Plans must be aligned with their Climate Action Plan. During 2022 it is expected that Minister Ryan will formally issue a direction to Monaghan County Council to commence work on the preparation of a new Climate Action Plan.

In 2021 all local authorities were required to select one proposed decarbonising zone for their respective functional area. Monaghan County

Council has chosen Monaghan town as the County's decarbonisation zone and the council is still awaiting Government guidelines on the progression of decarbonising zones. During 2022 it is expected to progress the development of an implementation plan for the Monaghan Decarbonisation zone subject to the issuing for additional guidance at national level and the availability of departmental funding.

Waste Enforcement and Regulations

Waste Enforcement continued to be a challenge in 2021 with the illegal transport and management of waste continuing to be an issue both at local and national level. The dumping of diesel laundering waste continues to be problematic with 24 instances of diesel laundering waste dumping in 2021 which was a significant increase from 2019 and 2020 which saw 12 cases each year. The costs incurred in dealing with diesel wash waste in 2021 was €100,000 which was subsequently recouped from the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications. The work plan for our waste enforcement team during 2021 was prepared in line with the National waste enforcement priorities which were communicated to all local authorities via correspondence issued by the EPA in December 2020 which set the following priorities for 2021:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity.
- Construction and demolition activity.
- End of Life Vehicle directive.
- Waste Collection at household and commercial level.
- Sites that require multi agency responses.

Currently there are three full time Waste Enforcement Officers in the County and Monaghan County Council recoups €192,000 towards their costs from Central Funding. In addition, there is one full-time environmental patrol warden. In addition to working on the national waste enforcement priorities staff were engaged on other activities such as the investigation of waste complaints, the assessment of planning applications to ensure waste management compliance, and ensuring that waste activities taking place within County Monaghan are being carried out in compliance with waste management legislation through the appropriate certification and permitting regime.

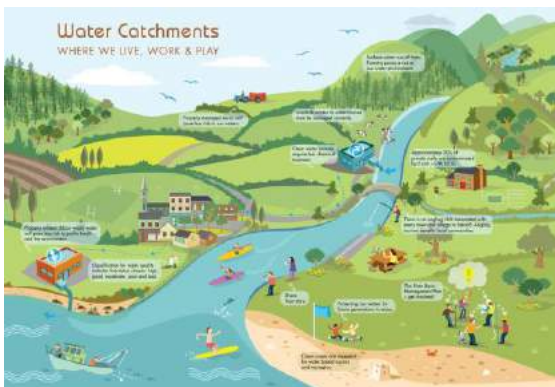


Illegally Dumped C&D waste at a site in Clones

In delivering on these priorities in 2021 Monaghan County Council completed the following:

- 974 routine waste inspections
- 182 non-routine waste inspections
- Dealt with 439 litter/waste complaints
- Initiated 180 waste enforcement actions

Water and Air Quality



Currently there are 3 full time environmental technicians working in the water quality area and air. In December 2020, the National Water and Air Priorities were forwarded to each local authority for 2021 through correspondence issued by the EPA. These priorities included:

- Undertake Water Framework Directive (WFD) Lake and River Monitoring.
- Carry Out Farm Inspections.
- Monitor and Enforce Section 4 Effluent Discharge Licenses.
- Engage with regional WFD committees and with LAWPRO on the implementation

of the RMCEI work program and on the planning for the new River Basin Management cycle.

- Respond to Water quality complaints and incidents.

Under the 2021 RMCEI Enforcement and inspection plan that was prepared in early 2021 in line with the national priorities, Monaghan County Council's water quality team continued its program of water quality sampling in conjunction with the EPA. The team carried out investigate assessment work on selected river and lake waterbodies, undertook a farm inspection program, investigated a significant number of water pollution incidents, regulated effluent discharges through licensing, and worked with the Local Authorities Waters Program (LAWPRO) with the aim of improving water quality in areas designated as priority areas for action under the River Basin management plan. This plan sets out the actions that Ireland is to take with the aim of improving water quality and achieving 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027.

During 2021 over 1,000 water quality related inspections were carried out including:

- 228 samples taken as part of Water Framework Directive monitoring on rivers and lakes.
- Investigation of 128 water pollution complaints/incidents.
- 23 Farm inspections.
- Assessment of over 300 planning applications from a water quality perspective.

During 2021 our water quality team initiated a project entitled Lough Muckno' Road to Recovery. Lough Muckno is classified as Bad Status but is not a PAA catchment in the Draft 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan. The latest EPA Water Quality Report highlighted Lough Muckno as one of the most polluted lakes in Ireland. However, it is an extremely important waterbody in the county particularly for tourism and recreation purpose and following consultations with our SPC and local environmental organisations our Environmental Team developed the project concept. The project is divided into 2 phases, the first phase being a Paleolimnological study of the lake sediment to reference trophic changes and predict lake recovery times.



Water team WFD sampling on Lough Muckno.

In relation to air enforcement over 60 routine air quality inspections were carried out under the Solid Fuels Regulations, the Petroleum Vapour Regulations, the Solvent Regulations and the Decorative Paints Regulations during 2021. At the end of 2021 the following facilities were regulated under the following air regulations.

- 27 car-refinishers were authorised under the Decorative Paint Regulation.
- 4 dry-cleaning facilities and one industrial premises were authorised under the Solvent Regulations.
- 17 petrol stations were authorised under the Petroleum Vapour Regulations.

Waste Management Facilities

The landfilling of waste at Scotch Corner ceased back in September 2017 and since then there have been significant infrastructural improvements completed on site. During 2021 such improvement works have included gas infrastructure upgrade works, surface water management works, and additional groundwater and surface water investigations. During 2021 significant monitoring and sampling works continued to ensure compliance with our licence.

An EPA site audit carried out in 2021 found that the Scotch Corner Facility was fully compliant under the terms of the licence with no non-compliances noted during the audit. Whilst leachate management continues to be a significant cost, negotiations with Irish Water on leachate treatment costs were successfully concluded. Through these negotiations Environmental Services successfully negotiated a revised leachate treatment fee with Irish water with treatment costs reduced from €3.81/m³ to €1.10/m³ and this reduced fee realised significant savings for the Council in 2021

During 2021 a revised design was progressed for

the site office at Scotch Corner which had been previously damaged by fire in 2019. This revised design caters for a climate resilient modular structure which will provide for our requirements on site going forward. It is hoped that a contractor will be on site to commence construction by Q2 2022.



Figure 1 - Landfill Office Building Design

During 2021 Environmental Services successfully secured a technical amendment of the Scotch Corner licence following an application to the Environmental Protection Agency. The technical amendment allows the Materials Recovery Facility and the Civic Amenity site at Scotch Corner to operate under a Waste Facility Permit which facilitates an increase in the range of waste activities allowed on site thereby further allowing Monaghan County Council to further maximise the facility.

During 2021 the recycling centres at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross and the bring site network remained open throughout the covid restrictions being deemed an essential service. Additional capacity was provided at a number of the bring sites during the year to cater for the extra demand experienced at a number of bring sites particularly during the early stages of the lockdown.



Bring facility at Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross

Historical Landfills

Under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery

Activity) Regulations 2008, local authorities are required to carry out an environmental assessment of closed landfills that were previously operated by local authorities during the period 1977 to 1997. During 2021 the EPA granted Monaghan County Council Certificate of Authorisations for two historical landfill sites at Killycard and Knockcronaghan. Site investigation works were also completed at the historical landfill at Corkeeran, Ballybay and work commenced on the preparation of a Certificate of Authorisation application to the EPA for the Corkeeran site. It is expected that significant remedial measures will ultimately be required on these sites, funded through grant assistance from the Department of Environment Climate and Communications.

Environmental Awareness

Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 requires Local Authorities to make and implement a Litter Management Plan and review this plan every three years. During 2021 a new Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023 was drafted and adopted following considerable public consultation. The plan proposes to address the negative impacts of litter on our county, improve the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of our residents, and enhance our commercial and tourism potential through the effective and efficient:

- Management and maintenance of our public realm;
- Communication, education and awareness;
- Enforcement of legislation and regulation.

1.Total spend on street cleansing in 2021 was €778,011.76 which was a slight increase on 2020 spend (€758,754)

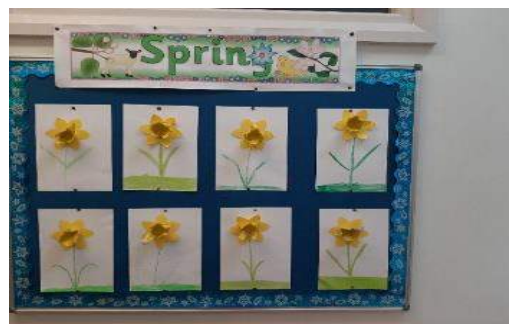
2. €106,875 was received under the Anti-Dumping initiative 2021. Projects funded included:

- a. Clean up of large-scale illegal dumping sites b. Preventative and abatement projects.

c. Subsidised bulky good disposal at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Recycling Centres.

3. Use of CCTV as a deterrent to littering continued with intensive monitoring of bottle banks during the year. These CCTV units were rotated throughout the hot spot areas.

4.Environmental Services investigated 439 waste and litter related complaints during 2021. This was a slight increase on the 2020 figure of 376. All were investigated and 435 were closed.



Environmental Awareness projects continued to be delivered to groups and schools during 2021, some of which were:

- Supports to Tidy Towns and resident association's through the annual Environment funding programme.
- Stop Food Waste Roadshow
- Interactive awareness bulb planting and tree planting with schools and groups.
- Dog Fouling Campaign.
- Supports to groups for participation in Spring and World Clean Up Day
- Webinars including "What's in Your Bin", "The Benefits of Pollinators" and "Grow it Forward campaign"
- Large wall mural in Monaghan Town
- Supports to schools and groups to deliver individual projects.

Veterinary Services

Food Safety

Monaghan County Council has a contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), to provide food safety control and support services to small food business operators in the County engaged in the slaughtering, processing and wholesaling of meat and meat products, ranging from fresh meat to ready-to-eat foods containing cooked meat. A list of approved food businesses is available on the Council's website. In accordance with EU and national legislation, the Council employs veterinary inspectors to check animals before and after slaughter, audit the structural and operational hygiene standards in premises, and operate sampling and training programmes to assist owners and staff in attaining the required standards. The purpose of the service is to ensure the safety of the food produced by these food businesses, the welfare of the animals slaughtered and the safe and proper disposal of animal by-products. These are essential services. During the pandemic, the service was maintained with inspections and sampling completed as planned.

Dog Control Service

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. Shelter facilities for the detention and care of stray and unwanted dogs are provided on behalf of Monaghan County Council by Carrick Dog Shelter in Lisdoonan. In the summer of 2021, the MSPCA closed their Dog Shelter in Killydonagh after nearly 20 years of operation. Monaghan County Council thanks the MSPCA for their long and dedicated voluntary service in the care and shelter of both stray and unwanted dogs from across the North Monaghan region. The number of dogs admitted to the Dog Pound in 2021 was 176, the lowest number of dogs impounded in a single year by the Council since records began. This reduction is partly due to the pandemic; the number of dogs admitted to the Council Dog Pound is likely to rise in 2022. All but 3 of the 176 dogs were either reclaimed or rehomed to members of the public or dog rescues. 2 dogs were

put to sleep after they had attacked a dog and its owner, and 1 was shot dead while worrying sheep, prior to admission. The Dog Control service was significantly curtailed by pandemic restrictions during the year, but the Dog Warden collected all stray dogs reported and attended to all complaints received. The number of dogs licenced in Monaghan in 2021 was 5,999, a drop on the number licenced in 2020. Approximately one third of licences were bought online. The number of people buying lifetime licences for their dogs increased from 81 to 109. The Council continued its advertising campaign to highlight the danger of straying dogs to sheep. The Council also continued its inspections of registered Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs) within the county. No new DBEs were registered in 2021. 3 others were deregistered, leaving a current total of 5 DBEs.



Horse Control Service

The Council employs the services of Hungry Horse Outside, a horse charity based in Longford, to collect stray horses in the county. Two horses were seized in 2021 and were subsequently reclaimed by their owner. There were a number of other complaints investigated during the year relating to both stray horses and horse welfare, but no further seizures were necessary.

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection



**New Ballybay Fire Appliance
2021**

During 2021 Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) Service maintained the delivery of a range of services for the citizens of Monaghan. These services included Fire Safety and Building Control functions, that encompasses implementing the statutory requirements of the Building Regulations and Building Control Regulations, inspection of new and existing building stock for compliance with fire safety requirements, licensing of filling stations, inspection of licensed premises, advice and enforcement under the Fire Services Acts and the promotion of fire safety in the community. Operational services encompassing both Fire Service & Civil Defence include; responding to emergency calls and providing Community Support, assistance to other emergency services, public safety and reviewing and enhancing Major Emergency Planning in consultation with the other Principal Response Agencies.

Operations

Monaghan is served by five retained fire stations at Clones, Monaghan, Ballybay, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross providing an operational fire and emergency response service at all times. In 2021 the pandemic necessitated the continued implementation of various safety protocols to maintain service delivery.



**Fire-fighters at Diesel Laundry Plant Fire
August 2021**

The breakdown of total calls in 2021 per station area as follows:

Fire Station	1 st Turn-out	2 nd Turn-out
Ballybay	24	12
Carrickmacross	65	1
Castleblayney	86	13
Clones	30	2
Monaghan	116	3

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection were mobilised to 321 incidents in 2021 a 10% increase on 2020 to first attending appliances, with a marginal increase to 2nd appliance turnout.

In 2021 the top five incident types attended by Monaghan Fire Service were Road Traffic Collisions, Monitoring Alarm Activations, Chimney Fires, domestic house fires, and tertiary fires (i.e. small fires/bin/skip). Notably attendance at Road Traffic Collisions has seen a significant increase in 2021.

The most notable incidents attended in 2021 involved an illegal Diesel Laundry plant fire and gorse fires following the dry weather period in July.



**Breathing Apparatus Refresher
Training May 2021**

Training

The 2021 training programme was again significantly altered to ensure the safety of all fire personnel and to incorporate social distancing and the addition of appropriate PPE.

Training completed included 'Confined Space', Emergency Service Driving Standard (ESDS) and Emergency First Responder. Virtual training programmes were also developed and delivered including an officer Leadership & Development course which offered a learning environment for reviewing and developing critical decision-making skills for fire personnel.

A number of workshops were undertaken in 2021 to develop a Wildfire Management Plan for Sliabh Beagh. Works will commence in 2022 with various interest groups and stakeholders to progress the implementation of recommendations outlined in a guidance document produced in November 2021.



**Castleblayney Fire Crew with
emergency response agencies Oct 2021**



**Breathing Apparatus Refresher training at Dundalk
Fire Station May 2021**

The MoU with Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service for attendance to Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) in the border area has been utilised in 2021. The MoU sets out agreed geographical identifiers (townlands/roads) to secure the location of an RTA and the deployment of the nearest brigade.



**Monaghan crew at a wildfire in
Sliabh Beagh July 2021**

Fire Personnel Welfare

Along with the provision of Critical Incident Stress Management, the Employee Assistance Service has been extended to Fire Personnel and provides support to extended family members.

In 2021, one fire-fighter resigned following the unsuccessful completion of a recruit's training course, this vacant position and that of vacancies in other stations will be advertised in Q1 of 2022 to ensure the retention of an optimum fighter compliment in Co. Monaghan.

Fire Safety - Fire Prevention

Our Fire Prevention Section reviewed and processed all valid fire safety certificate applications received and provided advice on achieving compliance with Part B of the Building Regulations (Fire Safety). Fire safety inspections were carried out on a range of building types including; licensed premises, residential care homes, preschools, flats, petrol stations and community buildings.



Best Halloween is a Safe Halloween Campaign 2021

Fire Safety Week focused on fire safety in the home and particularly encouraging all homes to have smoke alarms and ensuring they are tested weekly. A number of intensive fire safety campaigns were held during the year, with specific attention of those working remotely. Campaigns involved the issuance of smoke alarms, while local and social media formed the focus of a very successful campaign during this time of Covid-19.



MCFP Fire-fighters at flood/water rescue training Nov 2021

A total of 177 fire safety & Building Control inspections were conducted in 2021, 116 planning referral reports completed. All notified licensing

referrals for pubs, clubs, dances etc were assessed by a fire officer and recommendations issued to the Courts Service. Performance Inspections were curtailed in 2021, however desktop studies were carried out for 30 pubs/clubs around the county to check on fire safety management and ensure public safety.

The licencing (liquor) process for 2021 was modified involving 61 premises in the novel approach of utilising risk assessment and a self-declaration for several applications introduced for 2020 was again retained in 2021. The Court Service online application process is now integral to the administration process, allowing notice parties to receive licensing applications online.

Community Fire Safety

A range of fire safety initiatives were delivered focusing on both schools and community groups. Smoke detectors were distributed as part of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and the key messages of Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and Fire Safety Week were promoted via local and social media platforms. While the Primary Schools Programme was delivered by a pre-recorded video, and we held the first Fire Safety Poster competition for primary schools. A fire safety awareness information session was issued to the Traveller Community.



Winning poster in the Fire Safety Week Competition 2021

Emergency Management

Major Emergency Management systems have been deployed and utilised during the course of the pandemic. In 2021, Monaghan County Council, along with the neighbouring Local Authorities in our region have supported other Principle Response Agencies (PRA's) in providing both logistical and operational support systems.



Be Winter Ready Campaign Nov 2021

National Severe Weather Guidance issued in 2021 to reflect the development of Met Éireann's flood forecasting services and colour coded system, along with changes in the threshold levels for the various warning levels have been incorporated in Monaghan County Council's Severe Weather Response Plan. The guidance also developed on the role of the Severe Weather Assessment Team and the function of the NDFEM Crisis Management Team at national level.

Storm Barra in December 2021 while a Yellow Level storm event in County Monaghan, necessitated the activation of the Severe Weather Assessment Team due to the uncertainty of the storm and Orange warning Level in neighbouring counties.



Hazmat training course Nov 2021

Building Control

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 297 valid Commencement Notices in 2021, an increase of 27% from 2020, reflecting the buoyant nature of house building in Co. Monaghan. An inspection rate of 32.6% of new builds was achieved this year. In addition, there were 79 applications for Fire Safety Certificates and 35 Disability Access Certificate applications under Building Control legislation.

In 2021 all Building Control Regulatory applications were completed via the Building Control Management System (BCMS). This process has significantly reduced the paper element involved in each application.



Joint Building Control Inspection with NBCO at Kilnacloy, Monaghan May 2021

Monaghan Fire & Building Control held an Autumn webinar for local construction practitioners/agents with over 70 attending, topics covered included the following:

- Fire doors maintenance
- Fire stopping systems
- Certificate of Compliance on Completion process
- Fire Safety Certificate Process

The level of one-off houses 'opting out' of statutory certification has remained relatively high. In opting out of the requirements for statutory certification the homeowner is making the decision to refrain from having their dwelling included on the Certificate of Compliance on Completion register.

NDFEM Capacity Review

Following the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (NDFEM) Capacity Review conducted in 2020, MFCP has focused on the delivery of the following key areas in 2021:

- Public Safety / Fire Safety
- Provision of an emergency service
- Emergency Management

A subsequent report by the Capacity Review group recognising the level of preparedness within Co. Monaghan.

Capital Investment

There was again significant Capital investment in MFCP during the year with the official opening of Castleblayney Fire Station in June 2021 and delivery of:

- A Class B Fire Appliance for Ballybay
- A new water tanker chassis in Monaghan

Funding approval was also secured from the NDFEM for the procurement of 2 No. 4x4 crew-cab vehicles due for delivery March 2022.

Health and Safety

The continuous annual auditing of our Safety Management System and securing ISO 45001 registration was again achieved in 2021 and affirms Monaghan County Councils commitment to Health & Safety. The ISO 45001 process encompasses a more proactive and preventative approach based on remedying a broader range of risks before they materialise.

Monaghan Civil Defence



Civil Defence Volunteers delivering community response in 2021

Civil Defence activities in 2021 focused on supporting our local community, and particularly the HSE in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and acting in response to requests from the Community Helpline during 2021. Tasks Civil Defence volunteers undertook included:

- Transportation duties: Duties include patient transfers to hospitals, nursing homes, testing centres, transporting persons from accommodation centres to other locations to allow for self-isolation,
- Medical cover at outdoor events & Irish Blood Transfusion Service,
- Collection of medications and medical equipment and delivering to patient's homes,



Official opening of Civil Defence HQ May 2021

- Helping vulnerable persons within communities by delivering food and medications and collecting their post,
- Supporting young people with special requirements,
- Delivering essential PPE to community groups,
- Delivery of essential Training & Maintenance



Civil Defence Volunteers preparing for duty Sept 2021

Monaghan Civil Defence HQ was officially opened in 2021 and has been the command centre for Civil Defence deployment during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The new HQ provides training and welfare facilities for volunteers, along with offices and storage capacity to support front line emergency response. The building provides a hub for local community support deployment and to assist Principle Response Agencies during severe weather events, pandemics and other emergency response requirements.



Civil Defence Volunteers on search duty Oct 2021

Monaghan Civil Defence held a successful recruitment campaign in 2021.

Civil Defence Community Response

Monaghan Civil Defence assisted community and sporting events providing first aid cover, traffic control and stewarding.

- 253 – assistance provided to Community Forum & PRA's during Covid-19 Pandemic
- 16- Sports events
- 3 - Search & Recovery operations

Training

Monaghan Civil Defence is a volunteer-based organisation where members support the primary emergency services and the local community. Monaghan Civil Defence currently has 53 volunteers. Volunteers are multi-skilled, and the main programmes of activities undertaken are:

- Casualty First Aid
- Search & Rescue
- Water & Flooding incidents
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Welfare and Communications
- Radiation Monitoring & Radio Communications



**Civil Defence Volunteers assisting
Gardai with missing person search in 2021**

Courses were provided for volunteers throughout the year at Regional, local level and at Civil Defence Branch Headquarters in Roscrea and Phoenix Training Centre, Phoenix Park, Dublin.



**Civil Defence Volunteer delivering patient for treatment to
Cavan & Louth Hospital**

Membership

The benefits of being a volunteer with Civil Defence include:

- High standard of training
- Personal development and teamwork
- Learning new skills such as Technical Rescue, Boat Training, Emergency First Responder
- Giving back to your community
- Getting involved in local and national events

Fleet Procurement

Monaghan Civil Defence received delivery of HSE ambulance in 2021 and will be fully operational in Q1 of 2022.

Community Development

COVID-19 Response

Community Section in Monaghan County Council continued to manage the COVID-19 Community Response Forum which was set up in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Representatives from over 30 groups participated in the Forum, including various services from within Monaghan County Council, the HSE, the PPN, An Garda Síochána, Cavan Monaghan ETB, Department of Social Protection, ALONE, IFA, GAA, Local Link, MID, Tusla and others. The Forum considered priority actions for support and facilitated a wide range of interagency discussions on managing the challenges facing the community. The Community Response Forum ceased operating in November 2021, in line with a national directive.

Monaghan County Council received €43,137 funding from DRCD for the COVID-19 Emergency Fund (Round 2). The fund was advertised in January 2021, 76 applications were received requesting €210k in total. The scheme provided grants to community groups to adapt their services and operations to comply with COVID-19 guidelines and to promote the Keep Well Campaign. Groups could also seek support for their day to day running costs. As the fund was significantly oversubscribed the Council added €40,000 from the Community Development Fund bringing the total available fund to €83,137. A total of 50 groups were awarded funding.

Monaghan Sports Partnership, Creative Monaghan, Monaghan County Libraries and Monaghan Age Friendly Programme collaborated on the delivery of a range of initiatives funded under the National Keep Well Campaign. These initiatives provided support to the most vulnerable members of our communities during the COVID-19 crisis. This programme of funding was completed in June 2021.

As part of the Healthy Monaghan / Healthy Cavan Keep Well Radio campaign, MSP and Cavan Sports Partnership created the *'Keeping Well by being physically active'* content over 4 weeks which was

broadcast on the 'Wider View programme' on Northern Sound Radio, featuring local physical activity advocates and health professionals from both Cavan and Monaghan.

A food hub which had been established in 2020 continued to operate throughout 2021. The food hub provided food to vulnerable people.

COVID-19 Helpline

The Community Response COVID-19 Helpline continued to operate in 2021. Community Department staff coordinated a community wide response to the pandemic crisis, taking calls from vulnerable people and assigning calls for assistance to a wide array of volunteers, particularly from within the GAA, Gardai, Civil Defence and others. A total of 356 calls were received to the helpline during 2021.

The Community Development Section is also responsible for implementing a wide range of programmes and initiatives within Monaghan County Council.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Monaghan Local Community Development



Committee met monthly to provide a strategic overview and to support community and economic development in the county. Working with key stakeholders and agencies, the LCDC monitors progress on the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 (LECP) for the County and is responsible for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development.

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Monaghan LCDC and Monaghan County Council continue to implement the Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021. This plan contains 127 actions, 61 economic actions and 66 community actions for implementation by fifteen organisations by the end of 2021.

The LCDC/MCC has started the process of preparing a new six year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2022-2027 for the county. The new plan will build on the lessons learned from the current LECP cycle, as well as reflecting the needs of communities as we emerge from the

Pandemic. A full review of the 66 Community actions and the 61 Economic actions contained in the current Plan will be carried out early in 2022. The findings from the review will inform the development of the new LECP 2022-2027.

SOCIAL INCLUSION COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME (SICAP)

The objective of SICAP, delivered by Monaghan Integrated Development CLG and overseen by the LCDC, is to provide social inclusion support to disadvantaged individuals and groups throughout the county. The 2021 budget for SICAP in Monaghan was €650,606. The programme targets for 2021 were to assist 34 groups and 300 individuals. Mid-year and End of Year reviews of the programme took place in 2021 and all targets set under the programme were either reached or exceeded.

MONAGHAN LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 was extended to end of March 2021, with a new Transitional LEADER Programme and a EURI Programme announced at the same time. Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of project applications. Monaghan Integrated Development CLG (MID) is the implementing partner and Monaghan County Council is the financial partner for the Programme. The LAG meets monthly and approves projects recommended by the IEC members, and also approves extensions to projects. Monaghan LEADER aims to develop sustainable rural communities throughout the county, by promoting social inclusion, economic development and stimulating Enterprise, Tourism, and Community Services while protecting the natural and built heritage of the county. The funding was awarded based on a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for Monaghan which sets out the priority areas for the programme. 2021 was a very busy year with Promoters drawing down project funding. At the 31st December 2021, €3,333,023 (58.39%) was drawn down under the LEADER 2014-2020 core budget. 13 projects have been approved to the value of €1,039,520.95 from the Transitional Programme core budget.



DRCD Rural Funding Schemes

Funding was announced in 2021 by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the following schemes:

Community Enhancement Programme 2021

Monaghan LCDC administered the Community Enhancement Programme in 2021. In total €132,571 was approved for 75 projects.

CLÁR

This programme is targeted at rural areas and aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. €328,623 was allocated under the CLÁR Scheme 2021 for 8 projects.

- 4 projects under Measure 1 – Support for Schools/Community Safety issues
- 2 projects under Measure 2 – Outdoor Community Recreation Areas
- 2 projects under Measure 3(a) – Community Wellbeing – Community Gardens & Allotments

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The focus of the scheme is to support outdoor recreational infrastructure in countryside areas. The 2021 scheme did, in particular, support recreational infrastructure that not only provides an outlet for the communities in which they are situated but that also delivers added value from a tourism perspective, positioning rural areas to respond to the post COVID-19 economic environment. The 2021 scheme also supported an inclusive approach for communities to deliver projects that support a diverse range of users, including people with disabilities and older adults. €652,351 was allocated under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021 for 9 projects.

- 5 projects under Measure 1 – Small Scale Repair/Development/Promotion and Marketing
- 3 projects under Measure 2 – Medium Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Trail/Amenity Development
- 1 project under Project Development (New) – Development Costs for Strategic Large-Scale Projects

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Following the launch of 'Our Rural Future' in 2021 some changes were made to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Our Rural Future has provided for increased investment in remote working infrastructure to provide an opportunity for people to continue to live in rural communities while following their career ambitions. The 2021 Scheme placed particular emphasis on projects supporting remote working and enhancing town centre living. The maximum grant available in 2021 was increased to €500,000 to allow 1 project of additional scale to be funded.

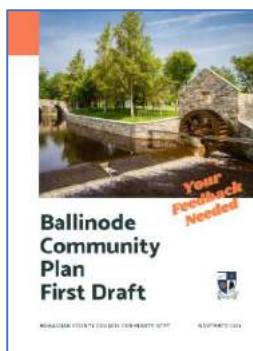
Monaghan County Council submitted 8 projects to the value of €1,007,794 under the 2021 scheme. It is envisaged that an announcement of the successful projects will be made by the Department of Rural and Community Development in early 2022.

Community Plans

Monaghan County Council continues to assist communities to put Plans in place, so that they are in a strong position to avail of funding opportunities. During 2021, plans were launched by Minister Humphreys for Oram and Lough Egish. In Oram, the launch coincided with the opening of the Big Tom Memorial Garden, which was a project conceived by the community during the making of their Community Plan.



Members of the community and representatives of the McBride family pictured with Minister Humphreys, Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell and MD Cathaoirleach PJ O'Hanlon at the official opening of the Big Tom Memorial Garden, designed by MCC horticulturalist, Michael Carroll.



A draft Plan for Ballinode was produced and put out to consultation with the community. It is hoped that this will be adopted early in 2022.

Active Travel

The Council adopted its first County Walking & Cycling Strategy in October. The Strategy was developed and written in-house by the Community Development team, and looks at the development of walking and cycling in the county from four main perspectives: the promotion of active travel, from a health and wellbeing perspective, for what they can bring to the county economically through tourism, and from the quality of life value that related recreational amenities offer to the people of Co. Monaghan.

The Strategy contains 68 actions, arranged under 5 key themes, and is available for download from the www.Monaghan.ie and www.GoMonaghan.ie websites. It will provide the basis for the majority of the work in the development of recreational trails and active travel in the county over the next five years.



The Council launched a new staff e-bike initiative to mark EU Mobility Week in September. Ten electric bikes and storage lockers were purchased for staff use, to facilitate staff to travel between premises, and to carry out certain duties by bike rather than by car. The objective is to promote active travel and contribute to carbon savings.



Pictured at the newly installed bike lockers with some of the electric bikes are (l to r): Carol Lambe (Community Development Officer),

Orla Brady (Senior Executive Officer Community Department), Patricia Monahan (Director, Transportation, Community & Rural Dev), Cllr David Maxwell (Monaghan MD Cathaoirleach), Cllr Aidan Campbell (Monaghan County Council Cathaoirleach), Lindsay Duffy (Monaghan Sports Partnership), Fiona McEntee (Active Travel Unit), Vincent McKenna (Energy Saving Initiative)

Monaghan Community Alerts

In its 3rd year, this groundbreaking all-county community messaging service continued to grow, delivering 143 Garda alerts to over 4,800 subscribers. The service was invaluable during the COVID-19 lockdown, enabling us to reach vulnerable people with messages offering information, advice, and even enabling them to order services such as the home delivery service being offered by the library.

Play & Recreation

The Council was awarded a grant of €3,000 from the Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth to run activities to mark National Play Day in July. The funding was used to purchase a number of giant outdoor games, such as Jenga and Connect 4. These have been assembled into 3 kits, which are available through Clones, Monaghan and Carrickmacross libraries for anyone to borrow.

As part of National Recreation Week, a number of communities across the county availed of the kits to run fun days in their communities, including Smithboro, St Patricks Direct Provision Centre, Mullan, Donaghmoynne, Glaslough, Inver Park Carrickmacross and Knockatallon.



Funding of €15,851 was secured under the Dept of Children, Equality, Disability,

Integration & Youth's Capital Grant for Play & Recreation Scheme 2021 towards improving the playground at O'Neill Park, Clones. The Municipal District added a further €18,000 towards the development of the amenity.

Pride of Place

Adjudication for the all-Ireland IPB Pride of Place competition took place in early October. This year, Monaghan County Council was represented in the competition by Carrickmacross Workhouse, in the

Community Tourism Initiative category, Teach na nDaoine in the Community Resilience category, and Lough Egish, in the 300-1000 population category. The competition results will be announced at a gala awards ceremony in June 2022.



Peadar McCabe, Seamus Conlon and Paula McCaul from Lough Egish preparing for their online interview with the Pride of Place judges in the Council's conference room.

Orange the World

The annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, is an international campaign that ran from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The global theme for the campaign is "Orange the world: End violence against women now!". In support of the campaign, Monaghan County Council arranged to light a number of prominent buildings around the county in orange for the sixteen-day period.



Lynn McElvaney from Dochas for Women and Siobhan McKenna from Tearmann Domestic Violence Services join Minister Heather Humphreys, Cathaoirleach Aidan Campbell and Community Development Officer Carol Lambe to launch the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women campaign

Peace IV Local Action Plan

2021 saw the progression of the final project under the Peace IV Programme. The redevelopment of the Multi Use Games Area at Mullaghmat began construction with new fencing, and new equipment being fitted, and courses resurfaced."



Monaghan Age Friendly County Programme

Monaghan Age Friendly programme delivered a programme of work to support the older people of Monaghan during 2021. The programme manager continued to maintain regular lines of communication with older people's groups throughout the county, to provide information, support and activities to support our most vulnerable citizens during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Age Friendly initiatives to support older people during COVID-19

Monaghan Age Friendly programme participated in and organised a range of activities and programmes including:

The "Send Love to Our Nursing Homes" campaign encouraged people to send a letter, card or picture to the residents of the nursing homes in Monaghan. The campaign was run in conjunction with An Post and which meant that postage was free on all items sent. The purpose was to bring a slice of normal life back to the residents of the nursing homes.

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme also received a Digital Support Grant which was used to purchase tablets. The devices were used to provide digital supports for residential care homes in the county.

Supporting Migrant Integration

Monaghan Together Unique and United – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Project

Monaghan Together – Unique and United is co-financed by Monaghan County Council and the European Commission under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020. The project is managed and delivered by Monaghan County Council and administered by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability,

Integration and Youth.

During 2021 the project delivered a number of activities and workshops to support the integration of third-country nationals living in the county with a specific focus on engaging with people seeking international protection.

Events, activities and workshops delivered in 2021 included:

Monaghan Sanctuary Runners – This intercultural, intergenerational and inclusive club meet weekly on Saturday mornings to walk, jog and run in Rossmore Park while also forming friendships and building bridges between people and communities. In 2021, the group was shortlisted for the Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA) award for best community sports team/club.

Cultural Diversity Training - Online training in cultural diversity was delivered to local authority staff members.

One Million Stars – One Million Stars is an inclusive community arts program which connects communities throughout Ireland in solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence. Workshops took place in Monaghan to connect individuals and communities to display solidarity. **Intercultural Christmas Crafts** - Intercultural Christmas crafts workshops were facilitated by the local Lithuanian school community 'Lietuvos vaikai'.

Monaghan Public Participation Network (MPPN)



Monaghan Public Participation Network with support from Monaghan County Council continued to develop as the main link through which the Local Authority connects with the Community, Social Inclusion and Environment Sectors across the county. 580 groups were registered with the PPN by the end of 2021, an increase of 11 groups from 2020.

Some of the key activities for Monaghan PPN in 2021 included:

Representation

42 community representatives represented the PPN across 12 various committees. Three new PPN representatives were elected in 2021.

Community Wellbeing Statement

The Community Wellbeing Statement is a vision for what is needed for communities to achieve wellbeing for now and future generations across 6 different themes. Extensive consultations were carried out in each Municipal District in 2020 to develop a Community Wellbeing Statement. The final draft was adopted by the PPN in December 2021 and will be launched in early 2022.

MPPN Strategic Plan

During 2021 MPPN engaged with its stakeholders to develop a 4-year Strategic Plan, which sets out the next phase of development for the PPN in Monaghan. Online consultations took place during the year throughout the three Municipal Districts with PPN members contributing to the agreed vision for the future of Monaghan and developing goals and targets to achieve that vision.

The Draft Plan was brought to the Secretariat and Members for final comments in December 2021 and will be officially launched at the Plenary AGM in February 2022.

Training

The PPN delivered free training on a wide range of topics including: Back to Business; Graphic Design, Strategic Plan Training, Writing Funding applications, One to one support for PPN representatives and members, Climate Action training and Personal Project Development Clinics.

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg with support from Monaghan County Council continued to develop as the main link through which the local authority engages with young people across the county. In 2021, the Steering Committee worked on the topic of Drugs and Alcohol and the effect they have on young people.

Key Achievements

- All TY students from all schools in the county were provided with a wallet card with information on how to deal with an emergency where a young person has consumed too much alcohol/drugs. The

wallet card has all the key information to support a young person in trouble.

- A video was produced explaining to young people what to do in an emergency involving drugs and alcohol.
- Signage was designed and installed at spots identified as underage hang out spots on key nights of the social year.
- These key pieces of work were showcased at the online AGM in November.

Consultations

In collaboration with Monaghan PPN, young people took part in consultations for the following initiatives: Let's talk Climate Action, Monaghan County Council Litter Management Plan, Peace Plus Funding Consultation and Monaghan Women's Assembly – Living with COVID-19.

Monaghan Women's Assembly

In early 2021, Monaghan County Council secured funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to establish a Monaghan Women's Assembly. A steering committee representing council staff, female elected members and women from community organisations was established.

The assembly was launched in March and began its programme of work with a very well engaged consultation Living With COVID-19 – Women's Experiences. 628 online submissions were received. End Period Poverty Initiative in County Monaghan was initiated by the assembly and supported by Monaghan County Council.

Healthy Monaghan

Work on the delivery of the Healthy Monaghan Plan continued in 2021. Although the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns impeded on the delivery of some actions 3 out of the 5 Lead Partners successfully completed their projects. The remaining 2 lead partners will complete their programme delivery in the first quarter of 2022.

Community Mental Health Fund

Progress continued on the delivery of the grants awarded to twelve local community and voluntary groups. The groups are undertaking a wide range of mental health support actions. Some activities had to be amended due to COVID-19 restrictions and other actions were delayed. CYPSC in

partnership with ISPPC continue to deliver a mental health service in South Monaghan.

Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum

The Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum and the related sub-groups continued to meet in 2021. Progress was made on the implementation of identified actions. A short video aimed at young people to highlight alcohol awareness called “Don’t Pour Your Dreams Away” was produced by Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg.

Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

For the second year running, the overall work in 2021 was significantly affected by the impact of COVID-19, which resulted in many adapted and changed programmes. Despite that, MSP delivered over 70 programmes and initiatives to keep our communities active during 2021.

Community based programmes

Under level 5 restrictions in Jan 2021, a series of online activity classes were developed in conjunction with local exercise instructors. 12 classes were organised online, targeting different age groups such as men, women, older adults, primary school age children, pre-school age children, teens. 580 participants took part in online activities.

Self-led programming

MSP launched a 0 to 3K Walk-to-Jog beginner programme in March. This was a FREE 6-week programme suitable for all ages and complete beginners, through the use of recorded audio training sessions from an experienced coach. 484 people participated.

Steps Challenge

A ‘Steps’ challenge was piloted with staff of Monaghan County Council in which 62 people participated in a daily steps challenge over a 5-week period to increase levels of physical activity through walking. This project will be expanded in 2022 into youth organisations and disability services amongst others.

Be Active at Home Workout series

In an effort to reach those with least access to physical activity in 2021, MSP recorded a series of seated and standing exercise routines for adults—including older people, people with a disability or with a mobility limitation and indeed any adults

who required a gentle entry point to exercising. The workouts were created by a qualified fitness instructor and compiled onto DVD and USB memory stick. These resources are available on request and are free of charge. 50 DVDs and 50 USBs have been distributed to individuals, nursing homes and disability day services.

Supporting National Events/ Initiatives: - National Bike Week (Sept)

Monaghan Sports Partnership, on behalf of Monaghan County Council, was tasked with coordinating and delivering a variety of cycling events for the 2021 National Bike Week in County Monaghan. 11 separate events took place with 150 participants.



HER Outdoors Week – a new initiative by Sport Ireland in 2021

The inaugural *HER Outdoors Week* was launched by Sport Ireland and took place during August. Her Outdoors Week represents opportunities to re-ignite and re-introduce females of all ages to the benefits of outdoor sports and physical activity. Some activities included lawn bowls, exercises for new mothers, cycling activities, swimming, outdoor yoga and walking. In total, over 200 females of all ages took part in 12 different activities across HER Outdoors Week

European Week of Sport & Positive Aging Week

As part of European Week of Sport and Positive Aging week, Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated a number of free activities such as *Walk & Talk* sessions and *Introduction to Activator Poles* in 4 areas of the county. In total over 40 people took part.

Healthy Ireland funded projects

Support for Primary School playground marking scheme continued from 2020 into 2021 with 9 Schools completed. Markings also completed at St. Patricks Accommodation Centre, Monaghan to encourage yard play.

Social Inclusion through Sport & Physical Activity

MSP along with Sport Ireland developed two activity booklets of exercises aimed at Older Adults and Adults with a Disability – booklets were posted to individuals and disseminated through local disability service providers. The booklets were also published in the Northern Standard for people to cut out and keep.

Other activities for people with a disability included:

- Football skills for Children with autism at 5 School facilities;
- Activator Poles walking for adults in day Services
- Cycle training for children with intellectual disability or mobility difficulties
- Football for all camp in conjunction with Cavan Sports Partnership and FAI



Providing Education & Training

A wide range of training and education courses were delivered online in 2021. The courses included Safeguarding in sport, Autism in Sport, Athletics Ireland Assistant Athletics Coach Course.

A number of workshops were also held. They covered areas such as the Sports Capital Programme, Coaching Children and Physical Literacy.

Sports Club Grants programme / Special COVID-19 support funding

MSP administered a funding support scheme to sports clubs under 3 strands:

Strand 1: €37,469 (allocated to 35 Clubs), Participation and small equipment

Strand 2: €10,105 (allocated to 15 Clubs), Volunteers supports through education and training

Strand 3: €19,382 (allocated to 19 Clubs), COVID-19 Return to Sport fund

The Municipal District of Ballybay Clones

Roads Programme 2021

In 2021 Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertook a substantial programme of road infrastructural development. The Municipal District carried out drainage, bitmac overlay and surface dressing works on six local roads and three regional roads in the district to the value of nearly €2.63million under the restoration improvement grants scheme. A further 40km of roads were surfaced dressed throughout the Municipal District. The Municipal District also undertook extensive general repairs/maintenance to the road network in the district such as gully repairs/cleaning, road patching, hedge cutting, sweeping and scavenging.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

Low cost safety improvement projects were completed in 2021 at Creevagh Cross on the R162 outside Ballybay, Corcaghan and Rockcorry on the R188 improving sight visibility when entering onto the Regional road from the respective local roads and at the housing estate at Clonkeencole, Clones removing the hedge to improve sight visibility when entering onto the local road from the housing estate. The MD also installed anti-skid surfacing on both lanes of the R181 at the corner at Tullynahinera and a the Drumgarra/Cabragh/Lagan Road junction.



Low Cost Safety Improvement Works before



Low Cost Safety Improvement Works after

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Clones

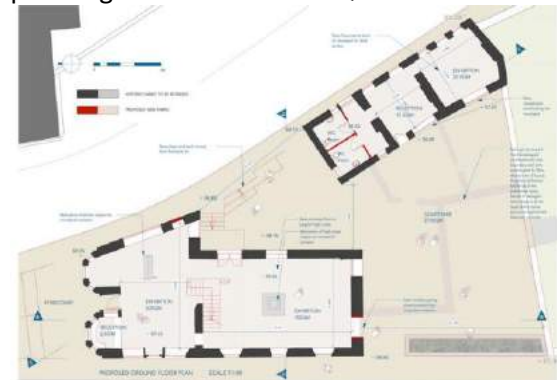
Ballybay-Clones Municipal District prepared substantial applications for Clones and were successful in obtaining funding for 3 sub projects.

The Clones Town project includes projects entitled St. Tiarnach's Plaza, Heritage project and Fermanagh Street Business Hub. Together with match funding, there is funding of €0.5M to develop these projects to a construction ready stage.

This funding includes for feasibility studies, property purchases, design process and the planning stage. Consultants have been appointed for all 3 projects.

Enabling Works are due to commence in February 2022 on the Heritage Project to allow for the completion of the detailed design ahead of demolition works.

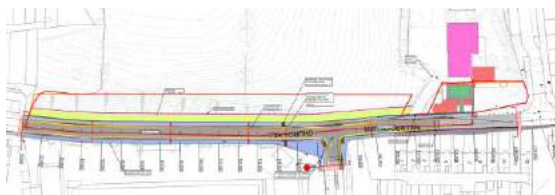
Both the Heritage Project and Fermanagh Street Business Hub are at Detailed Design Stage with Part 8 Planning secured and have completed land acquisitions/purchases. St Tiarnach's Plaza has the preliminary design completed and Part 8 planning will be submitted Q2 2022.



Clones Heritage Project



Fermanagh St Business Hub



St Tiarnach's Plaza

Greenway Smithborough to Clones

Ballybay Clones Municipal District were successful in securing funding of €100,000 to further develop the proposals for the provision of a Greenway from Smithborough to Clones building on the feasibility study that was completed in mid-2019. A consultant has been appointed allowing for the completion of environmental studies, and route options. Public consultations took place in October and November 2021. The project is currently at preferred route selection stage. The consultant's work is programmed to be completed in mid-2022. Additional funding has been secured to commence design and Planning for the project.



Greenway public consultation

Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway

The Ballybay – Clones Municipal District, and Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District agreed jointly to fund a consultant to carry out a feasibility study and constraints report for a proposed greenway along the line of the old railway line between Ballybay and Castleblayney, connecting Doohamlet. Costs were €20,000. The Constraints Report and Environmental studies are

now complete. Funding of €50,000 has been secured for the next stages of the project.

Drumfaltra Culvert Replacement

In 2021 the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones received funding from OPW, and additional funding from Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund to replace a defective culvert at Drumfaltra Ballybay in order to alleviate flooding of the road and properties. A Section 50 application was successful, and a contractor has been appointed to carry out the works. A licence has been obtained from Fisheries Ireland and works are due for completion in March 2022. Estimated costs for the project are €130,000.

Drumfaltra

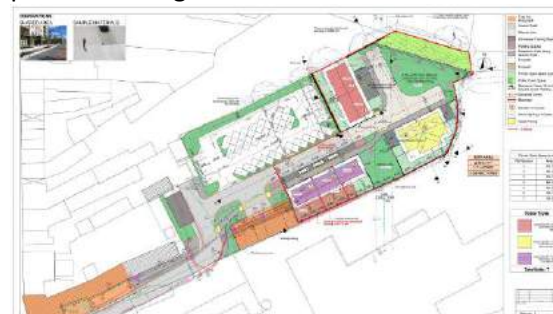
Rural Regeneration Development Fund Clones Ballybay Courtyard Site

After acquiring the derelict site and consulting with the Housing and Planning sections of Monaghan County Council and key stakeholders, a Master Plan was developed for this location. It



includes 36 car parking spaces and 7 residential units. Works on the carpark have been complete and a planning application for the 7 residential

unit development is currently in progress. It is envisaged to commence the residential development in Q3 2022 providing planning permission is granted.



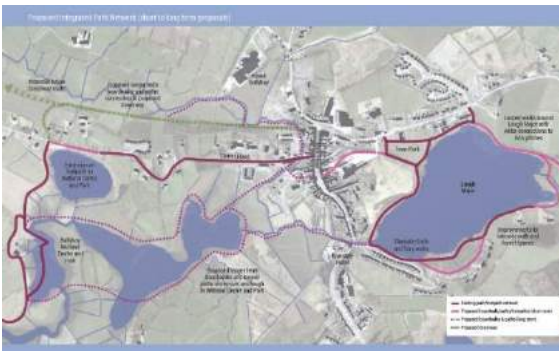
Clones Ballybay courtyard site design



Clones Ballybay courtyard carpark

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Clones Ballybay Path Networks

Following the completion of the feasibility study for the development of a town paths network within Ballybay and its environs, there were a number of proposals included in the report. Lands required for the extension of the footpath on the Clones Road were completed in Q3 2021. Negotiations and agreement have been finalised for land to the south of Lough Major. These agreements will allow for the partial completion of the Lough Major walking loop and provide a dedicated walking loop.



Town paths network within Ballybay

Ballybay Outdoor recreation schemes

Ballybay received a total of €250,000 under the Outdoor Recreational Scheme for the development of path networks in the town. Following from the acquisition of required property, works have been completed on the Clones Road proposal which now facilitates the connection from Ballybay Town Centre to the Wetlands Centre. Negotiations have been finalised on lands to the south of Lough Major. These land agreements will allow for the partial completion of the Lough Major Walking Loop. Works are due to commence in Q2 2022. The walking loop will consist of on-road, off-road and shore side sections.

Town and Village Renewal Projects

The Municipal District are in the process of completing a number of projects, with a value of €880,000, funded under the various measure of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and match funded from the General Municipal District allocation. Under the COVID response measure, additional public seating with a value of €90,000 was provided to all Towns and Villages within the Municipal District.



Public seating Clones

Other works included; the provision of fencing and public lighting in Scotthouse Village, in Lough Egish Village, a new footpath and lighting scheme to connect the village with the GAA Club and the Church, in Latton Village, a footpath and lighting scheme to connect the church to Latton National School, Resource Centre and the GAA Club, and resurfacing of community centre carpark in Doohamlet Village. Under Town and Village Renewal Projects, funding was made available to provide a decorative sign to Ballybay Town Park entrance, public lighting on the R162 and to commence the restoration of the Ballybay Water Tower. The first phase of this project is to install decorative lighting and to remove any vegetation surrounding the building.



Ballybay Water Tower

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District has received funding from the Town and Village programme to underground the overhead ESB apparatus at Cara Street, and at the Round Tower. Additional funding has been secured from TII for the project. Works will also include new public lighting and upgrade of the footpaths in the area, making the location safer for road users and pedestrians. In addition, a consultant has been appointed to study the traffic and parking configurations within Clones to better utilise the current arrangement. Works are programmed to commence in February and are due for completion in Q2 2022. Estimated costs for the works are €325,000.



Cara Street Town & Village Programme

Safe routes to Schools Programme 2021

As part of the Safe Routes to Schools Programme, and in conjunction with funding received under the Clár programme, St Michaels National School in Corcaghan Village was selected for the first round of projects.

The objective of this project was to highlight the school zone along a busy regional road and was done by means of installing a new footpath, road safety bollards, warning signs, new road markings and traffic lights for the village. The works, costing €130,000, have had a positive impact on traffic

calming and provide a safer area to the front of the school at peak times.

Active Travel Proposals

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District has received €1.3million under the 2021/2022 Active Travel Programme. In 2021, schemes completed under this programme include; new public lighting at Carn lane and Mulnamoy lane Clones, footpath and public lighting at Lough Egish. A number of schemes are currently at design stage such as improved pedestrian access to Scotshouse School, pedestrian crossing at Analore Street Clones, cycle lane 98 Avenue and new footpath on the Lacky road Clones.

Community Monuments Fund

Having undertaken major works at the Round Tower and Wee Abbey sites in 2020; in 2021, the Municipal District installed feature lighting to both of these historic buildings. This project has proven to be very popular within the local community and visitors to the area.



Round Tower

Funding of just over €18,000 was also secured in 2021 under the Community Monument Fund to carry out work at the Sarcophagus within the Round Tower graveyard. Works included the removal of a plaque which was placed there in the 1940s, a 3D scan of the monument by the Discovery Channel and repair and conservation work to the monument itself.



Sarcophagus

Tidy Towns in the Municipal District

Following consultation with our tidy towns committee, Clones/Ballybay Municipal District erected additional litter/dog waste bins & created a map of walking areas with waste bins along the route. The Municipal District provide free Dog waste bags to the public which are available in the municipal district office and Supervalu Clones.



Litter/dog waste bins



Map of walking areas

Tehill MCC Outdoor Depot Clones

Preliminary design has been completed for the proposed new Council Outdoor Depot in Clones. This is a bespoke facility that will serve the needs of the outdoor staff. The project is funded by MCC own resources. Part 8 planning permission will be sought for the project in 2022.



Tehill depot design

O'Neill Park Playground

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones secured funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to upgrade the existing playground facilities at O'Neill Park Clones. The aim of this project is to develop safe natural play opportunities to create the facility at minimal cost for children living in the area. The equipment is currently installed, and Groundworks are due to be completed in February 2022. Project cost is €35k.



Playground facilities

Ballybay Clones Municipal District AGM

The elected members held their AGM in June 2021. Cllr Richard Truell was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Hugh McElvaney Leas-Cathaoirleach. The members and the executive paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and congratulated Cllr Richard Truell and Cllr Hugh McElvaney on their elections.



Elected Members Ballybay/Clones MD

Community Actions

The Municipal District provides funding to and works closely with the community & local groups to identify potential investment and improve service delivery.

The Chambers of Commerce in Clones and Ballybay provide insight into requirements for economic planning & development and manage the provision of festive lighting for the towns.



Clones Town



Ballybay Town

The Municipal District took part in various lighting up of public building events throughout the year.

These events were to raise awareness and highlight some very important issues that affect many throughout our communities. Working in conjunction with Clones Hen Shed Ballybay/Clones Municipal Offices where lit up from November 25th to December 10th in participation of the UN 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.



Municipal District office

Due to Covid restrictions the St. Patrick Day parades were cancelled. The world of Lego was brought to life and through community effort a St. Patricks Day Virtual Lego Parade was created. Rory McMahon Clones Chamber of Commerce worked on the project. The Parade was shown on Clones Notice Board and received 26,000 views.



St. Patricks Day Lego Parade

Following on from this success a short Christmas movie was made, showcasing Clones town businesses and involving members of the

community as cast. Drawing on the classic Christmas movie “Home Alone” “Clone Alone” was produced with financial assistance from the Municipal District.



Clone Alone Christmas movie

Clones Town Team

Clones Town team appointed the Paul Hogarth company to develop a Heritage and Economic Plan for the town. Through funding from Leader and the Municipal District the plan will form a

blueprint for Clones’ future and its recommendations will, no doubt have an exciting and positive impact, in restoring and harnessing the towns historical past. It will also inspire the seeds for future developments, so that our community will continue to inspire future generations to come. Public consultation events took place online. The plan & virtual heritage trail providing instant videos for 18 heritage sites in Clones was launched in June 2021.



Launch event of the Heritage & Economic Plan

The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney

Road Infrastructure

In 2021, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District managed an investment of €3.65million in the Regional and Local road network, an increase of €100,000 on 2020.

14 No. roads (4 Regional and 10 Local) were strengthened under the Restoration Improvement Programme and a further 13 No. roads (1 Regional and 12 Local) were resealed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme.

Funding received under the Former National Roads Programme provided for resurfacing works along the Main Street in Carrickmacross Town, whilst the Active Travel Programme enabled the substantial completion of three schemes to enhance walking and cycling facilities in the towns of Castleblayney and Carrickmacross.

The Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works Programme 2021 facilitated remedial works to 6 No. local roads to moderate potential damages associated with climate change, and the Municipal District also completed improvement works to 6 Local roads under the Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S) at a cost of €492,664.

Regenerating our Town and Village Centres

The Municipal District remained actively involved in the restoration of buildings and facilities investment opportunities throughout 2021. Funding received under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) has provided for the development of a new Enterprise Hub, "The Ridge", at McGrath Road, Castleblayney. A joint initiative with Enterprising Monaghan and Castleblayney Community Enterprise, the 1,350 sqm facility will provide a 28-unit business hub. Works commenced on site in May 2021, with an anticipated completion date of September 2022.



"The Ridge" Enterprise Hub, McGrath Road, Castleblayney

In April 2021, the Municipal District secured funding under the RRDF for the development of a new technology hub, C: TEK II, in Carrickmacross. At a total estimated cost of €3.8 million, this project will see the delivery of a new 1,450sqm Co-Working Enterprise Hub in Carrickmacross Town. The Hub will provide workspace for business start-ups, re-locating enterprises and co-workers seeking to locate in Carrickmacross Town. The development will support talent retention within the South Monaghan area, provide a regional base for former commuters, and attract new start-ups from within the community and Northern Ireland. The facility will provide affordable office space with high speed connectivity, offering a healthier lifestyle choice to employers in the region. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of Q3 2023.



C: Tek II Co-working Enterprise Hub, Carrickmacross

Carrickmacross Workhouse re-opened its doors to the public on the 10th of May 2021. An exciting new visitor attraction, the *Workhouse Experience*, funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS), together with the Municipal Allocation Fund, has generated significant tourism appeal. It is intended to hold an official launch of the *Workhouse Experience* in early 2022. The Workhouse tours bring history to life by telling the tragic and heart-wrenching story of life in the Workhouse during the Great Famine.

Investing in Public Spaces

Minister Heather Humphreys TD officially opened the “Big Tom” Memorial Garden in Oram Village, in July 2021. The project received funding of €60,245 under the TVRS, with match-funding of €15,061 provided by Monaghan County Council. The project emanated from engagement with Oram Community Development Committee, who wished to commemorate “Big Tom”, not only as a Country Singer, but for his lifelong commitment and contribution to community life in Oram. The design of the Garden was undertaken by Monaghan County Council’s in-house horticulturist, in collaboration with the Development Committee and engineering staff from Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District. The project team successfully delivered an arcadian destination space for Big Tom’s beloved family, the Oram community and the legions of “Big Tom” fans from across the country. The garden will pay lasting tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of “Big Tom” McBride.



“Big Tom” Memorial Garden, Oram Village

Following extensive online public consultation, the Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan is close to completion. The Plan will seek to provide a framework of coherent measures to re-establish the village as a place for people, through the enhancement of key urban spaces, rationalising access and car parking challenges, and the development of pedestrian and cyclist linkages within the village. Ultimately, these measures will realise the enormous potential the village holds, not only to enhance the quality of life of the local community, but also to welcome visitors to enjoy the cultural and heritage attractions, and enhance the overall tourism offer in the south Monaghan area.



Inniskeen Public Realm Spatial Plan

Developing Outdoor Recreational Amenities

Funding received under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), realised the completion/significant progression of the following projects in 2021:

- The installation of a “Poetry Jukebox” and amenity seating at the river front in Inniskeen Village
- The provision of a Public Information digital notice board, walking trail maps and public seating in Castleblayney
- The development of a Dog walking park at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross
- Phase 1 Biodiversity and Pollinator measures at Tullynaskeagh East & Gallows’ Hill
- Public realm enhancement at selected locations in Carrickmacross Town, incorporating seating, landscaping and signage
- The implementation of a Bike rental scheme in Inniskeen Village, to complement the Patrick Kavanagh Centre
- The provision of an outdoor fitness and exercise Trail at Lough Muckno Park
- The enhancement of 5 No. walking routes in Carrickmacross Town and environs

Funding, under the TVRS, provided for the detailed design realised the of a bandstand at the Civic Offices in Carrickmacross.

Community Actions

The Municipal District continues to work closely with local groups to better target investment and improve service delivery. The MD part-funds and works closely with the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce to help create a trade-friendly environment in the town. The Chamber assists in planning and provides valuable business feedback

on proposed initiatives.

In Castleblayney, the Town Regeneration Team has been very active in providing focus for the business and community sectors. The Team meet with the MD executive on a monthly basis and leads initiatives such as the Town Voucher Scheme; Christmas lights; tourism promotions and events.

Tidy Towns - The Municipal District helps fund these groups with an annual contribution and provides additional supports throughout the year in order to provide them with the best opportunity to achieve their goals.

Tourism Initiatives

Monaghan County Council and the Municipal District office provide ongoing financial and logistical support to tourism initiatives within the

district. These activities generate significant income into the local community.

The investment in the Patrick Kavanagh Centre; the proposed Inniskeen bike rental scheme; the Lace Gallery; and the Workhouse in Carrickmacross reflects the core tourism strategy for the South of the county, namely to develop a cluster of tourism products that, combined and alongside existing offerings, will form a significant cultural tourism attraction for the district.

In Castleblayney, the Council is seeking to develop Lough Muckno and the Hope Castle demesne as a significant regional attraction. In August 2021, Monaghan County Council, in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, launched a Visioning Report for Lough Muckno Estate. It is planned to complete a feasibility study in 2022.

The Municipal District of Monaghan

Retail Strategy for the Town/District - Town Team

Monaghan Town Voucher

- The Monaghan Town Voucher had sales of €572,300 during Christmas 2021. Redemptions for the year totaled **€836,270**. Overall sales for 2021 totaled **€1,191,330**.

Green Space Initiative

- The Greenspace was put in place in Church Square during May and proved popular again with people using the benches and area to dine and socialise. Events were limited at the Greenspace due to COVID.

Monaghan Town Team Committee

- The Town Team's MEGA draw was a big success for the run up to Christmas with many shops/businesses participating, €1,000's worth of prizes were won over the two draws. Many businesses providing prizes for the draw. This draw had a huge reach and promoted the drive to **'Stay local, Shop local'**



- Various video promotions were carried out on social media to encourage the spending of the Monaghan Town Voucher.
- The Town Team took a sponsorship from the Northern Sound Outside Broadcast that took place in Church Square on Friday 27th August. Siobhan Sherry was interviewed on the afternoon show with Sean McCaffery discussing the Monaghan Town Voucher and

encouraging the public to get spending their vouchers.



- The submission for Monaghan Town Voucher in Promoting Economic Development was shortlisted for Chambers Ireland- **Excellence in Local Government Awards**.
- The awards were hosted via an online ceremony on Thursday 18th November 2021.

Car Parking

- The Municipal District implemented a new **'Pay by App'** parking system in March 2021 for Monaghan Town, this will supplement the existing facility to pay by cash which will remain in place. This APP allows customers to pay remotely, online by phone or other devices.
- The Municipal District operated a free Christmas parking campaign, from 12 noon each day, from 6th December 2021 to 2nd January 2022.
- 8 new machines were installed in 2021.
- The MD also commenced the design of a new carpark on the former Eircom site on the Broad road to replace the McNally Carpark which closed in September 2021.

Community

Tidy Towns

- The National TT was launched in Glaslough this year. Glaslough still achieved their gold medal for the 13th consecutive year and are Ireland's 2nd overall Tidiest Village.

Ulster Canal Greenway

- The Municipal District continues to maintain and trim verges on the existing Greenway and carry out litter pickups throughout the year.

Hollywood Park

- Funding from ORIS Grant of €276,385, match funded by Monaghan MD Allocation of €30,710 was secured in 2021. The Paul Hogarth Company has been procured to design supervise the works.

Community Grants

- Environment funding of 25 grants were issued to groups in the Monaghan Municipal District but due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Annual Community Grant Awards presentation evening could not take place.

Town and Village 2019 Schemes

- Provision of new footpath and public lights at Annyalla and design commenced. €78,657
- Carrickroe playground and works completed. €73,594



Oriel Park Playground Carrickroe Playground

Town and Village Covid 19 Funding

- Funding of €25,000 for the provision of outdoor equipment for 12 villages, €25,000 for Monaghan Town Centre Project, €40,000 for the Enhancement of the Market and Fairs Capacity in Glaslough village, and €25,000 to aid access to the Blackwater Valley Learning and Community Centre were all completed in 2021.

Town and Village 2020 Funding

- Two schemes, Emyvale Public Realm and overhead cable removal, €200,000 and Clontibret new footpath and public lights €81,315. Monaghan MD to provide match fund for both schemes. Design of both schemes commenced in 2021.

Oriel Way MUGA

- Funded through Peace of €250,000 and Sport Capital grant, €19,000 was secured to refurbish this recreation facility. Construction works 90% completed in 2021.

Clár Funding 2020

- Three Schemes completed in 2021 - Mullan Village traffic calming, €14,506, Clontibret GAA car park development €22,473, and Tydavnet School grounds.

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Scheme (ORIS) 2020

- Emyvale Eco Trial. €20,000 grant awarded to Emyvale Tidy Towns to complement the existing funding and to enable the completion of the Eco Trial along the Mountain Stream river. Works 80% completed in 2021.

Active Travel Measures

- Consultants were procured for Annyalla Pedestrian Crossing design.
- Scotstown footpath- construction contract was awarded, and additional funding approved for public lighting.

Slieve Beagh

- A cross-border committee was set up between Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Monaghan County Council to promote and develop actions from the Sliabh Beagh masterplan. The first two meetings were held in 2021.

Events

- €2,000 funding was awarded by Failte Ireland for a festival event and the Monaghan Town Team and Monaghan Municipal District held a very successful Movie evening event in Rossmore Park.
- The main Christmas Lights Switch on took place via video on the 28th November. A small event was held in Church Sq. with the elected members, Santa and some Carol singing for the switch-on.

Promotion & Town Enhancement

Monaghan Town Heritage Walking Tours

- Walking Tours were provided every Saturday at 11am where possible due to Covid restrictions from July to the end of September.

Ireland's Friendliest Place

- Monaghan reached the top 5 finalists in Ireland's Friendliest Place. The awards ceremony took place in November. The following businesses took part in the Mystery Shopping activity and scored very highly – Dinkins Bakery & Café, McDermott's Sports Centre, Dolans Chemist, Maurice Grahams

and Rocks of Monaghan to achieve the Top 5 placing.

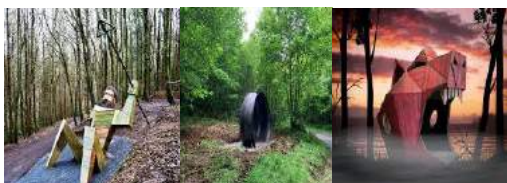
Failte Ireland Destination Towns

- Led by the Tourism Section, Architects, Henry J Lyons, were appointed and consultation with stakeholders to create an event space in Monaghan Town. After much consultation it is decided to increase the size and quality of the pedestrian space in front of the Courthouse.

Rossmore Forest Park

Rossmore Giants Trial

- 'The Morrigan' giant wolf was the 6th giant added in the park funded by the MD Allocation. The vision is for a Giant trail of nine giants throughout the park. Rossmore Forest Park was the second most visited Park in Ireland this year.



- Monaghan Municipal District continue to manage the recreational element of the Park. Annual maintenance works were carried out, grass cutting, trail repairs and cutting back of vegetation along walks.
- **Family Cycle Trail.** Funding was secured under ORIS Grant 2019 to develop a family friendly cycle route in Rossmore Forest Park. Construction works are almost complete.
- The Friends of Rossmore Forest Park continue to operate their Facebook page with a great interest in the park and are looking to get out when Covid restrictions lift. The Park Runs recommenced in the latter part of 2021.
- Refurbishment of the toilet facilities was carried out by Coillte.

Road Infrastructure Works

- 12.1km of Local roads and 2.75km of Regional Roads were drained and re surfaced under the Road Restoration 2021 program.
- 29km of Local Roads and 3.6km of Regional Roads were surfaced dressed under the Restoration Maintenance 2021 program.
- Verge Trimming on National Roads. Two verge grass cuts were completed, included litter and Ragwort removal in 2021 program.
- The Municipal District completed a program of hedge cutting works on their own property and in strategic locations within the District as part of road safety.
- The District completed a road repairs (large patching) contract on regional and local roads.
- Footpath replacements works were carried out in a number of areas within the District.
- Road marking works were completed on regional and local roads.
- National road network drainage maintenance was completed on N2, N54 and N12.
- Drainage works were completed on regional and local roads throughout the year.
- Winter Maintenance program commenced on 12th October 2021 and will continue until 25th April 2022.
- Low Cost Safety Schemes
Signage and road markings completed at Heasty's Cross.
Safety barrier installed at Scotstown GAA grounds entrance in Kilmore.

Municipal District Meetings

The Municipal District hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. Meetings were cancelled from March and resumed in June. At our AGM meeting in June, Cllr David Maxwell was elected Cathaoirleach for one year. There were

- a number of other subcommittee meetings to discuss roads, budgets and other issues and programs in the district. The Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented and approved at the March Meeting.

Local Enterprise Office

Financial Supports & Job Creation

In 2021 circa €723, 786.00 was approved in grant aid with a potential to create an additional 79 jobs.

Training

In 2021, 989 people participated on 90 training courses / workshops with Monaghan LEO. 640 of these were women and 349 were Male. The above figure includes 8 Start your own business courses. A number of the events held were bespoke programmes such as Introduction to Leadership (CPD accredited), Certificate in Leadership, Management and Business for the Early Years Sector and we also provided a bespoke Food Management Development programme for start-up food production businesses in County Monaghan.

Brexit

The challenges of BREXIT and COVID remained for all businesses and Monaghan LEO engaged proactively to support businesses prepare and adapt to the new trading environment. This was a priority focus for 2021 as businesses adapted inwardly and outwardly to the regulatory changes from 1st January 2021. Monaghan LEO hosted 3 Brexit specific events at which 115 businesses attended. This is in addition to 8 businesses who availed of BREXIT/Customs related mentoring.



The Client Stimulus Scheme enabled 32 of our portfolio development clients to avail of management development consultancy in the following areas: Leadership, Export, Green, Financial Capability and Innovation.

The following capability development programmes were designed to assist businesses in the border region and help them overcome the challenges they face because of Brexit. The Border Brexit Programmes were developed under the €28million Border Stimulus package announced early 2020 and included: **Innovation; North East Export Programme; Superior Retail Programme; Financial Capability** and the **Green Business Border Programme**. These management development programmes were designed to enhance capacity and competencies of our local businesses, enabling them to explore new export opportunities and strategies as the onset of Brexit became a reality. These programmes were delivered in conjunction with the border LEO's and as part of the Brexit Stimulus programme. In total 81 ambitious County Monaghan businesses availed of these programmes.

Trading Online Vouchers

The amendments made to the scheme in 2020, which saw a huge increase in applications, were reversed at the beginning of 2021. The scheme returned to the 50% funding model which was in place pre-Covid 19. The voucher offers eligible businesses 50% of eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €2500 towards the cost of building a new or updating an existing ecommerce website. The target for 2021 was 26 voucher approvals. We exceeded this target approving 27 applications in 2021 with a total value of €52,564.85. The scheme allows for applicants to avail of a second voucher to update their website. 8 for the 27 vouchers approved in 2021 were for applicants availing off a second voucher.

Green For Micro



As climate action and sustainability continue to be the new norm, Monaghan LEO were at the forefront of adaption planning and awareness building of our businesses, as we encouraged the transition to low carbon entities. Monaghan LEO held a 'Making your Business Green' event in conjunction with SEAI, at which 74 businesses attended. As a follow-on support 21 businesses availed of the 'Green for Micro' support designed to reduce the carbon footprint within businesses and to enhance sustainability measures.

Student Enterprise Awards

Monaghan LEO had great success at the 2021 virtual Student Enterprise Programme Final in Croke Park, where two Monaghan entries took prizes home. An overall award was given for "My Entrepreneurial Journey" in the Junior category. The winning student was Sean Kerley, from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney, who worked under the guidance of his teacher, Sinead Duffy.



The overall National award was bestowed to business 'Copper Case', which is a case that sanitizes your facemask in just 3 minutes. The winning student Mathew McVicar attends St Macartan's College and worked under the guidance of his teacher Jack McCarron.



Monaghan Women in Business

The Women in Business programme (MWIB) is an informal network which is open to all women in business and in management positions in County Monaghan and surrounding areas. The aim is to provide information, support, promotional and networking opportunities to all who take part. We continued to have face to face meeting challenges for the network, owing to public health guidelines. All the events for 2021 were held virtually but the network has adapted well to this change.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides support to Senior Management, the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members. It is also responsible for the organising and managing of monthly Council Meetings, Corporate Policy Group Meetings, Strategic Policy Committee Meetings and Joint Policing Committee Meetings. The section is responsible for the collation of the Corporate Plan, Annual Report, Annual Service Delivery Plan and the review of Risk Register.

Corporate Services also co-ordinates the compilation of the annual NOAC Performance Indicators for the Council and has a significant role in terms of governance, ensuring the Council is compliant with the Ethics Framework, Children First Act, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment legislation.

Register of Electors

The Register of Electors is compiled annually so as to ensure that members of the public can exercise their democratic right to vote in any elections/referendum that arise during the year. The Register is published every year on 1st February and comes into effect on 15th February of that year. In compiling the Register, we liaise with the Councils' Revenue Collectors who act as fieldworkers and undertake the necessary enquiries to ensure an accurate document is produced. Members of the public can check if they are registered at www.checktheregister.ie. The total number of Electors in the County for the 2021/2022 Register of Electors was **50,587**:

- Monaghan Electoral Area = **18,491**
- Ballybay – Clones Electoral Area = **14,751**
- Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Electoral Area = **17,345**

Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 members of the public have a legal right of access to records held by the Local Authority. **67 requests** were received by the Council in 2021, from members of the media, Oireachtas, business reps and the general public.

Access to Information on the Environment

AIE gives legal rights to those seeking to access information on the environment from public authorities. 6 requests were received by the Council in 2021.

Protected Disclosures

There were no protected disclosures received during 2021.

Twinning

Monaghan County Council is officially twinned with the following areas –

- Geel, Belgium (the parish of Tydavnet in North Monaghan is also twinned with this area)
- Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Miramichi, Canada

Having regard to Covid 19 restrictions in place, no twinning exchanges were undertaken during the year.

Internal Audit

As part of good governance arrangements, Monaghan County Council maintains an appropriate and independent Internal Audit Unit. This assists with improvements in control systems, procedures, greater levels of accountability and confidence in the processes. It provides a level of assurance to the Council, Chief Executive, Management Team and the Audit Committee.

Meetings in 2021

2021 saw many meetings remain online via TEAMS platforms in an effort to reduce the potential spread of Covid-19 and to ensure that Monaghan County Council would continue to provide high quality service to the people of Monaghan. Monaghan County Council's monthly meetings were held in the Garage Theatre to ensure that social distancing and other Covid-19 health and safety protocols could be observed.

The following is a summary of the meetings held in 2021:

Council meetings (including AGM & Budget meeting):	11
Corporate Policy Group:	12
Monaghan Municipal District:	11
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District:	11

Ballybay Clones Municipal District:	11
Joint Policing Committee:	04
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC):	11
SPC – Climate Change & Environment:	04
SPC – Planning & Economic Development	03
SPC – Housing, Social & Cultural:	06
SPC – Transport & Community:	04
Twinning Committee:	00
Audit Committee:	05

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Monaghan County Council is committed to the protection of personal data and respects the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. It collects and processes a significant amount of personal data and Special Category personal data in various multiple formats on a daily basis in order to provide the most effective and targeted range of services to meet the needs of the citizens, communities and businesses within the County. In 2021, Monaghan County Council continued to develop best practice to ensure compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR and data protection. This work included developing and implementing the necessary policies, procedures and protocols, processing personal data in an open and transparent manner, processing data subject access requests and An Garda Síochána requests, delivering staff awareness raising and training and notification of data security breaches. The Council dealt with the following requests/incidents: -

Data Subject Access Requests	3
CCTV requests	27
Data Breach Notifications to the Data Protection Commission	1

Ethics

Section 19 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 requires each elected member to furnish to the Local Authority, not later than January 31st, a donation statement indicating whether during the preceding calendar year, the member received a donation exceeding €600. 18 completed forms were received by the closing date of 31st January 2021.

Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 obliges each member of the council and relevant staff to complete a form in respect of their declarable interests held during the prescribed period and furnish the annual declaration to the Ethics Registrar no later than the last day of February. 18 completed forms were received, from elected members, by the closing date of the last day of February 2021. 80 relevant staff were asked to complete a declaration form, all forms were received by the last day of February 2021.

At the end of 2021 there was one ongoing investigation regarding a possible contravention in respect of Part 15 (Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service) of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Coiste na Gaeilge 2021

Díríonn Coiste na Gaeilge Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin ar úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn sa Chontae chomh maith lena chinntiú go gcomhlíonann an Chomhairle a dualgais faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Bunaíodh an Coiste agus toghadh na Comhairleoirí seo a leanas: An Comh. Pat Treanor, An Comh. Cathy Bennett, An Comh. Richard Truell, An Comh. Raymond Aughey agus An Comh. Hugh McElvaney.

Bhí dúshlán romhainn i 2021ach is fíor, áfach, gur éirigh leis an gCoiste réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí a sholáthar as Gaeilge agus orthusan bhí:

1. Reáchtáil an Coiste 4 chruinniú ar líne.
2. Cuireadh tús maith le 2021 nuair a d'éagraigh an Coiste ócáid ar líne in Ionad Patrick Kavanagh chun Nollaig na mBan a cheiliúradh, tá an cheolchoirm ar fáil ar líne anseo https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1774970239333148&id=1665871700307288&_rdr
3. Thug 12 ball foirne faoi oiliúint Ghaeilge d'oibrithe túslíne sa tseirbhís phoiblí, eagraithe ag Gaelchultuir. Ina theannta sin, bhain na Comhairlí leas as oiliúint i nGaeilge chun cúpla focal a thabhairt isteach ag cruinnithe agus imeachtaí.
4. Le linn 2021, dhírigh an t-oifigeach Gaeilge, mar chuid den scéim teanga, ar an leagan Gaeilge den suíomh gréasáin a fheabhsú. Tá feabhsuithe móra déanta atá le feiceáil anseo <https://monaghan.ie/gaeilge/>
5. Tasc eile a bhí ann ná líon na bhfoirmeacha iarratais atá ar fáil anois as Gaeilge a mhéadú agus iad a aimsiú i gceantar amháin ar an suíomh gréasáin — ar fáil anseo <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/form-s-in-irish-language/foirmeacha-as-gaeilge/>
6. Thacaigh an Coiste le Muineachán le Gaeilge chun, campa samhraidh Gaeilge a chuir ar fáil.
7. Thug Oifigeach Gaeilge cur i láthair ar an scéim Ghaeilge don Fhóram Foirne Sinsearach ag cur síos ar riachtanais na scéime Teanga.

8. Le linn 2021, rinneadh iarracht chomhbheartaithe níos mó ábhair sna meáin shóisialta a bheith ar líne, tá súil againn go leanfar leis sin amach anseo.
9. Ar an drochuair, níor lean an scéim scoláireachta bhliantúil do mhic léinn dara leibhéal atá ag freastal ar chúrsaí Gaeltachta le linn mhíonna an tsamhraidh, ach is é an deascála ná go bhfuil sé seo ag filleadh in 2022.
10. In 2022 tá súil againn filleadh ar imeachtaí pearsanta ag tosú le hócáid in amharclann an Gharáiste chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh

Coiste Gaeilge Annual Report 2021

Monaghan County Council's Coiste Gaeilge aims to promote the use of the Irish language in County Monaghan as well as insuring that the Council fulfils its obligations under the Official Languages Act. The Coiste has been established with the following Councillors elected; Cllr. Pat Treanor, Cllr. Cathy Bennett, Cllr. Richard Truell, Cllr. Raymond Aughey and Cllr. Hugh McElvaney.

2021 was a challenging year, however, the Coiste still managed to deliver a wide range of activities as Gaeilge they included:

1. The Coiste held 4 meetings online.
2. 2021 got off to a good start when the Coiste organised an online event in the Patrick Kavanagh Centre to celebrate Nollaig na mBan, the concert is still available online here. https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1774970239333148&id=1665871700307288&_rdr
3. 12 members of staff undertook Gaelchultúir Irish language training for front line workers in the public service. Furthermore, Councillors were offered and some availed of Irish language training specifically in regard to introducing cúpla focail at meetings and events.

4. During 2021 the Irish officer as part of the language scheme focused on improving the Irish version of the website. Great improvements have been made which can be seen here <https://monaghan.ie/gaeilge/>
5. Another task undertaken was to increase the number of application forms now available as Gaeilge and to locate them in one area on website – available here <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/forms-in-irish-language/foirmeacha-as-ghaeilge/>
6. The Coiste supported Muineachán le Gaeilge to run Campaí Sproai, which is an Irish language summer camp.
7. Irish Officer gave a presentation on the Irish language scheme to the Senior Staff Forum outlining requirements of Language scheme.
8. During 2021 there was a concerted effort to have more social media content online, we hope that this will continue into the future.
9. Unfortunately, the annual scholarship scheme for second level students attending Gaeltacht courses during summer months did not proceed, however, the good news is that this is returning in 2022.
10. In 2022 we hope to return to in person events starting with an event in the Garage theatre to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Corporate Assets

Capital Projects

Corporate Assets Section leads the delivery of capital projects as identified in the three-year Capital Programme. It also seeks to bring a consistency of approach to the procurement, management and delivery of projects in line with the Public Spending Code and the improved procurement structures embedded into the organisation in recent years.

The Council uses the principles of the Public Spending Code as a set of guidelines and procedures to ensure appropriate standards are applied and to ensure value for money, openness and transparency.

The Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) approach is employed by the Council in procurement and consists of a suite of best practice guidance, standard contracts and generic template documents that form the four pillars that support the Framework. Several major capital projects have been progressed in 2021:

Monaghan PEACE Campus



Works started on site in July 2020. Due to Government Public Health restrictions the site closed from January and reopened in May 2021. This has had a knock-on effect on the delivery of the project.

Significant progress has been made on site from May and up to the end of 2021. Works completed up until the end of December 2021 including; completion of sub-structure works, Carpark level, Columns between Level 0 & 1. Pouring of half the Level 1 Deck and commencing on Lift shaft up to Level 2.

The “Monaghan Peace Campus” Webpage is updated every Quarter to provide up to date information about the project and progress on

site.



MPC – Progress September 2021



MPC- Works Progressing at Level 0



MPC – Progress December 2021

Dublin Street and Roosky Lands – Urban Regeneration Projects

Proposals for the regeneration and development of lands to the rear of Dublin Street (South & North) and at Roosky were advanced throughout 2021.

Dublin Street South Regeneration

Detailed designs proposals for road/footpath infrastructure, utility services, street furniture,

landscaping, lighting and various other elements within the regeneration scheme area were progressed by RPS Design Consultants throughout 2021. Ground investigation works, archaeological monitoring, traffic counts and traffic analysis were also completed during the year. A comprehensive public consultation exercise was conducted during Q2 2021 to inform stakeholders and the local community about the proposed development, and to obtain their views to assist in the development of the scheme proposals. A Valuation Office was engaged in Q3 2021 and negotiations are ongoing with affected property owners within the scheme area. It is anticipated that a formal planning application in conjunction with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) before the end of Q1 2022.



Dublin Street South Regeneration Masterplan

Dublin Street North & Roosky Lands Regeneration

Sheridan Woods - Urban Planning Consultants completed Masterplans and Regeneration proposals for the Dublin Street North and Roosky Lands in 2021. The Masterplan proposals were considered by Monaghan Municipal District / Corporate Policy Group / Full Council Members in Q4 2021. Public consultation on the proposed variations of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 to incorporate the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan and the Roosky Lands Master Plan have begun. The Council engaged consultants in December 2021 to carry out topographical and utility services surveys for Dublin Street North and Roosky scheme areas, these surveys are progressing and are expected to

be completed before the end of Q1 2022.



Dublin Street North Regeneration Masterplan

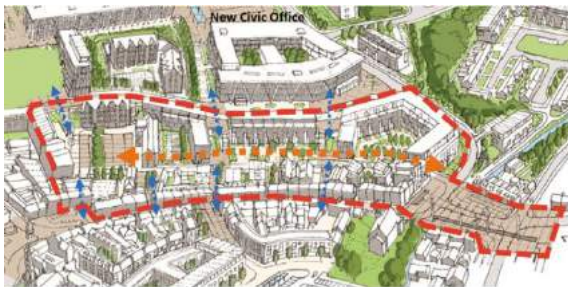


Roosky Land Masterplan

Monaghan County Council – Civic Office Headquarter Project

In April 2021 Monaghan County Council agreed to proceed with proposals to develop a new Civic Headquarter building to provide improved customer services interface, staff accommodation and council chamber for the elected members. The project has proceeded through Gate 0 and Gate 1 of the PSC (Public Spending Code) and the Preliminary Business Case has identified a suitable site on the Roosky Lands for development. The project has formed a Steering Committee consisting of elected and executive members of Monaghan County Council and has met on two occasions to assist in guiding the project through the various stages. Monaghan County Council have procured and appointed specialist client representative Project Managers and Quantity Surveyors to bring the project through the further

stages of Planning, Implementation and Project Review Stages of the PSC. The procurement process for the Integrated Design Team services has begun and Land Surveyors are currently on site surveying the land for baseline design information. The proposed site is located within the Roosky Masterplan boundary and adjacent to the Dublin Street North Masterplan and it is anticipated that the commitment by Monaghan County Council to invest in the project will be a catalyst for further private investment in the area.



Indicative schematic of Civic Office Building to the North of Dublin Street Masterplan

Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase I – Gate Lodge 2 Library & Public Realm

The contract works were suspended between January and May 2021 in line with Covid-19 restrictions. The main elements of works completed between May to December 2021 included, the removal of existing roof structure, clear out of internal floors and walls, specialist dry rot treatment works, reconstruction of the unstable stone boundary wall, construction of plant room and extension foundations and the installation of a new internal structural steel frame. The construction works are scheduled to be progressed throughout 2022 and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in Q4 2022.



Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase II – Castleblayney Market House & Market Square.

AP&E Consultants completed a public consultation and stakeholder engagement exercise to determine potential future uses of the Market House in April 2021. Design Team Consultants led by dnb Architect Ltd were formally engaged in October 2021. Preliminary design works were commenced in Q4 2021 and are currently ongoing. It is anticipated that Part VIII Planning will be submitted in Q2 2022 and Detailed Design works for the project will be completed before the end 2022.



4/5 Mill Street – Emergency Stabilisation Works

Emergency stabilisation works were carried out to the building in the interest of public safety between January and May 2021. The emergency works included the removal of old roof structure, clear out of internal floors and debris, installation of temporary stability bracing, construction of new roof structure and replacement of windows

and door in North Road gable elevation. All stabilisation works were completed by Q2 2021.



Newbliss Enterprise & Digital Hub

Funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Funding was confirmed in 2021 to redevelop the Old Court House & former Area Offices in Newbliss and a new Enterprise & Digital Hub. This project is led by Monaghan County Council and supported by Enterprising Monaghan. Hall Black Douglas have completed the Preliminary design and will have the detailed design completed in early 2022. The project is scheduled to go to construction in early 2022.



Newbliss old Court House

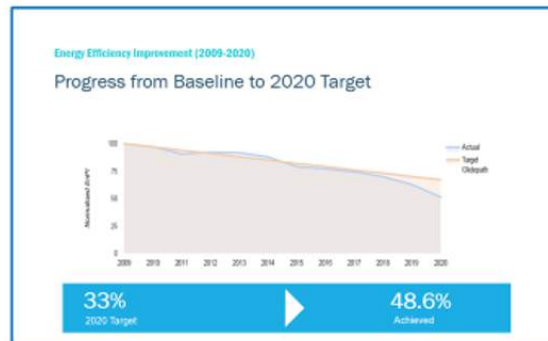
Monaghan Leisure Complex

Coral Leisure Ltd manages Monaghan Leisure Complex on behalf of Monaghan County Council. Coral Leisure has operated the facility since 2006 and are one of Ireland's leading service providers - managing nine publicly owned leisure facilities. In Late 2021, an in-depth energy survey was carried out on the heating systems to assist with the development of an upgrade plan for the heating systems. These upgrade works, designed to improve the Operational Efficiency and reduce the Carbon Emissions of the Leisure Complex, will be commenced mid-2022.



Energy

Monaghan County Council has reached and exceeded the 33%/2020 energy efficiency. An energy reduction of 48.56% as at the end of 2020 has been achieved. With the publication of the new Climate Action Plan 2021, there will be now a new 50+%/2030 Energy Reduction target and also a new 50+%/2030 Carbon Reduction target. With the completion of the LED Retrofit project, focus is now shifting towards the upgrade of our building stock to a higher BER Rating and the reduction of Fossil Fuels from the transport fleet.



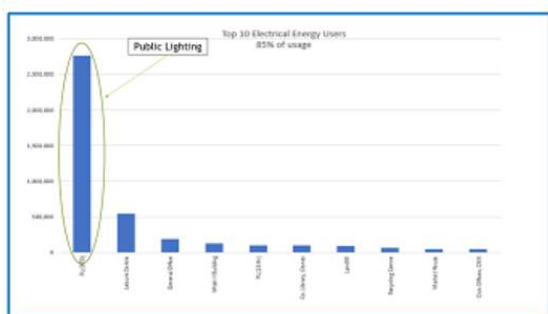
Council actively continues to improve its energy performance and carbon footprint

The Energy Section compiles, records, and monitors all energy usage on a yearly basis used by the Council and reports this to SEAI for monitoring. The information is used to identify Significant Energy Users (SEU's) within the organisation and these are targeted for action to reduce energy usage.

Projects in 2021 have targeted Council buildings and public lighting. The Council has worked closely with our energy partners to identify energy reduction projects to Council buildings and through the SEAI's Better Energy Community (BEC) scheme to secure funding to assist in these works.

Public Lighting

Public Lighting is the single biggest energy user for Monaghan County Council, equating to 35% of total energy usage. For the past four years, the Council had an ongoing programme to convert all public lights in the county to energy efficient LED. Substantial completion was achieved at the end of Sept 2021. This was funded directly by the Council for Non-National Roads and is being paid back through public lighting energy and maintenance cost savings. TII have also provided funding for the retrofit of public lights to energy efficient LEDs on the National routes at a number of locations in the county.



Public Lighting is the Council's Most Significant Energy User

Property Asset Management



The Council Property Management Software System records and tracks all land and building assets under the control of the Council. This ensures good Governance and effective management of our property portfolio and to link it to the Financial Assets Register (FAR). The Council has worked closely with the national property database and the National Property Management Network to put in place modern and efficient systems and procedures to ensure that property assets are managed in a professional, coordinated and effective manner and to ensure value for money.

As of December 2021, Monaghan County Council currently has 70 buildings and 1,927 parcels of land in the Property Interests Register. The table

below shows breakdown of these Property Assets.

Number of Assets by Type

Asset Type	No. of Assets End of 2021
Housing	781
Roads	620
Amenity	141
Water Services	150
LA Building	70
Car Park	54
Other	41
LA Building Campus	15
Heritage	5
Land	32
Land Bank	3
Burial Grounds	1
Playgrounds	1
Landfill	4
Depot	8
Quarry	1
TOTAL	1927

Table of Assets totals for 2021



Library Services

Cultural Team

Creative Ireland Programme 2021

Due to Covid19, we were presented again with the challenge in delivering our programming, but this didn't daunt the team and a total of 16 projects were supported by programme funding of €177,161.

2021 Projects

Festival in a Van returned in August visiting nursing care homes, adult disability unit and Rossmore Park outdoor event.



Wetlands Short Films Project - in County Monaghan, there are 711 wetland sites on the Monaghan Wetland Map database. Monaghan Heritage Office has created this database following many years of habitat surveying and mapping. These short films are professionally produced, showing the Monaghan wetland-landscape.

The Nature Project is an innovative new collaborative project with artist Siobhan McDonald, comprised of a series of enquiries connected with Environmental change – such as the roll of bogs in Climate Change and the impact on our health and well-being of our ecosystems and ourselves. Throughout the duration of The Nature Project, Siobhan is proposing a vast programme of activities across the partnering institutions: residencies, exhibitions, pop-up labs, workshops and talks. The intention of this project is to raise awareness and foster creative and critical reflections about environmental challenges that our society is currently facing.

Patrick Kavanagh Legacy Programme - This programme has three distinct project parts involving community groups, the creative community, schools and various cultural, archival and library council services. It is a series of discreet projects stimulating fresh perspectives on the life

and work of Patrick Kavanagh, one of Ireland's most beloved poets, and the significance of his work in a contemporary context.

War of Independence Digital Media Project - This is a collaborative project between Monaghan County Museum and AmmA Centre — an Education Authority Creative Learning centre in Armagh, to capture and recreate these stories using a mix of digital techniques and traditional approaches including film, photography, green screen and virtual reality tools.

Writer in Residence Heather Brett, was our writer in residence for 2021



delivering a diverse programme of creative writing workshops, working with schools and individuals whilst working on her own

writing.

Tradoodle Festival - Tradoodle Festival is about children and young people, community engagement, and it is about providing opportunities for children and young people to access the traditional arts in innovative, interesting, and meaningful ways.

Elsewhere – The Opera Elsewhere is a new opera project led by composer Michael Gallen, based on the true story of the world's first Soviet outside the USSR – in the lunatic asylum of a small Irish town – established fleetingly in 1919. Elsewhere had final rehearsals in the Lontas and premiere at the Abbey Theatre in November 2021 with European premiere at the Opera de Rouen.

Monaghan Murals Monaghan County Museum, working in partnership with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre as well as other key partners within the County Council and wider community plan to develop a project aimed at supporting local artists and engaging the community in their history and heritage through the medium of murals.

Inscribed histories at the Rossmore Mausoleum -

A project to develop a plan around the next stage of conservation of the Mausoleum. Elements being considered include the commissioning of a new stained-glass piece to fit into the existing window revetments, using an element of the heritage of the Westensras as an inspiration with virtual tour or art pieces on the viewing platform

to reflect the art, architecture and interior of the building and the histories of those buried in the graveyard.

Local Arts in Education Partnership - A series of initiatives were supported in collaboration with Cavan County Council through this partnership including continued professional training, support towards purchase of a festival production van and programming for young people.

Carrickmacross Toy Library - support towards the purchase of eco-friendly creative games and toys for families to borrow.

This is Art – production and installation of all the young people’s entries on the North Rd, Monaghan town to this RTE national competition during Covid



Outdoor live music event – hosted by Patrick Kavanagh Centre with Carrickmacross Civic Centre, two days of outdoor music events took place in July.

The Airs that Once Through Rossmore’s Halls – production of an outdoor performance based on the music that Lord Rossmore played in the 1800’s, which took place in the walled gardens of Rossmore.

Culture Night 2021



This was the 7th year for the County Council to coordinate Culture Night, an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts. This year, it took place on Friday 17th September. We were given the challenge to devise a programme in line with current health and safety guidelines. Thanks to the vibrant rich cultural community in County

Monaghan, we were able to present a blended programme for everyone to enjoy. The County Council received €8,000 funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

Decade of Centenaries

For 2021, a total of 8 projects took place across the county engaging with different audiences to learn about the historic events of 1921. A new cross border project has commenced between the Museum and other cross border museums, of which we were successful in receiving an additional €25,000.



Healthy Ireland Community Creative Arts Programme

Through Healthy Monaghan, we were successful in obtaining €15,320 to facilitate a community creative programme, targeting specifically older people and people with disabilities. A total of 8 took place including a Community Time machine project, development of a Creative memory resource packs, a dementia care pack, and arts engagement projects.

Library Services

Monaghan County Library Service worked throughout 2021 to maximise customer access to services, despite the ongoing restrictions due to Covid 19. Branch based services were blended with online resources and large-scale event programming. Staff provided a combination Home Delivery, Contact and Collect and Face to Face service provision through the branch network and the mobile library service vehicles were utilised to reach communities and deliver core services and targeted supports.

Right to Read Programme

The key objective of this programme to bring together the existing knowledge and experience of skilled staff in local authority services and other agencies to deliver literacy support in the County. Right to Read complements and support existing national literacy strategies and initiatives, including the Department of Education and Skills' National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. The successful delivery of all elements of the Initiative resulted in Monaghan County Council qualifying for the title of **Right to Read Champion for 2020**.

Summer Stars Summer Reading Adventure



The 10th June saw the launch of the annual Summer Stars Reading Challenge. Minister Joe O'Brien launched the Summer Stars programme at the opening of a new branch library in Clondalkin.

Summer Stars Programme:

Once again, it was not possible to host any events within our Branch libraries. We instead opted to put together a comprehensive online programme for young people to engage with.

This included:

- Microbit Coding Summer Camp (6 days over 2 weeks. Microbit kit provided by Library)
- Art Classes with RTE's Tina Mation. Weekly Cartoon style Art Videos accompanied by downloadable activity sheets. Children were encouraged to send in their pictures to be in with a chance of winning Crayola Art sets.

- Explorers Series with EPIC Museum:
 - o Tiny Tots Space
 - o Tiny Tots Explorers
 - o Tiny Tots Pirates
 - o World Explorers
 - o Antarctic Explorers
 - o Space Explorers
- Weekly Interactive Online Family Quizzes

Statistics 2021

- **Number of Participants:** 1,053 (This figure was 386 in 2020)
- **Number of Online events & Activities:** 25 (this figure was 15 last year)
- **Number of participants at live events:** 722 (This Figure was 166 last year)
- **Number of Pre-recorded activities/videos:** 8



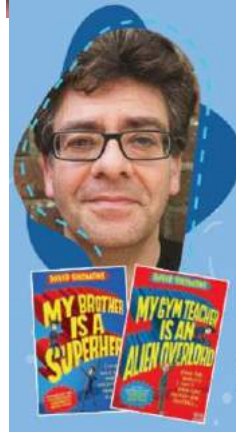
Children's Book Festival @ Monaghan County Libraries

In 2021, we again opted for an online festival.

We asked Teachers across the county to connect with us and allow us to beam authors on to the Whiteboards of their Classroom.

In each session the author talks about their work and this is followed with a question and answers session facilitated by a Librarian.

When possible, we also share links with the teachers to Classroom resources based around the authors work.



Statistics 2021

- Total number of events: 9
- Total number of teachers who registered for an event: 219
- Estimated number of children who viewed an event: 5,256

Full programme available at:
https://issuu.com/monaghancountylibraries/docs/library_childrens_festival_booklet_final_version_2?mode=window

Lifestart Child Literacy project



OECD Research has shown that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than their family circumstances, parent's educational background or parent's income. With this in mind, we set about

collaborating with the Lifestart parenting programme to identify families with young babies who would benefit from taking part in a child literacy programme which would see them receive a new book each month from Monaghan County Libraries. The books were carefully selected by a Librarian and accompanying videos were recorded of the book being read in case literacy was an issue for the Parents. 25 families across the County were identified and agreed to take part. Feedback from the families involved as well as from the Lifestart project leader has been overwhelmingly positive. The project will continue with new participants in 2022.



of the book being read in case literacy was an issue for the Parents. 25 families across the County were identified and agreed to take part. Feedback from the families involved as well as from the Lifestart project

Rainbow Bag initiative

'We read to know we are not alone'

Monaghan County Libraries have always strived to be inclusive for all. Throughout Lockdown we continued with our Outreach programming in whatever way we could however we felt that perhaps more could be done to encourage LGBTQI+ youth to get involved with their local library service. Having spoken with local youth Workers and undergone awareness training with LGBT Ireland, we chose a selection of LGBTQI+ books to be included in a 'Rainbow Bag'. 100 bags were assembled, and an open call was put out through social media, youth groups &



schools. Demand was high and the bags were delivered to homes & youth groups across the County through our Home Delivery service. Following on from the success of the project, activities are ongoing with local schools to further develop resources and

provide awareness training throughout 2022. The project has also been presented as an example of best practice at the Library Association of Ireland youth Libraries Group Seminar Series.



Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2021

2021 was the 6th year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. The



festival committee

took the decision to keep the festival completely online due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. The online format facilitated a wide range of events streamed directly into Homes & schools across the 2 counties and beyond. The festival website, at www.cavanmonaghansciencefestival.ie site was redesigned for 2021. The festival hosted a wide range of talks & events, including a talk by Martin McVicar (COMBILIFT) on 'A STEM success story: Science in Business', talks on the future of Artificial Intelligence, the Science of Down Syndrome, the Science of Women in STEM, the Neuroscience of Stress, The Science of Happiness, the Science of Electric Cars, the Science of Fertility, talks on Dublin Zoo, etc.

Website: www.cavanmonaghansciencefestival.ie

Europe Direct Information Centre



In 2021 Clones Library was successful in its submission to retain the service for a further five years. The regional service is provided across three counties, Monaghan, Cavan and Louth.

EDICs give information, advice, assistance and answers to questions about the EU and the rights of EU citizens, the EU's priorities, legislations, policies, programmes and funding opportunities. The EDIC receives annual funding of **€31,000** from the European Commission to support the service provided and cover the cost of annual event programming.



What services are provided at the Europe Direct Centre in Clones Library?

- A selection of free EU publications and brochures covering a wide range of EU related topics.
 - Free public telephone where you can call the Europe Direct Citizen's Helpline with queries on any aspect of the EU that are of interest to you: 0080067891011.
 - Promotional events, including the annual Soapbox debating challenge
- You can email the EDIC at eudirect@monaghancoco.ie

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

A grant of €3,000 was allocated in 2021 by Department of Rural and Community Development to Monaghan County Library to promote the Healthy Ireland Campaign through the library service network. The programme will run until December 2021.

Local History and Genealogy



The service continued to be very busy with enquiries throughout 2021.

An interview with Northern Sound Radio highlighting the service also increased enquiry levels.

Work continued throughout 2021 on the scanning & indexing of death notices & obituaries from the local newspapers.



Publications in 2021

Death Notices & Obituaries in The Monaghan Argus Newspaper 1960 – 1963

Death Notices & Obituaries in The Monaghan Argus Newspaper 1964-1965

Additional Funding

Title	Description	Grant Allocation
Dormant Account Funds 2021	Funding to provide <i>Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities</i> .	€24,293.49
Healthy Ireland	Funding to facilitate a community creative programme.	€15,320
Healthy Ireland at Your Library	Funding for the purchase of furniture, a sound system, display shelves, and a barrier system.	€5,469.19
Library Van	Funding for new library van.	€20,000
Decade of Centenaries	Funding for 8 projects under the programme in 2021.	€75,000

County Heritage Office

In 2021, the Heritage Office continued to deliver heritage services, implement and co-ordinate heritage and biodiversity policy and practice, and to liaise closely with the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage** and **The Heritage Council** regarding national policy at a local level. The section liaises with other local authorities through the **Local Authority Heritage Officer network**.

The Heritage Section is part of Monaghan County Council's Cultural Team, and sits within the Directorate of Finance, Housing and Culture.

In 2021, there were four **staff** in the Heritage Office – Heritage Officer, Sliabh Beagh Site Co-Ordinator, Conservation Assistant, and an Assistant Staff Officer.

The **County Monaghan Heritage Forum** is a multi-stakeholder forum with representatives from civil society, elected representatives, state agencies and organizations and Monaghan County Council staff. The secretariat is provided by the Monaghan Heritage Office. It continued to meet in 2020, using online technology, and welcomed some new members. The forum advises on the development and implementation of the County Monaghan Biodiversity and Strategic Plan. A list of members is available : <https://monaghan.ie/heritage/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/01/County-Monaghan-Heritage-Forum-Membership-PDF.pdf>

1. FUNDING

Funding was awarded from several sources – the Heritage Council, Creative Monaghan, DHLGC, and Interreg V.

2. POLICY

The **County Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025** sets a vision for 2025 - the role of heritage and biodiversity for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable communities, functioning ecosystems, health and wellbeing is generally accepted in the county and embedded in the activities of Monaghan County Council.



Thirteen themes are described with objectives for each, and a concise action plan to enable progress. Priority strategic themes are – Climate Change mitigation and adaptation; Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands; Hedgerows and native woodlands; The Worm Ditch/The Black Pig's Dyke; Pre-historic archaeology; Protected structures; Vernacular and traditional buildings; High Nature Value farmland; Demesnes and Estates; Cross-border heritage; Historic Graveyards, holy wells and church ruins; Indigenous knowledge and traditions; Irish and the vernacular English. The plan also contains strategic objectives, organization goals and key performance indicators.

The plan is accessible at <https://monaghan.ie/heritage/biodiversity-and-heritage-strategic-plan-2020-2025/>

3. RESEARCH

Monaghan Hedgerow Appraisal Survey 2021

This survey was a repeat of one we undertook in 2010, in order to determine environmental trends for this important part of our national natural heritage. Funded with the assistance of the Heritage Council. In summary, the results show:

- 10.7km of hedges has been removed from the sample squares since 2010. This means that 0.9% of hedges maybe removed annually which is far higher than the EPA estimate of 0.3%
- 75% of removal attributable to agriculture
- 30 shrub species recorded in 2021. This is 5 less species than in 2010
- Hawthorn most frequent – 94% blackthorn, holly 40%
- Tree climbers – brambles, dog roses, honeysuckle similar

- 2010 – 37% of hedges were species rich with 4 or more woody species. In 2021 this figure has declined to 23%
- 20 tree types found in hedges. Ash 71%, willow 23%, sycamore 22%, hazel 14%
- Ash dieback is present in 90% of ash trees examined.
- Ground flower – herb species diversity has also decreased.
- Nutrient rich species has increased. 40% of hedges deemed to be nutrient rich.
- Slurry was found close to hedge bases and even spread on some hedges.
- 64% of adjacent land improved grassland. An increase of 10% since 2010.
- One-fifth of adjacent land semi-natural – 14% is semi-natural grassland. In 2010 28% was semi-natural. This habitat type seems to have halved.
- 87.9 hedges are in unfavourable status.
- Only 12% of hedges in the county are in favourable condition according to the survey.

The parameters of the survey are very detailed. The survey records the extent (i.e. quantitative survey), and floristic composition, context, physical structure, condition and the management of hedgerows (i.e. qualitative survey) in any given locality, county or region of Ireland using a semi-random sample selection.



Pictured – one of the hedgerow surveyors at an example of a Monaghan hedgerow which is in favourable condition.

Monaghan Wetland Action Plan

The County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan 2020-2021 is an integrated plan for the conservation of the wetland resource in County Monaghan, through co-operation and engagement with a wide range of partners and community groups. The action plan sets a way forward to resource, protect and enhance, conserve and advocate for County Monaghan's wetland biodiversity and heritage. The plan aims to progress the sustainable development of the resource and maximise on the biodiversity, climate change mitigation and ecosystem services that wetlands can provide.

In 2020, phase 1 was completed with the development of a preliminary scoping and methodology report. In 2021, the final Action Plan was completed and published.



Pictured – Emy Lough wetland fringe

Extensive work has been undertaken over the past fifteen years in identifying and characterizing the ecological character of wetlands throughout County Monaghan. The outcome of this work has produced a valuable dataset containing information on 710 wetlands, of which 202 have been subject to field survey.

MWAP has objectively identified management, restoration and rehabilitation priorities for the wetland resource of the county to, amongst other things, improve biodiversity outcomes and climate mitigation/adaptation. This should guide community groups, landowners and others about the most practical and effective restoration measures.

A public engagement strategy was developed, and a Community Wetland Network was launched during Heritage Week. Funding sources are identified to ensure the wide uptake of the wetland action plan among partners and community groups, the primary beneficiaries in County Monaghan.

https://monaghan.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/5810-MonaghanWetlands-booklet_LR.pdf

The County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan (MAWP) project is a joint project initiative funded by Monaghan County Council, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the National Biodiversity Action Plan funding.

Holy Wells Survey of County Monaghan

The survey creates a baseline dataset of the current state, known locations, level of activity, local awareness, physical conditions and remains at each feature site accessible via HeritageMaps.ie. Forty-one sites were visited by an archaeologist to record the wells as they are today, and to collect information for landowners as to their history, as well as consulting historical documentary sources.



Pictured – Tober Bridget in Donaghmoyne

4. CONSERVATION

Community Monuments Fund

This fund from the Department of Local Government, Housing and Heritage aims to conserve our archaeological heritage. The Heritage Section funded three projects this year with this funding which were:

1. Errigal Truagh Medieval Church – conservation specifications were drawn up for this medieval church and the ivy was cut back on the structure. This included a conservation and an engineering report to advise on future conservation and consolidation works.

2. Killeevan Wee Abbey – is possibly the oldest surviving medieval church in the county. It is marked on as a ruin on the Down Survey map of 1657 and in an 1837 commentary by Lewis- “Of the three chapels in the parish (Cill Laobhan) the oldest was colloquially called the ‘The Abbey of Killeevan’ ”but of the original church, there only

remains the western gable, with a very small lancet window, which indicates the antiquity of this building.” In 2021, conservation works were completed on the upstanding walls of this ruined medieval church with the consent of the National Monuments Service and with the assistance of the Community Monuments Fund. This included clearing of vegetation, raking out of joints, matching historic mortars, lime mortar pointing and rebuilding of missing corners to gable. A photogrammetric survey was also completed. The team consisted of the Killeevan Heritage Group and specialists including Conservation Architect, Archaeologist, specialist conservation contractors and conservation engineers.



Pictured - Martin Reid from the National Monuments Service and Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer at the apex of the gable wall during conservation works.



Pictured – Killeevan Wee Abbey after conservation works to the gable were completed.

3. Clones Stone Shrine – St. Tighernach's Shrine is a stone reliquary shrine situated close to the round tower in Clones, deemed by many scholars to be the earliest surviving feature of St. Tighernach's monastery which could date to the period of the earliest stone churches in the ninth or 10th century. With the consent of the National Monuments Service, conservation repair works to a major crack and to older repairs were undertaken, an adjacent modern plaque was re-located, and a Lidar 3D image taken of this unique and valuable stone shrine. Team consisted of specialist stone conservators, archaeologists and a conservation architect.



Pictured – The shrine after conservation works.

Collaborative Action for the Natura Network

The CANN project is an Interreg VA funded project led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, consisting of an 11-partner consortium of which Monaghan County Council leads the uplands work package.

The project aims to strengthen cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected habitats and priority species to meet the targets of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Sliabh Beagh is a large upland site contained within the counties of Monaghan, Tyrone and Fermanagh. Monaghan County Council is responsible for delivering direct conservation actions on this site. In 2021, the completion of complex procurement exercises enabled the planning of works for many of the coming seasons. Conservation activities must be timed to avoid nesting seasons and other sensitive times for habitats onsite.

Drain Blocking occurred within the Sliabh Beagh SAC. A total of 2200 dams were installed over an area of 115 hectares, mainly peat dams with a

small number of timber peat dams. The main aim was to rewet the bog and raise the water table level.



Pictured: Creating a peat dam to block drain on Sliabh Beagh to restore the hydrological functions of the blanket bog.

Invasive Species Removal took place on Sliabh Beagh within the ASSI where conifers and rhododendron plants were cut and removed off site. Rhododendron and self-seeding conifers are two main species which threaten bogs and peatlands and lead to their drying out.

Fire Management Plan was developed for the Sliabh Beagh region. The main aims of the plan going forward are 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.

Ammonia Monitoring is being carried out by Monaghan County Council Heritage section on Sliabh Beagh on a monthly basis. 7 monitoring points were identified (4 in the Northern Ireland & 3 in the Republic of Ireland) as key points for monitoring ammonia levels.



Pictured – fire on protected area on Sliabh Beagh. Fires are a threat to habitats, wildlife, air quality, water quality and contribute negatively to climate change.

Eye Spy Booklet A booklet was developed for Sliabh Beagh. This booklet describes why blanket bogs are important and lists 5 bird, animal, insect and plant species that are common on Sliabh Beagh. Each species has a picture and description to help identify.

World Wetlands Day Rory Sheehan and Paul Sherlock made a short video on Sliabh Beagh. They gave an overview of the conservation works being carried out by CANN on Sliabh Beagh and discussed the importance of blanket bogs including what can be done to maintain and improve these bogs.

School Tours There were 2 school tours on Sliabh Beagh in June 2021. Members of Monaghan Heritage section, the CANN Project and LAWPRO provided a walk and talk tour on many subjects such as blanket bogs, species/habitats found on bogs, water quality of rivers on bogs and river species identification.

Cuckoo Walk A guided walk took place on Sliabh Beagh on the 24th May. A local bird expert gave a talk on cuckoo's describing the main characteristics of the bird and the walk included visiting a popular habitat for the bird. 15 people took part in the evening all keen to learn more about the cuckoo bird.

5. OUTREACH

Heritage at the Heart Podcasts

This second series of podcasts on heritage and nature in Monaghan is presented by the Heritage Office and recorded onsite. They present interviews with local people, custodians, and heritage specialists, with lots of lively discussions and stories about the places and their value. Each podcast is accompanied with specially commissioned music by distinguished Monaghan

composer Michael Gallen. Available on all usual podcast platforms. Synopsis of episodes below:

The Patterns of Holy Wells A walk to a holy well in the townland of Aghavilla or *Achadh an Bhile* (the field of the sacred tree), where they talk about the traditions and patterns associated with these venerated sources of water.

A Natural Exploration of Hedgerows A stroll along a diverse, abundant hedge in Ballinode to discuss the wildlife of hedges, good management, trees and history of hedges in Ireland.

The Puzzle of Placenames teasing out some place name meanings from Clones and elsewhere, and the heritage of the land that can be gleaned by diving into an exploration of what places are called.

Folk Art and Historic Headstones discussing the style and symbolism of the memorials in the graveyards in Monaghan from the seventeenth century. They look at cherubs, skulls and crossed bones and decipher their meanings and how the folk-art traditions took hold in the county.

Market Houses talking about the history of market houses, towns and how big old buildings can help regeneration of towns and villages.

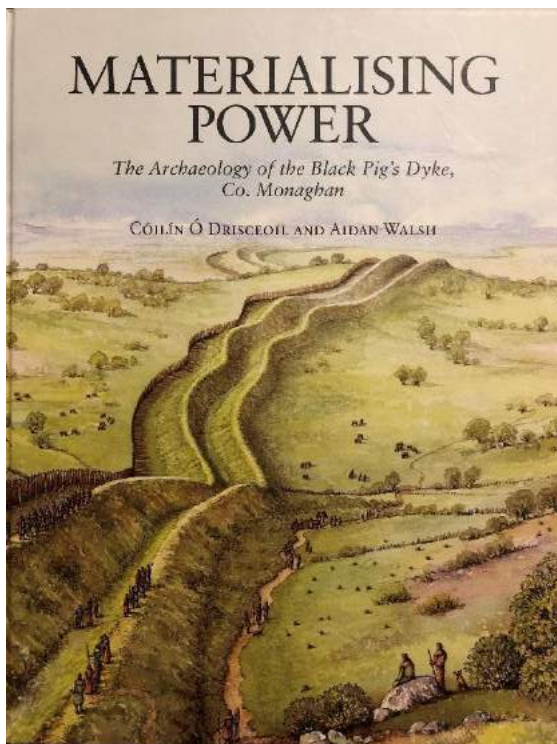
Sting the Bee Videos for young viewers

Sting the Bee puppet visited heritage sites across the county for heritage week in a few short films which were shown on the Monaghan County Council website and social media. This was to engage younger age group with local heritage. A colouring competition in the local press was also held.

Materialising Power. The archaeology of the Black Pig's Dyke, County Monaghan

A publication launch online webinar was held in May 2021. It featured presentations by the authors C  il  n O'Drisc  oil and Aidan Walsh of this exciting archaeological monograph which has been in preparation for a few years. The book is funded through Monaghan County Council and the Heritage Council.

The book is available for purchase from local bookshops and online from Wordwell.



Online webinar – Monaghan Hedgerows – A decade of change

At the webinar in October, results from the County Monaghan Hedgerow Survey, which was undertaken during the 2021 summer months were presented to the public. This re-survey of sites originally surveyed in 2010 has provided us with an understanding of environmental trends. For this habitat type in the county. The survey is supported by the Heritage Council and Monaghan County Council.

Arts Office

2021 for the Arts Sector was in some ways like *ground hog days* at each passing week then month where the anticipation of matters loosening up was so anticipated. It really was in fits and starts that the arts community in county Monaghan operated under not knowing if events could go ahead and if they did, what were the restricted number would be. However, since the whole country was caught up in the pandemic of *will we open, or won't we open*, there was a sense of fraternity amongst us all in the arts world of county Monaghan.

In what was billed as “*what’s another year*” in which Monaghan County Council responded to the existential crisis that seemed to engulf the country with the ongoing pandemic restrictions. Above all sectors which seemed to suffer the most with restrictions the Arts was almost flatlined throughout the county whether it was its Artists, Venues, Facilitators, Organisers and the Public. Monaghan County Council did endeavour to support the Arts throughout the year as it managed in 2020. In most cases the teams that led our cultural events throughout the year took the mature decisions themselves in postponing their roll-out until the following year of 2022.

The Government realised that there was a haemorrhaging occurring within the arts sector and in particular the loss of skills sets needed to re-configure the arts back to a semblance or normally when society was ready to open up.

We teamed up with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media with their response in delivering the **Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase I & II. (LLPPS).**

The Moth at Hilton Park



*“The scheme was set up to support employment opportunities for **Artists, Performers and Crew** in showcasing events across the county which would help underpin the recovery of the live performance sector. The funding was used to support employment and wellbeing in the commercial arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances.”*



Of the 2 phase parts of the LLPPS scheme 1 was held in September and the other in December Monaghan County Council invested some **€280K** into the local Arts & Cultural sector to which we supported programmed events & Festivals in Hilton Park, Iontas Arts Centre, Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Rossmore Park, The Garage Theatre, Tyrone Guthrie Centre and Patrick’s Church. Over 22 days of events between the 2 months the scheme supported and paid 130 Artists & Musicians, 44 Crew & site personnel and paid a rental fee of 20 days to 6 different venues in the county.

We aligned our programming and funding model to the key strategic goals of our framework agreement with the Arts Council 2020 -2027 in the understanding that the council’s commitment and delivery of the arts in the county can be more sustainable. 3 key objectives are the cornerstone

of our goals in maintaining a fulfilling role for the arts in the creative society within Monaghan. Some of the updates in our 2021 delivery are as follows:

1. **Supporting the Artist:** Value and support the work of artists and extend the range of opportunities for artists to develop their practice.

We developed a new funding category for Artists called The [Value Added Scheme 2020-2027 - Arts \(monaghan.ie\)](https://www.monaghan.ie) which at its core is a commitment to support the Professional Artists who have been awarded a **bursary** from bodies such as **The Arts Council/Culture Ireland** or from any national agency with a remit in funding, developing and promoting the Arts.

6 artists gained extra funding from the Council to a total value of **€6K**, which was awarded because they in turn between them received **€42K** from the Arts Council.

Our Annual [Artist Support Scheme 2021 - Arts \(monaghan.ie\)](https://www.monaghan.ie) awarded a total of **€10K** to 19 Artists in 2 categories of Artists, Emerging Talent & Established Artists.



The Clones Artists' Studios welcomed 2 artists in as tenants in the Studios which is a fantastic feature of the council's commitments to artists, for years to come.

2. **Young people and the Arts;** opportunities for children and young people to create, access and participate in great art.



We operate most of our commitment and delivery directly of this goal through our significant financial commitment to the Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan which is a performance music education service in Monaghan that provides opportunities for children and young people to access a range of high quality, subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition in their local area. So many of our schools and young people gain tremendous opportunities by being part of this initiative. To get an insight into the whole delivery and joy of Music Generation visit

<https://www.facebook.com/Musicgencavmon/>



Our Local Arts in Education Partnership (LAEP) is a joint commitment of delivery to the Arts with a particular emphasis on young people and opportunities for them, that we share with Cavan County council & CMETB. We each contribute financially to its operation which in turn assists schools in both counties to achieve the status of the being in the Creative Schools Programme under the auspices of the Arts Council. We now have 12 schools in county Monaghan who have achieved this status.

As we also fund many other arts centre, festivals and venues in the county we ask them through our funding programmes to also follow up on the advocacy programme that we commit to in realising the potential of every child and commit to supporting young people in the Arts.

3. Creating Capacity Investing in the professional development of venues, festivals and organisations providing high-quality arts experiences.

Our principal support in this high level goal is our [Scéim Ealaíon Compháirtíochta/ Arts Partnership Grant Scheme 2021 - Arts \(monaghan.ie\)](https://www.monaghan.ie/arts-partnership-grant-scheme-2021) This funding Scheme is open to Arts Organisations, Arts Groups, Arts Festivals and Arts Projects who deliver a sustainable Arts Programme in County Monaghan. Direct grant assistance to venues, arts organisations and festivals deemed to be of strategic importance to the Arts within the County.

The restrictions placed on society by the pandemic did have a huge impact on our Arts Partners in being able to deliver many of their goals. Monaghan County Council felt however that it was important to support these Arts organisations in their time of need in order that they would be able to survive beyond the Covid 19. It is only with our Arts partners with whom we fulfil our **Creating Capacity** investment, who are in many ways the driving force behind much of the Arts delivery in the county. A few of our clients took the sensible decisions not to crack on ahead with delivering in 2021 knowing that it would be counterproductive in terms of restrictions being in place.

The Council awarded through its **Arts Partners scheme** a total of **€60K** to the below named recipients.

Clones Film Festival

The Garage Theatre
Festival

Iontas Arts Centre
Scoil Cheoil na Botha
Arts

Muckno Mania

Féile Patrick Byrne
Ballybay Community



The 2 Standout moments in 2021 however were Michael Gallen's World premiere of **Elsewhere** at The Abbey Theatre in November.



Which was an achievement of such creative artistic heights that it is hard to fathom that this was the culmination of an award by Monaghan County Council nearly 5 years ago of €600.

In the intervening 4 years through Bursary Schemes, **€16K** the Value-Added Scheme **€4K** and Creative Monaghan **€45K** funding to both Michael and his production were awarded a total of **€65K** by Monaghan County Council.

In return for our investment in Michael's production of Elsewhere they received a total of **€358K** from the Arts Council of Ireland under different bursaries and through the years 2018-2021.





And the other great Artistic & cultural event of note in 2021 was the concert and performance held in Rossmore park which was aptly called The Airs That Once Through Rossmore's Halls inside the walled Gardens of Music which was written by and for Lord Rossmore.

A memorable event apart from the Musical and artistic talent involved in the project it was the 1st event organised by the Council since the pandemic emerged and the 1st time ever a concert was held in the walled gardens of music that had not been

heard or performed in over 200 years

The Westenra family had an interest in the Irish pipes for at least two generations. The 2nd Baron, Warner William Westenra (1765-1842) was a noted performer, as was his brother Lieutenant Colonel Henry Westenra (b. 1770), while the next generation was well represented by Henry Robert Westenra. Of the two documented sets of Uilleann Pipes in the family, one set has recently returned to Monaghan, thanks to Paddy Rossmore. These have been restored by local Uilleann Pipe maker, Eamonn Curran and are now curated in Monaghan Museum

[The Airs That Once Through Rossmore's Halls - Highlights - YouTube](#)



Tourism Section

The Tourism Unit within Monaghan County Council implements the Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022. The principal functions of the unit are:

- To raise customer awareness of the Monaghan area as a tourism destination
- To develop and contribute towards the development of the county's tourism product

Tourism Promotion & Visitor Servicing

Monaghan Cluster Trade Workshops

Monaghan Tourism in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland hosted a successful series of 'Selling South Monaghan' workshops in February 2021, helping over twenty key tourism, dining, accommodation and craft businesses based in the south Monaghan area develop a cluster of saleable experiences tailored to domestic and international visitors.

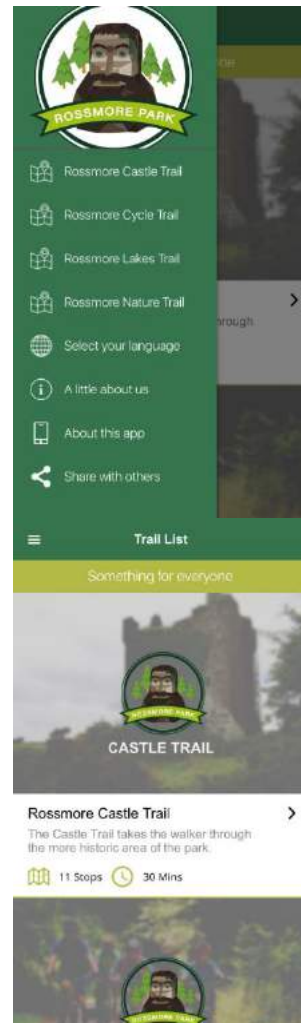
The next series of workshops will focus on north Co. Monaghan, with the first of these already having taken place in November 2021.

New interpretative visitor materials for Rossmore Forest Park

As part of the continuing work to promote Rossmore Forest Park, Monaghan Tourism produced two new interpretative guides available to maximise visitor enjoyment of the park.

The Rossmore Forest Park App is a digital visitor guide that can be downloaded for free via the App Store and Google Play/Android with a detailed description of trail routes and points of interest.

In addition to the App, a new visitor leaflet was produced for Rossmore, featuring a beautifully illustrated map of the park, a brief history of the estate and information on visitor facilities.





Monaghan Tourism Summer 2021 Campaign

Monaghan once again set its stall as a must-visit staycation destination for summer 2021, encouraging visitors to 'Make a Break for Monaghan' with a content-driven promotional campaign across local, national and social media to maximise visibility.



Fresh video footage re-imagined from the popular 'My Monaghan' series and insightful blog articles on a range of travel themes were available via the Monaghan Tourism website – www.monaghantourism.com - where visitors could also browse a range of tempting 'ready to book' special offers.



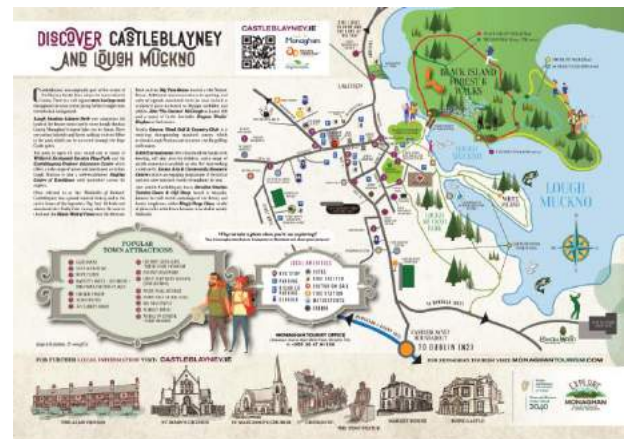
Coverage highlights from the campaign included a special Ireland AM live outside

broadcast, presented by Tommy Bowe from Concra Wood Golf & Country Club in August 2021, Monaghan travel features in both print and online media including The Sunday Times, Ireland of the Welcomes magazine and Independent.ie, and press visits to the county from a range of influencer and travel journalists, including Nadia El Ferdaoussi, Pól O'Conghaile, Sue Jordan and Corrina Stone.

A notable addition for the summer campaign was the production of a high quality 25-minute travel feature on county Monaghan filmed in April 2021. *Ireland; County By County*, was created in conjunction with Peninsula TV and is set to air across 239 stations in the US in January 2022.

New Castleblayney town Map

An attractive new visitors map for Castleblayney and Lough Muckno was produced by Monaghan Tourism in partnership with Castleblayney Regeneration to promote the key attractions, sites and walking trails to enjoy within the town.

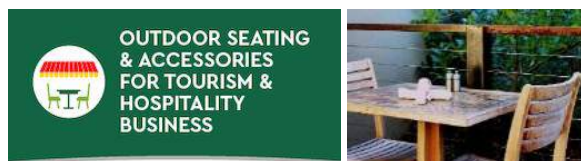


Tourist Office

The Tourist Office operated in the Market House, Monaghan town from Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 27th August 2021. Tourism enquiries continue to be handled by the Monaghan Tourism Unit during the rest of the year (September-May) and the Monaghan Tourism website, App and social media channels continue to function as a key source of information for visitors and those planning a trip to the county.

Tourism Development

'Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme' 2021



The Fáilte Ireland *Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business* scheme was administered by the council's Tourism Unit, providing funding for individual tourism and hospitality businesses to develop and increase their own outdoor seating capacity and to create outdoor dining experiences.

The scheme remained open for applications up until Friday 8th October 2021. 64 businesses across county Monaghan successfully received funding amounting to just under €180K.

Development of Family Cycle Trail in Rossmore Forest Park

Under the *Outdoor Recreation Funding Scheme 2019*, funding of €289,355 was secured to deliver a cycle trail in Rossmore with match funding of €72,338 being provided by Monaghan MD. Construction commenced in November 2021 and is due to be completed by end March 2022.

LEADER Heritage Cluster Co-Operation Project

A phase II application to *LEADER* for access improvements and interpretation at selected Heritage sites in counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan was successful and covered two elements – (1) Signage and (2) Conservation Management Plans.

Signage - Rossmore Forest Park is the selected site for Co. Monaghan. Work is on schedule and it is anticipated that the onsite interpretation will be installed by April 2022. Funding of €67,313.81 was awarded by *LEADER* for this element and match funding of €22,437.94 is being provided by Monaghan County Council.

Conservation Management Plans - A multi-disciplinary Design Team including qualified archaeologists was appointed to draw up Conservation Management Plans for two sites in Co. Monaghan - Rossmore Forest Park and the Black Pig's Dyke at Scotshouse. The plans will be used to work up project development proposals including specifications for intervention works to improve access. It is anticipated that both plans will be completed in March 2022. Funding of €43,015.50 was awarded by *LEADER* for this with match funding of €4,779.50 provided by Monaghan County Council. Public Consultations in relation to the development of both Conservation Management Plans were completed in January 2022.

Lough Muckno Vision Report

Monaghan County Council in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland recently engaged with Terry Stevens and Associates, International Tourism Consultants, to prepare a Visioning Report for Lough Muckno Estate, Castleblayney and the surrounding area. A public consultation process was then undertaken, and the project will move to the feasibility study stage in 2022.

Sliabh Beagh Partnership Committee

The inaugural meeting of the Sliabh Beagh Partnership Committee took place in September 2021. This is a cross-border initiative in conjunction with Fermanagh Omagh and Mid-Ulster councils, with representation from elected members, community groups and the business community in each council area. It will oversee the delivery of the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan.

Destination Towns

Under the *Destination Towns – Fáilte Ireland* scheme, €497,962 was awarded to Monaghan County Council to deliver initiatives which will assist in the presentation of Monaghan Town as a visitor destination. Match funding of €165,987 has been provided by Monaghan MD and the project to develop an outdoor events space in the town is

currently being progressed. It has a completion deadline of mid-2023.

ORIS Projects

The Tourism Section worked on three large-scale Measure 2 and 3 ORIS submissions, two of which were successful in terms of securing grant aid. These were as follows:

- Dartrey Forest Enhancements - €200K awarded
- Monaghan Way – Inniskeen to Castleblayney Upgrade - €139.5K awarded
- Unfortunately, the Sliabh Beagh submission was unsuccessful for 2021.

Both funded projects are now being progressed.

Patrick Kavanagh Centre

Patrick Kavanagh Craft Collection

The Centre, in conjunction with the LEO office, supported the development of a new craft collection inspired by Patrick Kavanagh. Items from the collection can be physically purchased at the gift shop in the centre or online via the Patrick Kavanagh Centre website.

Access lift

Access lift installed in Spring 2021 to enhance access for wheelchair users in the audio-visual area of the exhibition space of the centre.

Poetry Jukebox

A Poetry Jukebox was installed along the banks of the nearby River Fane just outside the Patrick Kavanagh Centre. This innovative outdoor installation delivers poetry into public spaces for people to enjoy in their own time and on their own terms. Delivered in September, it will be officially launched in Spring 2022.



Taking Flight Radio Series

Taking Flight is a series of radio essays celebrating the work and continued influence of the poet Patrick Kavanagh, commissioned by The Patrick Kavanagh Centre with the support of Monaghan County Council and Creative Ireland. Participants in this series included writers, a filmmaker and poet. They were broadcast on RTE Lyric FM throughout the month of October and repeated as an hour-long culture special in December 2021.



Kavanagh Poetry Award & Weekend Event

The 50th edition of the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award took place in September 2021. There was a bumper entry of 120 collections submitted and the eventual winner – Jerm Curtin – was announced at a special ceremony.

High Quality Events Presented

These included:

- Nollaig Na mBan event, January 2021.
- *Sense of Place* literary arts event curated by Sinead Gleeson, July 2021.
- *We Used to Play Here* pop-up event featuring high quality contemporary classical music in unusual places in Inniskeen and Carrickmacross Civic Offices, July 2021.

- Sold out performance of *A Celebration of Patrick Kavanagh's Life & Work* by Tommy & John McArdle, July 2021.
- Curated music series presented in conjunction with Homebeat as part of Local Live Music Performance Scheme, September 2021.
- Culture Night, September 2021.
- Various Comhaltas events throughout the year.

Workshops

Tradoodle Arts Festival & Hidden songs of Ulster workshops were hosted in November 2021.

Percent for Arts Commission

New artwork was commissioned from Kate Beagan from which a greeting card collection was produced and made available for sale for Christmas 2021.

Digital that Delivers Scheme

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre were successful in receiving funding in 2021 under the *Digital that Delivers* scheme administered by Fáilte Ireland. This will see the implementation of a new ticketing software system for the centre in early 2022 and additional website upgrades later in the year.

Awards success in 2021

Patrick Kavanagh Centre wins in Chambers Ireland – Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre enjoyed great success at the 2021 Chambers Ireland – Excellence in Local Government Awards,

scooping the prize in the 'Supporting Tourism' category.

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre was recognised as, 'An exhibition and cultural space celebrating the life of Patrick Kavanagh and the landscape that inspired his craft. The project has reinvigorated Patrick Kavanagh's legacy with renewed interest in his writing and the significance of Inniskeen as inspiration for his craft.'



Rossmore Forest Park honoured in Excellence in Placemaking Awards 2021

Rossmore Forest Park was delighted to receive an Honourable Mention at the ULI-CBRE Excellence in Placemaking Awards 2021 event held online on Tuesday, 23rd November 2021.

Information Systems & Innovation



The Information Systems & Innovation section leads innovation and digital transformation in Monaghan County Council and provides modern and secure ICT infrastructure, systems, and solutions to enable efficient service delivery. The section is also responsible for facilitating the National Broadband Plan.

COVID-19 accelerated the global demand for, and the transition to online digital services. Under Ireland's 'Civil Service Renewal 2030' strategy aligned with 'Europe's Digital Decade – Digital Targets for 2030', 90 per cent of public services should be consumed online by 2030. Monaghan County Council continued to invest in technologies and solutions to enable digitalisation of services, and spear-headed a new innovative build-to-share initiative called MyCoCo to deliver hundreds of local authority services online.

Cyber-security continues to be a major priority and much of the work carried out by the Section in 2021 related to improving the security posture of the organisation.

Broadband Services

The Broadband Officer continued to facilitate the rollout of the National Broadband Plan across the county and continued engaging with telecommunications companies, members of the public and representatives from industry in relation to access to broadband services. The roll-out of public Wi-Fi under the Wifi4EU initiative was completed in 36 locations across County Monaghan and broadband was delivered to 13 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) in 2021. A national launch event was organised to mark the

completion of the 200th Broadband Connection Point at Drumhowan Community Centre. The County Monaghan Digital Strategy was also officially launched by Minister Heather Humphreys on the same day in the C:Tek building in Carrickmacross.



Minister Heather Humphreys speaking at the launch of the 200th BCP in Drumhowan Community Centre, June 25th, 2021

Assistance was provided to BCP managers, and the North-East Hubs Network to develop successful applications under the Connected Hubs fund.



Digital Hub, Corcaghan

Security, Networks and Infrastructure

The Security, Networks and Infrastructure Unit is responsible for ensuring availability and security of ICT systems and services, on-premises and in the Cloud, and for managing the network infrastructure in 37 Council offices and buildings throughout the county including County Offices, MTek1 and 2, Planning Office, Municipal District Offices, Fire Stations, Libraries, Museum, and Water Treatment Plants.

Cyber-security is a top priority for the Council. A multi-layered cyber-security model is used to protect the Council's systems and data from

cyber-attacks, and includes anti-virus, advanced threat protection, group policies, mail-filtering, DNS and web-filtering, firewalls and more. GDPR and cyber-security awareness refresher training was provided to staff and Councillors, and simulated phishing exercises were carried out to maintain user awareness regarding one of the most common sources of attack. Work continued replacing legacy servers, PCs and laptops to eliminate unsupported systems from the network. In 2021 Monaghan County Council implemented a new security management framework known as CIS controls. CIS Controls are a recommended set of actions for cyber defense that provide specific and actionable ways to stop today's most pervasive and dangerous attacks. An independent security audit using these controls was carried out and a gap analysis produced which forms the basis of much of the security unit's work for the months and years ahead.

A new asset management system was implemented in 2021 to record and track all IT assets from cradle to grave. A security review of the Council's Microsoft 365 environment was carried out and additional controls implemented. Also, in light of the crippling cyber-attack on the HSE, a full review of all security systems was carried out and additional measures implemented to further enhance security. Multi-factor authentication was implemented for admin user access to servers, firewalls, switches, and other network devices. A security incident and event monitoring (SIEM) solution was piloted in 2021. With SIEM, event logs from multiple disparate systems including servers, PCs, firewalls, and other network attached devices are gathered centrally and analysed continuously for suspicious activity using artificial intelligence.

A solution called DMARC was implemented to prevent spoofing of Monaghan County Council's email domains.

The Council is committed to availing of new technologies where possible to increase efficiencies. In 2021 a pilot of Microsoft Teams telephony was carried out in a number of offices. A tender will be published in 2022 to migrate the Council's telephony systems to a cloud-hosted unified communications solution such as Microsoft Teams.

Another pilot carried out in 2021 was Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop. A cost/benefit analysis

of moving to a virtual hosted desktop solution will be prepared in 2022.

Business Applications and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

The Business Applications & GIS unit is responsible for digital transformation and for the Council's extensive suite of software applications and GIS. The team continued to redesign and automate manual paper-based processes including back-office processes such as COVID-19 employee induction training, employee off-boarding, and a number of inspection processes, as well as additional customer facing services including:

- Online Job Application Submission
- Social Enterprise Capital Grant
- Community Enhancement Programme
- Town & Village Renewal – Streetscape Enhancement Measure
- Community Activity Fund
- Defibrillator Details & Location
- Outdoor Seating and Accessories Scheme
- Public Participation Identification of Bathing Waters
- Public Consultation on Draft Litter Management Plan
- Built Heritage - Award of Grant – Amendments
- Broadband Enquiry Form

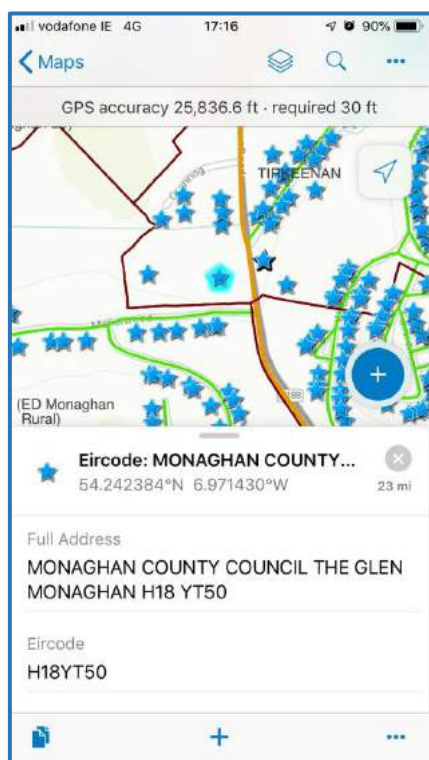
Cyber-security work involves the entire section. The business applications unit spent a significant proportion of their time assisting with the migration of systems from end-of-life servers to new application and database servers. Much of this work involved working with third-party software providers and working out-of-hours to minimise the impact of down-time. Applications migrated included iPlan, iHouse, Property Asset Register, Museum Axiel, CCAS Finance and Business Solutions, National Planning PETAL Project, and Korec K-Mobile. Monaghan County Council operates a cloud-first approach so, when feasible, applications are migrated to managed hosted solutions. In 2021 the Gartan Technology fire service payroll was migrated from on-site legacy servers to a managed hosted solution.

The section contributes to national projects and in 2021 piloted the upgrade to Local Government

Management Agency (LGMA) national Travel & Subsistence System. Monaghan County Council was also selected as the pilot site for the local authority sector for the upgrade of Agresso financial management system to Milestone 7 and is due to go live in January 2022. Support was also provided for the upgrade of the HR, Payroll and Superannuation system.

A new national ePlanning Portal has been developed by the LGMA to allow planning applications to be submitted online. The team worked with LGMA and multiple software providers to develop an interface between the ePlanning Portal and Monaghan County Council's document management system. The interface has been thoroughly tested and will be activated when the Portal is rolled out in 2022.

Several GIS projects were carried out in 2021. The electoral Register data was digitised to assist with a data cleansing exercise underway in Corporate Governance section. Housing waiting lists were digitised and presented geographically to show the lists by area of preference expressed by applicants. A mobile app was developed for the Health & Safety unit to locate Road Numbers, Eircodes and Townlands.



Road Numbers/Eircodes/Townlands Locator App

New tablets were configured for plumbers, environment, housing, civil defence and fire services staff. Training was provided on the Roads Defect App, dashboard and desktop application. Ongoing work included maintaining GIS data such as Eircodes, Gas Network Ireland and ESB data and providing mapping and data for consultants. 2020 aerial photography was also purchased in 2021.



Roads Defects Dashboard

I.S. Service Desk

The technical support team continued to deliver a high-quality technical support service to users. The team provide support to almost 400 users and support over a thousand devices comprising laptops, desktops, tablets, smart phones, lone working devices and loggers. They are the first line of support for the many applications used by staff including productivity tools and line of business applications. The team also assist project leaders with project work.

The number of issues logged in 2021 was 5,892. Helpdesk calls continue to rise year on year as there is a growing dependency on ICT and digital services and increased support for new ways of working, including staff mobility and remote working.

Call Statistics	2021	2020	2019
Total Calls Logged	5,892	4,760	3,808
Avg. Calls per Month	491	397	317
Avg. Calls per Day	23	19	15
Resolved within 24 hrs	57%	55%	55%

I.S. Service Desk Statistics

Innovation

Monaghan is well known as an innovative and entrepreneurial county and the Council is committed to encouraging this same culture of

innovation throughout the organisation so that all employees feel empowered to innovate to deliver better quality services more efficiently.

A diverse innovation team was set up in January 2021 to lead out on innovation and support and encourage employees to submit their innovative ideas. The team supported the National Public Sector Innovation Week 8th – 12th November 2021. A series of videos showcasing some of the services delivered by Monaghan County Council was produced and promoted on social media throughout the week.

2021 proved to be yet another successful year for Monaghan County Council with MyCoCo being awarded funding under the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's Our Public Service Innovation Fund 2021 and being outright winners of the Cloud Category in the first ever Future Tech Challenge. MyCoCo is an online citizen portal being developed in collaboration with 10 local authorities led by Monaghan County Council. It is a secure build-to-share solution that will deliver local authority services digitally for all citizens and all local authorities to avail of.



MyCoCo Programme Managers Carmel O'Hare, Head of I.S. & Innovation, Monaghan County Council and Stephen Brady, Head of I.S., Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Success at the national stage builds awareness and creates momentum but to make innovation sustainable a systematic approach to innovation is needed. In December 2021 an innovation management programme was initiated. This programme which includes consultancy, innovation masterclasses and an innovation management software platform will be rolled out to the innovation team and senior management team in 2022. Monaghan County Council is the first public sector body in Ireland to adopt an innovation management system.

Roads & Transportation

During 2021 the Roads Division carried out a comprehensive programme of work on the county's road network, while dealing with the ongoing challenging conditions posed by the Covid 19 pandemic. Notwithstanding, significant progress was achieved during the year.

The road network in the county is funded from three main sources: Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funds the design, construction and maintenance of the National roads while the Department of Transport and Monaghan County Council co-fund Regional and Local Roads. Road Safety is funded from the Council's own resources.

During 2021 the Transportation Section delivered and progressed the following projects on National and Non-National roads:

National Roads

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Monaghan County Council is working in partnership with Louth County Council and in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Westmeath National Roads Office (WNRO) to develop the 32km N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme. This project was identified as a scheme to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning in the National Development Plan 2018-2027, and was relisted in the National Development Plan 2021-2030 published in October 2021. Jacobs Engineering Ireland (Jacobs) is the Consulting Engineer for the scheme.

In February 2021 a Preferred Route Corridor and Option Selection report was published, and approval was received to progress to Phase 3 'Design & Environmental Evaluation'.

A range of environmental studies, including habitat and ecology, agronomy, noise and air quality surveys commenced in 2021. Topographical surveys and ground investigations were substantially completed by December 2021.

The surveys and investigations will inform the design process and environmental evaluation, while allowing Jacobs to develop the alignment of the new road, sideroads and accesses, and identify the land-take required to deliver the scheme. When an initial design is available, further engagement with landowners and interested parties will be undertaken as part of the ongoing design process. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared, with the Phase 3 design process expected to be completed in early 2023.

Approval can then be requested to progress to Phase 4; 'Statutory Approvals' where the project is submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning consent and to have a Compulsory Purchase Order approved.

N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme

Monaghan County Council is working in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Westmeath National Roads Office (WNRO) to develop the 28km N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme. This project was identified as a scheme to be progressed through pre-appraisal and early planning in the National Development Plan 2018-2027, and was relisted in the National Development Plan 2021-2030 published in October 2021. Jacobs Engineering Ireland (Jacobs) is the Consulting Engineer for the scheme.

In February 2021 a Preferred Route Corridor and Option Selection report was published, and approval was received to progress to Phase 3 'Design & Environmental Evaluation'.

A range of environmental studies, including habitat and ecology, agronomy, noise and air quality surveys commenced in 2021. Topographical surveys also commenced in 2021 and to be completed in 2022.

Difficulties experienced during the procurement process led to a delay in awarding the ground investigation contract for the scheme in 2021, and it was expected this would commence in 2022. Completion of these surveys and investigations would allow the design to progress, with the Phase 3 design process expected to be completed in early 2023.

The TII National Road allocations for 2022 were

announced on the 17th December 2021. An allocation was not received to progress the design of the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme in 2022 and the scheme is effectively suspended. It is not clear when, or if, funding will become available to recommence the current design process.

The 400m Preferred Route Corridor published in 2021 remains. Unless funding becomes available, work will not progress to develop the proposed road alignment and the required land-take within the 400m corridor. The County Development Plan Policy NRP 7 will continue 'To protect the selected route of the N2 upgrade road scheme between Ardee and Castleblayney and the selected route between Clontibret and the border with Northern Ireland, and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery'.

N54 Tullybryan

The scheme to align 3.1km of the National Secondary Road N54 route between Tullygrimes and Annaghervy has progressed through phases 1 to 3 of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines for Minor Projects. The scheme which is currently in Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) has a total scheme budget of €17.3 million. The proposed scheme will deliver improvements to the visibility and cross section of the route and aims to provide significant improvements to long term accident rates and reduction in fatalities. TII approval to proceed to Compulsory Purchase of Lands was obtained at the end of 2021. Deposit maps, schedules and advertisements are currently under review, with an intention to publish the CPO in quarter 1 of 2022.



Blackwater Bridge.

N2 Blackwater Bridge Replacement

The replacement of the bridge at Coolshannagh, Monaghan Town, was substantially completed in November 2020. The End of the Defects period

was extended from November 2021 to the end of February 2022 to allow for finalising and implementation of outstanding minor works. The overall project costs including construction, design, accommodation works, archaeology and advance works is €6 million.

N53 Ballynacarry Bridge

The Ballynacarry Bridge is located on the border with Northern Ireland on the N53 National Secondary route and A37 in Co Armagh. A Feasibility Report and a Strategic Appraisal Report for a new bridge was prepared by Roads Division and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland, on foot of which approval was received to progress the project to detailed design.

The new bridge crossing, which will address the geometry and safety issues, will also include road widening and reconstruction of the existing road on either side of the bridge.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Monaghan County Council, Department of Infrastructure NI and TII to progress the scheme was signed by all parties in October 2021. The Council has appointed a consultant to progress the project through the design and planning stages.



View of Ballynacarry Bridge (N53)

Safety Schemes (National Roads)

During 2021, the Council progressed three National Road Safety Improvement schemes with Transport Infrastructure Ireland Road Safety. To deliver these schemes, Roads Section managed the detailed design, procurement of contractors and implementation of the works. The schemes were as follows-

N54/R867 Margaret Skinnader Round-about, Pedestrian Safety Scheme. This scheme included the construction of two zebra crossings on Market Road(N54) and Park Street (R867), as well as a signalised pedestrian crossing on the Clones Road.



Aerial view of Margaret Skinnader Roundabout

N2 Tirnaneill Junction Realignment.
N54 Smithborough Pedestrian Crossing Scheme.

In addition, a Feasibility and Options Report, Preliminary Design Report and Road Safety Audit was submitted and subsequently approved by TII Road Safety for a Road Safety Improvement Scheme at Tullyvaragh, N2. The Tullyvaragh scheme is currently progressing through the Part 8 planning process. Preliminary Feasibility and Options Selection at a number of other Road Safety Inspection sites were progressed throughout 2021 and will continue in 2022 through the Scheme Development process.

0.48km of new passively safe fencing was retrofitted on national roads. Repairs to Vehicle Restraint Systems (Crash Barrier) were carried out at four locations with new Vehicle Restraint Systems provided at two locations across the national road network.



New fencing along N2.

National Road N2 Cycle Paths

An allocation of €260,000 was provided by TII in 2021 to fund the design of four Cycle Path schemes on the N2. Locations are as follows-

Ballyalbany Junction to Coolshannagh Roundabout (0.8km).

Phase 3 to Emyvale Village (0.25km).

Corlat Roundabout to the Collegiate College (0.65km).

Upgrade of Hard verge to Cycle Path N2 Ballyalbany to Tydavnet Junction (5.2km).

Monaghan County Council procured Design Consultants in October 2021 to implement the schemes through the design, statutory process and procurement phases in 2022.

Pavement Renewals on National Routes

In 2021, two major Pavement Renewal Projects were progressed with a combined budget of €2.2 million. The N54 Monaghan Town Pavement Scheme involved

pavement strengthening for 2km in Monaghan Town Centre. The N54 Clonlura Pavement Scheme entailed pavement strengthening and surface course replacement for 2.6km of the N54, west of Clones Town.



N54 Clonlura Pavement Renewal Scheme

National route Maintenance & defects works

Road re-surfacing and repairs were carried at various location on the National Road Network including, N54 Smithboro, N54 Skeagh Bridge, N54 Tullybryan and N2 Emyvale. Additional maintenance works included drainage improvements on the N54 Stonebridge and N2 Carrickmacross, tree pruning on the N12 route and landscaping improvements to the N2

Roundabouts on the Monaghan By-Pass.

Non-National Roads

Non-National roads account for 95% of the network in the county and are funded from grants from the Department of Transport and the Council's own resources. In 2021 the Council received an allocation of €16.4m from Department of Transport for Non-National Roads and provided €4.1m from its own resources which included technical and administrative costs.

Dept of Transport Allocation 2021	
Scheme	Allocation
Restoration Improvement	€6,702,000
Restoration maintenance	€1,922,500
Discretionary Grant	€2,071,500
Bridge rehabilitation	€743,000
Safety Improvement Works	€255,800
Strategic Regional & Local (N2-N12 Link Rd)	€100,000
Speed Limits	€9,000
Cycle Signage	€9,100
Training Grant	€53,000
Former National Roads	€300,000
Active Travel	€3,985,620
Climate Action Allocation 1	€130,775
Climate Action Allocation 2	€440,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€544,000
PSCI Supervision	€18,000
Drainage Works	€524,880
Specific Improvement Grants	€1,350,000
Pilot Schemes – CBGM & Reclaimed Asphalt	€1,000,000
Total	€20,159,175

Restoration Improvement Grant

In 2021 the Department of Transport provided an allocation of €6,702,000 under the Restoration & Improvement Grant for the rehabilitation of Regional and Local Roads identified as having a PSCI rating of between 1 and 6.

The Council has adopted a three-year roads programme for (2022-2024).

RM Surface Dressing

Restoration Maintenance

The Department of Transport allocated €1,121,500 under the Restoration Maintenance grant and a supplementary grant of €801,000 for the resealing and restoration of skid resistance on

the non-national road network. The funding allocation allowed for the surface dressing of over 90km of Regional and Local Roads in 2021.

Discretionary Grant

A grant allocation of €2,071,500 was received in 2021 from the Department of Transport under the Discretionary Grant. The funding is predominately used by the Municipal Districts to carry out maintenance works such as minor pavement improvement works, drainage renewal, footpath restoration, pothole repairs, gully cleaning, hedge and verge trimming and the renewal of road signs and markings on Regional and Local Roads.

Specific Improvement Grants

Specific Improvement Grant funding for the following schemes was received in 2021:

R181 Drummillard to Crossduff : €150,000

The Department of Transport allocated €150,000 in 2021 to advance the detailed design and to identify the lands for CPO. Further funding is expected in 2022 to progress the CPO and to prepare the final works tender documents.

Brackley Bridge: €1,200,000

€1.1m of the funding received from the Department of Transport for construction of the Brackley Scheme in 2021 was deferred until 2022. The works commenced in November 2021 and is due to be completed in Q2 2022. The deferred funding will be received in Feb 2022 and will be used for the completion of the works contract.

Bridge Rehabilitation

In 2021 an allocation of €743,000 was received from the Department of Transport for the rehabilitation of fourteen bridges on the non-national road network. Two additional bridges that required emergency strengthening works were added to the programme. In total sixteen bridges have undergone rehabilitation works in 2021.



Substantial and sustained funding will be required for the foreseeable future to carry out necessary rehabilitation works on the county's extensive bridge stock.



Rehabilitation works at Scarvy - L-2201



Rehabilitation works at Listroar Bridge – R-184

Safety Improvement Works 2021	
Scheme	Allocation
R188/L56011 - Drummuck, Corcaghan	20,000
R181/L4201 - Tullynahinnera, Castleblayney	30,000
L22803/R189 - Drunanny Drum	15,000
R162/L7300/L25023 - Creagh, Ballybay	10,000
LP2700/R188 - Corravakan	15,800
L21104/L28108 - Clonkeen Cole, Clones	15,000
R186 - Hasty's Cross, R186, LP1600 & LT16201	10,000
LT-15101 - LP1510 junction with LT15101 in townland of Creeve	20,000
LP4052 - Ross Rd, Carrickmacross	55,000
R179/LS8660 - R179 Corcuilloge, Donaghmoynne	30,000
R179 - Shercock Rd, Carrickmacross	10,000
R178 - Essexford Junction	25,000
Total:	255,800

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes

An allocation of €255,800 was received in 2021 for the delivery of twelve low-cost safety improvement works.

The table opposite shows Low Cost Safety Improvements Works completed in 2021:

Training Grant

In 2021 the Regional and Local Road Grants included €53,000 for non-national road training for Local Authority engineering and administration staff.

Speed Limit Review

The Department of Transport provided funding of €9,000 in 2021 towards the purchase of Traffic Surveying Equipment in anticipation of the completion of the speed limit review in Q1 of 2022.

Local Improvement Schemes

In May 2021 the Council received a Round 1 allocation of €270,000. In August 2021 a Round 2 allocation was received for €1,056,223 from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

7no. lanes were completed in Round 1 with a further 19no lanes completed in round 2.

13no lanes remain on the historic list with a further 118no. new lane applications received for consideration. The new applications will be assessed in 2022 and ranked in accordance with Department guidelines.

bitmac road surfacing with varying composite pavements in 2020. Some performance issues were identified in the pavements completed in 2020 and the 2021 pilot scheme was therefore suspended. Further funding will be provided in 2022 to further monitor the performance of the CBGM Trial.

Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme - €500,000

The initial Reclaimed Asphalt Trial that took place in 2020 and with positive results the Department of Transport (DOT) allocated €500,000 to further develop the reclaimed asphalt product in 2021. In 2021 a peer review was completed by industry experts including UCD and the DOT on the findings from the 2020 trial and the recommendations identified are to be incorporated into the 2022 trial. A working group was also set-up in 2021 to collaborate the trial and to provide technical and financial assistance. The working group involves members from the DOT, TII and other industry expertise. The working group have identified that the trial should take place on a Regional road in 2022.

Lis works at Drum.



Community Involvement Scheme

An allocation of €544,000 was received from the Department of Transport in 2021 and seven roads part-funded by the community were deemed eligible and resurfaced.

Pilot Schemes in 2022

The Roads Section received €1,000,000 of funding for two pilot schemes in 2021:

CBGM Pilot scheme – €500,000

A Cement Bound Granular Material (CBGM) was piloted as an alternative to the conventional

Climate Change Adaptation Funding

€130,775 was carried over to complete works started in late 2020 and an additional allocation of €440,000 for Climate Change Adaption Measure was received in 2021. The schemes completed under this initiative are as listed opposite.

Active Travel Funding

In 2021 the National Transport Authority (NTA) confirmed an allocation of €3,985,620 to support the development of walking and cycling infrastructure, including the reallocation of road space to improve facilities and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. A new Active Travel team was set up in the Council, and the team is working on a wide variety of pedestrian and cycle schemes throughout the county. Funding remains available to these schemes and will be drawn down in 2022 as they come to fruition.

Road Safety

The County Monaghan Road Safety Working Together Group met remotely during 2021 to review the ongoing implementation of the Road Safety Action Plan covering the period 2017-2020. Working collaboratively, the group continue to coordinate a multi-agency road safety policy and implementation at local level.

The new National Road Safety Strategy covering the period 2021 to 2030 was launched by the Road Safety Authority in December 2021.

The Council is currently drafting a new Road Safety Action Plan for the County reflecting national strategic objectives. The plan which will initially cover the period 2022 to 2024, will include clear targets for reducing both fatalities and serious injuries on the roads in County Monaghan and is due for publication in Quarter two of 2022.

Provisional figures for 2021, released by the Road Safety Authority have shown a rise in the number of fatal accidents in County Monaghan. Five fatal accidents occurred during the year, resulting in the loss of five lives. This represents an increase on 2020 provisional figures, when there were two fatal accidents in which three people were killed.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE WORKS 2021	Allocation
LT30103 Drumfaldra, Ballybay 2021 (BBAY/CLS MD)	€60,000
LS7110 Garrybawn, Latton 2021 (BBAY/CLS MD)	€10,000
LP2171 Carnbane Smithboro 2021 (BBAY/CLS MD)	€20,000
R186 & L -5051 Derrykinnigh Beg Culvert Replacement 2021 (Monaghan MD)	€80,000
L49012 Tullylougherry – Knocknacran 2021 (1) (CMX/CBY MD)	€15,000
L49012 Tullylougherry – Knocknacran 2021 (2) (CMX/CBY MD)	€15,000
LT76001 Drumaliss LT76001 2021 (1) (CMX/CBY MD)	€30,000
LT76001 Drumaliss LT76001 2021 (2) (CMX/CBY MD)	€30,000
LS8831 Descart 2021 (CMX/CBY MD)	€50,000
LT36002-0 Milltown 2021 (CMX/CBY MD)	€35,000
R180 Nafferty 2021 (CMX/CBY MD)	€15,000
R180 Cloughvalley Upper 2021 (CMX/CBY MD)	€30,000
LP3720 Annadrummond 2021 (CMX/CBY MD)	€50,000
Total:	€440,000



Launch of High Visibility Safety Campaign, 2021

Educational visits to primary schools continued to be put on hold due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. Despite this, County Monaghan schools continued to perform well at the Road Safety Authority's national 'Seatbelt Sheriff' competition. First class students from Scoil Naomh

Padraig, Corracrín, were once again announced as Runners-Up following on from their previous successes in 2019 and 2020. The restrictions have also affected second level schools. The annual Road Safety Shows for Transition Year students had to be cancelled as had the rollout of Virtual Reality headset goggles in Secondary Schools. It is hoped that the easing of restrictions will mean that these initiatives will be back in place during 2022

Other initiatives in 2021 included a collaboration with iRadio and ten other County Council's across the North East, Midlands and North West region. Entrants were asked to submit an original song based on Road Safety. Georgina McKenna from Monaghan was voted as one of the top five prize winners receiving €1,000 for her efforts.

Flocking Arts, a young film makers initiative based in County Monaghan released their full-length video in April 2021 to accompany the short version released in November 2020. Targeted at young people, it examines the issue of driving under the influence of drugs, following an alarming increase in the number of motorists being detected in County Monaghan and countrywide.



Video shoot for Road Safety video on the effects of drug & alcohol driving.

The Safe Routes to School programme, overseen

by An Taisce Green Schools was launched in March 2021. The scheme provides funding to improve safety at the school gate. A total of fourteen Co Monaghan schools submitted Expression of Interest forms, with Corcaghan NS and St Louis Infants and Girls National Schools being the first projects chosen to have works implemented. The improvement works will take place in 2022 and the schools who applied will have works over the coming five-year period, subject to meeting the required criteria.

Ulster Canal Greenway

The Council is partnering with Waterways Ireland (Lead Partner) Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and East Border Region to deliver 22km of cross border Greenway from Smithborough to Middletown under funding allocated by the Interreg VA programme.

Planning applications for elements of the scheme were submitted on both sides of the border in March 2021 and Part 8 planning for the Monaghan Town to the Border section was granted in July 2021. Planning approval for the Border to Middletown section is expected in early 2022.

The initial Interreg allocation will be insufficient to complete the project, and the programme deadline of 31 December 2023 will also be challenging. The Project Partners continued to engage very proactively with the funding authority throughout 2021 to seek further funding and to manage project delivery. In addition, the project Partners are investigating alternative sources of funding in order to ensure that the project is completed.

The Monaghan Town spur of the greenway is being advanced as an Active Travel project and design consultants were appointed in 2021 for design development in 2022.

Planning

Development Plan

The Monaghan County Development Plan for the period 2019-2025 was adopted on 4th of March 2019 and provides an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Monaghan which is consistent with both national and regional spatial planning policies and objectives. Spatial planning through the development plan objectives and policies endeavours to achieve balance between the common good and the interests of individuals.

In accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) a report on the progress of achieving the objectives of the County Development Plan two years after it has been adopted was issued to the elected members in April 2021.

Development Management

Planning application numbers were up significantly in 2021 despite COVID-19 restrictions. The number of planning applications received in 2021 was 24% higher than in 2019 and 22% higher than 2020.

As in previous years the majority of applications received were for single dwellings and home extensions, followed by agricultural developments.

Planning applications 2021	
Received	754
Invalid	28
Granted	624
Refused	34

A total of 34 Section 5 Declarations for exempt development were received in 2020.

Unfinished Housing Developments

In 2021 the Planning Department continued its work in resolving remaining unfinished housing developments in the County in collaboration with other sections of the Council and Irish Water, with services completion works have been completed for Mullagh Glas, Monaghan, with further civil works planned. By the end of 2021 the number of unfinished housing developments in the County had been reduced to three.

Taking in Charge

The Planning Section also continued to pursue security bonds on a small number of developments throughout the County, and a number of estates underwent a technical assessment to enable them to be progressed to taking in charge.

Planning Enforcement

When the Planning Authority becomes aware of a breach of permission or unauthorised development, discussions with offender(s) are often sufficient to ensure remedy. However, where issues are not addressed by the offender(s) then formal enforcement action is taken. Enforcement statistics for the year are set out below. Benefits continue to accrue from early invoicing and enforcement action in recovery of unpaid development contributions. Receipts in 2021 amounted to €449,131.

2021 Enforcement Statistics	
No. of new cases subject to complaints	119
No of cases closed/resolved	86
No of ongoing enforcement cases	390

The number of enforcement cases closed last year increased from 2020. Almost half of all closed cases in 2021 were resolved prior to progressing to formal enforcement proceeding, which is an improvement on the previous year. Notwithstanding this, the Local Authority continued to employ its legislative powers, ranking 11th nationally in terms of percentage of cases closed on foot of formal enforcement proceedings.

Derelict Sites

Work on addressing dereliction continued with the completion of the redevelopment of a number of derelict sites and additional Derelict Sites Notices being served. A total of 13 sites were removed from the Derelict Sites Register in 2021 with 24 sites remaining on the Derelict Sites Register at 31 December 2021.

Regeneration

Castleblayney is one of six towns nationally, selected in 2019 by the Department of Rural and

Community Development to look at innovative ways to encourage more town centre living. In 2021, Shaffrey Architects were further engaged to look at supporting a joint/cluster based approach with property owners build upon their report 'Castleblayney: A Town Centre For Living In Well' produced in 2020 for Monaghan County Council, which provided recommendations to increase the potential for residential development within Castleblayney Town Centre. However, due to COVID 19 restrictions in place the ability for groupings of property owners to meet collectively was restricted.

Continuing input was provided by the Planning Section during 2021 in respect of the Dublin Street Regeneration scheme in Monaghan Town, and the Local Area Action Plans for Carrickmacross town centre. The Planning / Regeneration Department has led in the preparation of the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan and the Roosky Lands Master Plan.

Built Heritage

Monaghan County Council's Planning Section administer two annual heritage grant schemes, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme encourages the investment of private capital in small scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons. County Monaghan received an overall allocation of €72,000 in 2021.

In 2021 six projects availed of funding under the BHIS as follows:

- Anderson's Pub, Drum
- Crystal Brook Lodge, Shantonagh
- Creighton Hotel, Clones
- Teach Iosef, St Louis School, Monaghan
- St Colman's Church, Clontibret
- Johnston & Madden Memorial Hall, Monaghan



Conservation works to six windows, four doors, shopfront and lime render façade at Anderson's Pub, Drum

The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. It aims to enable conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support. Total funding under the HSF for 2021 was €124,500 and three projects received funding as follows:

- Former Railway Station, Monaghan (Stream 1)
- St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan (Stream 2)
- Drummond Cottage, Magheracloone (Vernacular Stream)



Conservation works to Stone Walls, Steps, Boundary Walls and Cast-iron Features at the Former Railway Station, Monaghan Town

Section 57 Declarations

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) works which would normally be considered exempted development under Section 4(1)h of the Act may not be exempt in respect of a Protected Structure or a Proposed Protected Structure.

Section 57 of the Act allows for the owner or occupier of a Protected Structure or a Proposed Protected Structure to make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a declaration as to the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure, thereby

clarifying which works would be considered exempted development and those which would require planning permission. Monaghan County Council issued 5 Section 57 Declarations in 2021.

Monaghan County Museum

Annual Report 2021

Rossmore in Minecraft

Minecraft has allowed the magnificent structure that once overlooked Rossmore Park's sloping hills to be rebuilt with amazing detail. Working with the AmmA Centre in Armagh, the Monaghan County Museum hosted an innovative summer camp for young people aged 12 to 15 to rebuild Rossmore Castle. The project was such a success that further funding was made available by Creative Ireland to create a Game-Based Learning experience packed with history and curricular activities for students, young people and teachers.



The Rossmore Minecraft World



Students exploring the world of Rossmore in Minecraft

The Border Communities, Minorities and Partition Conference

Community has been at the heart of the imaginative and engaging programme of events that Monaghan County Council's Cultural Team has produced throughout the Decade of Centenaries. Monaghan's position on the border has provided exciting and unique opportunities for partnership and collaboration with organisations and groups representing various sectors of society. This successful approach to reflecting on our island's history and heritage has ensured that all generations can interact and respond to what it means to be of this place and of this time.

Monaghan County Council, through its Cultural Team now intends to reflect and consider the bordering realities of life in this region by examining our shared history, our shared experience, our shared place through a unique conference entitled *Border Communities, Minorities and Partition*.

Working together with the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and several cross border partners, the Monaghan Cultural Team will facilitate a versatile and absorbing conference programme with the central focus of enabling our communities to interact, explore and challenge themselves and each other through the catalyst of a shared history and heritage.

The *Border Communities, Minorities and Partition* conference will be sought to reflect on the various narratives associated with the creation of the border while also using the different elements of the conference programme to address the legacy of that border and the resulting conflicts in the region. The conference was officially opened by An Taoiseach Micháel Martin TD.



An Taoiseach Micháel Martin with a number of speakers from the conference



An Taoiseach Micháel Martin TD along with Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and the staff of Monaghan County Museum.



An Taoiseach Micháel Martin TD along with Liam Bradley, Curator of Monaghan County Museum, Ian Crozier, CEO of the Ulster Scots Agency and Cllr Aidan Campbell, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council.

Archaeology Summer Camp

Museum staff were very happy to begin welcoming visitors back to the museum during the summer. One of the major highlights was our annual Archaeology Summercamp, which had been postponed the previous year due to Covid 19. The participants had the opportunity to live as well as learn about the fascinating archaeological heritage, which exists in the county. Due to the enormous success of the camps, plans are in place to further develop the programme for 2022.





Participants in the Museum's Archaeology Summer camps 2021

Human Resources

Recruitment

The Human Resource Management Section held 16 competitions in 2021 and processed 573 applications. 576 interviews were conducted (mostly remote interviews due to the Pandemic) and 22 competitions were completed, and panels were put in place. 50 candidates were appointed throughout 2021.

Local Government Graduate Development Programme 2020

Monaghan County Council participated in the Local Government Graduate Development Programme 2020 and appointed an Economic, Enterprise and Business Development Graduate for a 3-year period in the Local Enterprise Office.

“Our People Strategy”

Workshops and consultation with management, staff and unions were held during 2021 and ‘Our People Strategy’ was finalised. The Strategy is a roadmap for the management of human resources, to support business goals and outcomes and to ensure a motivated and committed workforce is equipped to provide optimum standards of service delivery. This strategy is aligned with the needs of Monaghan County Council’s Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

New website

A new website www.localgovernmentjobs.ie was launched to provide one place for jobhunters to search all recruitment opportunities in the local government sector, right across the country. The website features roles available in all 31 local authorities as well as the 3 regional assemblies. It is also a central hub of information about local authority careers, recruitment and benefits.

Headcount

The staff complement for Monaghan County Council at 31st December 2021 was

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial	4	4
Clerical/Administrative	177	165.70
Professional/Technical	84	82.85
Outdoor	135	127.72
Total Core Staff	400	380.27
Contract Posts	7	6.14
Temporary/Seasonal	5	5.00
Retained Firefighters	50	N/A
Non DoEC&LG	6	3.86
Total Other Posts	68	15

Retirements during 2021

	Name	Grade	Section
1	Desmond Conlon	Ganger/Driver A	MD of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney
2	Bridget McGivern	Cleaner	Carrickmacross Civic Offices
3	Patrick McShane	Craftworker	MD of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney
4	Adge King	Director of Services	Climate Action, Env & Water Services
5	Fintan McPhillips	Senior Exec Officer	Community Section
6	Eddie Wynne	General Operative	MD of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney
7	Carmel Thornton	Administrative Officer	Corporate Services
8	Siobhan McCarron	Clerical Officer	Fire & Building Control
9	Eugene Rafferty	Ganger/Driver A	MD of Ballybay-Clones
10	Bernie O’Flaherty	Executive Chemist	Seconded to LAWCO
11	Joseph McSkeane	General Operative	MD of Monaghan

12	Maura Sherry	Staff Officer	Housing Section
13	Betty Finlay	Clerical Officer	Planning Section
14	Arthur Morgan	Driver A	MD of Monaghan
15	Damien Stirrat	Machinery Yard Supervisor	MD of Monaghan
16	Gerard Carolan	Craftworker	MD of Monaghan



Des Conlon's retirement presentation



Carmel Thornton's retirement presentation



Eddie Wynne's retirement presentation

Training and Development

The training programme delivered a total of 168 various training courses, conferences, seminars, workshops and online webinar courses in 2021 to enable staff carry out their duties in a competent manner. The above figure includes 19 relevant In-House Health & Safety Courses as outlined below.

- Safe Pass
- Irish Classes
- Confined Spaces Training
- Courtroom Skills
- Environmental Inspection Skills
- Managing Difficult and Aggressive Behaviour
- Road Opening Reinstatement – Basic
- Road Opening Reinstatement – Advanced
- CPR/Defib Training from National Ambulance Service
- Driver CPC
- Fly Tipped Waste
- Health & Safety at Roadworks
- Sign Lighting & Guarding
- Location of Underground Services
- First Aid New and Refresher Training
- Manual Handling Training
- Interviewee Preparation
- Abrasive Wheels Training
- Surface Dressing Training

Courses of Further Education

Financial assistance and support was provided to twenty four staff who pursued courses of further education. This figure included 8 subsidised or eligible grant funded courses.

Managing Wellbeing in the Workplace

"Our People Strategy" identified the need to "develop a health and wellness framework that incorporated staff welfare, proactive health awareness campaigns and resilience programmes". Monaghan Co. Council launched their Wellness Committee in order to ensure that wellbeing was central to the

success of our workforce in Monaghan County Council as a whole.

A number of activities listed below were initiated by our recently appointed Wellness Committee

- Miriam Hussey, Soul Space, Wellness presentation to provide Staff with Wellness information
- Breast Health Aware Programme to educate staff of all ages of the importance of being breast aware
- Complimentary Wellbeing Experience by Spectrum Life to mark National Workplace Wellbeing Day 2021
- Bereavement Seminar – Monaghan County Council - Coping with Grief and Dealing with Loss with Patricia McAdoo
- Steps Challenge - encouraged staff to get more active

- Staff Quiz – Provided staff with a 'fun' event to promote conversation and encourage learning
- Financial Wellbeing Seminars – A series of seminars were delivered by Bank of Ireland Financial Wellbeing programme supports to educate staff with information, digital tools, and access to financial advice in one programme.
- Tuesday Lunchtime Walks – Encouraged staff to be more active
- Men's Health Presentation to coincide with 'Men's Health Awareness Month' in November and raised awareness for all of our Staff and Members on some of the issues that affect men's health
- Offer of electric bikes for staff use

Flu Vaccinations

Monaghan County Council agreed to reimburse any staff member who opted to avail of the Flu Vaccination in 2021.

Corporate Procurement

Overview

Despite the challenges resulting from the pandemic, inflation, and vacancy in Procurement Officer role, the Council's procurement activity for 2021 remained consistent with 2020 figures. The Council took a policy decision in 2018 that all procurement competitions above the national threshold would be conducted electronically, and this helped ensure that our procurement activities could proceed smoothly during this turbulent time.

In 2021, The Council published over 123 Requests for Tenders through both the eTenders (61) and www.supplygov.ie (62) platforms. Ten of the competitions advertised on eTenders competitions were for values in excess of the EU procurement thresholds (i.e. €5,350,000 for works or €214,000 for goods or services).

The Council's staff conducted 56 quote competitions through the etenders platform using the quick quotes option. Of these competitions, 27 were for the procurement of services, 12 for supplies and 17 for works. Conducting quote competitions through this platform ensures transparency for all our purchases regardless of value.

Procurement Procedures

The Council's Procurement Procedures Rev 4 were issued to all staff in January 2021, taking account of the updated EU thresholds for procurement. The procedures ensure that procurement is conducted in line with the requirements of Public Sector reform, the Office of Government Procurement, EU Directives and National Guidelines. A step by step guide to the Procurement procedures is now available on the Council's SharePoint, for use of all staff.

Procurement Working Group

The Procurement Working Group met three times during the year. The Group takes a proactive role in the area of procurement and the preparation of procurement policies and templates.

Procurement Team

The Procurement Officer role was vacated in early July 2021 and efforts are continuing to recruit a Procurement Officer. In the interim period the assistant Procurement administrator continues to guide and support all procurement operations to help ensure that goods, services and works are procured in compliance with all relevant legislation and guidelines, while managing risk and achieving value for money. Through ongoing learnings from the management of all Council procurement competitions, the Procurement Leads and Admin Leads in each department have developed significant expertise in procurement.

Public Spending Code

The Council issued a Quality Assurance Report to NOAC in May 2021, to confirm compliance with the Public Spending Code (PSC). The report included an inventory of all projects/programmes costing greater than €0.5m, distinguishing between capital and current expenditure and categorised by expenditure being considered, expenditure being incurred, and expenditure recently ended. The PSC also requires the Council to publish procurements with a value of more than €10m and to submit self-assessment checklist.

Model Publication Scheme

The Council is obligated to report quarterly on public contracts (tenders) awarded, for the Model Publication Scheme, which is part of the Freedom of Information regime. The publication relates to all public works contracts with a value over €25k. All Sections have assisted in the compilation of contracts awarded for 2021 and this information has now been published on the Council's website and can be found on the following link:- <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/procurement/>

Office of Government Procurement (OGP)

The Council has signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), which sets out the principles governing the procurement relationship between the two parties. The arrangement recognises that the Council and the OGP are engaged in a partnership focussed on delivering efficient and suitable procurement services and value for money, ultimately to assist the local authority in meeting service delivery needs.

The Council continues to avail of OGP frameworks

for all procurement processes, where possible.

Covid 19 PPE

The requirements for Covid 19 PPE diminished throughout 2021, as remote working continued. The Assistant Procurement administrator collated all the Council's PPE requirements, across all

sections, to ensure that adequate PPE was ordered to meet all needs. The Procurement Unit co-ordinated the distribution of the PPE to the various sections where it was needed.

Strategic Policy Committees

The role of Strategic Policy Committees is to formulate policy proposals, evaluate and report on policy implementation for consideration. Provide policy centred committees which can harness the experience of external bodies in the formulation of policy the Committees are not designed to deal with routine operational matters in relation to the delivery of services.

The SPCs which consists of elected members of Monaghan County Council and others who are nominated by / or representative of the sectors relevant to the work of the particular SPC. Monaghan County Council has 4 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):

SPC 1 - Housing, Cultural and Social

SPC 2 – Community & Transport

SPC 3 – Planning & Economic Development

SPC 4 - Environment and Transport

Report of Strategic Policy Committee Activities during 2021

Housing, Cultural and Social SPC (6 meetings held 2021)

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2021:

- Draft Regional Homeless Action Plan 2021 -2023

The SPC committee received Presentations on:

- Energy Efficiency Programme - Housing
- Bordering Realities – Museum Programme
- Keep Well Campaign – Library Programme
- Professional Artists Value Added Scheme 2020-2027 – Arts Office
- Revised Social Housing Supports Application Form – Assessment Criteria (Special Meeting – May)
- Housing for All – Government Paper
- Rethinking Housing Options for Senior Citizens – Mr. Pat O'Mahoney

- Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 1 – Arts Office
- Events Dated & Costs – Arts Office
- Update on Library Services during COVID
- Housing Activities Update
- New SPC Member – Eddie O'Gara – December 2021

Community & Transport SPC (4 meetings held in 2021)

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2021:

- Hedge Cutting & Roadside Vegetation Management Policy 2021

The SPC received presentations on:

- Active Travel
- 2021 Roads Funding Allocations
- National Investment Framework for Transport Infrastructure – submission from MCC
- Land Use & Transportation Study
- Rural funding
- Walking & Cycling Strategy
- Peace Plus Programme
- Winter Maintenance - Conversion to Brine
- PSCI Ratings & Public Roads
- Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines 2022-2027

Planning & Economic Development SPC (3 meetings held in 2021 & 2 joint meetings)

The first meeting of the SPC took place on 29th March 2021 online and the following items were discussed, The Draft General Development Contribution scheme 2021-2026, an update on the Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2021 and an update on the Tourism Strategy. The second meeting took place on 20th May 2021 which covered the Two-Year County Development Plan Review and an update on the Local Enterprise Office. The third and final meeting of the SPC took place on 30th November 2021 with a presentation from Failte Ireland.

There were also two joint meetings with took place with the SPC for Climate Change & Environment. These meetings took place on 20th April 2021 which covered Decarbonization Zones

and on the 29th July 2021, which covered a report on the Poultry Sector in County Monaghan.

Climate Action & Environmental Services SPC (4 meetings held in 2021)

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, all 4 meetings were held virtually. Over the course of the year, members received presentations on the Litter Management Plan, Control and management of Dogs, Revised Grant Allocations

for Domestic Water Treatment Systems and Wells, and the progression of National Enforcement Priorities through the RMCEI planning process. Members were also advised on the continuing principal activities in which the local authority has been engaged in the year 2021 relating to climate change. Other presentations to members included those on the River Basement Management Plan for 2022 – 2027 and the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees

Cathaoirleach 2021/2022 (June 2021-June 2022)

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Leas-Chathaoirleach 2021/2022 (June 2021-June 2022)

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Municipal Districts

Monaghan Municipal District

Cllr. David Maxwell (Cathaoirleach 2021/2022)

Cllr. Seamus Treanor (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2021/2022)

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Brian McKenna

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District

Cllr PJ O'Hanlon (Cathaoirleach 2021/2022)

Cllr. Noel Keelan (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2021/2022)

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Aoife McCooey

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District

Cllr. Richard Truell (Cathaoirleach 2021/2022)

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2021/2022)

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Corporate Policy Group

Cathaoirleach of the Day

Cllr. Noel Keelan

Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Cllr. Pat Treanor

Strategic Policy Committees

SPC for Housing, Social and Culture

Cllr. Pat Treanor, Chair

Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon

Cllr. Aoife McCooey

Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon

SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support

Cllr. Sean Gilliland, Chair
Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

SPC for Transport and Community

Cllr. Raymond Aughey, Chair
Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. Sean Gilliland
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney
Cllr. Brian McKenna

SPC for Climate Action and Environment

Cllr. Noel Keelan, Chair
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Richard Truell

Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Sean Gilliland
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge)

Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme).

Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

Muckno Development Committee

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon
Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. PJ O Hanlon

Twinning Committee

Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Sean Conlon

Clones Erne East Partnership

Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Sean Gilliland
Cllr. Cathy Bennett

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Local Community Development Committee

Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. David Maxwell

Audit Committee

Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. David Maxwell

Museum Advisory Committee

Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. David Maxwell

Monaghan Leisure Complex Management Committee

Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Monaghan Local Sports Partnership Board

Cllr. Sean Conlon

Road Safety Committee

Cllr. Richard Truell

Speed Limits Committee

Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Sean Conlon

Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon

County Monaghan Heritage Forum

Cllr. Mary Kerr-Conlon
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Aoife McCooey

Local Improvements Scheme Committee

Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. PJ O Hanlon
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Appointment of members to witness the affixing of the Official Seal

All Members of Monaghan County Council appointed to witness the affixing of the Official Seal

Cavan/Monaghan Education and Training Board

Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. David Maxwell

Peace IV Partnership Board (nominees)

Cllr. Aidan Campbell	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.
Cllr. Pat Treanor	Ballybay-Clones M.D.
Cllr. Aoife McCooey	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney M.D.
Cllr. Cathy Bennett	Monaghan M.D./LCDC

Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)

Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. David Maxwell

East Border Region Members Forum

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Management Board of ICBAN Ltd., (Irish Central Border Areas Network)

Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Regional Health Forum – Dublin and North East

Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. David Maxwell

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances

Cllr. Richard Truell

Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)

Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)

Cllr. Sean Conlon

An Coiste Logainmneacha

Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Aoife McCooey
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

Standing Orders & Procedures Committee

Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney

North Eastern Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Peace Campus Steering Committee

Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Paudge Connolly

Directors to the East Border Region Ltd

Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. P. J. O'Hanlon (changed at June 24 meeting from Cllr McCooey to Cllr O'Hanlon)
Cllr. Aidan Campbell

Connecting to Life Suicide Prevention Working Group

Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Board of the Garage Theatre

Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Richard Truell

Offices Working Group

Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. David Maxwell
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Seamus Treanor
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Conferences/Training Attended by Members in 2021

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Number of Members Attended
AILG	Elected Members Training Programme	The Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre, Waterford	Sat 18 th Sept 2021	1
AILG	Elected Members Training Programme	The Glendalough Hotel, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow	Thur 23rd Sept 2021	2
Celtic Conferences	Health & Safety in the Workplace	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	24th to 26th September 2021	1
AILG	Elected Members Training Programme	The Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co Galway	Thur 7th Oct 2021	3
Celtic Conferences	Mental Health & Wellbeing	O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	8th to 10th October 2021	1
Celtic Conferences	The Fair Deal Scheme	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	5th to 7th November 2021	4
LAMA	Autumn Training Seminar	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo P91Y762	3rd Nov 2021	5
LAMA	Autumn Training Seminar	Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo P91Y762	4th Nov 2021	4
AILG	Elected Members Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	Clayton Hotel Galway, Monivea Road, Ballybrit, Galway, H91 D526	6 th Nov 2021	1
AILG	Elected Members Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	The Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny	10 th Nov 2021	5

Appendix I Members Expenses

Payments to Monaghan County Council Members in 2021 from 1 January - 31 December 2021

					Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach / Cathaoirleach of MD Allowance (Subject to PAYE etc.)		Travel & Subsistence (Training, Conferences, Crossborder and Other Meetings)	Foreign Travel (Twinning etc., Cost of Flights and Expenses)	Mobile Phone Allowance Claimed	Other	TOTAL PAID	
	Name of Councillor	Representational Payment / Salary (Subject to PAYE etc.)	Annual Allowance	Municipal District Allowance		SPC Chair Allowance						
	Cllr. Aidan Campbell	€ 21,838.25	€4,787.52	€ 1,000.00	€ 9,683.32		€ 100.00		€ 0.00		€37,409.09	
	Cllr. Aoife McCooley	€ 21,838.25	€5,589.36	€ 1,000.00			€ 381.27		€ 277.80		€29,086.68	
	Cllr. Brian McKenna	€ 21,838.25	€4,687.20	€ 1,000.00			€ 1,214.92		€ 213.76		€28,954.13	
	Cllr. Cathy Bennett	€ 21,838.25	€4,338.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 0.00		€ 219.73		€27,396.09	
	Cllr. Colm Carthy	€ 21,838.25	€5,856.72	€ 1,000.00	€ 9,111.18		€ 592.04		€ 536.98		€38,935.17	
	Cllr. David Maxwell	€ 21,838.25	€4,338.12	€ 1,000.00	€3,150.00		€ 2,184.73		€ 0.00		€32,709.51	
	Cllr. Hugh McElvaney	€ 21,838.25	€3,859.64	€ 1,000.00	€2,177.76		€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€28,875.65	
	Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon	€ 21,838.25	€5,430.01	€ 1,000.00			€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€28,268.26	
	Cllr. Noel Keelan	€ 21,838.25	€5,990.28	€ 1,000.00		€ 6,000.00	€ 0.00		€ 127.02		€34,955.55	
	Cllr. Pat Treanor	€ 21,838.25	€4,720.68	€ 1,000.00		€ 6,000.00	€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€33,558.93	
	Cllr. Paudge Connolly	€ 21,838.25	€4,338.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 1,208.58		€484.10		€28,869.05	
	Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon	€ 21,838.25	€5,990.28	€ 1,000.00	€2,150.00		€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€30,978.53	
	Cllr. Raymond Aughey	€ 21,838.25	€4,338.12	€ 1,000.00		€ 6,000.00	€ 0.00		€ 0.00		€33,176.37	
	Cllr. Richard Truell	€ 21,838.25	€4,787.52	€ 1,000.00	€ 4,972.24		€ 1,244.97		€ 451.41		€34,294.39	
	Cllr. Seamus Coyle	€ 21,838.25	€5,233.14	€ 1,000.00	€ 2,850.00		€ 2,345.30		€ 0.00		€33,266.69	
	Cllr. Seamus Treanor	€ 21,838.25	€4,338.12	€ 1,000.00	€2,750.00		€ 114.35		€98.76		€30,139.48	
	Cllr. Seamus Conlon	€ 21,838.25	€4,338.12	€ 1,000.00			€ 812.80		€ 130.46		€28,119.63	
	Cllr. Sean Gilliland	€ 21,838.25	€5,455.68	€ 1,000.00		€ 6,000.00	€ 250.00		€ 0.00		€34,543.93	
	Totals	€ 393,088.50	€88,416.75	€ 18,000.00	€ 36,844.50	€ 24,000.00	€ 10,448.96	€ 0.00	€2,540.02	€ 00.00	€573,537.13	

Appendix II

Financial Statement 2021

Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2021 accounted for a turnover of c.€112 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €28,955,799 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County. The major areas of activity were Housing and Roads.

Capital Account

Activity by Programme Group	2021 Expenditure	2021 Income	2021 Net cost
Housing & Building	12,876,929	14,987,394	2,110,465
Roads Transportation & Safety	6,111,878	7,888,362	1,776,484
Water Services	422,386	595,895	173,509
Development Management	4,031,970	3,214,528	(817,442)
Environmental Services	1,002,336	740,736	(261,600)
Recreation & Amenity	3,416,110	3,218,090	(198,020)
Miscellaneous Services	1,094,191	367,688	(726,503)
Total Expenditure / Income	28,955,799	31,012,693	2,056,894
		2020	2021
Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1		3,305,848	6,269,745
Expenditure		(39,025,714)	(28,955,799)
Income		38,511,871	31,012,693
Transfers to Revenue		(157,451)	(1,070,309)
Net Transfers from Revenue Account		3,635,192	3,944,875
Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31		6,269,745	11,201,204

Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2021 Expenditure	2021 Income	2021 Net cost
Housing & Building	9,210,711	10,316,310	1,105,600
Roads Transportation & Safety	26,139,571	20,116,084	(6,023,486)
Water Services	7,914,032	7,738,890	(175,142)
Development Management	12,044,361	7,347,397	(4,697,024)
Environmental Services	6,461,430	1,143,854	(5,317,575)
Recreation & Amenity	5,204,638	665,311	(4,539,327)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	475,209	340,949	(134,260)
Miscellaneous Services	8,351,765	7,237,867	(1,113,898)
Total Expenditure / Income	75,801,719	54,906,601	(20,895,112)
Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund			(20,895,112)
			€
Rates			14,184,663
Local Property Tax			11,817,331
Pension Related Deduction			
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year			5,106,882
Transfer to Reserves			(3,111,293)
Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)			1,995,589
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January			(1,865,180)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December			130,409

Revenue Account

Income and Expenditure Account	2021		2020	
Income				
State Grants and Subsidies	40,413,128	50.0%	48,610,507	55.0%
Contributions from other LAs	322,182	0.4%	412,301	0.5%
Goods and Services	14,171,294	17.5%	13,254,761	15.0%

Local Property Tax	11,817,331	14.6%	11,813,214	13.4%
Rates	14,184,663	17.5%	14,295,991	16.2%
Total Income	80,908,598	100.0%	88,386,775	100.0%
Expenditure				
Payroll Expenses	27,740,243	36.6%	26,782,913	31.8%
Operational Expenses	39,962,566	52.7%	48,429,492	57.4%
Administration Expenses	2,735,672	3.6%	2,885,209	3.4%
Establishment Expenses	1,258,027	1.7%	1,126,953	1.3%
Financial Expenses	3,563,863	4.7%	4,341,853	5.1%
Miscellaneous	541,346	0.7%	750,406	0.9%
Total Expenditure	75,801,719	100.0%	84,316,826	100.0%
Surplus for Year before Transfers	5,106,882		4,069,949	
Transfers to Reserves	(3,111,293)		(3,711,528)	
Overall Surplus for Year	1,995,589		358,421	
General Reserve at 1st January	(1,865,180)		(2,223,601)	
General Reserve at 31st December	130,409		(1,865,180)	

**Progress Report for 2021
on Corporate Plan 2020-2024**

CORPORATE PLAN HIGH LEVEL GOALS

This Corporate Plan - underpinned by our Core Values - proposes twelve High Level Goals which will deliver our Mission and ensure the improvement of Council services and infrastructure over the period of the Plan 2020 - 2024. For each High-Level Goal, we have identified a number of supporting strategic objectives for which actions and activities are identified by relevant Departments in their Annual Service Delivery Plans

1 TO ENSURE A CLEAN, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	Support biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of water, waste, and all other environmental resources
2 TO SUPPORT LOCAL DEMOCRACY	Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group, Strategic Policy Committee, Joint Policing Committee, Public Participation Network and all other committees in their leadership and representative role in response to the needs of the Community
3 TO DELIVER QUALITY & INCLUSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICES	Improve Accessible Services, improve communications and engagement with the public to drive efficiency and effectiveness for our customers.
4 TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY	Support the Business Community to stimulate growth, encourage start-ups and maximise job creation. Improve prosperity through cross border partnerships i.e. ICBAN and EBR. Deliver on the economic objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan.
5 TO ENHANCE CULTURE AND CREATIVITY	Strengthen the capacity of the culture and creative sectors within County Monaghan.
6 TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES	Develop, Support and Enhance the quality of life of sustainable, inclusive communities in County Monaghan as envisaged in the Local Economic and Community Plan.
7 TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE SERVICES	Progress key infrastructure projects.
8 TO DELIVER HOUSING AND HOUSING SUPPORTS	Increase the supply of social housing, improve existing housing stock and develop quality amenities to enhance Monaghan as a place to live.
9 TO IMPLEMENT ROBUST BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	Develop and implement sound financial, management and governance systems to enable organisational and operational efficiency
10 TO DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION.	Ensure Monaghan County Council, is an employer of choice, builds our workforce for the future, supports and values managers as people developers.
11 TO ENSURE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH ADVANCING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY.	Accelerate the digital delivery of improved and accessible services by promoting a culture of innovation.
12 TO TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON & CLIMATE RESILIENT SOCIETY	Working in partnership with other key stakeholders to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation actions identified in the Climate Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Climate Action Charter.

Finance			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Compliance with Statutory Regulations.	9	All submissions are completed on time. Cumulative Deficit will be reduced further in AFS 2021. There were no audit adjustments for AFS2020.	All performance standards are met
Operate efficiently to support all Council functions/ Members of the public/ Local businesses.	2, 3, 6, 9	Revenue collections are continuously monitored, and collection rates are maintained or improved year on year. (The Rates collection percentage is distorted in 2020 and 2021 due to a change in the formula as a result of the Rates Waiver). New LA customer App was introduced during 2020 which facilitates easy payment of invoices and review of balance etc. for the customer. Rates Waiver in 2021 also contributed to high rates collection rates.	Collection rates are not yet available however rates are expected to be in line with prior years.
Monitor and strive to continuously improve Financial Management.	9	Financial reports are prepared and issued regularly, monitoring budget versus actual spend. Large capital project budgets are reviewed quarterly and funding requirements are considered.	Current capital projects all fully funded. Forecasts are reviewed and plans put in place in advance where necessary.
Demonstrate effective Asset Management.	9	FAR vs. ihouse vs. Rental charges reconciliations completed quarterly. FAR is completed at year end.	All reconciling items are adjusted or corrected where necessary.
Continuously review and improve Financial Administration function.	9	Regular capital balance reviews and reconciliations conducted. All payroll and suppliers are paid promptly and accurately. Debtors are reviewed and followed up on a monthly basis.	All performance standards are met

Housing

In the Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to seeking to ensure that every household will have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price in a sustainable community. The Council's priorities and objectives in this area are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
To identify the categories of Social Housing need of all communities in County Monaghan and prioritise their needs in capital expenditure programmes	3, 6, 7, 8	Local Authorities have 12 weeks from receiving a completed Social Housing Application Form to assess it and decide. This timeframe can be extended if additional information is required. In 2021 a revised Social Housing Application Form was issued by the Department which established a new Income Means Calculation process. The implementation of this new system has caused some delays in assessment of an application, mainly due to the required previous 12month income details to be submitted by the applicants. In 2021, Monaghan County Council processed and approved 194 Valid Social Housing Applications and allocated 122 Local Authority houses	2021 Social Housing Needs Assessment (SHNA) completed.
To deliver good quality accessible social housing through planned programmes for construction, acquisition, leasing, maintenance and refurbishment.	3, 7, 8	29 or 38% new accessible social houses were provided in 2021.	Increase the percentage of accessible housing by delivering an average of 20% accessible housing in line with Disability Strategy (exceeded by 18% in 2021).
To optimise the use of housing land banks and increase land bank reserves.	7, 8	Negotiations for the acquisition of additional housing land were ongoing in 2021 and adverts for housing land resulted in the identification of additional turnkey opportunities for the provision of social housing on privately owned land. Successful funding applications resulted in commencement of development of housing land in Scotstown and tender for development of housing land in Ballybay.	Housing Delivery Action Plan completed and submitted to Department in Q4 of 2021 identifying need to acquire land or negotiate further construction on private land over the period of the Housing for All Programme up to 2026.

To ensure casual vacancies are re let in a timely fashion.	7, 8	NOAC confirmed that Monaghan County Council had the fastest reletting time in Ireland in 2020 for the third time at 11.5 weeks which compares very favourably with the national average of 32.7 weeks. The reletting time in 2021 was 13.6 weeks however the average spend on each property re-let increased from €11,000 (approx.) to €21,000 (approx.) mainly due to Monaghan County Council availing of the opportunity to upgrade properties when vacant.	NOAC Housing vacancies / reletting times and costs
To optimise the use of housing stock while at the same time achieving value for money.	3, 8	As noted above there was an increased spend on relets in 2021, this was part funded by the Voids programme which helps to keep maintenance costs at a reasonable level for Monaghan County Council.	NOAC Housing Maintenance Costs
To provide for the housing needs of Vulnerable Groups	6, 8	12.3% of the total allocations made were to persons with specific disabilities and 16% of allocations were to older persons (over the age of 55). 38% of the new social houses constructed in 2021 were accessible houses potentially suitable for allocation to older people or people with disabilities far exceeding the 20% target for accessible housing.	Specific identification of Disability in Social Housing Application assessment regarding Housing & Disability Strategy requirements and allocation of suitable housing when available.
To meet the needs as set out in the Traveller Accommodation Plan.	6, 8	Traveler halting site day units converted to 14 houses by addition of bedrooms in 2021.	Traveler Accommodation Programme targets
To meet the needs of Homeless in County Monaghan.	6, 8	Progress continued on implementing North East Homeless Strategy	Targets under Homelessness strategy (3 people to be housed over period of plan)
To promote home ownership by increasing the range of housing accessible procurement alternatives.	8	<u>Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme</u> A total of 22 applications were received and processed during 2021 under this scheme. 14 Loans were approved during 2021 to the value of €1.4m to assist applicants secure homes in County Monaghan. <u>Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016:</u> A total of 15 home purchases were completed in 2021 to	Number of loan approvals Number of house purchased through IPTS

		Monaghan Co Co Tenants under this scheme. A total of 25 applications were received and processed during 2021	
To co-ordinate a programme of work to bring Derelict / Vacant properties back into use.	1, 6, 8	Since the inception of the Vacant Homes Programme and after reviewing initial desktop information the Vacant Homes Office have identified 180 vacant homes	Number of vacant homes brought back into use.
To ensure Private House grants for people with a disability and older people in our communities to meet the priority needs in County Monaghan.	8	Following an initial allocation of €1.286 along with subsequent requests for additional allocations from the Department for Housing Grants in 2021 a total allocation of €2m was successfully allocated to those in need of Housing support and recouped from the Department by the close of the year	% drawdown of grant allocation.
To promote a high standard of private rented dwellings.	8	Monaghan County Council carried out 69 Virtual inspections and 18 physical on-site inspections during 2021. It is intended to continue the private rented inspections programmed in 2022 by way of virtual and physical inspections.	NOAC performance indicators relating to private rented inspections

Water Services

Monaghan County Council is committed to the development and management of County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote the economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. A key element in the delivery of the strategic objective is fulfilling our obligations under the Irish Water / Monaghan County Council Service Level Agreement and managing the implementation of the Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan. These priorities and objectives are summarised below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
To fulfil obligations under the Service Level Agreement and Annual Service Plan with Irish Water.	1, 3, 7	Requirements under 2021 Annual Service Plan Met	Q1 96% Q2 98.9% Q3 89.2% Q4 89.2%
<p>Execute duties as the Water Authority for Group Water Schemes and small private water supplies under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014 & 2017 as amended.</p> <p>Implementation of The County Monaghan Rural Water Programme</p> <p>Water Services Amendment Act 2012 inspect private wastewater treatment systems under the National Inspection</p>	1, 3, 7	<p>Sampling plan for Rural Water was completed in 2021 taking 128 samples across private Group Water Schemes and small private supplies.</p> <p>Compliance for drinking water samples in 2021 was 99.4% for all regulatory samples assessed. One small private water supply were not sampled as they were closed due to Covid 19 restrictions. Exceedances and operational issues reported by Group Water Schemes were risk assessed and notified to the HSE where relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €3.6m in subsidy payments were made to twelve group water schemes in 2021 by the Local Authority. • €535,208 was administered to seven group water schemes in 2021 in the county under the MARWP • 25 well grant applications were processed in 2021 by the Local Authority and €75,660 grant aid paid to applicants • 49 inspections were undertaken by Local Authority staff in 2021 under the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater 	<p>100% plan completed</p> <p>99.03% baseline in 2019</p>

Plan		<p>Treatment Systems resulting in 23 advisory notices being issued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €20,000 grant aid was paid to eligible applicants in 2021 towards upgrade/remedial works to their domestic wastewater systems 	
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Community Development

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County. Monaghan County Council is committed to leading the promotion and support of Social Inclusion and access to services through the review, development and implementation of its strategies. The Council's priorities and objectives in the area of Community Development are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Monaghan County Council committed to lead the promotion and support of social inclusion through the review, development and implementation of strategies, policies and practice that promote, equality, protect human rights and eliminate discrimination for all services users and staff of the organisation in line with National Government Policy. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
<p>Support and facilitate the work of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in partnership with Statutory and Non-Statutory Agencies</p> <p>LCDC to deliver and implement Social and Economic Development through the Local Economic and Community Planning Process (LECP), Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the Rural Development Programme (LEADER).</p>	3,6,12	<p>Administered and co-ordinated the following programmes Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP), LEADER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LCDC Programme administered in accordance with Department Guidelines.• 11 meeting of LCDC & 11 LAG meetings held in 2021• LCDC work programme agreed and delivered. <p>Local Economic and Community Plan actions delivered.</p> <p>SICAP Programme delivered in accordance with the SICAP Programme 2018-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 SICAP Plan agreed• Mid-Year Review (MYR) completed• End-of-Year Review (EYR) completed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2022 SICAP Plan submitted and approved by the LCDC	<p>Local Community Development Committee Programme administered in accordance with Department Guidelines</p> <p>SICAP Programme administered in accordance with the SICAP Programme 2018-2022</p>

		<p>LEADER Programme administered in accordance with Department Guidelines and budget allocated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 LAG Meeting held in 2021 • Under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 112 projects were approved funding to the value of €5,698,098.16 (99.82% of total budget) • 2021 was a very busy year with payment of funding to projects approved <p>DRCD Rural Funding Schemes Funding was allocated in 2021 by the Department of Rural & Community Development under the following schemes:</p> <p>Community Enhancement Programme 2021 Monaghan LCDC implemented the Community Enhancement Programme in 2021. In total €132,571 was approved to 75 projects.</p> <p>CLÁR – This programme for rural areas provides funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. €328,623 was allocated under the CLÁR Scheme 2021 for 8 projects.</p> <p>Town & Village Renewal Scheme Monaghan County Council submitted 8 projects to the value of €1,007,794 under the 2021 scheme. An announcement on the successful projects is expected in early 2022.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme The 2021 scheme supported outdoor recreational infrastructure in countryside areas.</p>	<p>LEADER Programme administered in accordance with Local Development Strategy, Department Guidelines and budget allocations.</p> <p>Funding Schemes administered in accordance with Department Guidelines.</p> <p>Valuable projects undertaken that improved the quality of life of residents in the county.</p>
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		€652,351 was allocated under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021 for 9 projects.	
To achieve Peace programme/s objectives	4, 5, 6, 7	The majority of the work on the Peace IV action concluded in 2021.	All expenditure claims and monitoring reports were submitted on time
To promote equality and inclusion for all service users by developing cross departmental actions and policies.	3, 6	Accessible playground developed for O'Neill Park Clones Implemented actions contained in the Monaghan Public Sector Duty plan 2020-2024	Barriers to inclusion and equality reduced.
Support the Public Participation Network (PPN) in realising its role and function.	3, 6, 12	The PPN continued to act as the main link through which the local authority connected with the Community, Social Inclusion and Environmental sectors. Membership of the PPN increased in 2021. PPN members continued to be represented on local and national committees.	Groups strengthened and involved in the development of their county.
Work to strengthen local community groups by supporting the Local Community Sector in developing local initiatives.	3, 6, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Plan for Lough Egish/ Aughnamullen published & launched Community Plan for Oram published & launched Newbliss Killeevan plan finalised with community Draft community plan produced for Ballinode 	Community activity increased in the identified areas. Funding secured for projects identified in the Community Plans.
Implement the National Cycle Policy Framework actions for LAs	3, 6, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking & Cycling Strategy for Co. Monaghan produced, published & launched Dedicated Active Travel Unit established 	Delivery of actions contained within the strategy.
Implement Monaghan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2023	5, 6	<p>For the second year running, the overall work in 2021 was significantly affected by the impact of Covid19, which resulted in many adapted and changed programmes. Despite that, MSP delivered over 70 programmes and initiatives to keep our communities active during 2021.</p> <p>Community based activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online exercise classes in a variety of activity -580 	Activity programmes delivered in line with MSP Strategic Plan.

		<p>participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Self-led physical activity through walking and jogging– 484 participants •County Council staff steps challenge – 62 participants •Active at Home series – development of DVD / USB recorded exercise classes for people not online •Orienteering Towns – mapped out 3 towns for virtual orienteering •Nature walks in Rossmore Park and Lough Muckno •Let’s Play booklets of family fun games and activities re-printed and distributed through library services •Women’s Cycling programme • Woodlands for Health – walking for mental health service users <p>National events and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •National Bike Week events – 11 events with 140 participants and 125 bike packs distributed to children •HER Outdoors week – 12 events and over 200 female participants •European Week of Sport & Positive Aging Week - Walk and talks sessions and Activator poles classes for 40 participants at 4 locations <p>Volunteer supports through education and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Safeguarding in sport – 13 courses delivered with 126 attendees •Autism in Sport – 1 course 14 attendees •Sports Capital Workshop – 1 workshop with 100 attendees (from Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath) •Coaching Children Workshop- 1 workshop with 20 attendees •Physical Literacy Workshop 1 workshop with 12 attendees •Coaching Teenage girls – 1 workshop with 15 attendees 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Athletics Ireland Assistant Athletics Coach Course -1 workshop with 21 attendees (physical course) <p>Sports Inclusion activity for people with a disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Football skills for Children with autism at 5 School facilities; •Activator Poles walking for adults in 7 Adult Intellectual / Learning day Services •Cycle training for children with disability or mobility difficulties •Football for all camp in conjunction with Cavan Sports Partnership and FAI •Purchase of disability trike for Adult day services to allow independent activity – 6 •Online exercise classes specifically for Adult Day services <p>Promotion and publication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Print and distribution of older adult at home exercise resource •Print and distribution of adult disability at home exercise resource •Keep well Radio campaign for physical activity – Healthy Ireland <p>Primary Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support for Primary School playground marking scheme - 9 Schools completed. <p>Markings also completed at St. Patricks Accommodation Centre, Monaghan to encourage yard play (supported by Healthy Ireland and HSE Section 39 Funding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support for Active Schools week with fitness instructors and health professionals delivering classes to school children 	
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		Sports Club Grants programme / Special Covid 19 support funding MSP administered a funding support scheme to sports clubs under 3 strands: •Strand 1: €37,468.98 (allocated to 35 Clubs) Participation and small equipment •Strand 2: €10,105.00 (allocated to 15 Clubs) Volunteers supports through education and training •Strand 3: €19,382.35 (allocated to 19 Clubs) Covid19 Return to Sport fund	
Implement Healthy Monaghan Strategy 2019 - 2022	6	A significant number of Healthy Ireland actions were delivered in 2021. However, some actions were unable to take place in 2021 due to continued restrictions and lockdowns.	Healthy Monaghan Strategy Actions 2021 delivered.
Implement Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-23	3, 5, 6	Implemented actions contained in the Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2024.	Implementation of Integration Strategy actions.
Implement Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020 - 2024	3, 6	A number of actions contained within the Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024 were implemented in 2021.	Age Friendly Strategy actions delivered.
Implement Comhairle na nÓg programme	2, 6	Comhairle na Nóg annual programme of work successfully delivered. Funding Request submitted for 2022.	Programme of work delivered, funding for 2022 approved and young people continued to engage with the programme.

Fire & Emergency Services

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promote and protect a clean environment which is viable and sustainable. The Council's priorities and objectives for the Fire Service, Civil Defence & Building Control under this remit are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Provide and develop an inclusive, effective & efficient prevention, protection and response fire & rescue service, locally identified risks, responsive to the needs of our community and in a manner that reflects the diversity of our communities.	3, 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and Implementation of Fire & Emergency Operations Plan 2018-2022. 2. Implementation of recommendations outlined in Fire Service Capacity Review 2020. 3. Acquire site for new fire station in Ballybay and progress development. 4. Fleet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure & secure delivery of new Class B Fire Appliance and funding application for new Fire Appliance. • Re-chassis of current water tanker completed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section 26 Plan reviewed in 2021 and key objectives implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAC F2: Service Mobilisation (Fire target 5.26min achieved). • NOAC F3: Percentage of time in attendances at scenes (Fire target 35% < 10min achieved). • Implementation of mobilisation and communication systems. • Recruitment & retention fulfilled for 2021. • Completion of training plan. • MoU with NIFRS maintained. • Implementation of new PPE Policy. • Training and Fleet policy reviewed. 2. Development of Good practice note for a 'Risk Based Inspections Programme and Fire Service Capacity Review'

		<p>5. Review station, equipment and training facilities.</p>	<p>recommendations implemented.</p> <p>3. Selection completed for new Fire Station in Ballybay, site identified, and consultants appointed.</p> <p>4. Fleet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Fire Appliance in operation and funding approval for new Fire Appliance obtained. • Funding obtained for 2 new off-road vehicles. • Water Tanker operational with new chassis. • New hazardous material & PPE equipment obtained with departmental funding. • Funding request submitted for new electric vehicle in accordance with government policy on climate action and decarbonisation commitment. <p>5. Preventative Maintenance Programmes adopted and implemented for vehicles, equipment and communication system maintenance.</p>
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<p>To provide a healthy and safe working environment.</p> <p>Provide accessible community support.</p> <p>Develop response to Major Emergencies.</p>	<p>1, 3, 6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve IOS 450001 accreditation. 2. Building Control Regulations: Operate public consultation and information service. Provide timely support, assistance and processes applications within statutory time frames. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Building Control Inspection Plan. • Construction Products Regulations Policy implementation. 3. Fire Safety: Implement recommendations of Task force on Fire Safety in Ireland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare, adopt & implement Community Fire Safety Policy. • Implement Fire Safety Inspection Policy. • Process Dangerous Substance Licences & Vapour Recovery requirements. 4. Civil Defence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Civil Delivery HQ. • Implementation of Civil Defence 2030 Strategy and MCC development plan. 5. Implement Road Safety Action plan targets. 6. Major Emergency Management inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate training and exercises. 7. Implemented Community Fire Safety Programme. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IOS 450001 accreditation achieved. 2. Building Control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAC P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates (38 No.): 88% completed within 2 months. • BCAR applications migration completed to BCMS. • 33% rate of inspections completed (in accordance with Fire & BC Inspection plan). • Agents Webinar completed. • 3 No. of Construction Products Regulations inspections completed. 3. Fire Safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Fire Safety Plan implemented. • Completion of annual inspection plan completed with 110 inspections. • 59 No. pre-consultation meetings and meetings conducted via Teams. • 13 No. RMCEI inspections completed.
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			<p>4. Civil Defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New CD HQ fully operational and utilised as a control centre for Community Response. • 353 No. Community Response and public safety duties completed. • Revised Training Plan delivered. <p>5. Actions (EDU 26 & 27) ongoing.</p> <p>6. Major Emergency Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous support delivered to NERSG and NERWG. • MCC MEM plan updated. • Completion of MEM regional work plan. <p>7. Community fire Safety messaging delivered via Local Radio, Press & Social Media.</p>
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Library Services

The Library, Museum, Heritage and Arts services of Monaghan County Council play a key role in the Council's commitment to promote economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. The main priorities and objectives for these services are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Implement Monaghan County Library Development Plan 2019 – 2022.	3, 5, 6	<p>Access to Services maximised during Covid 19 restrictions through a combination of delivery methods: House Delivery, Contact and Collect, Browsing Services, Online Services.</p> <p>Capital Projects: Both Castleblayney and Monaghan Branches progressed well in 2021. Both due for completion in 2022.</p> <p>First stage of Library HQ/Clones capital remedial works completed.</p> <p>Open Library Launch in Clones delayed until Q2 2022</p> <p>Online version of Science Festival successfully completed</p> <p>Decade of Centenaries programme for 2021 completed</p> <p>Online Healthy Ireland and Work Matters Programme completed</p> <p>Sensory Programme of activities progressed but not completed</p> <p>Dormant account funding programme 2021 completed</p> <p>Culture Night programme for the county completed</p> <p>New 5-year contract signed for Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC) in Clones Library</p>	<p>NOAC L1A: Number of library visits per head of population</p> <p>NOAC L1B: Number of items issued to customers</p> <p>NOAC L1C: Library active members per head of population.</p> <p>NOAC L1D: Number of registered members of the library in the year</p> <p>NOAC L2A: Cost of operating the Library Service</p> <p>NOAC L2B: Cost of expenditure on new stock acquired by the library service</p> <p>Library Statistics issued to LG Returns (LGMA), to be completed in first half of 2022 for 2020 and 2021</p> <p>Right to Read 2022 Action Plan</p> <p>Work Matters 2022 Action Plan</p> <p>EDIC centre annual returns to EU Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of visitors

		<p>Keep Well Campaign completed</p> <p>House Delivery Service successfully delivered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of queries • Types of queries received • No of events held • Participation in events • Social media posts • Media reports
Implement annual Right to Read Action Plan.	3, 5, 6	<p>All elements of the Initiative were successfully delivered. Monaghan County Council was awarded Right to Read Champion for 2020.</p> <p>Right to Reading Outreach Programme completed</p> <p>One Book, One County programme delivered to all primary schools</p> <p>Right to Read network re-instated</p> <p>Lifestart Programme for babies and young children completed</p> <p>Rainbow Bag Initiative completed, encouraging LGBTQI+ youth to get involved with their local library service</p>	<p>NOAC L1A: Number of library visits per head of population</p> <p>NOAC L1B: Number of items issued to customers</p> <p>NOAC L1C: Library active members per head of population.</p> <p>NOAC L1D: Number of registered members of the library in the year</p> <p>Library Statistics issued to LG Returns (LGMA), to be completed in first half of 2022 for 2020 and 2021</p>
Implement Monaghan Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022	3, 4, 5, 6	<p>Despite Covid 19 restrictions, an extremely diverse programme was delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands Film Project • The Nature Project • Patrick Kavanagh Legacy Programme • War of Independence Digital Media Project • The Big Houses of Monaghan – A Virtual Learning Quest • Heather Brett, Writer in Residence, appointed • Tradoodle Festival 	<p>Creative Ireland Returns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Creative Practitioners engaged in initiatives • Audience Figure • Virtual Audience figure

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elsewhere – The Opera • Monaghan Murals • Inscribed histories at the Rossmore Mausoleum • Cruinniu na nÓg • This is Art installation on the North Road • Programme to care homes and older people's groups • Local Arts in Education Partnership - A series of initiatives including continued professional training, support towards purchase of a festival production van and programming for young people. • Carrickmacross Toy Library 	
Appoint a County Archivist.	3	No progress made	N/A

ICT

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council has committed to delivering an efficient, effective and accessible service through advancing information systems and technology and promoting a culture of innovation. The Information Systems and Innovation department has the lead role in delivering on the Council's commitments in this area. The 2022 service delivery plan for this department is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Provide a modern, secure, green and accessible ICT infrastructure to enable efficient and reliable service delivery.	1, 3, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued managing ICT infrastructure including server infrastructure, backup and recovery systems, WAN and LAN devices, telecommunications systems, and endpoints including PCs, laptops, mobile phones. Lone working devices and loggers.Maintained disaster recovery for critical services and carried out monthly testsCarried out independent security audit using CIS Security FrameworkReviewed O365 security and implemented additional security controlsImplemented IT inventory management SystemDecommissioned Citrix remote access solutionConfigured secure VPN and multi-factor authentication for 3rd party accessDelivered security awareness training to staff and CouncillorsPiloted SIEM solutionImplemented multi-factor authentication for RDP for admin access to servers, firewalls, switches and OpenDNSImplemented DMARCUpgraded Domain Controllers to Windows 2019Continued replacement of PCs with docked laptop solution	<p>NOAC indicator – Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE</p> <p>NOAC indicator – Cost of ICT provision as a proportion of revenue expenditure</p> <p>All Servers, PCs and Laptops running supported, licensed Operating Systems</p>

Lead innovation, and develop and support initiatives through collaboration at local, regional, national and EU level.	3, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established innovation team Procured an innovation management programme including consultancy services and software platform Prepared successful applications for submission to Our Public Service 2021 Innovation Fund and the Future Tech Challenge 2021 Setup MyCoCo Project Board, developed MyCoCo prototype. (MyCoCo is a national Monaghan-led build-to-share citizen portal for accessing local authority services securely online) Developed videos to showcase some of the work carried out by Council staff and ran a promotional campaign during public service innovation week 2021 Attended DPER national public sector innovation network events and LGMA local authority innovation network events Continued to promote innovation and encourage staff to submit ideas for review by innovation team and senior management 	<p>Innovation team in place</p> <p>No. of ideas submitted through local innovation ideas form</p> <p>Attendance at national innovation network events</p> <p>Level of external innovation funding received</p>
Upgrade and implement new and emerging software and systems where appropriate, including AI and Robotics, while keeping in mind accessibility, security, privacy and information management requirements.	3, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded iPlan, iReg, iHouse, Museum Adlib, National Building Control System and Laserfiche Migrated Fire Services payroll system to cloud-hosted solution Piloted LGMA Travel & Expenses System Carried out Proof-of-Concept and initiated Pilot of Agresso M7 for local authority sector Developed integrator between national ePlanning System and Monaghan County Council document management system Continued to transform manual paper-based processes using Laserfiche including back-office processes such as COVID-19 employee induction 	<p>Applications running on latest version or latest version minus 1</p> <p>No. of processes automated using Laserfiche and no. of transaction processed via Laserfiche</p>

		<p>training, employee off-boarding, and a number of inspection processes, as well as additional customer facing services including online job application submission , social enterprise capital grant, community enhancement programme, town & village renewal, community activity fund, defibrillator details & location, outdoor seating and accessories scheme, public participation identification of bathing waters, public consultation on draft litter management plan, built heritage - award of grant – amendments, broadband enquiry form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented freephone emergency phone-line and information dashboard • Ran pilot of windows virtual desktops 	
Implement and maintain high quality GIS systems and open data technologies.	3, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitised the Register of Electors data and developed a solution to assist with data cleansing project • Digitised housing waiting list data • Developed mobile app for locating road numbers, Eircodes and townlands • Completed roll-out of the roads defect system and provided training to end-users • Provided new tablets to plumbers, fire, civil defence, housing and environment staff • Procured aerial photography • Updated Eircode, gas network and ESB data on GIS viewers • Provided mapping data to third parties • Continued to support and maintain GIS systems 	<p>No. open data sets published</p> <p>Updated mapping available</p>
Provide broadband, wi-fi facilities and online services to staff, libraries and the community.	3, 4, 6, 7, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to facilitate the rollout of the National Broadband Plan across the county • continued engaging with telecommunications companies, members of the public and 	<p>No. of BCPs live</p> <p>No. public Wi-Fi access points</p>

		<p>representatives from industry in relation to access to broadband services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the roll-out of public Wi-Fi under the Wifi4EU initiative to 36 locations across County Monaghan Facilitated the delivery of broadband to 13 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) Facilitated a national launch event to mark the completion of the 200th Broadband Connection Point at Drumhowan Community Centre Launched County Monaghan Digital Strategy Provided assistance to BCP managers, and the North-East Hubs Network to develop successful applications under the Connected Hubs fund. Continued to support and maintain public Wi-Fi in libraries, town centres and play parks Continued to support corporate Wi-Fi in council offices Continued to support library facilities Continued to develop www.monaghan.ie website 	<p>No. of online forms available for service applications</p> <p>NOAC indicator – No. of visits to website</p> <p>Improved bandwidth and reliability</p>
Implement and promote remote working technologies including mobile devices and apps, virtual teams, conferencing facilities.	3, 4, 7, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to deploy docked laptop solutions to staff Initiated decommissioning of staff PCs Rolled-out remote access solutions for staff to work from home Installed additional video conferencing facilities in council meeting rooms Continued to provide support for remote working Ran pilot of Teams Telephony 	
Provide high quality technical support to all our customers.	3, 11	Continued to provide high quality technical support	No. of Support Calls logged / resolved

			Average time taken to respond to and to resolve support requests
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Economic Development & Tourism

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to providing support to the business community to stimulate growth, encourage start-ups, maximise job creation and improve competitiveness. The Council's priorities and objectives in this area are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Monaghan County Council committed to delivering on its tourism strategy in partnership with stakeholders. The Council also has a leading role in supporting the local community sector in developing local initiatives. The following priorities/objectives and performance standards are relevant to these commitments. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
<p>Develop a strategy to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups, and develop existing businesses, including those sectors with significant export potential</p> <p>Promote economic sustainability and development in County Monaghan by progressing the County as a location for investment and employment creation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a strategy to attract public and private investment • Devise a strategy to improve the quality and diversity of employment in the County 	4	<p>Job Creation 2021 was 23 but we had losses due to Covid, some of those jobs may come back in 2022. 2021 was our most successful year with 26 projects assisted & grant aid awarded of €723,786</p> <p>90 training programmes took place in 2021, the figures included 8 SYOB.</p> <p>TOV 27 to move to on-line trading, the figures dropped due to grant aid been restored to 20%.</p> <p>Promoting Economic Sustainability Bio Project, AI Project, the Engineering Network to explore new opportunities through collaboration & working with ETB to develop new training programmes to meet the needs of industry in Monaghan</p> <p>Grant Thornton Economic Appraisal of County Monaghan, the publishing was due to covid.</p>	<p>Process 18 grant applications in 2022</p> <p>Deliver 70 training programmes in 2022, included 6 Business Starts TOV approve 25 in 2022</p> <p>Building completed for Bio-connect Project</p> <p>Engineering Cluster Established</p> <p>AI project delivering agreed goals.</p> <p>Discussion in progress with ETB</p> <p>Publish Report in 2022</p>
To develop a sustainable tourism industry in the county which will lead to an increase in visitor numbers and visitor revenue.	1, 4, 5		

Environment In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. In this regard, the Council's priorities and objectives for the Environment division are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
<p>To implement legislation and policy with regard to water quality for both surface and groundwaters in the County.</p> <p>Working toward achieving an improvement in water quality status in all water bodies in the County.</p>	1, 12	<p>2021 RMCEI annual inspection and enforcement plan was prepared in line with the national environmental enforcement priorities for water and plan submitted to the EPA. Work carried out by Environmental Services as per the plan included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 543 water quality inspections 140 water quality complaint investigations Initiated 137 water enforcement actions Monitoring of 28 licenced facilities. 23 farm inspections. <p>Continued liaison with other agencies including LAWPRO and EPA on the development of the draft 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>WFP sampling program delivered on behalf of EPA with 98% of samples taken.</p>	<p>RMCEI Plan produced and submitted to EPA.</p> <p>NOAC Indicator E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed</p> <p>% of sampling program delivered</p>
<p>To implement legislation and policy with regards to waste management.</p>	1, 12	<p>2021 RMCEI annual inspection and enforcement plan was prepared in line with the national environmental enforcement priorities for waste and plan submitted to the EPA. Work carried out by Environmental Services as per the plan included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 974 routine waste inspections Dealt with 404 waste related complaints Initiated 180 waste enforcement actions 	<p>EPA RMCEI assessment framework</p> <p>E1 No. or % of Households with access to a 3-Bin Service</p> <p>E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed</p>

<p>To provide and maintain recycling infrastructure in towns and villages in the County.</p> <p>To seek EPA authorisation for historic landfills previously operated by Monaghan County Council.</p>	<p>1, 7, 12</p>	<p>Contract in place with contractor in 2021 for the servicing of the bring site network in the County for the collection of glass and aluminium cans.</p> <p>During 2021 a Technical Amendment application was granted by the Environmental Protection Agency to remove the Scotch Corner Recycling facility from the EPA licence for Scotch Corner. The Materials Recovery Facility and Civic Amenity Site are now authorised via a Waste Facility Permit granted to the operator. This change in the site authorisation facilitated an increase in the waste activities on site during 2021.</p> <p>EPA licence compliance investigation works completed at Scotch Corner landfill. Ongoing sampling and monitoring as required by our licence continued in 2021</p> <p>Funding secured from DCCAE to progress historical authorisation applications to the EPA.</p> <p>During 2021 the EPA granted 2 Certificates of Authorisation for two historical landfill sites at Killycard and Killycronaghan. Site investigation works in accordance with EPA s were completed at the Corkeeran Historical landfill site in late 2021.</p>	<p>Bring sites operate in compliance with service contract and EPA authorisations.</p> <p>Recycling sites operate in compliance with waste authorisation and concession contract</p> <p>Compliance with Waste Facility Permit.</p> <p>Compliance with EPA licence</p> <p>Funding secured from DEEC</p> <p>Compliance with EPA authorisations.</p>
<p>To develop innovative environmental awareness projects for targeted audiences.</p>	<p>1, 3, 11, 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Collaboration between Monaghan County Council, WEEE Ireland and EPA on repairmystuff.ie website Supports continued in 2021 to Tidy Towns and resident association's through annual funding programme 	<p>E4: % of schools that have been awarded green flag status</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter awareness campaigns at public playgrounds and parks. Supports provided to local schools in a number of environmental areas including the Green Schools Program during 2021 	
To implement the objectives of County Monaghan Litter Management Plan.	1	<p>New litter Management Plan 2021-2023 was published in 2021.</p> <p>Total spend on street cleansing in 2021 was €778,011.76.</p> <p>€106,875 was received under the Anti-Dumping initiative 2021. Projects funded included</p> <p>Subsidised bulky good disposal at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Recycling Centres.</p> <p>Use of CCTV as a deterrent to littering continued with intensive monitoring of bottle banks during 2021. These CCTV units were rotated throughout the hot spot areas.</p> <p>No of Litter Fines Issued: 66 No of Litter Fines Paid: 42 No of Litter Warning Letters Issued: 44</p>	E3: % LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution
To improve air quality through the implementation of air quality legislation.	1, 12	<p>Annual inspection plan completed and submitted to EPA. During 2021 work carried out by Environmental Services in this area included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 complaint investigations. Authorisation of 27 facilities under the Decorative Paints Regulations and 5 facilities under the Solvent Regulations. Sampling of 10 retailers under the solid fuel regulations. routine waste inspections. Initiation of 60 waste enforcement actions (i.e. air related warning letters) 	<p>RMCEI Plan produced and submitted to EPA.</p> <p>E2 – Environmental Pollution Complaints Closed</p>

Work with EPA in roll out of the National Ambient Air Monitoring Program.		During 2021, Environmental Services staff continued to maintain the AAMP air monitors in conjunction with the EPA.	Ambient Air Monitors in place as per EPA program and providing local Air Quality data.
<p>To protect public health by ensuring food safety compliance in food businesses under Monaghan County Council supervision.</p> <p>To ensure public safety from uncontrolled animals and to protect health and welfare of animals in establishments under supervision of Monaghan County Council.</p>	1, 3	<p>Annual inspection plan for 18 food businesses completed.</p> <p>716 cattle and 1243 sheep inspected before and after slaughter. 62 samples taken for residues in raw meat, meat hygiene, production hygiene and water potability. Inspection of all cattle and sheep, and a proportion of turkeys, slaughtered in establishments.</p> <p>176 dogs admitted to Council Dog Pound; 28 reclaimed, 145 rehomed, 3 euthanised; 5,999 dog licences issued in Monaghan; Investigation of dog related complaints, including 5 attacks on sheep, and 5 horse complaints. 2 horses were seized and subsequently reclaimed by their owner. 10 inspections on registered and previously registered Dog Breeding Establishments.</p>	<p>EU legislation</p> <p>EU and Irish legislation</p> <p>Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines</p>

Climate Action

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council aims to progress the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. Whilst the Environmental Services section has developed the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 it will be the responsibility of all the units within Monaghan County Council to ensure progression of the strategy and to progress the measures and action as outlined in the Climate Action Charter and in the National Climate Action Plan – To Tackle Climate Breakdown. In this regard, the Council's priorities and objectives in the area of Climate Action are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
<p>To build resilience to the impacts of climate change across all council functions and services through the implementation of the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.</p> <p>To progress Climate Change Mitigation though further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Deliver on the actions and commitments in the "Local Authority Climate Action Charter".</p> <p>Build appropriate staff confidences and capacities to lead and drive the Climate Change agenda.</p>		<p>In 2021 Monaghan County Council issued its second progress report to the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Office detailing to progress made to date on the progression of the actions contained within the Strategy.</p> <p>During 2021 it was confirmed that MCC had achieved an energy reduction of 48.56% by the end of 2020, which was 15.56% ahead of the required target. (national requirement was for local authorities to achieve a 33% energy efficiency improvement by the end of 2020) Performance was largely due to the implementation of the LED Retrofit Project and the carrying out of Better Energy Community upgrade projects on many of our public buildings from 2015 through 2020. MCC is the first LA to have retrofitted all of its public lighting.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council staff undertook climate action training in conjunction with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office climate with staff from all levels and all units of the Council participating in the training.</p> <p>Climate Action steering committee in place with bimonthly meetings held under direction of Director of</p>	<p>Annual submission of Climate Adaptation implementation report to CARO</p>

<p>Lead and support local communities, businesses and industry in delivering initiatives to tackle Climate Change</p>		<p>Service.</p> <p>Monaghan County in 2021 continued to assist in the setting up of Community Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)</p> <p>A panel of 'Green Business Consultants' was procured in Q2 2021 with Six consultants were approved who can deliver appropriate guidance to microbusinesses within Co. Monaghan.</p> <p>New Active travel unit has been set up in MCC in 2021 to deliver active travel initiatives throughout the County.</p> <p>Further progression during 2021 of the Greenway projects.</p>	
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Transportation

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to developing and managing County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefits of our citizens. The Roads Service is key to delivering these benefits. The specific priorities and objectives for the Roads Service are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
To maintain & improve the structural quality of the road network.	7	<p>Progress Overlay Schemes at approved sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.60km of national road strengthening at Monaghan Town (N2) and Clonurla (N54) with total combined costs of €2.2 million. <p>Deliver Regional and Local Road Restoration Improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45.1Kms of road improvement carried out. <p>Implement funding for Specific Improvement Grants on Regional roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85.6kms of Local & Regional roads. <p>Implement LIS & CIS Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 LIS lanes completed, 6 CIS schemes. <p>Bridge Rehabilitation Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 bridges completed, designs and site investigations completed at 9 other bridge structures. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Identified schemes completed</p> <p>Partially completed</p>
To plan, develop and progress strategic infrastructural routes.	7	<p>Implement Road Improvement Schemes identified in Ireland 2040 and County Development Plans.</p> <p>Clontibret to the Border</p> <p>Ardee to Castleblayney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred Route Corridors finalised and prepared for publishing in 2021. 	<p>Phase 3, Design & Environmental Evaluation in progress.</p>

		<p>Progress N54 Tullybryan as Minor Improvement Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1kms road realignment scheme progressed to Phase 4 of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines for Minor Projects. <p>N53 Ballinacarry Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of Design Consultants to progress this cross-border project through design & planning stages. <p>Plan, design & provide infrastructure to assist with modal shifts to walking and cycling routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulster Canal Greenway progressed to preparation of Part 8 approval for Phase 2. Design Consultants for the N2 Cycle Path Schemes were procured in 2021 to implement the scheme through the Design, Statutory Processes and Procurement phases in 2022. <p>Implement funding for Specific Improvement Grants on Regional roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the Part VIII process for Specific Improvement works at Brackley Bridge and R181 Drummillard. 	<p>Completed of Phase 3 of the design process Phase 4 in progress.</p> <p>Consultants appointed & preliminary design ongoing</p> <p>Part 8 planning granted Route selection complete</p> <p>Brackley Bridge works under way R181 detailed design underway</p>
To provide an appropriate and adequate road maintenance service	1, 7	<p>Implement PSCI Road Survey and monitoring programme in line with national targets.</p> <p>100% of roads surveyed.</p> <p>NOAC R1:</p>	

		<p>100% PSCI Survey of Regional Network completed. 100% PSCI resurvey of Local Tertiary Road Network completed.</p> <p>Implement Winter Maintenance schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAC R2: Completed Regional Road Grants Works in accordance with agreed Restoration programme. • Winter Maintenance Plans reviewed and operational. 76 call outs were completed in 2019/2020. <p>Deliver Regional & Local Road Restoration Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 11 LIS roads, 6 CIS roads and piloting of the CBGM and Reclaimed Asphalt trails. <p>Maintain appropriate resources to provide a core road maintenance service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant, Stocks and staffing levels and training in place. <p>Co-ordinate Severe Weather Action Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SWAT team met on 3 occasions to monitor & co-ordinate emergency responses. 	<p>Completed Completed</p> <p>Works complete, new 3-year programme agreed 2022/24</p> <p>Plans adopted</p> <p>LIS and CIS schemes delivered according to budgetary allocation.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>3 out of 4 meetings held</p>
Ensure effective administration & governance of Roads Programmes.	2, 7, 9	<p>Administer road opening licensing, permits, road closures, signage and customer service requests efficiently. Enforcement of the 1993 Roads Act offences.</p> <p>The following number of applications were responded to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads & Services Abutting: 238 • Abnormal Loads: 89 • Road closures: 41 • Customer Service Queries: 212 <p>Facilitate the administration of projects and budgetary spend.</p>	<p>All applications processed.</p> <p>Customer Service requests actioned</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All monies recouped in a timely manner from funding Departments: DTTAS, TII & Dept of Community & Rural Affairs in line with eligibility of expenditure. 	Monies drawn down in a timely manner
Enhance the safety of the road network.	1, 3	<p>Deliver Safety Improvement Schemes on National road network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered three HD17 safety improvement schemes on national routes (N54 Monaghan Town Roundabout, N2 Tirnaneill & Smithborough Pedestrian crossing). <p>Implement Safety Improvement scheme works on Regional & local roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes throughout the county on the local and regional road network. <p>Deliver National Road Maintenance Programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works carried at various location on the National Road Network including, N54 Smithboro, N54 Skeagh Bridge, N54 Tullybryan and N2 Emyvale. <p>Implement the VRS safety barriers repair/ replacement programmes on the applicable National routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs to VRS (crash barrier) and newly installed VRS carried out at six locations across the network. <p>Implement actions in the Noise Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise monitoring undertaken as required. <p>Implement Fencing Retrofit programme.</p>	<p>Identified schemes completed</p> <p>Identified schemes completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>VRS inspected, replaced and repaired as needed.</p> <p>Completed and submitted to EPA</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.48kms of fencing installed at 3 locations on National Roads.	Fencing installed in accordance with the approved schedule of works
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Planning

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting and protecting a clean safe environment which is viable and sustainable. A further corporate objective is to develop and manage County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. The Council's priorities and objectives for the Planning Service in these areas, together with the performance standards to be met, for 2021 are outlined below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
<p>To provide an effective, equitable and consistent planning service.</p> <p>Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy requirements.</p> <p>Operate an enforcement system in line with legislative and policy requirements.</p>	<p>1, 3, 4, 6</p>	<p>Despite the majority of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions remaining in place, the Planning Section continued to provide the level of service and access to information required to deliver an effective, equitable and consistent planning service.</p> <p>Despite a significant increase in the numbers of planning applications, the Planning Section fulfilled its statutory duties in respect of development management in line with legislative and policy requirements.</p> <p>The Planning Section fulfilled its statutory duties in respect of enforcement in line with legislative and policy requirements.</p>	<p>Performance is bench marked through NOAC indicators P2, P3 and P4.</p> <p>All planning application further information requests and decisions were issued within the legislative timeframes and were determined in accordance with the provisions of the County Development Plan, national policy and the Development Contribution Scheme.</p> <p>Enforcement actions adhered to the legislative timeframes and policy requirements. The number of enforcement cases closed last year increased from 2020 and almost half of all closed cases in 2021 were resolved prior to progressing to formal enforcement</p>

Implement development contribution scheme within legislative and policy requirements.		The provisions of the Development Contribution Scheme were applied to all planning application decisions, and development contributions due were collected.	proceeding. The Local Authority ranked 11th nationally in terms of percentage of cases closed on foot of formal enforcement proceedings. Appropriate development contributions were applied as a condition of planning permission were required and the collection of development contributions due was progressed.
To ensure a planning policy framework for balanced and sustainable development in the urban and rural areas. Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements.	1, 4, 6	The Planning Section continued to formulate planning policy which is balanced and sustainable. The Planning Section progressed planning policy to adoption by the elected members within the legislative timeframes and policy requirements.	A new Development Contributions Scheme was adopted in 2021 for the period up to and including 2026.
Manage and protect the built heritage within the County.	3, 5, 6	The Planning Section continued to administer the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).	Nine properties were awarded funding under the BHIS and HSF in 2021
Resolve remaining unfinished housing developments in the county and take in charge developments as required.	1, 6	In 2021 the Planning Section continued to seek resolution of unfinished housing developments in the County in collaboration with other sections of the Council and Irish Water with services completion works have been carried out on some developments. The Planning Section also continued to pursue security bonds on a small number of developments throughout the County, and a number of estates underwent a technical assessment to enable them to be progressed to taking in charge.	By the end of 2021 the number of unfinished housing developments in the County had been reduced to three.

Reduce the level of dereliction.	1, 6	Work on addressing dereliction continued with the completion of the redevelopment of a number of derelict sites and additional Derelict Sites Notices being served.	A total of 13 sites were removed from the Derelict Sites Register in 2021 with 24 sites remaining on the Derelict Sites Register at 31 December 2021.
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Health & Safety Unit			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Manage and implement the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees and others that could be affected by Monaghan County Council's operations by being compliant with legislation, codes of practice and best practice.	10	<p>Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) in place and compliant (reviewed every six months). Fire Section set up with a new Online H&S Manual. 38 x (HSSP22 to HSSP55) Generic Hazard and Risk Assessments developed and added to online generic procedures. 38 x Municipal District Generic Hazard and Risk Assessments developed. 20 Generic Procedures reviewed. Veterinary Section set up with new Online H&S Manual.</p> <p>H&S Unit Corporate Risk Register reviewed and updated quarterly.</p> <p>2021 H&S Unit Operational Plan in place and achieved. H&S Unit Monthly Reports issued to the MT on time. 30 x Safety Briefings developed and delivered to all employees. 273 Inspections conducted. 174 H&R Assessments conducted.</p> <p>Quarterly consultation with each member of the Safety Committee and the COVID-19 Employee Representatives.</p> <p>Both newsletters issued on time.</p> <p>Events conducted over the five days of H&S Week.</p> <p>All incidents investigated and recorded on the 2021 register.</p>	<p>Review and maintain the MCC Online H&S Management System including the Corporate Safety Statement, H&R Assessment and Inspections.</p> <p>Develop and maintain the H&S Unit Corporate Risk Register.</p> <p>2021 H&S Unit Operational Plan in place.</p> <p>Meet with the Safety Committee Members.</p> <p>2 x Newsletters.</p> <p>Participate in European H&S Week.</p> <p>Investigate incidents and maintain records.</p>

Corporate Services			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
<p>To ensure democratic accountability and effective governance.</p> <p>Provide robust business management, risk management, audit and corporate governance structures and systems in compliance with statutory obligations.</p>	2, 3, 9, 11	<p>11 Co Co Meetings held 12 CPG meetings held</p> <p>(Donations) - 18 completed forms were received by the closing date of 31st January 2021. (Annual Declaration - Ethics) – 18 completed forms were received by the closing date of the last day of February 2021. 80 relevant staff were asked to complete a declaration form, all forms were received by the last day of February 2021.</p> <p>5 Audit Committee meetings held 11 Internal Audit reports issued All Internal Audit Recommendations followed. All statutory reports issued.</p> <p>Annual Report adopted by June 2022 Annual Service Delivery Plan adopted by 31 March 2022 Monthly Management Report submitted to Council NOAC returns submitted by specified date NOAC report reviewed and analysed Risk registers reviewed</p>	<p>Agenda business transacted effectively; follow-up actions implemented.</p> <p>Up-to-date and complete Ethics Register in place by 28/02/2022</p> <p>2021 Internal Audit Plan delivered 2021 Audit Committee work plan delivered Training undertaken by staff and Audit Committee</p> <p>All statutory deadlines met and Reports submitted to elected members for adoption</p> <p>Quarterly reports to SMT and Audit Committee</p>
Manage the Annual Register of Electors. Organise Local Elections and Election Count.	3	Up-to-date register published in accordance with statutory dates	Publish up-to-date register

To promote and deliver accessible information on voter participation.		Promote 'Your Vote Your Voice'. Campaigns promoted via Social Media, Website and local Newspapers	No. of campaigns promoted through social media platforms and local print
To ensure compliance with legislative and statutory obligations in service delivery.	3, 9	<p>Developed and supported the council implementing a suite of policies and procedures to achieve compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR</p> <p>Continued to develop best practice to ensure compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR and data protection, including developing and implementing the necessary policies, procedures and protocols and processing personal data in an open and transparent manner.</p> <p>Delivered '<i>Data Breach and Security Awareness</i>' training to All Staff. Delivered '<i>GDPR and Data Protection</i>' refresher training to All Staff including new employees who had joined the organisation since 2018.</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Awareness training delivered to staff in compliance with Children's First Act 2015</p> <p>Ensure compliance with the Official Languages Act 2003</p>	<p>Having appropriate policies, procedures and protocols in place to demonstrate that Monaghan County Council is achieving compliance with data protection legislation.</p> <p>Delivering awareness training to all staff and Elected Members to ensure compliance with GDPR and data protection</p> <p>MCC Safeguarding Statement and Policy & Procedures in place</p> <p>Scéim na Gaeilge actions for 2021 implemented.</p>
Deliver quality inclusive services to our customers that reflects the diversity of our communities	3	<p>Communications Officer appointed</p> <p>Draft Communications Strategy prepared</p>	<p>Communications Strategy approved and circulated</p> <p>Customer Care Plan updated</p>

		National Catalogue of Services Project completed. MCC point of contact to continue to liaise with National Project Board	Raise public awareness and encourage website usage
Enable the public to gain access to records held by the Council to the greatest extent possible consistent with the right to privacy and the public interest.	3	<p>Processed 3 'Data Subject Access' requests under GDPR in a fair and timely manner</p> <p>67 FOI requests received 06 AIE requests received No Protected Disclosures received</p>	<p>Ensuring compliance of the rights of individuals under GDPR and Data Protection</p> <p>Respond to information requests, complaints and protected disclosures in line with statutory requirements</p>

Corporate Assets

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting and protecting a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. The Council seeks to develop and manage County Monaghan's built assets to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefits. The Council seeks to develop Capital Projects in line with the strategic objectives of the Council and to provide high quality facilities for all users. The Council seeks to bring a high level of consistency of approach to the procurement, management and delivery of projects across the organisation in line with the Public Spending Code and the improved procurement structures embedded into the organisation. The specific priorities and objectives for the Corporate Assets Section are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Asset management of Public Lighting & continued optimisation of energy efficiency.	7, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Lighting inventory maintained Effective Asset Management of Public Lighting infrastructure and ensure effective delivery of Public Lighting maintenance contract. All PL upgraded to energy efficient LED lights to maximise energy efficiency. 	<p>NOAC E5 - Energy efficiency performance performance indicators report: A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009)</p> <p>Achieve Public sector Energy targets.</p>
Continue to progress Public Sector energy efficiency target.	7, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 Energy Action Plan Prepared & implemented. Planning for 2030 Energy and Carbon targets has commenced. Corporate Energy Policy reviewed and updated Act as EPO (Energy Performance Office) for Monaghan County Council. Monitor and report all energy used by the Council to SEAI . Achieved 48.6% energy reductions 	<p>NOAC E5 - Energy efficiency performance performance indicators report: A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009).</p> <p>Achieve Public sector Energy targets.</p>

<p>Delivery of Capital Programme.</p> <p>Application of Monaghan County Council Accessible procurement strategy to all capital projects.</p>	<p>7, 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual three-year Capital Programme prepared • Project Governance policies in place for Capital Projects. • Coordinate and assisted in delivery of Capital Building Projects across organisation • Identify sustainable uses for Council owned derelict properties and progress towards redevelopment • Worked with Corporate Procurement Team in delivering Capital Projects 	<p>Compliance with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Spending Code. • MCC Procurement Governance and Guidelines • Ensure effective cost controls, time management, risk mitigations are in place and continuous monitoring and review. • Delivery of building projects
<p>Coordinate the management of the Council's property portfolio & ensure modern facilities for the delivery of services.</p>	<p>7, 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed I.T. based Property Portfolio maintained and updated. • Worked closely with National Asset Management Group • Continued to implement the recommendations of the L.G. A.S. VFM report No. 30 • Updated Policy for the acquisition and disposal of Property Assets to ensure effective governance of the purchase, sale, lease & transfer of all properties by Council adopted • Maintained up to date Property Asset Management system • Optimise the use of all active properties. • Ensure office facilities in place for the effective delivery of Council Services • Coordinate maintenance and management of Council Building Portfolio • Worked with Corporate Procurement Team & OGP in procuring goods, services and works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Interest Register in place to ensure a comprehensive inventory of property currently owned by M.C.C is effectively managed by Sections. • Progress ownership of title for unregistered properties. Effective use and management of property achieved across organisation. • Put in place and support property management committee to coordinate all property owning sections of the council • Ensure MCC assets in National database are up to date

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseen the management and operation of Monaghan Leisure Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Governance in place for Monitoring and Reporting and reviewed. Disposals in line with Section 183 of L.G. Act. Acquisition & Disposals to be recorded on PIR system. Property Asset Management Plan reviewed Compliance with LGAS VFM 30 Annual Report of Property Assets prepared Monitoring of KPIs and Metrics. Annual Review of Office Space Utilisation. Annual review of workspace needs Systems in place for planned and response maintenance in accordance with LGAS VFM 30. Record and Monitor property; metrics, KPI's and benchmark. Record & Review Ratio of Planned and Response maintenance
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Museum			
Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Actions for 2021	Performance Standards
Implement Peace Campus Programme Plan.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	<p>Develop museum exhibition displays for the new Peace Campus</p> <p>Agree action plan with all stakeholders to action the Peace Campus Programme for 2021</p> <p>Work in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure the new museum displays are fully accessible in design</p> <p>Develop plan to move the collections of the museum to the new site at the Peace Campus</p>	<p>Interpretation plan for display developed</p> <p>Audit of the museum collection of display and storage 75% complete</p> <p>Ongoing consultation with key stakeholders including the Ulster Scots Agency.</p> <p>Deferred to 2022 due to impact of covid restrictions</p> <p>Draft plans in place for accessible designs</p> <p>Draft movement of collection plan in place, to be developed further in 2022</p>
Implement the Monaghan Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022.	3, 5, 6	<p>Complete Monaghan Murals project Phase 1</p> <p>Organise Monaghan War of Independence Cross Border project with Fermanagh Museums</p> <p>Launch Rossmore Minecraft Project</p>	<p>1 mural completed in Castleblayney</p> <p>Mural for Monaghan Town stalled due to challenge in securing a wall in the town.</p> <p>Project deferred to 2022 due to impact of Covid 19</p> <p>Rossmore in Minecraft project and launched.</p> <p>National media attention and to date 25 schools have received</p>

		Develop Impact of Partition Project in partnership with the Ulster Scots Agency	<p>training in how to access the resource.</p> <p>The platform is also available in a more accessible format for the general public.</p> <p>Report completed and submitted to relevant stakeholders for discussion and sign off.</p>
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Arts Office

Monaghan County Council through their Arts Section aims to champion, develop and invest in artistic expression to enrich peoples' lives. The Council works to nurture and create the conditions in which great art can happen, while at the same time ensuring that as many people as possible can engage with the arts and discover what art can do for them. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Implementation of the Co Arts Development Plan	5	<p>The 8-year framework agreement 2020-2017 between MCC & the Arts Council was approved by the SPC and the of the Arts Development plan extended to 2023</p> <p>1. The Artist</p> <p>2. Children & Young People</p>	<p>Delivered a working strategic Objectives for MCC focusing on 3 key goals in policy and funding priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Artist • Children & young People • Creating capacity <p>Artist Support Scheme awarded €10K to 18 artists.</p> <p>Value Added Scheme awarded €6K to 5 Artist</p> <p>Platform 31 Scheme awarded 1 bursary of €8K to an artist</p> <p>Clones Artist Studios has 1st 2 Artist in residence</p> <p>Council maintained partnership with Cavan CC & CMETB in supporting Music Generation</p> <p>MCC maintain funding and support to our key deliverer of this policy with LAEP (local Arts in education partnership)</p>

		3. Creating Capacity	<p>Delivered our Arts Partners funding scheme to our Venues & Festival in the county</p> <p>Supported an events programme at the Kavanagh Centre.</p> <p>Expanded our reach in delivering 2 Dept Funding schemes LLPPS I & 2</p>
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Heritage

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. The Council's Heritage Office plays a key role in this area and in the local implementation of the National Heritage Plan and National Biodiversity Plan. The Heritage section's priorities and objectives are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Implement Monaghan Heritage and Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2020-2025	3, 5, 6	<p><i>To protect, conserve and advocate for our biodiversity, tangible and intangible heritage, contributing to sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation.</i></p> <p>Implementation of the plan continued with focus on 7 of the 13 strategic themes in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding awarded from Heritage Council. • Funding awarded from Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government National Biodiversity Fund. • Funding awarded from DHHLG CMF. • Managed Community Monuments Fund which aims to protect archaeological monuments from impacts of climate change. • Completed and published Monaghan Wetland Action Plan. • Completed and published Monaghan Hedgerow Appraisal Survey. • Published archaeological monograph on Black Pigs Dyke. 	<p>11 actions in the plan delivered.</p> <p>1 Hard cover book published.</p> <p>4 technical reports published online.</p> <p>Heritage Council funding secured for 2021</p> <p>Biodiversity funding secured from NPWS.</p> <p>Community Monuments Fund scheme administered.</p> <p>Conservation works to 2 archaeological monuments.</p> <p>5 podcast episodes.</p> <p>4 public workshops/talks</p> <p>4 County Heritage Forum meetings</p>

Implement the Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022	3, 5, 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed phase 2 of County Holy Wells project and inventory. Wetland surveys of selected sites and report. Conservation works to Killeevan abbey ruin. Conservation specification for Errigal Truagh church ruin. Conservation of St. Tighernach's stone shrine, Clones. County Monaghan Heritage Forum meetings held online. Participated in Heritage Week, World Wetlands Day and Biodiversity Day. Released five new podcast episodes in our Heritage at the Heart podcast series. Seminars and events held online – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black Pigs Dyke with authors of publication. 2. Hedgerow Report findings with surveyors. 3. Monaghan Wetland Action Plan workshop. 4. Monaghan Wetland Network launch and consultation with stakeholders. 5. Heritage videos for children. Ongoing liaison with artist for the Bog Project. Wetlands film progressed. Rossmore Mausoleum phase 2. 	<p>Bog project progressed</p> <p>Conservation Specifications produced for mausoleum.</p>
Pollinator Plan Guidelines for Local Authorities	1, 5, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting MCC to implement the guideline. Distribution of materials and information to groups. 	Advice to MCC and reporting to the NBDC.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of AIPP signage. 	Increase in area under better grassland management.
Collaborative action for the Natura Network Interreg V project	1, 5, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Uplands Working Group. • Attendance at steering group meetings and cross-border departmental group meetings. • Drain blocking on degraded blanket bog areas. • Fire-Risk Management Plan completed for Sliabh Beagh and stakeholder group established. • Conservation grazing extended. • Removal of invasive species from blanket bog. • Local stakeholder meetings held online. 	<p>Procurement, forecasting, reporting and recoupment through eMS & SEUPB requirements.</p> <p>Attendance and reporting at 6 steering group meetings for CANN and cross-border agency meetings</p> <p>Completion of on-site conservation works and hectareage improved increased.</p>

Human Resources

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to ensuring that there is an appropriately resourced, skilled and motivated workforce to meet the priorities and objectives of the organisation. The HR section has the lead role in delivering on the Council's commitments in this area. The 2021 service delivery plan for HR is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	High Level Goal	Progress in 2021	Performance Standards
Plan and deliver our Organisation's Workforce requirements.	3, 10	<p>Develop a Workforce that is equipped with the skills and competencies to meet the challenges of our evolving environment.</p> <p>Implement Our People Strategy 2020-2024</p> <p>Carry out continuous Workforce Planning for the organisation.</p> <p>Legislation and statutory obligations.</p> <p>Ensure ease of access through technology</p>	<p>380.27 WTE's at 31/12/2021.</p> <p>Workshops held with staff and unions – Strategy approved by Management Team on 6/10/2021. Number of Objectives achieved in 2021. Progress to be reviewed quarterly in 2022.</p> <p>Succession Planning, business continuity and training needs met, panels maintained.</p> <p>Ensure compliance with legal and statutory obligations including GDPR. Eight policies/procedures were revised and approved by Management Team in 2021 as follows: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Leave policy & Procedure 2. Maternity Leave Policy and Procedure 3. Parental Leave Policy & Procedure 4. Paternity Leave Policy & Procedure 5. Force Majeure Leave Policy & Procedure 6. Attendance Management Policy & Procedure 7. Sick Leave Policy & Procedure 8. Dignity at Work Policy & Procedure <p>Continued phase rollout of Core V.19 to People XD V.28. Phase 2 People Management successfully rolled out end of February 2022. Phase 3 & 4 (Core Time & Payroll) rollout expected in 2023. Phased</p>

		<p>Laserfiche project continued with the assistance of I.T.</p> <p>Makodata 'Data Analytics' project initiated in conjunction with the LGMA.</p>	<p>upgrades will allow for improved optimisation of system.</p> <p>BI reporting tool is reaching its end of life and is no longer fully supported by Access group. Insight reporting is rolled out to replace BI reports. Insight much easier to use, faster and is fully supported by Access group.</p> <p>Parental Leave applications process is now fully automated through Laserfiche The application process for family friendly initiatives are scheduled to be automated later in 2022 Online PDP forms are fully automated for calendar year 2022.</p> <p>HR Data Analytics project has been rolled out and fully operational. It allows Human Resource Management to make better informed decisions for workforce planning and future needs of organisation.</p>
Be an employer of Choice.	3, 10	<p>Attract and recruit people with the appropriate knowledge, skills and behaviours.</p> <p>Promote career opportunities and the potential for development and progressing offered by MCC</p> <p>Enhance recruitment and selection processes by utilizing the full range of marketing and communication channels to promote recruitment campaigns while also ensuring ease of access through technology</p>	<p>16 recruitment campaigns in 2021 573 applications 576 interviews were conducted (mostly remote interviews due to the Pandemic) 22 competitions were completed and panels were put in place. 50 candidates were appointed from the above competitions which arose from vacant posts and promotions in 2020/2021. During 2021 14 staff resigned and 16 staff retired.</p> <p>Application forms can now be submitted online and automatically acknowledged.</p>

		Continue to build strategic alliances with other organisations to position MCC as a key employer of choice.	<p>A new website www.localgovernmentjobs.ie was launched in July 2021 and all council vacancies for open competitions are now published on website.</p> <p>Skilled professional interview boards training in competency-based interviewing are appointed.</p> <p>A highly skilled and trained workforce is in place.</p> <p>Training and Development needs analysis were carried out and prioritised.</p> <p>Human Resources plays a critical role in supporting Engineers Ireland Accreditation and technical staff development, Leadership, Graduate and Accounting Technicians Programmes. Committee meets on quarterly basis.</p>
Create culture of continuous learning and development.	3, 10	<p>Implement annual training and development programme and ensure that all training is prioritised in line with the business plan.</p> <p>Promote the 70:20:10 reflective learning model as suggested by Engineers Ireland</p> <p>Implement and monitor PMDS</p> <p>Implement induction and probation</p>	<p>168 various training courses, conferences, seminars, workshops and online webinar courses delivered in 2021</p> <p>19 relevant In-House Health & Safety Courses</p> <p>Financial assistance and support were provided to 24 staff who pursued courses of further education. This figure included 8 subsidised or eligible grant funded courses.</p> <p>PDP's were monitored during 2021.</p> <p>Inductions and probations carried out in full with all new staff.</p>
Empower and enable our managers and supervisors.	10	Training provided to all Line Managers on PMDS including dealing with underperformance and policies such as Disciplinary, Dignity at Work, Grievance and attendance management etc.	Line management capacity and competence to manage employees effectively to ensure smooth running of the organisation is achieved.

		<p>Line Managers given the responsibility for monitoring the performance of new staff during probation period and taken appropriate action where required</p> <p>Policies and procedures are developed, and refresher training and awareness is provided to new and existing Line Managers.</p> <p>Engaging in Senior Staff Forum to disseminate new HR policies/procedures or initiatives.</p> <p>Continuing support of Engineers Ireland Accreditation</p>	<p>Newly appointed line managers are supported by Human Resources and Senior Management.</p> <p>On the job training, mentoring and coaching of Line Managers is provided.</p> <p>Policies and procedures are developed, communicated timely to support effective people management.</p> <p>Regular meetings are held, and Senior Staff Forum are updated on Human Resource activities.</p> <p>All CPD Committee meetings held quarterly were attended and strongly supported by Human Resources.</p>
Promote positive employee relations and engagement.	10	<p>Communicate and consult effectively with employees on key organisation activities and plans</p> <p>Recognise individuals, team and organisation achievements</p> <p>Ensure that Performance Management is in operation throughout the organisation to facilitate formal arrangement for Line Managers to meet with staff and agree objectives.</p> <p>Maintain Collaborative employee relations with unions and staff representatives, respecting IR mechanisms.</p> <p>Working to resolve issues up to and including attendance at the WRC or Labour Court</p> <p>Provide information and consulting on relevant issues.</p> <p>Promotion of new Employee Assistance Service and Wellbeing App</p>	<p>Management reports are updated monthly.</p> <p>Regular Union meetings were held during 2021. Agendas and minutes are issued.</p> <p>Successes are recorded in Social Media, staff portal, REACH, Annual report and monthly Management report.</p> <p>40 years' service are recognised.</p> <p>Objectives agreed for year ahead and compared with previous year.</p> <p>Positive and constructive feedback given to staff.</p> <p>Areas identified where additional supports are required with regards to training and development.</p>

			EAS is promoted and new APP available and provided to staff, members and their families.
Create a fair, supportive and healthy working environment.	10	<p>Promote and support a culture of dignity, respect and equality</p> <p>Continue to develop a health and wellness framework to create a health working environment by promoting early intervention and good communications</p> <p>Raise awareness of equality and diversity, equal treatment for all.</p>	<p>Clear Policies and Procedures implemented consistently across the Council – revised Dignity at Work Policy and Procedure approved and implement in 2021. All policies are uploaded onto Staff Portal.</p> <p>Relevant training provided.</p> <p>Health & Wellness Committee established in HR. HR staff member sat on National Wellness Working Group to develop a Well-being Strategy Framework for all Local Authorities</p> <p>Employee Assistance Programme in place</p> <p>Wellness APP – encourage downloading</p> <p>Wellbeing events</p> <p>Health & Safety system</p> <p>Eyesight tests</p> <p>Flu Vaccinations</p> <p>Family friendly policies</p> <p>Occupational Health care.</p> <p>Operation of attendance management system</p> <p>NOAC C2: Monitor of sick leave to reduce absenteeism. Sick leave in 2021 continues to be less than the 3.5% national requirement working days lost to sickness</p> <p>Covid 19 instances were recorded and monitored during 2021. Remote working hybrid rotas facilitated throughout organisation.</p> <p>Work-life balance achieved.</p>

			Raised awareness of equality and diversity, equal treatment for all. Training to take place in 2022.
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