

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 13 June 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr A. Campbell, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. P. Clifford, A/Chief Executive; Ms. P Monahan, Director of Services, Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services, Ms. N. Woods, A/Director of Services, Ms O McConnon, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator & Ms. L. Brannigan, Senior Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllrs McCooey, S Treanor

*On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to the wife and family of the late Peter Murphy, former employee of Monaghan Co Council who had tragically passed away on the 23 May 2022.*

All members of the Council associated themselves with the vote of sympathy. Mr Paul Clifford, Deputy Chief Executive, associated himself and the staff with the vote of sympathy.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

**Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the name of Cllr R. Truell as follows:

*'I wish to request that Monaghan County Council write to both the Sunday Independent newspaper and Mr. Joe Brolly expressing our deep disappointment regarding a printed article in the Sunday Independent edition dated 5th June 2022, titled "Woeful s\*\*\* but we'll take it anyway".*

*As the outgoing Cathaoirleach for the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, I am extremely saddened by the comparison of Clones Town to Calcutta (Kolkata, the official name since 2001) in India, where the context of the comparison was meant in a critical and disrespectful manner. I am requesting that in their letter to both the Sunday Independent newspaper and Mr. Joe Brolly, that Monaghan County Council demand a written apology from Mr. Joe Brolly in a printed edition of the newspaper'.*

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S Gilliland, it was agreed to enter 'into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motion submitted as urgent business.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr C Carthy, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

## **Resignation of Cllr Mary Kerr-Conlon:**

The Meetings Administrator read a letter received from Cllr Mary Kerr-Conlon, informing the Deputy Chief Executive and members of the Council of her decision to retire from the membership of the Council after over 25 years of service as an elected representative. In her correspondence, Cllr Kerr-Conlon wished her Fine Gael colleagues on Monaghan County Council continued success into the future. She thanked the community which she served for 25 years for placing their trust in her over multiple elections and the countless officials who assisted her in her work over the years.

The Cathaoirleach stated that it was an incredible achievement in public service and testament to the high regard in which Cllr Kerr Colon was held by the local community.

All members paid tribute to Cllr Kerr Conlon and joined in wishing her and her family every happiness in her well-earned retirement as did the Deputy Chief Executive on behalf of the staff.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **(i) Minutes of Council meeting held on 09 May 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr S. Conlon it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 09<sup>th</sup> May 2022, be confirmed.

### **2. Correspondence.**

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

- Email from the Minister for Local Government and Planning, Mr. Peter Burke, T.D., regarding the extension and duration of planning permission grants.
- Email from Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding the Minor Injuries Unit and increasing the bed capacity at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., regarding funding for regional and local roads.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Gaeltacht, Mr. Jack Chambers, T.D., regarding bilingual packaging on consumer goods.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., regarding the review of the Department's Action Plan on bullying.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding social housing limits.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding extending the Fuel Allowance payment.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding payments to artists with disabilities.
- Letter from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D., regarding the Personal Assistance Scheme.
- Letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the National Transport Authority, Ms. Anne Graham regarding the condition of the public conveniences at Monaghan Bus Station.
- Letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the National Transport Authority, Ms. Anne Graham regarding the improvement of services at Monaghan Bus Station.
- Notice of Motion from the Co-ordinator of the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, Mr. Kevin McNally to request that Monaghan County Council seek from the government and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D. the

allocation of funding for the purchase of land and provision of services to facilitate Services Sites in County Monaghan.

- Resolution from Cavan County Council regarding the ban on the cutting and sale of turf.
- Resolution from Galway County Council regarding endorsing and supporting the rollout of the Public Recognition Marker (PRM) for the LGBTQI+ Community,

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

- Email from Monaghan County Board of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann regarding funding received for the Fleadh in Scotstown.
- Email from Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D., regarding roads, the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan General Hospital and the extension and duration of planning legislation.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council write to Minister Eamonn Ryan TD, the Minister with responsibility for transport requesting that his office and department carries out a comprehensive review of the visitor experience at Dublin airport including the long wait times for flights, the availability of hospitality ( food and beverages ) with a view radically improving all the services at our main airport.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council acknowledge the correspondence of the Department of Health of 10 May 2022 and express serious disappointment that the RCSI Hospital Group, the HSE, the Minister for Health and Government have no plans to extend the operating times of the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan General Hospital in view of the ever increasing hospital appointment/admissions waiting lists. Monaghan County Council again demand the extension of operating times of the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan General Hospital to 24/7 365 days per year with increased services to address people’s health needs.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, it was agreed that in view of the failure of the Minister for Climate Action, Communication Networks and Transport, Eamon Ryan TD to acknowledge the correspondence of Monaghan County Council of the invitation to visit the County to view the atrocious condition of County Monaghan's Local and Regional Roads and his failure to allocate additional funding, that we re-write to the Minister and to all local Oireachtas Members, requesting their immediate engagement with Minister Ryan on this issue, which is having a hugely negative impact on the agricultural, business and daily lives of the people of County Monaghan. We request them to respond individually to this Council on the outcome of their engagement with Minister Ryan, in relation to when he will visit to view for himself, the terrible condition of roads in Monaghan being faced, daily, by the residents of the County.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that this Council support the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District motion seeking from Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, the allocation of funding for the purchase of land and the provision of services to facilitate serviced sites in Co Monaghan to assist people to construct their own home to the standards they require.*

*On the proposal of Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that having*

*requested a meeting with current and previous Ministers but all to no avail, that this Council write to Minister Eamon Ryan TD, An Taoiseach, Michéal Martin TD, Tanaiste, Leo Varadkar T.D., local TDs and Senators requesting a meeting to discuss the dire state of our roads particularly local and tertiary roads in South Monaghan.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that this Council writes to Ian Carter Chief Executive of the RCSI Group seeking his support in securing additional opening hours at the Monaghan Hospital Minor Injuries Unit that will bring it in line with the ten other Minor Injuries Units across the State operating on a 12 hour / 7 day basis, and will assist in reducing the excessive waiting time experiences at Cavan General Hospital Emergency Department as highlighted in recurrent National Inpatient Experience Surveys.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that this Council seek clarification from the office of Anne Graham CEO of the National Transport Authority regarding the process involved in issuing operating licenses to commercial services such as Bus Eireann Expressway, including criteria associated with punctuality, seat capacity, and associated customer services, as failures in this regard continue at the Monaghan Bus Station.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that this Council congratulate the Board, members, and participants of the recent County Fleadh and thank them for their letter conveying gratitude for the Council's support. That we further extend our ongoing commitment to providing additional supports and cooperation in the event of Comhairle Chontae Mhuineachain deciding to host Fleadh Uladh.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr PJ. O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD to increase the income limits for eligibility for social housing.*

**3. To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).**

T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, referred to the Part VIII report which had been circulated in respect of the R181 Road Realignment & Widening Works, Lisnadarragh to Crossduff, Monaghan. He advised that no submissions had been received during the public consultation period.

*On the proposal Cllr S. Gilliland, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed to approve the R181 Road Realignment & Widening Works, Lisnadarragh to Crossduff, Monaghan as detailed in the Chief Executive's Reports prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

*On the proposal Cllr S. Gilliland, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council engage immediately with Cavan County Council and the Department of Transport for immediate commencement of works from Monaghan border (Lisnadarragh Bridge) on R181 to Baileboro to continue the upgrade works being carried out by Monaghan County Council.*

**4. To consider nominations to fill vacancies on the Joint Policing Committee**

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr C Carthy it was agreed to that Ms Edita Vaitkaitiene, Social Inclusion Representative nominated by Teach na Daoine and Ms Marion Donnelly, Community Representative nominated by Emyvale GAA be appointed to the

Council's Joint Policing Committee.

**5. To consider nomination to fill vacancy on the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC**

On the proposal of D. Maxwell seconded by S. Gilliland it was agreed that Cllr. C Carthy be appointed to the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC replacing Cllr. B McKenna.

**6. To consider the Artist Support Grant Scheme 2022**

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

*On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Artist Support Grant Scheme 2022:*

**Emerging Talent - €400 each**

<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Art Form</b>
Fiona Longmuir, <i>Annyalla</i>	Children's Author
Paul Sherry, <i>Doohamlet</i>	Musician/Composer
Rowan Greig, <i>Glaslough</i>	Visual /Fashion & Design
Roberta Ceginskaite, <i>Monaghan Town</i>	Dance/Choreography
Emily McGardle, <i>Corduff</i>	Visual Art/Printmaking

**Established Artists - €800 each**

<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Art Form</b>
Brendan McCahey, <i>Bawn</i>	Music/composer
Rachel Mae Hannon, <i>Monaghan Town</i>	Musician/songwriter
Seán McElwain, <i>Ballinode</i>	Music/Traditional
Orlagh Meegan Gallagher, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Visual Artist/outreach
Niamh McPhillips, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Performance Artist/Dance
Jonathan Hughes, <i>Castleblayney</i>	Filmmaker/scriptwriter
Shay Sweeney, <i>Castleblayney</i>	Music/Arranger
Paul McCloskey, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Visual Arts Painting
Sarah Wren Wilson, <i>Glaslough</i>	Visual Arts Painting
Declan Gorman, <i>Monaghan Town</i>	Theatre/Writer/Director
Niamh O' Connor, <i>Ballinode</i>	Visual Artist/Painter
Michelle Kettle, <i>Carrickmacross</i>	Visual Artist/ Painter

**7. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 24th May 2022**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May

2022 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

#### **8. To receive Management Report – May 2022**

The members noted the Management Report for the month of May which had been circulated with the agenda. The Deputy Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

*On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council request the immediate approval by the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD of the application for €700,000 for HAG housing grants for Co Monaghan to support and assist families to care for a person in their own home with the necessary adaptations. We also request the Minister and Government to review and increase the level of grant aid allowable to applicants in view of the ever-increasing costs of building materials and labour.*

*On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council write to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage requesting that the Part V rule, whereby tenants in Part V housing are not eligible to purchase their own home, be changed.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S Gilliland, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council write to the Department of Rural & Community Development and Minister Heather Humphreys to thank them for the current LIS funding. As we have a huge historic and current list of LIS, we request additional funding to complete this list of LIS projects as it is a vital part of rural development and infrastructure.*

#### **9. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

The members noted the reports from Cllrs. Keelan, Treanor and Truell in relation to their attendance at the following conference/training events:

- AILG – Module 2 – Climate Action – Co. Monaghan
- AILG – Annual Training Conference – Co. Donegal
- Personal Safety and Risk Assessments – Co. Cork
- LAMA – Housing and Rural Development – Co. Kilkenny
- IPB Insurance – Auditors – Co. Dublin

#### **10. Business submitted by Chief Executive**

The Deputy Chief Executive, P Clifford, provided an update to members on applications submitted for funding to the Shared Island Unit as follows:

- **Feasibility Study on the Restoration of the Ulster Canal from Clones to Lough Neagh** – in partnership with ICBAN, Cavan County Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- **Hydrogen as a green solution for Local Authority HGV’s.** – in partnership with East Border Region and all six EBR councils
- **Biodiversity Project to restore Peatlands along the Border** – in partnership with

East Border Region and all six EBR councils

- **Preplanning Works to develop a sectoral SME Innovation Cluster and Cross-border Collaborative Network** between Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.
- **Sliabh Beagh - Developing an Eco-tourism Destination** - a feasibility study in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council

#### **11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 09th May 2022**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 09<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

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

*On the proposal of Cllr PJ. O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr S. Coyle, it was agreed that Planning and Water Services sections would meet with members of Ballybay/Clones MD to discuss the Taken in Charge of the Alders Housing Estate, Ballybay in advance of the April Co meeting.*

#### **12. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

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

- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D., acknowledging that he had received the correspondence regarding the N2 which he had forwarded to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D.
- Email from the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Cllr. Paul McLean supporting the progression of the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme.

#### **13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project**

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

- Email from the Minister for Social Protection and Community & Rural Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding the response she received from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., regarding the resolution she had forwarded in relation to Eirgrid.

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council acknowledge the reply from Minister Heather Humphreys, TD and that we respond to the Minister relaying our deep concerns that conflict and confrontation could take place and if, as suggested by the correspondence, that access onto lands and property could be forced to construct the project where not consent exists, what action, if any, will your office take to ensure that the potential for conflict is avoided at all costs.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Connolly, seconded by Cllr Treanor, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council ask our legal section whether the ESB Act of 1927 continues to permit the ESB to enter lands to facilitate commercial ESB operations.*

**14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

Cllr P Treanor informed the meeting that Waterways Ireland are finalising acquiring the necessary land for developing the Ulster Canal Marina in Clones and have indicated that the project will commence in August.

**15. Questions:**

**Cllr. R Aughey asked:**

1. I understand that funding is being put in place for the recruitment of a dedicated biodiversity officer for each local authority rather than the post being shared with heritage. Can the council confirm when recruitment for such a post will take place?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are currently awaiting details directly from the Department or The Heritage Council for the recruitment of a Biodiversity Officer and the level of financial support that will be available to fund the post. The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is involved in ongoing work in formulating a Biodiversity Officer programme, to be considered by Local Authorities in the context of their existing commitments, the overall resources available to the Government and the demands on those resources.**

2. Reflecting on the experience of council employees working from home during the pandemic, what plans does the council have going forward for staff to be working at home or blended approach in the workplace in the future and can members be briefed on same?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are finalising Blended Working Policy and Procedure for the organisation and aim to commence the application process in quarter 3 of 2022.**

**Cllr. B McKenna asked:**

3. Will the Council please provide an update of progress on the Council's efforts to acquire the unfinished housing development at Chapel Court, Carrickroe, Emyvale, Monaghan?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council's Housing Department have carried out a survey of these properties to assess their suitability for social housing. It is now proposed to engage with the property owner through Derelict Site Acts 1990.**

**Cllr. C Carthy asked:**

4. Following a question, I submitted in 2018, has the Council's Tourism Section ever looked at the possibility of marketing 'Finn McColl's Seat' on the Lough Feagh estate in Carrickmacross as a tourism product?

**Reply: As Lough Feagh is a private estate which is not open to the public, it is not deemed appropriate to promote a facility to which there is no access.**

5. What are the latest figures for the Monaghan County Council housing waiting list (with a breakdown for each Municipal District)?

**Reply: The number of households on the housing waiting list is 1,193 (as per the latest Chief Executive/Management report). 577 of these are currently in receipt of**



**RAS/ HAP and a further 114 is on a transfer list. This data is available monthly on the Management report.**

**Applicants can choose up to 3 areas of choice and are not confined to one MD, therefore it is not possible to provide a breakdown per MD. If the members would like details on any specific area of choice, Housing would be happy to provide.**

6. Has there been any further progress in establishing a specific 'older persons' housing development in Co. Monaghan (similar to the North-East project in Dundalk)?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council is actively providing suitable accommodation for older persons in the County and is actively progressing new projects with an objective to provide 20% of all houses delivered within the County as age friendly.**

**Projects completed recently include:**

- **North & East Housing Association (NEHA) recently completed 12 age friendly apartments in Carrickmacross.**
- **Oaklee Housing recently completed 19 age friendly houses in Clones.**
- **Lui na Gréine Scotstown has 4 OPD's as part of the development.**

**Future projects include:**

- **Monaghan County Council has invited NEHA to work in tandem with the Council on a proposed development of housing for "older persons" in Castleblayney at the former fire station. The proposal has now been submitted to the Department under a Town Centre Architectural Competition and has been shortlisted, if successful, it is hoped that a design team will be appointed in Q3 2022.**
- **Cluid Housing Association hopes to proceed with the development of 9 houses for older persons / people with disabilities in Monaghan Town.**

7. Are there any moves to introduce an affordable rental scheme in counties like Monaghan where a large cohort of our population are over social housing income limits but not earning enough for a mortgage or to pay the rents currently being asked?

**Reply: There are no proposals to introduce a cost rental scheme in County Monaghan as currently the delivery of this scheme nationally is focused on densely populated urban areas where rental and affordability pressures are particularly acute.**

8. What processes are being looked at to improve the quality and durability of road patching in Co. Monaghan?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council continues to use and explore all current best-practice materials and processes for carrying out patch repairs on our road network. It must be borne in mind however that for a patch to be successful there must be a reasonable road base structure and surrounding pavement in reasonable condition for the patch to adhere successfully.**

**At many locations where patching is carried out the road is already in a poor condition overall. At these locations' patches will have a shorter performance life and are**

**intended to keep the road in a passable condition until such time as a more permanent solution can be provided. The nature of the more permanent solution is dependent on funding and prioritisation of the limited resources at our disposal.**

**Cllr. R Truell asked:**

9. I wish to request that Monaghan County Council provide an update on the installation of Playground Communication Boards? It was agreed at a previous County Council meeting that Monaghan County Council would install Playground Communication Boards at a number of test locations within the county, has this happened to date?

**Reply: Community staff are currently liaising with InterACT in Trinity College Dublin and Inclusion Ireland on the final design of a Communication Board which will be installed at Rossmore Forest Park Playground as part of a pilot project. The design will be finalised in June and procurement will commence immediately. Permission for installation of the board has recently been granted by Coillte. Communication Boards will be considered at other playground locations in Monaghan, as funding becomes available.**

10. I wish to request that Monaghan County Council, in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, conduct a camera/ speed survey on the N54 in Smithborough village (within the reduced speed limits in the village). I have received numerous representations from members of the public who live in the village that they are constantly witnessing vehicles travelling at high speeds through the village. I am requesting that a detailed camera/ speed survey is undertaken within the village for a respective period of time to allow the collation of data which can then determine if additional traffic calming measures are required within the village.

**Reply: Monaghan County Council will undertake a speed survey within the month of June to ascertain speeds through Smithborough Village, within the 50kph zone. The speed camera will be in place for a period of 7 days to allow for sufficient capture of data. Results will be assessed on completion of survey.**

**Cllr. S Coyle asked:**

11. Will Monaghan County Council give immediate consideration to the appointment of additional Traffic Warden's to County Monaghan as there is serious annoyance being expressed by business persons/shopkeepers/retailers/ratepayers at the lack of enforcement of Parking Time Regulations in all of our County Towns, as vehicles parking all day, preventing short stay potential customers from pulling in to shop in on street shops, in particular the issue has been highlighted in Ballybay, where to the great credit of Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, an excellent new Car Park has been provided at Ballybay Court Yard, in addition to the Clones Road Car Park and yet lengthy periods are being occupied by Parked Cars on Main Street, similar issues are being expressed in Clones, Monaghan Town etc?.

**Reply: There are no current plans to increase the number of Traffic Wardens employed by Monaghan County Council. In relation to the above-mentioned issues the enforcement of the Parking regulations in all the towns will be reviewed by each Municipal District of Monaghan over the coming months**

12. How many permanent Traffic Wardens to enforce Parking Byelaws/Restrictions are employed by Monaghan County Council in the County?

**Reply: There are four permanent Traffic Wardens employed by Monaghan County Council.**

13. When has Monaghan County Council/Municipal Districts undertaken a review of Traffic Parking Byelaws in line with demographic changes within in the Towns/Housing Estates of County Monaghan?

**Reply: Parking Bye laws were introduced in Monaghan Town in 2005 and amendments were made in 2006, 2010 and again in 2014. Monaghan Municipal District undertook a carparking strategy for Monaghan Town in 2017 also reviewing the parking byelaws. The Municipal District are currently designing a new carpark for the town which is scheduled to open later this year.**

Parking byelaws are currently in place for Ballybay and Clones towns. These byelaws will be reviewed when resources permit.

In 2021, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD undertook to review and update parking controls in Castleblayney and Carrickmacross Towns. Following a 4-week consultation exercise, the MD Elected Members adopted new Parking Control Schemes for both towns in February 2022.

No Traffic Parking Byelaws operate in housing estates. Parking in estates is reviewed when the need arises.

14. Church Street, Ballybay, is mainly a residential area, including O.P.D.s, with Christ Church, Ballybay and its fabulously refurbished Hall located at the top of the Street, as the exit and entrance to Church Street are located on the Market House Brea, serious concern is being expressed for Safety at this point. Can Monaghan County Council examine putting in place additional/new safety measures at this location on the Market House Brea?

Also, residences are finding parking spaces adjacent to their properties are being occupied for lengthy periods by non-users of Church Street facilities, can this occurrence be investigated by Monaghan County Council?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council will review the location and install additional signs providing advanced warning of the junction to road users. In relation to the parking issues, Monaghan County Council has investigated and liaised with the contractor for the Housing Project on Church Street, Ballybay, who has confirmed staff will use the new carpark recently provided. Please note there will be occasions of short duration parking/unloading which will be required for delivery of supplies for construction works.**

**Cllr. P Treanor asked:**

15. What is the update on the roll-out of Fibre Optic Broadband in County Monaghan? What is the predicted date for completion? Of those premises already 'passed', how many businesses/homes have accepted the offer to be connected?

**Reply: In 2021, 4,344 premises were passed under the National Broadband Plan around the Monaghan town area. These represent the first premises within the county awaiting connectivity under the National Broadband Plan. Build works are scheduled for several additional areas during 2022, including the Cootehill Deployment Area (DA), Emyvale Deployment area and both Clones and Carrickmacross Deployment areas. It is estimated that connections in Clones, Carrickmacross and Emyvale DAs will be available between March- June 2023. The build in other DAs is not expected to be completed before 2026. Detailed information from NBI about take up of new high-speed broadband for the Monaghan DA indicates a take up rate of approximately 27% (1,191 premises) currently. NBI have indicated previously that take up of fiber broadband was in line**

with expectations and with the experience from previous broadband rollout within Ireland.

Full details of build programme are listed below:

Deployment Area	# Premises in DA	Current Project Status	Anticipated Date for Connection
Monaghan	4344	Ready for Order (4336) Network Build in Progress (8)	Ready for Order now April 2022 –June 2022
Dundalk	53	Ready for Service	Ready for Order now
Clones	1183	Network Build in Progress	March 2023 –May 2023
Emyvale	1233	Network Build in Progress	March 2023 –May 2023
Carrickmacross	2809	Network Build in Progress	April 2023 –June 2023
Castleblaney	3504	Network Build in Progress	January 2025 –December 2026
Cootehill	1523	Survey Complete	January 2023 –December 2024
Bailieborough	23	Survey Pending	January 2025 –December 2026
Kingscourt	410	Survey Pending	January 2025 –December 2026
Additional Premises	449	Survey Pending	January 2025 –December 2026

16. How many Planning Permissions for Domestic accommodation have been granted in 2021 and 2022 - (a) Private, (b) Public and (c) AHBs? How many Starting Notices have been issued, and how many Completion Notices have been received by the Council during this period?

Reply:

Type	Private	Public (Social)	Approved Housing Body (AHB)
Total number of units for which planning permission (and Part 8) was granted in 2021 – 2022 (to date)	389	9	*0
Commencement Notice received 2021 -2022 (to date)	293	74	22
Completion Cert received 2021 -2022 (to date)	31	52	52

\*It is understood negotiations are ongoing between a number of AHBs and private developers in respect of potential acquisition.

Cllr. N Keelan asked:

17. In welcoming the proposed upgrading of the ( R181 ) Lough Egish to Shercock town regional road , what plans if any have the council to upgrade the regional route ( R179 ) from Carrickmacross to Shercock as this busy regional road is not fit for purpose given the number of accidents on this roadway including the number of HGVs that have ended up overturned in fields along this busy regional route?

**Reply: The Council has invested €1.187 Million in road improvement works on this road since 2018.**

**In February 22 the MD laid high friction surfacing along a section of this road where RTAs had been reported.**

**As a result of a RTA involving two HGVs where one vehicle left the road (the MD is awaiting a Garda report on this RTA). The MD carried out some remedial works at this location in May.**

**Approximately 3.5km of this road has been resurfaced over the last three years. Roads Section along with the MD engineering staff will continue to monitor this section of road and carry out additional works if necessary and as funding comes available.**

- 18. In relation to the government's (Housing for All policy) have the council any information in relation to the availability of grant aid for the upgrading and refurbishment of vacant properties in order to bring them back into residential use?**

**Reply: There are currently no grants available to private property owners to bring vacant residential properties back into use. The only scheme currently available is the "repair and lease" scheme which provides an interest free loan to property owners for properties that meet the scheme's criteria.**

- 19. What plans have the council working in conjunction with approved housing bodies to provide additional social housing in Inniskeen village and indeed other villages in the south of the county where a housing need has been established?**

**Reply: Currently there are no proposals with any AHB to provide social housing in Inniskeen or any other village in South County Monaghan.**

- 20. What is the up to date position in relation to the various grant aids available including Housing adaptation, mobility aids, housing aid for older people in terms of applications approved, applications awaiting assessment, funding available etc.?**

**Reply: A report on Housing grants has been provided in this month's Chief Executive Report.**

**Monaghan County Council's 2022 allocation for the delivery of Housing Grants has been received in the amount of €1,303,725.**

**A request for an additional allocation in the amount of €696,275 has been sought to meet the demand based on works on hand and ongoing requests for assistance.**

**In 2022 Monaghan County Council Housing Section have to date (23/05/2022)**

- **Received 217 applications**
- **Paid out on 77 applications and**
- **Recouped 76 applications in the amount of €643,443**
- **There is in excess of €1.1m at Works/Final/Recoupment (c.125 grants)**
- **There are in excess of 100 applications at Registration / Initial /Recommendation stages**

**Please note that some of the grants recouped and at works stage would have been received pre 2022.**

**Based on commitments currently on the Council's system it is necessary from Friday 24th June 2022 to only process Medical 1 Priority applications. All other application**

will be held until 2023 or until further funding becomes available.

**Only Medical 1 Priority applications will be considered for funding after this date.**

21. What is the up to date position in relation to the Lough Muckno feasibility study including insuring that environmental and sustainability concerns will be at the core of any plans and development into the future at this most important location?

**Reply: The first phase of the Feasibility Study process is to seek environmental and planning consultants to undertake an assessment of the concept development proposals for Lough Muckno. This will be a strategic and high-level assessment to the extent necessary as to enable the council make decisions as to the likely acceptability from an environmental and planning perspective of the proposals contained in the Visioning document.**

The tender was advertised on the E-tenders website on 31 May, and the deadline for submissions is 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**Cllr. S Conlon asked:**

22. For the Housing Section to outline Council's policy in relation to facilitating adaption works that provide for an additional room in the event of the medical needs of a tenant.

**Reply: Monaghan County Council considers applications from tenants for additional accommodation on a case-by-case basis in the event of medical needs of tenants. Each application for a transfer or additional room to accommodate the medical needs of a tenant must be accompanied by supporting documentation and specialist reports from suitably qualified medical practitioners such as General Practitioner (GP), Occupational Therapist and / or Medical Consultant. In addition to considering the medical needs of the tenant Monaghan County Council must also consider whether the provision of an additional room or alternatively a transfer to a more suitable property might be appropriate. In addition, the following funding conditions set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage must be complied with:**

- Value for money
- Appropriateness & Compliance
- Procurement

**Cllr. C Bennett asked:**

23. Can Monaghan County Council please provide some information in relation to their mortgages.
- What are the current rates for Council mortgages?
  - Are these rates fixed or variable or both?
  - Do mortgage holders with the council have the option to change to fixed or variable at any time?
  - Are there any new fixed rates being considered by the council with the possibility of mortgage interest increases this summer?

**Reply: A Local Authority Home Loan offers two fixed interest rate products:**

	<b>From 01.07.2022</b>	<b>Pre 01.07.2022</b>
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Fixed rate for terms of up to 25 years	3.3798% (2.845% interest + 0.5348% MPI)	3.0298% (2.495% interest + 0.5348% MPI)
Fixed rate for terms of over 25 years	3.4798% (2.945% interest + 0.5348% MPI)	3.2798% (2.745% interest + 0.5348% MPI)

- ‘Older’ Housing Loan Customers are offered the option of switching their fixed rate loan to a variable rate (currently 2.8348% (2.3% interest + 0.5348% MPI) once the term of the fixed interest rate expires. However, Mortgage Loan Customers cannot opt to re-fix a variable interest rate loan to a fixed interest rate if they have opted for a variable rate. These options are clearly communicated to Mortgage Loan Customers.
- Mortgage rates are due to increase from 01.07.2022 – see table above

24. Can Monaghan County Council please give me any information of any new local authority housing developments under consideration for Ballinode and Tydavnet?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has received a planning application from RPK Construction Limited for the development of 22 houses in Ballinode. RPK Construction Limited has also submitted an Expression of Interest for the sale of houses to Monaghan County Council under a turnkey arrangement whereby RPK Construction intends to construct 22 houses in Ballinode as social housing and sell the houses to Monaghan County Council on completion. Monaghan County Council is preparing an application for funding for the acquisition of the proposed social houses in Ballinode.**

**There are no Housing development proposals for Tydavnet at present.**

25. Have Monaghan Council any plans to finish the surface dressing on the Bragan walk in the Sliabh Beagh Area. The road has been partially resurfaced with reclaimed ashfelt but needs to be completed.

**Reply: Road Number LT-11355 does not meet the criteria for surface dressing as it has a Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) rating of 3 and 4. It requires a structural overlay of macadam. The road did not meet the requirements as set out by the Department of Transport for inclusion on the Recycled Asphalt trial for 2022. This road is not on the 2022 to 2024 adopted Roads Restoration Programme for structural overlay, but Monaghan County Council will continue to explore alternative funding streams to carry out work on it. In the meantime, Monaghan County Council will continue to carry out repair and maintenance works as required.**

**Cllr. A Campbell asked:**

26. What is the update on the works regarding the plans for the restoration of the Market House in Castleblayney?

**Reply: The Design Consultants are continuing to progress design works for the Market House project. Works completed to date include, topographical surveys, preliminary site investigations and extensive conservation research to inform design proposals and preparation of draft conservation and architectural heritage impact assessment reports. Informed by the design concepts from the initial public engagement report completed in 2020, the Design Team have developed proposals for the refurbishment of the different floor levels of the Market House in conjunction with an energy strategy to optimise renewable infrastructure and reduce energy usage. Draft public realm proposals for the surrounding Market Square area have been prepared having regard to recent traffic counts and parking survey data, the proposals aim to prioritise pedestrian safety and accessibility and improve road**

**safety. The Consultants are currently preparing Part VIII planning documentation and it is expected that the Part VIII application will be submitted in Q3 2022, detailed design works for the project are scheduled for completion in Q4 2022.**

**27. What is the current status of the proposed housing development by Monaghan County Council at the old fire station/council yard in Castleblayney?**

**Reply: Monaghan County Council is working with North & East Housing Association (NEHA) and a proposal was submitted to the Department under a Town Centre Architectural Competition, the project has been shortlisted, and if successful it is hoped that a design team will be appointed in Q3 2022. The development will potentially consist of no.18 properties with a mix of one bed and two bed.**

**28. What is the update on the New Housing development at Radharc An Bhri in Castleblayney?**

**Reply: MCC have submitted 11 nominations to the AHB for the 11 properties that are complete. The remaining two should be completed before year end.**

**29. What is the update on the design works for the Ballynacarry Bridge on the N53 road and what part are the Dept for Infrastructure NI in this project?**

**Reply: Monaghan County Council have appointed Arup as consultants to deliver the project through the Planning & Design stages. The scheme is currently at Early Planning stage, namely Concept & Feasibility. The next Phase will be Option Selection where various options will be explored, and a preferred route selected. Following on from this, the scheme will progress to Detailed Design then Statutory Process Phase, whereby two separate planning applications will be made. Planning approval will be sought through a Part VIII application in the ROI and a separate approval in NI. The roles and responsibilities for the Department for Infrastructure include-**

- **Liaising with MCC on project documentation.**
- **Appointing a land liaison officer to engage with landowners in the DFI jurisdiction.**
- **Engage with stakeholders & public bodies in the DFI jurisdiction.**
- **Facilitate engagement for the necessary consultation processes in DFI jurisdiction.**
- **Liaise with MCC with regards to all investigatory and preliminary surveys in the DFI jurisdiction e.g. topographical, Site Investigation etc.**
- **Attend and engage in Project Steering Group meetings.**

**30. Regarding the water quality in Lough Muckno.**

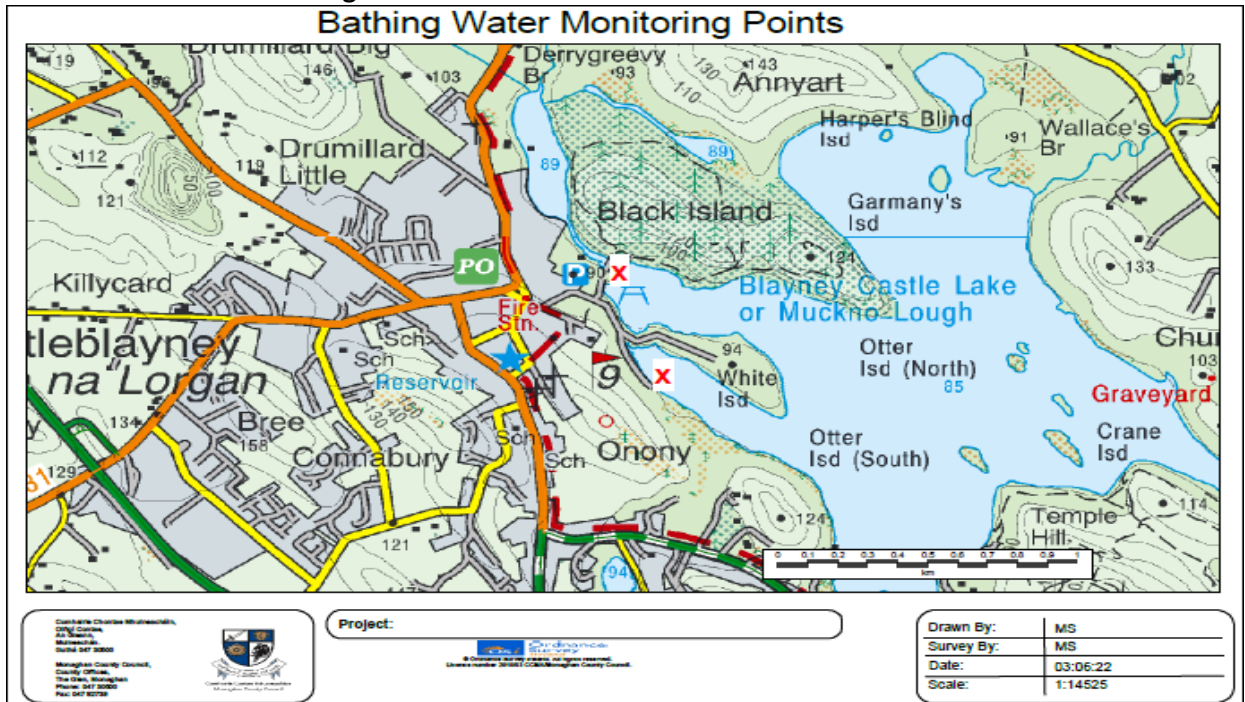
- **When will the water sampling be happening?**
- **When will we have the results?**
- **Where will this information be available and when will the necessary signs to advise as to the status for bathing be displayed?**
- **What is the latest update on the planned "Muckno Road to recovery project" for Lough Muckno?**

**Reply: Bathing water samples will be taken monthly at 2 locations on Lough Muckno during the period June to September. These samples will be taken and analysed by our contracted lab CLS Laboratories. Results will be available 3-4 days after samples are taken and results will be available on the council website. Environmental Services are currently updating our website to include a link to the results**

**- <https://monaghan.ie/environment/bathing-waters/>.**



If an exceedance is detected for E Coli or Intestinal Enterococci a notice will be placed onsite at the bathing area.



In relation to the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project, monitoring of the inflowing streams to Lough Muckno commenced in mid-April 2022 and data loggers are due to be installed on these streams in the coming weeks. This monitoring will continue for 12 – 18 months. 4metre deep sediment samples were taken from the three deepest basins on Lough Muckno during the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. These core samples were taken by researchers from NUI Galway with assistance from staff from the Environment Section and Monaghan County Council’s Civil Defence Unit. The core samples were taken to NUI Galway and they are to be sectioned and sent for detailed analysis over the coming months.

## 16. Notices of Motion

In the absence of Cllr McCooley, consideration of Notice of Motion 16(1) was deferred to the July Council meeting

Cllr. R. Aughey proposed, Cllr O’Hanlon seconded:

1. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Ministers for Justice; Education; and Children, Disability, Equality and Integration to implement an early-intervention scheme which supports children and young people who experience domestic abuse similar to the “Operation Encompass” programme involving liaison between social services, the Gardai and schools.

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

## 17. Votes of Congratulations

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

- Carrickmacross Festival Committee on running a very successful June Bank Holiday Festival. 2022 is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of this festival.
- Scotstown Comhaltas on hosting the County Fleadh and welcoming everyone in the county to Scotstown village.
- The organisers of Hooley in the Heather on a fantastic weekend.

## 18. Conferences

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following training event by the members listed.*

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	"Video Campaign – how to create and connect with your audience"	Online	15.07.22	Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Noel Keelan

### Urgent Business:

Cllr R. Truell proposed, Cllr S. Coyle seconded

*That this Council write to both the Sunday Independent newspaper and Mr. Joe Brolly expressing our deep disappointment regarding a printed article in the Sunday Independent edition dated 5th June 2022, titled "Woeful s\*\*\* but we'll take it anyway".*

*As the outgoing Cathaoirleach for the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District, I am extremely saddened by the comparison of Clones Town to Calcutta (Kolkata, the official name since 2001) in India, where the context of the comparison was meant in a critical and disrespectful manner. I am requesting that in their letter to both the Sunday Independent newspaper and Mr. Joe Brolly, that Monaghan County Council demand a written apology from Mr. Joe Brolly in a printed edition of the newspaper'.*

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_