

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

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. E O' Sullivan, Chief Executive; Ms. P Monahan, Director of Services, Ms. N. Woods, A/Director of Services, Ms. O. McConnon, A/Head of Finance, Ms. Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator.

Urgent Business:

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

That Monaghan County Council demand an immediate meeting with Bus Eireann, Chief Executive, Stephen Kent and the company's management team in relation to services to County Monaghan which are currently deplorable, providing a totally unreliable service to the residents and visitors to County Monaghan. For a County which has no air or rail services and depending on road travel only, Bus Eireann services are running late with no seats available to persons with pre-paid-booked tickets., for essential travel to Dublin i.e. Dublin Airport, Hospitals etc. Buses are arriving late or not even turning up at all and with car/taxi hire now way out of the affordability of people due to the massive increase in fuel costs in recent months, a reliable public bus transport service is essential for all sectors in County Monaghan. It is an absolutely emergency in these summer months, as visitor travel numbers are at their highest. This County Council demand an immediate meeting with the above-mentioned persons to seek a reliable and proper time tabled Bus Eireann service to County Monaghan for all of our people and their families.

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

Following consideration by members, it was agreed not to accept the motion submitted as urgent business.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 13 June 2022

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr S Coyle it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13th June 2022, be confirmed.

(i) Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 20 June 2022

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr S Coyle it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 20th June 2022, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

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

- Email from the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, Ms.

Catherine Martin, T.D., regarding payments to artists with disabilities.

- Email from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath, T.D., regarding proposed reforms/penalties that may be introduced as part of the planned reform of the statutory framework for standards in public life (the Ethics Acts).
- Email from the Communications Manager, Ms. Stephanie Dunne, RCSI Hospitals Group regarding the opening hours for the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Notice of Motion from the Coordinator of Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Office, Mr. Kevin McNally, to request that Monaghan County Council seek immediate financial support for the farming sector from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Mr. Charlie Mc Conalogue, T.D., and the Government.
- Resolution from Cork City Council regarding the need for additional specialist staffing resources to deliver transformative change and measurable climate action.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding the National Abhaile Service and Dedicated Mortgage Advisor roles.

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

- Resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the provision of Long Covid Clinics.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding the extension of the Tus Scheme to Ukrainian Nationals.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding implementation of an early-intervention scheme to support children and young people who experience domestic abuse.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding LIS funding.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding HAG Housing Grants.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding a Part V query.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding increasing the eligibility limits for social housing.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., acknowledging receipt of the correspondence regarding serviced sites.
- Letter from the Office of the CEO, Health Service Executive, Ms. Suzanne Hannigan regarding the opening hours of the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamonn Ryan, T.D., regarding Dublin Airport.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council support the Cork Co Council motion supporting the CCMA in their clear view that the additional specialist staffing resources identified by them need to be in place in 2022 to ensure that local authorities realise our ambition to deliver transformative change and measurable climate action across our cities and counties.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that this Council seek an update and response from Minister of state at the Department of Transport Hildegard Naughton TD regarding this councils previous motion in relation to the visitor experience etc., and also a response as to what actions have been undertaken to improve services at the airport including staff recruitment , minimal flight cancellations , issues in relation to retrieving lost luggage and other personal items , given that all of these issues combined has the potential to cause long lasting reputational damage to our county.

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council requests the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD to direct the HSE and the RCSI Hospital Group to have the Minor Injury Unit in Monaghan General Hospital operate / open on a 24/7, 365 days per year basis to ease the pressure on Cavan General Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda as he did in halting the closure of the Emergency Department of Our Lady's Hospital, Navan. This was based on advice that the other hospitals in the region could not cope with the additional numbers. This Council requests the full support for this direction from the Ministerial College, Heather Humphreys TD, all Government parties, and Oireachtas members from Cavan-Monaghan constituency.

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that this Council supports the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District motion calling on the Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD and the Government to provide immediate financial support directly to the farming sector in view of the huge increase in costs for meal, fertilizer, machinery hire, silage cutting etc.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr B McKenna, it was agreed that this Council re-write to Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority and Ms Hildegard Naughton, Minister of State, Department of Transport seeking a meeting to discuss the failure in resolving the issues raised during a meeting with Bus Eireann representatives, Adrian O'Loughlin and Michael McKeown at the Monaghan Municipal District's meeting in February where appeals were made by members seeking an improvement in services at Monaghan Bus Station, as well as capacity and punctuality issues.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr C Carthy, it was agreed that this Council re-write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD calling on him to increase the income limits for eligibility for social housing.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr P. Connolly, it was agreed that this Council support the Kerry Co Co motion calling on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, the Oireachtas Health Committee and the HSE, CEO Mr Paul Reid, requesting that the provision of Long Covid Clinics are retained and expanded and that we acknowledge that thousands of people are suffering with adverse effects from Covid19 for long periods of time.

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that in view of the current ongoing crisis within our Health Services and the fact that our Hospital Centres of Excellence cannot cope and are openly admitting that they cannot cope with current numbers, that Monaghan County Council request a meeting with the relevant HSE and RCSI personnel to seek a review and extension of services provided by Monaghan Hospital.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that following direct lobbying with the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly during his recent visit to County Monaghan , that this Council renew our correspondence with his office seeking the extension of operating hours at the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan Hospital to a 12 hour - 7 day week service.

On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett, seconded by Cllr B McKenna, it was agreed that this Council support the Donegal Co Co motion calling on Minister Heather Humphreys, Department of Social Protection, Rural & Community Development requesting that recently arrived Ukrainian nationals would qualify for the TÚS scheme.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Land at Clones, Co. Monaghan

Ms. P Monahan, Director of Services, referred to the S183 Notice dated 17th June 2022 which had been circulated in respect of the disposal of a parcel of land containing 0.2826 hectares at Clones, Co. Monaghan to Waterways Ireland for the purpose of Phase 2 of the development and reopening of the Ulster Canal.

On the proposal Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr R. Truell, it was agreed that the Council approve the Disposal of Land at Clones, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 17th June 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider the Chief Executive's Report on the Proposed Improvements to the Junction of R180 & R181 and Pedestrian Facilities at Lough Egish

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, referred to the Chief Executive's Report which had been circulated in respect of the proposed improvements to the Junction of R180 & R181 and pedestrian facilities at Lough Egish. He advised that the consultation period had closed, and no objections had been received.

On the proposal of Cllr S Gilliland seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed to approve the Improvement works to the Junction of R180 & R181 and pedestrian facilities at Lough Egish, as detailed in the Chief Executive's report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

5. To consider Section 85 Agreement from Louth County Council in relation to the FASTER Project

Mr. V. McKenna, Resident Engineer, outlined the Section 85 Agreement circulated with the agenda relating to FASTER project. He advised that Louth Co Co is the lead authority and the Section 85 agreement puts in place a mechanism whereby Louth Co Co will facilitate the installation of EV points at various locations in Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O'Hanlon seconded by Cllr A Campbell, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council hereby resolves to enter into an agreement with Louth County Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, in respect of the FASTER Project, whereby Louth County Council will be enabled to undertake works in County Monaghan.

6. To consider allocation of funding for Monaghan Festivals and Events Grant Scheme

Ms P Monahan, Director of Services, outlined the Report & Addendum circulated recommending the allocation of grants under Monaghan Festivals and Events Grant Scheme

2022. The scheme aims to support and promote festivals and events that are not solely commercially focused. Ms Monahan advised that the funding comprised of underspent Community Development monies from 2021 grants scheme and a small amount from 2022 budget. Ms Monaghan responded to members queries.

Cllrs P Treanor, Campbell, Carthy and Truell abstained from voting due to potential conflict of interests.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Monaghan Festivals and Events Grant Scheme:

Applicant	Award amount
Ardaghey Community Centre Committee	€1,000
Ballinode Community Projects	€2,500
Beechgrove Lawns Residents Association	€500
Carrickmacross Festival Committee	€1500
Castleblayney Regeneration Committee	€4,000
Castleblayney Vintage Club	€3,000
Castleblayney Scouts	€500
Clones Chamber of Commerce	€1,000
Clontibret Community Centre	€500
Countryfest (Inniskeen)	€2,500
Cremartin Community Group and GFC	€500
Cuan Mhuire CLG	€500
Inniskeen Enterprise Development	€3,000
Inniskeen St. Patrick's Day	€500
Knockatallon Community Development	€4,000
Laragh Heritage	€1,000
Lough Egish Community Development	€2,500
Monaghan County Board Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann	€1,000
Oram Community Development Assoc.	€2,000
Smithborough Tidy Towns	€500
Sosad (Monaghan)	€1,000
St Michaels Regional Community Development GLC	€500
The Treinfhir Clann	€4,000
Tydavnet Show	€4,000
Tydavnet Tidy Towns Committee	€2,000

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that under the Monaghan Festivals and Events Grants Scheme that any festival with financial reports going forward are asked to submit these reports with future grant applications.

7. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 21st June 2022

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21st June 2022 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21st June 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

8. To receive Management Report – June 2022

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

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, seconded by Fine Fail Cllrs, it was agreed that this Council requests Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD to re-introduce the block grants to all towns throughout Ireland.

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

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

- LAMA - Spring Seminar - Co. Kilkenny
- AILG - Module 3 – Co. Roscommon
- AILG - Module 3 – Co. Kilkenny

10. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed members that there were no matters for consideration under this item. Mr O’Sullivan congratulated those who were recently elected to the position of Cathaoirleach

11. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 13th June 2022

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th June 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, it was agreed that that Monaghan County Council write again inviting the Transport Minister, Eamon Ryan TD to visit County Monaghan to travel and view the terrible condition of many roads in the County, causing enormous suffering, expense etc to their residences and road users".

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr N Keelan, it was agreed that NBI be invited to the September Co Co meeting to give an update to members on the status of broadband roll-out across the county.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr B McKenna, 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.

Cllr D Maxwell wished to be recorded as not supporting this motion.

12. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

P. Monahan advised that there was nothing to add to the update is provided in the Management Report circulated with the Agenda.

13. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

No further update on the North South Interconnector project.

Cllr N. Keelan proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded, that this Council write to Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan; An Taoiseach, An Tainiste, Minister Helen McEntee, Minister Heather Humphreys and all Cavan Monaghan Oireachtas members noting that as a result of public outcry, Senior Cabinet Ministers have intervened in relation to the closure of the A&E at Navan Hospital (which is now not proceeding) and asking if will consider making such an intervention with Eirgrid re the undergrounding of the North South Interconnector.

Following a vote by show of hands resulted in 10 for, 4 against, 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

14. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

15. Questions:

Cllr. C Carthy asked:

1. How many Monaghan County Council housing units remain on the list for energy upgrade retrofit and how long is it expected to take to have all unit upgrades completed to the current standards?

Reply: The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) was launched in 2013 with the aim of funding the retrofit of social homes requiring insulation and energy upgrade works.

At present Monaghan County Council owns 1,693 social houses. Excluding newly constructed properties, all of Monaghan County Council's housing stock had received Phase 1 energy efficiency works under the EERP by 2017. This included attic insulation, pipe lagging and hot water cylinder lagging or upgrade and improved / energy efficient heating systems. Phase 2 EERP work which included external insulation to some older stock was carried out between 2017 to 2020 inclusive to a total of 103 properties.

In 2021 the Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme was revised and a new 10 year deep retrofit programme commenced. This revision requires local authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' programme, building on what has been completed in previous years and installing more energy efficient and environmentally friendly heating systems such as air to water heat pumps.

In 2021 Monaghan County Council completed energy efficiency upgrade works to 36 properties.

In 2022, funding has been allocated for upgrade works to 54 properties. By the end of 2022 more than 570 local authority houses will have a Building Energy Rating of B or better and will require no further Energy Efficiency upgrades under the current programme.

Approximately 205 houses owned by Monaghan County Council with average to relatively poor Building Energy Ratings have been prioritized for EERP upgrades over the next 2 – 3 years.

A further 918 houses owned by Monaghan County Council with a Building Energy Rating of D or C (which is better than average) may also be considered for upgrades under this scheme over the next 5 – 7 years subject to approval of funding.

Monaghan County Council will utilise all available funding under this programme in the coming years to ensure that local authority properties receive EERP upgrades as soon as possible.

2. What plans has the housing section to deliver 4 bed units in Carrickmacross in the short-medium term and is any consideration being given to building any 5-bed units?
Reply: Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies propose to provide 150 social houses with a budget of circa €37 million between 2022 to 2024 in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD.

Currently 5% of the housing need in the county is for 4- or 5-bedroom units which will be met by currently approved projects and projects in the delivery pipeline. To ensure that the ongoing housing need is met, Monaghan County Council has asked developers to consider providing 4-bedroom and 5-bedroom houses in private developments and possible turnkey social housing developments. In exceptional circumstances / exceptional needs when larger properties are required in specific areas for families with particular needs, Monaghan County Council has the option to purchase larger properties to address particular needs identified such large families who need accessible accommodation for a family member with a disability.

Please see Table below for number of units, number of bedrooms, location, and delivery breakdown.

Monaghan County Council continues to seek additional funding for Social Housing at every opportunity that arises and proactively pursues opportunities for additional social housing provision in areas of Housing Need throughout County Monaghan.

MD	Project Name	MCC or AHB	No of Units	Delivery Date	No of 1 / 2 Bedroom	No of 3 Bedroom	No of 4 / 5 Bedroom	Comment
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Lakeview Apartments, Drummond Radhairc	AHB	12	Delivered	12			Allocated
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radharc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	8	Delivered	4	9		Allocated
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radharc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	5	Q3 2022				Remaining 5 of 38.
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Nafarty, Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross	MCC	35	Q3 2022	4	31		Remaining 35 of 41. 6 delivered in 2021.
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill Darach, Castleblayney	MCC	30	Q4 2023	5	25		Works commenced on site
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross	MCC	30	2023 / 2024	10	17	3	2023/2024 delivery date Subject to Planning Permission
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan	MCC	30	2023 / 2024	11	15	4	2023/2024 delivery date
TOTAL			150					

3. Are there any plans to develop any serviced sites in south Monaghan over the coming years?

Reply: Housing for All includes the Croí Cónaithe towns fund for the provision of serviced sites for housing, its intention is to attract people to build their own homes and support the refurbishment of vacant properties. This will enable people to live in small towns and villages in a sustainable way. In May 2022 Central Government stated that *“consideration of the approach to the Croí Cónaithe towns fund is at an advanced stage, including the scope and appropriate timeframes, and will be launched very shortly... this is an important fund from the Government and one which will breathe new life into towns and villages. A direct payment will enhance the viability of bringing vacant and derelict stock back into residential use. It is important to breathe life into towns and villages across the country”*.

Central Government says that it looks forward to “launching this fund later on this year” and “applications coming in from the 31 local authorities”.

There are no details available at present of the Croí Cónaithe towns fund for the provision of serviced sites for housing. When details of the fund and associated scheme are made available by Central Government, they will be examined to see how they apply to County Monaghan and how serviced sites are to be provided through this Central Government funded scheme.

4. Under a recently announced scheme where local authorities will be funded to purchase derelict buildings for community use, has Monaghan County Council earmarked any properties of interest and what measures will be implemented to try and bring these buildings into use?

Reply: MCC has made an application under this scheme to acquire a derelict building. If the application is successful, the Council will liaise with Community interests in relation to potential uses.

5. What is the up-to-date situation with the surface drainage works, which have been causing flooding in recent years, required on the Magheraby road in Carrickmacross?

Reply: In 2021, Monaghan County Council undertook extensive remedial works to the drainage system downstream of the surface drainage inlet at Ascáill Róis Housing Estate. These works included comprehensive CCTV surveys, jetting and the excavation and replacement of 110m of drainage pipe. A temporary inlet screen was also installed. The inlet screen is currently inspected and maintained on a weekly basis. Subject to landowner agreement, it is intended to undertake further remedial works on the downstream drainage system in the second half of 2022. The Municipal District Executive are exploring feasible options surrounding the installation of a permanent automated screen at the inlet.

Cllr. S Conlon asked:

6. For the purpose of optimising road safety, I ask the Active Travel Unit to install cycle and pedestrian awareness signs at each end of the N2 from Emyvale to the Ballyalbany Rd. to alert drivers of the close proximity of users along the designated pathway and National Primary route.

Reply: There are improvements planned under N2 Active Travel schemes which will include signage but in the interim Monaghan County Council will examine the possibility of installing signage as requested.

7. I ask the relevant Council Sections to provide an update on the two projects selected for application to the Shared Island funds relating to the Ulster Canal and Enterprise Space for Advanced Manufacturing.

Reply: Both applications were submitted in May and were acknowledged as received by the Shared Island Unit of the Department of An Taoiseach, together with three others submitted by this Council. There is no defined timeframe for decision on the applications.

Cllr. N Keelan asked:

8. What is the up to date position in relation to the provision of crisis accommodation in our County for those who suffer from domestic abuse in particular women and children?

Reply: Monaghan County Council's housing section attended a meeting with local members of the Oireachtas along with representatives from Department of Housing, Tusla, Safe Ireland, Tearmann Domestic Violence Services, senior members of Cavan Monaghan Gardaí Síochana and Housing services Cavan County Council to discuss providing a refuge facility in the Monaghan Cavan area on the 18th May 2022. This was an initial meeting with all these agencies, and it was agreed that the group would meet again in September to discuss progressing the project further.

9. While acknowledging the ongoing essential maintenance works carried out at the Sliabh Dubh estate in Corduff to date by this council, when is it hoped to complete the taken in charge process?

Reply: It is hoped the taking in charge process will be progressed once the completion of the remedial works and the transfer of the relevant land into the ownership of the local authority has taken place.

10. What lands in the ownership of Monaghan County Council are suitable for the provision of social housing or serviced sites, where are these lands situated, what plans have the council to develop lands that are suitable in the time ahead?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has land in its ownership in Monaghan town where social housing has been developed and serviced sites have been sold.

Monaghan County Council has acquired unfinished housing developments and derelict sites that have been used and are currently being developed for the provision of social housing. Monaghan County Council has also been successful in acquiring social housing constructed on privately owned land through turnkey arrangements.

Monaghan County Council has a significant social Housing Delivery Action Plan under Housing for All and intends to advertise shortly for suitable land, turnkey developments and one-off house purchases to accommodate particular needs in particular areas of the County.

With regard to serviced sites: Housing for All includes the Croí Cónaithe towns fund for the provision of serviced sites for housing, its intention is to attract people to build their own homes and support the refurbishment of vacant properties. This will enable people to live in small towns and villages in a sustainable way. In May 2022 Central Government stated that *“consideration of the approach to the Croí Cónaithe towns fund is at an advanced stage, including the scope and appropriate timeframes, and will be launched very shortly... this is an important fund from the Government and one which will breathe new life into towns and villages. A direct payment will enhance the viability of bringing vacant and derelict stock back into residential use. It is important to breathe life into towns and villages across the country”*.

Central Government says that it looks forward to *“launching this fund later on this year”* and *“applications coming in from the 31 local authorities”*.

There are no details available at present of the Croí Cónaithe towns fund for the provision of serviced sites for housing. When details of the fund and associated scheme are made available by Central Government, they will be examined to see how they apply to County Monaghan and how serviced sites are to be provided through this Central Government funded scheme.

11. Approximately how much per annum is Monaghan County Council spending on fuel for our vehicles and heating oil for our civic buildings, given the alarming increase in fuel prices have the council got a fixed price contract or bulk buying discount rate for fuel or heating oil?

Reply: Monaghan County Council spent approximately €340,000 on fuel for vehicles and heating in 2021. Fuel is purchased from the Office of Government Procurement framework at a base price that is index linked to take account of inflation. The index linked element changes on a daily basis, and this determines the price paid.

12. What is the up to date position in relation to the upgrading and improvement of the Dundalk to Shercock town regional roadway (R178) given that public meetings were held with effected residents and landowners many years ago including the fact that much of the lands along this route are now sterilised in terms of development?

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

Improvement Scheme and when the current R181 Lough Egish to the Cavan Border is completed.

Cllr. P Connolly will ask:

- 13.** For an update in relation to the Unfinished Development at Chapel Court Carrickroe?

Reply: Letters have been received from some homeowners in this development requesting the development to be taken in charge, however as of yet an insufficient number of homeowners in the development have written to the planning authority in this regard. The local authority can initiate proceedings to take an estate in charge when requested to do so by the developer or by a majority (more than 50%) of owners of the houses in a development.

Monaghan County Council's Housing Section inspected the derelict site and vacant properties in the unfinished Chapel Court Estate in Carrickroe. The site consists of one derelict mixed use residential and commercial building, three vacant derelict houses and derelict unfinished development lands with foundations for 8 semi-detached properties with an area of 1.76 Hectares. It is proposed to serve derelict site notices shortly to require the property owner to complete the public areas of the estate, tidy up or remove unfinished buildings and reinstate the unfinished development lands to agricultural use. If this is not successful and the property owner fails to address the derelict unfinished development, properties and site Monaghan County Council will proceed under derelict sites legislation to acquire the derelict properties by Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and potentially develop social housing while also eliminating the vacancy issue with three of the eight houses in the estate.

16. Notices of Motion

Cllrs C Carthy, N Keelan, P Treanor, B McKenna and C Bennett proposed, Cllr Bennett, seconded:

- 1.** That Monaghan County Council calls for changes to be made in the submission of Planning Applications which would allow for those wishing to submit plans electronically, to be allowed to do so. The current practice of providing numerous copies of drawings and paperwork uses reams of paper and, if any changes are made, full revised sets are required. We ask that this motion, if passed, would be forwarded to all other local authorities.

Following a short debate on the motion, it was agreed to defer this motion pending an update on e-Planning being provided in September's Management Report.

Cllr S Conlon proposed, Cllr Brian McKenna seconded:

- 2.** Following the recent road traffic accident in Emyvale that has similarly occurred on previous occasions at the entrance to the village, and to eliminate vehicle speeding and congestion, that Monaghan County Council re-issues the appeal to have the funding reinstated for the N2 Clontibret to the Border scheme that will include provision for a bypass of Emyvale village.

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

3. That Monaghan County Council call on the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Minister for Higher Education, Simon Harris TD, to ban unpaid internships in Ireland.

Cllr A McCooey requested that her that motion be withdrawn. This was agreed.

17. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

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

Laura Carey, Assistant Librarian, Clones Library on the death of her Father, Charlie Shalvey, 3 Beechgrove Lawns, Monaghan Town on Saturday, 2nd July 2022.

The family of the late Margaret McCague, Dunsinaira, Monaghan.

The family of the late Kathleen Cassidy, St Patrick's Tce, Monaghan Town, wife of the late Joe Cassidy, former outdoor employee of Monaghan County Council.

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

Lough Egish Rod & Gun Club who won the county NARGC Championship and to on to represent Monaghan in the NARGC All Ireland Finals in Galway in Galway in Cay Target Shooting.

Denise Toner of the Clones Athletic club on winning Gold at the World Masters W40 800 m in Finland. Also, to her coach Paul O'Neill and the Peace Link, Clones.

Jamie Duffy on being invited to perform for the President of Ireland at Áras an Uachtaráin as part of the 'garden party' celebrating music and its contribution to the cultural life of Ireland.

Donna Evans of the Clones Athletic club on winning the World Masters 8k Cross Country Champion & W50 Team Gold in Finland.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr A Campbell, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council would host a Civic Reception for Ms Donna Evans and Ms Denise Toner at the front of the Court House, Monaghan Town within the next fortnight.

18. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr S Conlon, 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

AILG	Government Legislation Policy Programme 2022	Allingham Arms, Bundoran	23.07.2022	Cllr N Keelan Cllr P Treanor Cllr S Coyle Cllr B McKenna Cllr R Truell Cllr S Gilliland Cllr D Maxwell
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The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the three members of the East Border Region committee, Cllrs Campbell, O’Hanlon and Conlon will be participating in a delegation to London as part of East-West Capacity Building Exchange to Westminster on Monday, 07 November 2022. To facilitate the delegation, it was agreed that the November Co Co meeting would be held on Tuesday, 01 November 2022.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____