

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 05 September 2022 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

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

Cllr P Connolly attended meeting remotely via TEAMS

**Apologies:** Cllr Carthy

Ms. P Monahan, Deputy Chief Executive; Ms. N. Woods, Mr. J Murray, Mr. Cathal Flynn, Directors of Services; Mr G McMahon, Mr A Hughes A/Directors of Services; Ms O McConnon, Financial Management Accountant, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Brannigan, Senior Staff Officer

**Urgent Business:**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the name of Cllr D Maxwell and the Fine Gael grouping as follows:

*That this Council write today to An Taoiseach, Minister Paschal Donohoe TD and Minister Michael Mc Grath TD asking them to bring forward a windfall tax for energy companies in the forthcoming budget to ensure that with the increasing prices in energy, companies are not increasing prices in this volatile time just to maintain massive profits.*

The Cathaoirleach informed members that he was also submitting a notice of urgent business on behalf of the Sinn Féin Grouping as follows:

*That this Council write to Minister of State for European Affairs Thomas Byrne, Minister of Finance Paschal Donohue, Minister of Public Expenditure Michael McGrath and Minister of Social Protection Heather Humphreys imploring them to introduce energy cost saving, and security of supply measures, by way of introducing:*

- 1. a windfall tax on the profits of energy providers;*
- 2. a price cap on energy bills, similar to actions taken by Spain and Portugal,*
- 3. an extension of the income threshold for fuel allowance applicants,*
- 4. Implementing an energy credit scheme for households and businesses,*
- 5. directing gas and electricity providers to initiate a moratorium on cutting off gas and electricity supplies to households and businesses.*

On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr N Keelan, it was agreed to enter ‘into Committee’ to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.

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

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

## **1. Casual Vacancy**

### **(i) To fill Casual Vacancy on Monaghan Co Co arising from the resignation of Cllr Mary Kerr Conlon**

Cllr D Maxwell stated that he was delighted to propose the co-option of Peter Conlon, Monalty, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan to fill the vacancy on Monaghan County Council for the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney electoral area. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. A Campbell

The Council unanimously agreed that Peter Conlon be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy on Monaghan County Council.

Cllr Maxwell then introduced Cllr Conlon to the meeting. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr Conlon and wished him well for the remaining term of the current Council. All members present congratulated Cllr Conlon on his co-option.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Ms. P. Monahan also welcomed Cllr. Conlon, wished him every success during his term on the Council and assured him of the full support of Executive and staff.

Cllr. Conlon thanked his proposer and seconder, the Cathaoirleach, elected members and the Deputy Chief Executive for their warm welcome.

### **(ii) To fill vacant positions on various committees**

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr A Campbell, it was agreed that Cllr P Conlon would be elected to fill the vacant positions on the following Committees:

- Muckno Development Committee
- County Monaghan Heritage Forum
- SPC for Housing, Social and Cultural

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04 July 2022**

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 04 July 2022, be confirmed.

## **3. Correspondence**

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

- Email from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding additional funding under the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme, in respect of a private house.
- Email from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding social housing income limits.

- Email from the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding the purchase of Part V properties under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister of State, Ms. Hildegard Naughton, T.D., regarding Dublin Airport.
- Letter from the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding the request for Ukrainian nationals qualifying for Tús.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee, T.D., regarding Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV).
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., regarding school transport.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding ambulance services.
- Letter from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, The Health Service Executive, Mr. Paul Reid acknowledging receipt of letter regarding Long Covid Clinics
- Letter from the General Manager of Primary Care, The Health Service Executive, Mr. Sean McArt, regarding Long Covid Clinics.
- Acknowledgement email from the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., regarding an early-intervention scheme.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding the opening hours of the Minor Injury Unit in Monaghan General Hospital.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, The Health Service Executive, Mr. Paul Reid regarding the extension of services at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding an acknowledgement email he had received from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., in relation to an invite to visit local roads in Monaghan.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D., acknowledging receipt of letter requesting a meeting to discuss the poor condition of Roads in South Monaghan.
- Email from the Tanaiste's Office, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., regarding request for a meeting to discuss the poor condition of Roads in South Monaghan.
- Email from Deputy Niamh Smyth, T.D., regarding the condition of roads in Monaghan, additional funding under the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme and the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Resolution from Donegal County Council regarding inheritance tax.
- Resolution from Limerick County Council regarding income thresholds for social housing support.

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

- Letter from Michael B. McGovern, on behalf of the extended McGovern family expressing gratitude for a memorable visit to Carrickmacross and County Monaghan in late-July.
- Letter from the Minister for Housing Local Government & Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., and the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Mr. Malcolm Noonan, T.D., regarding the Electoral Reform Act 2022.

- Resolution from Staff Officer, Ms. Gillian Costello, Ballybay-Clones MD, regarding funding for roads.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that this Council calls on the Minister for Education, Norma Foley, to provide the extra resources needed by Bus Éireann to provide the Free School transport promised to families. As stated in a letter from Bus Éireann recently, Bus Éireann does not have any discretion in relation to increasing capacity or extending routes for concessionary pupils.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr A Campbell it was agreed that this Council welcomes the commitment of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD in reviewing Social Housing Income Limits for applications. In view of the current housing shortage, house price increases and spiraling rent increases, Monaghan County Council appeals to the Government and the Minister to immediately expediate increases in Income eligibility for Social Housing, as ever increasing numbers of families are caught in limbo, not able to afford their own home or make application for Social Housing.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed that this Council expresses total disappointment and outrage at the Government's continual exclusion of tenants of houses acquired by the Local Authorities under Part V from the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme. As all allocations of housing tenancies by Local Authorities were made under the same criteria and the recipients unaware of how the Local Authority acquired the property, Monaghan County Council demands of the Government and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD to immediately make the necessary amendments to the Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) Regulations 2015 to allow tenants of Part V acquired properties to purchase their homes.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle, seconded by Cllr R Truell, it was agreed that this Council support the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District motion calling on Monaghan County Council in conjunction with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council make an application to the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD for funding for the Restoration of Roads, which are in an atrocious condition in the Connons/Drumully area of County Monaghan. This area is unique to the border which was created by partition. When accessing the Connons i.e. School, Community Centre and Church the border must be crossed several times, which is the reality of a shared island on the ground for the residents in the townlands of Annaghraw, Clonfad, Clonkeelan, Clonlura, Clonnagore, Clonnestin, Clonoony, Clonoula, Clonrye, Clonshanvo, Clontask, Coleman Island, Corvaghan, Derrybeg, Drumsloe and Roranna.*

*The government's Shared Island initiative aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement. This aim is to enhance co-operation, connection, mutual understanding on the island and to engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future as announced in Budget 2021, with €500m in capital funding available between 2021-25. This funding is ring-fenced for investment in collaborative North/South projects. The full restoration of all roads in the Connons area is ideally suited to the criteria and aims of the Shared Island Initiative.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that this Council support the Donegal Co Co motion calling on the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD*

*to review and change the rules on inheritance tax in so far as it relates to those who do not have immediate family members i.e. children. Consideration of equality should include the next blood relative.*

*Cllr P Treanor proposed, Cllr B McKenna seconded, that this Council support the Limerick Co Co motion calling on the Government and the Minister for Housing to declare a housing emergency and to use emergency powers to introduce a moratorium on evictions similar to Covid emergency measures until the Minister for Housing raises the income thresholds for social housing supports for a three month period with an option to review thereafter.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 5 for, 12 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

*On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council write to the National Ambulance Service requesting a copy of the National Demand & Capacity analysis recently carried out on the provision of ambulance services in the state.*

*On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that the recent statement issued by the Cavan Monaghan Hospital group (attached) highlights the inadequacies of the current provision of Emergency Department services for the Cavan and Monaghan region; and that this Council implore the HSE and RCSI Hospital Group to extend the opening hours of the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan Hospital, providing parity of esteem and equality for our citizens that are not provided with an 80 hour per week service as is the case at all MIU's throughout the State, and that the Monaghan MIU has it's opening hours extended from 40 to 80 hours operation per week.*

#### **4. To consider Section 183 Notice - Land at Aghnacue, Monaghan**

Mr C. Flynn, Director of Services, referred to the S183 Notice dated 16 May 2022 which had been circulated in respect of the disposal of a parcel of land containing 1.05 hectares at Aghnacue, Co. Monaghan to Patrick Greenan, Aghafrumkeen, Aghabog, Co. Monaghan.

*On the proposal Cllr R Truell seconded by Cllr S Coyle it was agreed that the Council approve the Disposal of Land at Aghnacue, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 16 May 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

#### **5. To consider Section 183 Notice – Lands at Swans Cross, Monaghan**

Mr C Flynn, Director of Services, referred to the S183 Notice dated 07 June 2022 which had been circulated in respect of the disposal of two parcels of land containing 0.0741 (Plot A) and 0.04059 (Plot B) hectares at Swans Cross, Co. Monaghan to Tony and Lynette McCooey, Swans Cross, Co. Monaghan.

*On the proposal Cllr H. McElvaney seconded by Cllr S Gilliland it was agreed that the Council approve the Disposal of Lands at Swans Cross, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 07 June 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

## 6. To consider Report on Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor and Budget 2023

The members considered the report which had been circulated.

Ms O McConnon, A/Head of Finance, explained that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of + / - 15%. Any decision by a local authority to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax must be taken by the 15 October 2022. In determining the rate of LPT a local authority must take account of its financial position and have regard to a number of factors

- The local authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which LPT is to apply.
- The financial position of the local authority.
- Feedback from any consultation held.
- The financial effect of any variation to the rate of LPT.

Ms McConnon stated that the Council had sought submissions from the public on 30 June 2022 in an advertisement in the Northern Standard newspaper and on a posting on the Council website. The closing date for submissions from the public consultation was 29 July 2022. There were no submissions received from the public consultation.

Ms McConnon highlighted some significant changes to the LPT process for budget 2023 as follows:

- LPT collection for County Monaghan has reduced from €3.8m in 2022 to €3.0m for 2023 as a result of the LPT revaluation exercise
- 15% adjustment will therefore reduce from €581k to €454k
- Discretionary MD allocation will therefore reduce from €337k in 2022 to c. €252k (assuming a 15% upwards adjustment is adopted)
- Material changes in Income & Expenditure for budget 2023 are expected. These include expected increase in payroll of c.4% due to Union negotiations for a cost of living increase for public sector staff, estimated 2% ARV increase and additional Social housing rental income as a result of delivery of new capital housing
- The Equalisation fund mechanism is discontinued. The variance between Monaghan's LPT allocation and collection is funded by the Exchequer
- Instead of yearly adjustment decisions, adjustments can refer to 'a period as specified in the resolution'.

*Cllr P Connolly proposed, Cllr R Aughey seconded that the Council retain the current rate of 15% LPT on the base rate for 2023.*

*Cllr P Treanor proposed, Cllr B McKenna seconded that the Council remove the 15% increase and leave the rate of increase in the LPT at zero %*

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Connolly's proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for 5 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

As Cllr Connolly's proposal had been carried and Cllr Treanor's proposal was a direct negative, the Cathaoirleach declared that Cllr Treanor's proposal would not be put to the meeting.

**7. To consider nomination to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

*On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna seconded by Cllr S Treanor it was unanimously agreed that Ms Natalie O'Leary be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to fill the existing vacancy.*

**8. To consider the Disability Participation and Awareness Grant Scheme 2022**

The Members noted the report circulated which recommended the allocation of funding under the Disability and Awareness Grant Scheme 2022. Ms O. Brady, SEO, Community Section outlined the recommendations for the Disability Participation & Awareness Grant Scheme 2022. She advised that a grant of €73,000 was received from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The funding was allocated to facilitate the provision of training to the elected members and staff of Monaghan County Council, and also to provide a small grants programme which is the Disability Participation and Awareness Grant Scheme.

A total of 12 applications were received.

- 9 applications were deemed to be eligible for funding
- 3 applications were deemed to be ineligible. Applicants were signposted to other possible funding sources.

The total budget available for funding was €50,000 and the funding recommended for commitment is €32,888.79.

She advised that it is intended to go with another call for applications with the balance of the €50,000 funding. She stated that the remaining balance of the €73,000 will be allocated to the training element of the grant scheme and a contribution towards MCC administration costs.

*On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of funding, as outlined, under the Disability and Awareness Grant Scheme 2022.*

**9. To consider Addendum to Monaghan Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2022.**

The Members noted the addendum circulated which recommended the allocation of additional funding under the Monaghan Festivals and Events 2022 Grant Scheme.

*On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve allocation of funding to Castleblayney Agricultural Show under the Monaghan Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2022*

**10. To approve overdraft accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 01 January 2023 – 31 December 2023**

Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to Overdraft Accommodation in the amount of €10m for the year 2023.

*On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.*

#### **11. To receive presentation from National Broadband Ireland**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed T.J. Malone, Chief Executive Officer, NBI Deployment and Mr Adan Ledwith to the meeting. He stated that members had requested a presentation primarily because they felt that NBP rollout in the county was not proceeding as quickly as they would like.

Mr Malone stated that the NBP plan was the biggest telecommunications initiative ever undertaken in the State. The Government has given a commitment that no home will be left behind in high-speed broadband provision. Mr Malone advised that 15,583 premises were without high-speed broadband in County Monaghan which accounted for 46% of the whole county. 78% of those premises will have been surveyed by end of 2022, 65% will see builds commenced and almost two thirds will have builds completed by end of 2023. By 2024 builds will have commenced in all of the premises and by the start of 2026 all be premises will be completed.

Mr Malone responded to members questions and concluded by stating that broadband is now an essential utility within the home and people will be disenfranchised if they do not have it in the times to come.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Malone and Mr Ledwith for their time and detailed presentation.

#### **12. To receive Management Report – July and August 2022**

The members noted the Management Report for the months of July and August which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

#### **13. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 16th August 2022**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

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

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



#### **15. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 04 July 2022**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 04 July 2022.

*On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, 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.*

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

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

- Finalising Your Development Plan - Co. Westmeath
- AILG - Governance – Co. Donegal

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

The members noted correspondence from TII. Mr G. McMahon, A/Director of Services advised that there was nothing to add to the update provided in the Management Report circulated with the Agenda. He advised that landowner meetings would commence on 20 September 2022 and that a briefing for Monaghan and Louth Elected Members and Oireachtas members about the impacts of the scheme have been scheduled for Wednesday, 21st September 2022.

*On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that this Council write again to Minister for Climate Action, Communication Networks & Transport, Eamonn Ryan TD seeking to have the funding reinstated for the N2 Clontibret to the Border scheme.*

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

No further update on the North South Interconnector project.

*On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr R Aughey, it was agreed that given that this Council has supported a motion of no confidence in Eirgrid for its inability to deliver the North South Interconnector using the undergrounding technology and also given Eirgrid's failure to guarantee energy supply in the time ahead, that we write to all our Oireachtas Members for this constituency asking them if they have confidence in Eirgrid on its ability to carry out its role.*

***On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed to extend the meeting by a further 15 minutes to complete the Agenda.***

#### **19. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

Cllr P Treanor extended appreciation to all involved in bring the Ulster Canal project to this point. He acknowledged Minister Humphreys and past member Caoimhin O Caolain for

their efforts. He state that the local community have played an active role and acknowledged the co-operation of landowners along the canal route.

## 20. Questions:

**Cllr. D Maxwell asked:**

1. With the re-opening of Monaghan town greenway, can I get a complete update of where we are at and timeline for Monaghan to Middletown greenway?

**Reply: It is planned to lodge the CPO with An Bord Pleanala for the required lands to construct the Greenway in ROI in Q3 2022. It is planned to commence construction in Q1 2023 and complete the project in Q4 2023.**

**Cllr. P Connolly asked:**

2. With a view to improving sight distance at road junctions and general road safety etc. - What plans do Monaghan County Council have to introduce a Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme similar to other County Council's?

**Reply: There is currently no budget to administer a hedge cutting grant. This proposal can be considered further when the 2023 budget is being drafted.**

3. In view of the fact that the Vacant Site Levy is now in operation for in excess of 5 years to ask Monaghan County Council for an update in relation to the implementation of the VSL in the following areas:
  - A. How many sites has Monaghan County Council have on its VSL register? **None**
  - B. How many appeals have been taken by owners charged with VSL? **None**
  - C. How many sites have been removed from the VSL Register? **None**
  - D. What level of income has been generated by the 3% VSL? **Nil**
  - E. What level of income has been generated by the 7% VSL? **Nil**
  - F. How many notifications have Monaghan County Council received under Sect 10 of the act indicating that the site is no longer vacant or idle? **None**
  - G. How many sites have changed ownership since being placed on the VSL Register? **None**
  - H. How many certificates have been issued under Sect 21 of the VSL Act in respect of payment due? **None**

**Reply: Monaghan County Council undertook a comprehensive assessment of zoned residential lands within the County but had concluded to date that no lands warranted being placed onto the Vacant Sites Register. The Vacant Sites Levy is being phased out and is being replaced with the Residential Zoned Land Tax. The Planning Section is in the process of comprehensively mapping all the residential lands that would be in scope for this tax and these maps will be placed on display on 1<sup>st</sup> November for public comment.**

**Cllr. S Conlon asked:**

4. With an over-reliance by the Housing Section on outsourcing Council Housing repair and maintenance works, resulting occasionally in protracted delays in having necessary works undertaken by contractors experiencing staff shortages, and huge demands on their trades and services, will this Council initiate a recruitment programme of craftsmen such as plumbers, carpenters, electricians, which has previously been the standard practice of local authorities?

**Reply: The post of Craftworker will be advertised in September 2022 and a recruitment competition will be held following the closing date for receipt of applications.**

5. As per photo supplied indicating area of repeated road traffic violations, will the Housing Section provide an additional large flower planter / barrier between Cluain Lorcaín and Plas Lorcaín for the purpose of eliminating illegal vehicular access between these two estates.

**Reply: The Monaghan Municipal District have installed a fence at this location between the two estates.**



**Cllr. C Carthy asked:**

6. Owing to the further deterioration of boundary fencing, can MCC expedite the process of 'taking in charge' of the Conabury Hill estate in Castleblayney with a view to having this fencing replaced with a heavy-duty boundary as soon as possible?

**Reply: The Local Authority have completed technical assessments of the estate and it has been referred to Irish Water for their agreement to allow the taking in charge process to progress. The Planning Authority will continue to liaise with Irish Water to have the matter expedited as a matter of urgency.**

7. How many days has the traffic warden team spent in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney so far in 2022, and, on average, how many parking tickets are issued in each town per day?

**Reply: From the period of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Traffic Wardens attended Carrickmacross a total of 13 days in this period, issuing a total of 67 tickets which is an average of 5 tickets issued per day.**

**From the period of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Traffic Wardens attended Castleblayney a total of 14 days in this period, issuing a total of 61 tickets which is an average of 4 tickets issued per day.**

8. What plans are in place to increase the stock of 4 bedroomed social housing units in each Municipal District over the next few years?

**Reply: Under Housing for All it is intended that Monaghan County Council will continue to align delivery with demand by providing accommodation suited to the majority of applicants (2-bedroom, 3- bedroom, 4-bedroom+) and particularly those most in need of social housing in line with the scheme of letting priorities.**

**Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies project the provision of 267 social houses with a budget of circa €62 million between 2022 to 2024 in County Monaghan.**

**Currently 5% of the housing need in the county is for 4 or 5 bedroom units which will be met by the currently approved projects and projects in the delivery pipeline. Out of the projected 267 social houses over 9% of the properties will be 4 or 5 bedroom units.**

**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.

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
Monaghan	Lui na Greine, Scotstown	MCC	13	Oct-22	4	5	4	Remaining 13 of 32.
Monaghan	Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan	AHB	41	2024	22	11	8	2024 delivery date Subject to Planning Permission
Monaghan	Emy, Emyvale, Co Monaghan	AHB	14	2023		14		2023 delivery date
Monaghan	Drumbear, Monaghan	AHB	17	2023		17		2023 delivery date
Monaghan	Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	AHB	18	2023 / 2024	8	8	2	2023/2024 delivery date
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Ard an Radhairc, Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross	MCC	35	Nov-22	4	31		Remaining 35 of 41. 6 delivered in 2021.
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill Darach, Castleblayney	MCC	30	2023	5	25		Works commenced on site
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Part 2, Radhairc An Bhri. Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	10	2023 / 2024	2	8		2023/2024 delivery date
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
Ballybay - Clones	13 McCurtain Street, Clones	MCC	1	Nov-22	1			
Ballybay - Clones	12 Church St., Ballybay	MCC	2	Oct-22	2			
Ballybay - Clones	Abbey Gatehouse, Analore St., Clones	MCC	4	Sep-22	4			
Ballybay - Clones	2a & 3 Analore St., Clones	MCC	2	Sep-22		2		
Ballybay - Clones	13 Church Hill, Clones	MCC	2	Sep-22	2			
Ballybay - Clones	82 & 83 Fermanagh St., Clones	MCC	3	Aug-22	3			
Ballybay - Clones	An Clós, Ballybay (Formerly Ballybay Courtyard)	MCC	7	2023	7			Works commenced on site
Ballybay - Clones	4 apartments at Birch Court Ballybay	AHB	4	2023	4			2023 delivery date
Various	Part V	MCC	4	2023			4	2023 delivery date
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>267</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>25</b>	

9. Would this Local Authority consider introducing some evening social activities for teenagers/young adults throughout the county this winter (movie nights, subsidised trips, non-alcoholic social nights, competitive events etc)?

**Reply:** There are currently no plans for the Local Authority to introduce activities for young people as we do not have the resources or expertise to directly run such events. However, if a need for a particular youth service is identified we strive to support local groups to meet these needs through the provision of small grant funding or by signposting groups to other funding streams. The Community Department actively engages and supports the youth organisations in the county to meet the needs of young people. We are also actively engaging with youth services in the county to ensure that a quality

youth service will be delivered from the new Peace Campus.

10. What is the current number on our housing waiting list, including HAP and RAS tenants and could I get a Municipal District breakdown?

**Reply: As of the 23<sup>rd</sup> August the housing list was as follows**

- **Total applications 1097 (79 transfers)**
- **HAP tenancies 494**
- **RAS tenancies 55**

**As members will be aware most applicants avail of the opportunity to pick 3 areas of choice to maximize their chances of getting offered an allocation. These areas of choices are not confined to any particular MD. It is not unusual to see 3 of the larger urban towns being picked by applicants, for example, Clones, Monaghan, Carrickmacross. Therefore, the breakdown of applicants by MD is not fully accurate, but based on 1 area of choice the breakdown is as follows**

<b>CMX/CBY MD</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>HAP 139 / RAS 14</b>	<b>26 LA Transfers</b>
<b>CLN/BBY MD</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>HAP 74 / RAS 8</b>	<b>11 LA Transfers</b>
<b>MON MD</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>HAP 281 / RAS 33</b>	<b>42 LA Transfers</b>

**Cllr. N Keelan asked:**

11. What progress if any has been made in relation to the provision of emergency accommodation in our county for women and children in particular who are suffering from domestic violence and also to accommodate those who find themselves homeless given the lack of affordable rental properties available?

**Reply: A further meeting is arranged between the Housing Department and Tearnann in mid-September with a view to exploring possible options to providing emergency accommodation**

12. In relation to the Ardee to Castleblayney road scheme when is it expected to have a final design for this project, when can landowners and residents affected by this road scheme expect to meet with council officials and appointed agents on site to discuss land take and accommodation works and other associated issues including planning issues?

**Reply: The N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme is currently in Phase 3 of the TII project development process (Design & Environmental Evaluation). This phase of the project commenced in Spring 2021, and over recent months the necessary surveys/investigations have been substantially completed and an initial design of the proposed road has been prepared.**

**The project team will now be in a position to meet with directly affected landowners to present details of the initial road design and discuss the potential impacts of the scheme. Approximately 300 landowners may be affected by the project, and correspondence is due to issue to these landowners in early September inviting them to meet with members of the project team from mid-September. A briefing note about the upcoming landowner meetings will also be issued to the Elected members in early September.**

**At the meetings, landowners will be provided with drawings showing the indicative land take for the scheme, and details of how access will be provided to their lands/property. Accommodation works may be discussed**

but are not typically agreed at this stage of project as these will be discussed in detail at later stages of the project.

After the initial landowner meetings take place, feedback received will be considered before a design is finalised. Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is then prepared for submission through the planning approval process.

The Phase 3 design process is expected to conclude in Q3 2023. Approval will then be requested to proceed to the next phase of the design process (Phase 4; Statutory Approvals).

13. 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 paid out, applications waiting assessment and funding available?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council's 2022 allocation for the delivery of Housing Grants has been received in the amount of €1,042,996. Following a request from Housing an additional allocation in the amount of €557,020 was sought and approved from the Department to meet the demand based on works on hand. Monaghan County Council has committed a further €400,004 from its own resources bringing the total available for 2022 Housing Grants to €2,000,020.**

**In 2022 Monaghan County Council Housing Section have to date (10/08/2022)**

- Received 297 applications;
- Approved 93 applications;
- Paid out on 121 applications (*note: some of these paid out applicants would have been approved in 2021 but work finished in 2022*)
- Recouped 113 applications in the amount of €916,330 (*note: some of these recouped applicants would have been approved in 2021 but work finished in 2022*)
- There is in excess of €1.2m at Recommendation/Works /Final/Recoupment Stages made up of approximately 136 grants (*note: It is likely that some of these commitments will have to be carried in 2023 as works will not be finished by year end*)
- There are in excess of 100 applications at Registration /OT/Initial stages/ and in excess of 150 applications pending registration/processing

**Therefore, based on commitments currently on the Council's system it was necessary from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to close the process except for Medical 1 Priority applications. All other applications will be held until 2023 or until funding becomes available.**

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

**Reply: Substantial works have been completed to the wastewater treatment system in recent months and accordingly the taking in charge process can progress. The Planning Authority will advertise the intention to take in charge the estate shortly and thereafter a report will be prepared for a Council meeting.**

15. What is the up to date position in relation to the Lough Muckno feasibility study including insuring environmental, biodiversity and sustainability concerns are at the core of any plans and development into the future?

**Reply: Fehily Timoney & Co, environmental and planning consultants, have been appointed to undertake a strategic and high-level assessment of the concept development proposals developed by Stevens & Associates and their likely acceptability from an environmental and planning perspective. Their commission commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> August and it is anticipated that an in-person public consultation event will take place in early October, following the desktop analysis stage.**

**Cllr. B McKenna asked:**

16. What is the expected timeframe for the completion of the CPO process in relation to a derelict/unfinished housing development?

**Reply: The Derelict Sites Act provides the local authority with a number of options to address dereliction, including a levy, the requirement of the owner to carry out works and compulsory acquisition. A series of notices may be considered, including:**

- **Section 8(2) Notice of Intention to Make an Entry on the Derelict Sites Register**
- **Section 8(7) Notice of Entry on to Derelict Sites Register**
- **Section 11 Measures Notice requiring the owner to carry out specified works to address dereliction**
- **Section 15 Notice of Intention to Compulsory Acquire a Derelict site**
- **Section 17 Vesting Order and Notice of Vesting**

**Where all other avenues to resolve dereliction have been exhausted, the local authority may decide to initiate CPO. A minimum period of 6 months would be anticipated to follow through to Compulsory Acquisition and Vesting by the local authority. Matters including establishing ownership, service of notices, consideration of representations and appeals can add considerable time to the process.**

## **21. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations**

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

- Jennifer McCormack, Assistant Engineer, Roads Section on the death of her Father John Treanor, Emyvale on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July.
- Tommy O'Reilly, Driver, Ballybay-Clones MD, on the death of his Mother Eileen O' Reilly, Dundalk, Co. Louth on Saturday, 09<sup>th</sup> July.
- Michelle Murphy, Sports Partnership Coordinator, on the death of her Father Owen Murphy, Annaglough, Castleshane, Co. Monaghan on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July.
- Barry Sweeney, Assistant Engineer, Housing section on the death of his Mother Katie

Sweeney, Gurteen Rd., Garrison, Co. Fermanagh on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

- Helen Cunningham-Duffy, Library Assistant on the death of her Brother Patrick Cunningham, Ennis Co. Clare on Sunday, 07<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- Alan O’Dowd, Fire-Fighter, Clones Fire Station, on the death of his Mother Noreen O’Dowd, 16 Cherry Park, Clones on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- Cllr P Connolly on the death of his brother-in-law John McGuinness, RIP.
- Marie Deighan, Administrative Officer on the death of her mother in law, Lizzie Deighan, RIP
- Theresa Lennon on the death of her father Francis Lennon, RIP

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

- Molly Coffee O’Connor, Lisseggeron, Clones, on winning a gold medal at the Youth Olympics Irish National Weightlifting Championships
- Monaghan Ladies on winning the All Ireland Minor B Championship

## 22. Conferences

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
<b>AILG</b>	Celebrating Local Government	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath	14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	<b>Cllr. David Maxwell</b> <b>Cllr. Sean Gilliland</b> <b>Cllr. Richard Truell</b> <b>Cllr. Seamus Coyle</b> <b>Cllr. Brian McKenna</b> <b>Cllr. Sean Conlon</b> <b>Cllr. Paudge Connolly</b>
<b>Celtic Conferences</b>	A Practical Guide to Budget 2023	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co Louth	30 <sup>th</sup> September 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	
<b>Celtic Conferences</b>	Irish State Retirement Pensions & Benefits	O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork	7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	<b>Cllr. Richard Truell</b>



## Urgent Business

*Cllr D Maxwell proposed, Cllr R Truell seconded, that this Council write today to An Taoiseach, Minister Paschal Donohoe TD and Minister Michael Mc Grath TD asking them to bring forward a windfall tax for energy companies in the forthcoming budget to ensure that with the increasing prices in energy, companies are not increasing prices in this volatile time just to maintain massive profits.*

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

*Cllr S Conlon proposed, Cllr B McKenna seconded, that this Council write to Minister of State for European Affairs Thomas Byrne, Minister of Finance Paschal Donohue, Minister of Public Expenditure Michael McGrath and Minister of Social Protection Heather Humphreys imploring them to introduce energy cost saving, and security of supply measures, by way of introducing:*

- 1. a windfall tax on the profits of energy providers;*
- 2. a price cap on energy bills, similar to actions taken by Spain and Portugal,*
- 3. an extension of the income threshold for fuel allowance applicants,*
- 4. Implementing an energy credit scheme for households and businesses,*
- 5. directing gas and electricity providers to initiate a moratorium on cutting off gas and electricity supplies to households and businesses.*

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

It was agreed to delay the start of the October meeting to 11.00 am to facilitate members attendance at the official launch of Enterprising Monaghan's Digital Hub.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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