

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on Monday 03 October 2022 at 1.30 pm

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, Campbell, Connolly, Keelan, McCooley, McElvaney, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, Maxwell, Gilliland and Truell.

Ms. P Monahan, Deputy Chief Executive; Ms. N. Woods, Mr. J Murray, Mr. Cathal Flynn, Directors of Services; Ms. C. O'Hare, Mr. G. McMahon, A/ Director of Services; Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Brannigan, Senior Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllrs P Conlon, B McKenna

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that votes of sympathy be extended to Cllr B McKenna on the passing of his sister Maura McKenna RIP and to Ms P Monahan on the passing of her mother Mary Healy RIP. It was agreed also that a vote of sympathy be extended to Donal Sherry (former Cllr) on the passing of his brother Patsy Sherry RIP.

All members associated themselves with the votes of sympathy.

A vote of congratulations was extended to Cllr C Carthy on the birth of his daughter, Seoidín and to Cllr A McCooley on being elected Vice President of the Fianna Fail party.

Urgent Business:

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

In view of the fact that waiting times for NCT testing continues to increase, that Monaghan County Council calls on the RSA to provide the necessary increased short-term resources to clear the backlog and bring wait times down to an acceptable time span

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 05 September 2022

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 05 September 2022, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

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

- Letter from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding additional funding under the Local Improvement Scheme for 2022.
- Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., regarding Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) provisions.
- Letter from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the Health Service Executive, Mr. Paul Reid regarding the current provision of Emergency Departments services for the Cavan and Monaghan region.
- Letter from the Chief Executive Officer for the National Transport Authority, Ms. Anne Graham regarding the improvement of services at Monaghan Bus Station.
- Email from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding correspondence which he had received from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding Part V Housing and Housing Income Limits.
- Acknowledgement email from the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., regarding energy cost saving measures.
- Acknowledgement email from the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Michael McGrath, T.D., regarding energy cost saving measures.
- Acknowledgement email from the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., regarding extra resources for the provision of school transportation.
- Acknowledgement email from the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., regarding windfall tax.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding the National Fuel Scheme.
- Letter from the Oireachtas Health Committee regarding the provision of Long Covid clinics.

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

- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D., regarding windfall tax.
- Resolution from Limerick City and Council regarding the ongoing war in Ukraine and the global grain shortage.
- Letter from Glaslough Development Association regarding a decision to erect a 19.5m mast in Glaslough village.

At this point, the Cathaoirleach advised members that he is withdrawing his motion and correspondence circulated regarding Glaslough Development Association. There would be no further discussion on the matter during the course of this meeting.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett, seconded by Cllr P Connolly, it was agreed that this Council again writes to Minister Norma Foley to stress the urgency and the lack of School Bus Transportation that is not available to many school going children. This year, the Minister Announced that free transportation would be available to all school going children. This has not been the case as many children that had tickets previously have still not received Bus tickets and are not permitted to travel. We in Monaghan County Council urge the Minister to act on this urgently as it is now October and not acceptable.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr N Keelan, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien T.D expressing concern about the delay in increasing the income limits for eligibility for social housing. We ask the Council Executive to include in this correspondence, a break-down of private rent increases in this county since 2014 to highlight increased pressures on people seeking housing supports.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr R Truell, it was agreed that this Council support the Ballybay – Clones MD motion calling on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD and the HSE for the immediate payment of the Covid Bonus of €1000 to all Community Health Care workers.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Lands in Ballybay to Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church

Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services, outlined the S183 circulated for the disposal of 0.13 hectares of land to the Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church. He advised that the lands previously formed part of the Second Ballybay Presbyterian Church property and were transferred to Monaghan Co Co to facilitate the construction of OPDs. The remaining plot has not been used or occupied by the council in the interim and has remained vacant, the church are now seeking to acquire this land back.

On the proposal Cllr Gilliland seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Land located at Hall Street, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 09 August 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider Section 183 Notice – Lease of Rockcorry Community Centre

Mr C. Flynn, Director of Services, outlined the S183 circulated. It is proposed to lease two rooms in the Rockcorry Community Building to the CMETB to facilitate Scoil Mhuire National School as a tenant. The proposal had been discussed at the Ballybay-Clones MD Meeting.

On the proposal Cllr R Truell seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approve the Lease of Rockcorry Community Centre, Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 07 September 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

In accordance with the Ethics Framework, Cllrs Maxwell, Conlon, Campbell, O'Hanlon and Carthy declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the discussion

5. To consider allocation of funding for Community Development Fund 2022

The Members noted the report circulated which recommended the allocation of €98,250 funding under the the Community Development Fund 2022. Mr Barry Eaton, Community Section outlined the recommendations for the Community Development Fund 2022. He advised that the Community Development Fund aims to promote and enhance community development and increase social inclusion activity throughout the county.

A total of 88 funding applications were received. Following assessment, 76 applications were deemed successful. The total budget available for funding was €98,250. Unsuccessful applicants were signposted to other possible sources of funding.

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the grants under the Community Development Fund 2022 as outlined in circulated document.

6. To consider Special Speed Limit Byelaws Review for Regional and Local Roads

Mr K. West, Roads Section outlined a presentation on a review undertaken of speed limits on regional and local roads in the county. He advised that consultation had taken place with AGS, Elected members and MDs. Following public consultation period, no submissions were received.

He outlined the speed limit changes:

- Two roads updated
- Two roads considered were previously updated on the last byelaws
- 14 Housing developments – 30 kph

Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services advised members that following a discussion at CPG and having given further consideration it was agreed that Monaghan Co Council's Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Regional & Local Roads) Bye-Laws document will remain unchanged.

G. McMahon and K. West responded to members queries.

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that the review, as presented, be approved.

7. To approve €10m for Mortgage Related Lending

Mr J. Murray, Head of Finance informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to draw down a further €10m of Mortgage Related borrowing.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that the Council approve the draw down a further €10m of Mortgage Related borrowing.

8. To fix a date for the Statutory Budget 2023 Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed to hold the Statutory Budget meeting in the afternoon of the 21 November 2022 at 2.00 pm.

9. To approve members to the LCDC

The members noted the recommendations for replacement members on the LCDC as a result of recent retirements and reassignments.

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed to approve Gareth McMahon A/Director of Services as a member of the LCDC replacing Patricia

Monahan, Acting Chief Executive and Briege Quinn, A/Head of Enterprise, replacing John McEntegart who retired from LEO on 15 September 2022.

10. To consider hosting civic receptions

Following discussion, it was agreed to host a joint Civic Reception for Monaghan Ladies All Ireland B Champions and Ms Molly Coffey O'Connor, Youth Olympic Irish National Weightlifting Champion at 5.30 pm following the November Co Co meeting on Tuesday, 01 November 2022.

It was agreed that the November Co Co meeting would commence at 2.00 pm in the Hillgrove Hotel to facilitate the Civic Reception afterwards.

11. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 20th September 2022.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20th September 2022 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that the Cultural Sections of this Council initiate dialogue with the National Gallery of Ireland and The Phoebus Foundation in relation to the 'Crazy About Dymphna' Exhibition that has just concluded in Geel, Belgium and will exhibit at the National Gallery of Ireland next Spring. That the Twinning Committee will meet with members of the Tydavnet Community to discuss a programme of events aimed at enhancing the twinning between Geel and County Monaghan in anticipation of this Exhibit coming to Ireland.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr N Keelan, it was agreed that the Cathaoirleach would extend an invitation to the Mayor of Geel to coincide with the exhibition in the National Gallery of Ireland.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20th September 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

12. To receive Management Report – September 2022

The members noted the Management Report for the month September which had been circulated with the agenda.

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

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

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

- AILG – Autumn Training Seminar – Co. Meath on 14th & 15th September 2022.

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 05 September 2022

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 05 September 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that this Council write again imploring 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.

16. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Discussed under Management Report item. No further update on the N2 National Primary Road Scheme.

17. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

No further update on the North South Interconnector project.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that this Council notes the proposed Kildare to Meath 400 KV interconnection line is moving ahead at pace giving the broad community acceptance for this project which is been constructed underground along the public road network for the most part.

That this Council write to Eirgrid requesting information on what efforts they have made to develop the north south interconnector using the local public road and rail network. If the undergrounding of this project has not been considered to date using the road and rail network, will you now consider this as a feasible option.

That we write to our Oireachtas members seeking support for the undergrounding of this project using the local road and rail network as is the case with the Kildare to Meath line.

18. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal Project. Cllr McElvaney advised members that the Canadian Ambassador had visited the Canal Stores on her recent trip to Monaghan and had been provided with an update on the Project by Waterways Ireland.

19. Questions:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. What is the up-to-date situation with the Clois na Droimmaine estate in Carrickmacross which remains unfinished and has had no construction works carried out for months; what

measures are being looked at to force completion, if current negotiations between Approved Housing Body and Developer aren't successful?

Reply: Tuath have met with the Vendor several times, most recently in the week ending 16 September 2022. Tuath recently advised the Housing Department that they were awaiting the Vendor's final proposal which they expected to have before the end of September 2022 for review.

If the Vendor's proposal is acceptable, it would be anticipated that work would recommence on site. Tuath have also confirmed that they are fully committed to getting this scheme delivered

A planning application was submitted for the completion of the majority of this development in November 2021. The architect acting for the developer has asked to meet with the Planning Authority in the week beginning 03rd October 2022, prior to the formal submission of the requested additional information, which must be done before 25th October 2022.

In the event that the development remains unfinished, then the Council shall consider all statutory remedies available to it, so as to ensure that the matter is resolved.

2. What is the timeframe for projects currently being delivered in Co. Monaghan through the Active Travel scheme?

Reply: The projects being funded by the NTA under the Active Travel Investment Allocation vary in scale, nature, complexity and costs involved in the project.

All projects must be progressed in accordance with the NTA Cost Management Guidelines, Project Approval Guidelines and set procedures.

There are 7 phases through which projects are progressed as outlined below:

Phase 1- Scope & Purpose

Phase 2- Concept Development and Options Selection

Phase 3- Preliminary Design

Phase 4- Statutory Processes

Phase 5- Detailed Design and Procurement

Phase 6- Construction and Implementation

Phase 7 – Close out and Review

Depending on which of the three financial "Bands" that the project cost estimate falls within, reports are submitted to the NTA for approval at each set "Gateway" or "Hold Point" as outlined in the Table below.

The timeframe for each project can take in the region of 6-12 months but may take shorter/ longer periods depending on the objectives of any scheme.

PAG Gateways	Combined Gateway Deliverables for Schemes deemed as Minor Works by the NTA		
	Band 1 < €0.5M	Band 2 < €5M	Band 2 >€5m < €10M
Gateway 1 Scope and Purpose	Grant Application Form	Grant Application Form	Grant Application Form
Gateway 2 Options Selection	Gateway 2 – 5 report Hold Point – Agree Design by email	Gateway 2+3 Report	Gateway 2 Report
Gateway 3 Preliminary Design		Hold Point - Agreed Options Selection Report by email	Gateway 3 Report
Gateway 4 Statutory Processes		Hold Point – Agreed Preliminary Design by email	
Gateway 5 Detailed Design and Procurement		Gateway 4+5 Report	Gateway 4+5 Report Hold Point – Agree Tender Documents by email
Gateway 6 Construction	Gateway 6+7 Report	Gateway 6+7 Report	Gateway 6+7 Report
Gateway 7 Close out and Review			

Table 1 Combined Gateway Deliverables for STMG and Active Travel Schemes

3. When is it expected that works to tidy up Hope Castle, Castleblayney, will take place?

Reply: The proposed aesthetic maintenance works are scheduled to be undertaken in March/April 2023.

4. There is an exceptional need to deliver Housing units in Carrickmacross for those on our 1 and 2 bed council housing list; what measures are currently being looked at to increase our stock of suitable homes? Are the Housing Section working on turn-key developments that will deliver a higher volume of apartments/smaller houses and are AHB's and Developers being encouraged to provide this type of unit in their proposed projects?

Reply: Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies have been making exceptional progress in the provision of social housing in Carrickmacross. In 2019 the Gross Social Housing Need in Carrickmacross stood at 352. The Gross Social Housing Need in Carrickmacross stood at 234 on the 21st of September 2022 before 41 new houses at Ard an Radhairc were occupied.

87% of the remaining Gross Social Housing Need in Carrickmacross is for one- or two-bedroom dwellings, 5% of the remaining need is for 3-bedroom houses and 8% of the need is for four- or five-bedroom houses.

Monaghan County Council is working on potential turnkey developments where Developers and AHB's are being encouraged to provide dwellings to specifically address the social housing need identified by providing an appropriate mix of dwellings with a greater focus on accommodating people in need of one- and two-bedroom dwellings. Monaghan County Council is requiring private developers / planning applicants to include 2-bedroom dwellings in their planning applications where social houses are required to be provided under Part V.

Cllr A. McCooey asked:

5. In relation to housing grants, can I have the following information in relation to:
- Mobility aid grants
 - Housing adaption grants

- Housing aid for older people
- a) I understand that for all three of these grants that Monaghan County Council provide 20% funding while the government provide 80% funding. Can I confirm is it the position that the Council budget the amount they are willing to contribute and the Government match this with the remaining 80% or do the Department set the maximum figure that the Council will be allocated?
 - b) Can I ask for the Council budget allocation figure of 20% regarding all three of these grants for the years 2018-2022 inclusive broken down by both grant and year.
 - c) Furthermore, can I ascertain if any further funding was offered by the Department that they would be willing to contribute during this period that the Council did not avail of because we could not match with the remaining 20%.
 - d) Finally, can you set out as of today's date or 1st August, if easier, the number of outstanding applications awaiting decision for each of the three grants.

Reply: Monaghan County Council's 2022 allocation for the delivery of Housing Grants has been made up of an initial allocation of €1,042,980 plus an additional allocation of €557,020 which was sought and approved from the Department to meet the demand based on works on hand.

Monaghan County Council has committed a further €400,000 from its own resources bringing the total available for 2022 Housing Grants to €2,000,000. (i.e. 80% = €1.6m plus 20% €400,000 – total €2m)

In 2022 Monaghan County Council Housing Section have to date (20/09/2022)

- Received 302 applications.
- Approved 123 applications.
- Paid out on 143 applications (*note: some of these paid out applicants would have been approved in 2021 but work finished in 2022*)
- Recouped 154 applications in the amount of € €1,295,592 (*note: some of these recouped applicants would have been approved in 2021 but work finished in 2022*)
- There is in excess of €1.084m at Recommendation/Works /Final/Recoupment Stages made up of approximately 128 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 80 applications at Registration /OT/Initial stages/ and
- There is in approx. 100 applications pending processing. Engineers will be progressing these applications over the next number of weeks.

Therefore, based on commitments currently on the Council's system it was necessary from Friday 24th 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.

The Department determine the initial maximum allocation based on certain criteria – the local authority also determine how much funds it has available for match funding at budget time. In 2022 €400k was allocated for the delivery of Housing Grants. The below table gives an indication of the increase in funding that has been delivered over last number of years

MCC Match Funding - 2018 / €240,000: 2019 / €360,000: 2020 / €400,000: 2021 / €400,000: 2022 / €400,000.

Cllr S. Coyle will ask:

6. How many Planning Approved and Constructed Housing Estates across County Monaghan have not yet been fully Taken in Charge by Monaghan County Council and what are the Names and Locations of these Estates, can it also be included as too whether an application for the Taking in Charge of the estate has been lodged to Monaghan County Council?

Reply: A formal audit of all estates in the County has not been conducted. It can however be confirmed that the following housing estates have not taken in charge, nor has an application been received to do so:

Crescent Hill	Castleblayney.
Hall Street	Ballybay.
Bramley Grove	Muckno Street, Castleblayney.
Conabury Close/Conabury View	Castleblayney.
Church Heath	Castleblayney.
Black Lane	Black Lane, Monaghan.
Sruth An iuir	Oram, Castleblayney.
Ashview Court	Castleblayney.
Blaeberry Walk	Bree Road, Castleblayney.
Carraig Brooke	Carrickmacross.
The Bridge	Mullanary Road, Carrickmacross.
Ascail Rois	Magheraboy Road, Carrickmacross.
Sean Carraig	Carrickmacross.
Tobair Na Carraig	Ballybay Road Roundabout, Carrickmacross.
Drummond Ross	Ardee Road, Carrickmacross
Forth View	Lisdoonan, Carrickmacross.
The Grange	Monaghan.
Knockroe Glen	Cornacassa, Monaghan.
Riverside	Monaghan.
An T'Ullghort Rope Walk	Rope Walk, Monaghan.
Mullan Village	Mullan, Emyvale.
Chapel Court	Carrickroe.
Riverside Close	Ballinode.
Cnoc Na Greine	Tydavnet.
Gola Crest	Scotstown.
Tower View	Cara Street, Clones.
An Tuachtarlann	Liseggerton, Clones.
Mullanamoy Near	Newtownbulter Road, Clones.
Dromore View	Ballybay.
Ceim Na Carraige	Rockcorry.
Annahagh Close	Monaghan.
Ashgrove Lawns	Monaghan.
Dernagrew	Monaghan.
Cluain Ard	Dernagrew, Monaghan.

Applications have been received to take the following estates in charge, but the process has not yet been completed.

An Crannog	Glen Road, Monaghan.
Sliabh Dubh	Corduff, Carrickmacross.
Drumakelly	Annyalla, Castleblayney.
Ardeveagh	Castleblayney Road, Ballybay.
Sruthan Claddagh	Ballybay.
Conabury Hill	Castleblayney.
Killycard Manor	Castleblayney.
Mullach Glas	Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.
Cois Chnoic	Monaghan.
Oisin Brian / Oisin Vale	Emyvale.
Millbrook	Milltown, Monaghan.
Eanaigh Ealta	Clones.

Lios A Ghoirtin	Liseggerton, Clones.
The Alders	Ballybay.
Dartrey Court	Rockcorry.
Rock River View	Rockcorry.
Oakland Grove	Scotshouse, Clones.
Scotshouse Close	Scotshouse, Clones.
Carrowbarra Island	Smithborough.
Drummond Radhairc	Drummond Radhairc, Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross.
Lough na Glack	Carrickmacross.
Village Green	Castle Leslie Estate, Glaslough.
Crann Nua	Crann Nua, Carrickmacross.
Alderwood	Alderwood, Carrickmacross.
Knocknamaddy Ballybay	Ballybay.
Killycard (Radhairc an Bhri)	Castleblayney.
Bramley Crescent	Muckno Street, Castleblayney.
Cois Locha	Doohamlet.
Drumakelly	Annyalla, Castleblayney.

7. Will Monaghan County Council outline in detail the status of the following estates application's to be Taken in Charge-
- The Alders, Clones Road, Ballybay.
 - Sruthan Claddagh, Meeting House Lane, Ballybay.
 - Knocknamaddy Estate, Ballybay.
 - Dartry Estate, Rockcorry.
 - Carrabarra Island, Smithborough.

Reply:

The Alders, Clones Road, Ballybay.

Further to a Site Resolution Plan being agreed with Irish Water in late 2021, consultant engineers were appointed in July 2022 to carry out detailed site investigations which will inform a technical design solution to the subsidence problems in the foul network. Site investigation works and a topographical survey have now been completed and a final design solution is expected to be completed in week commencing 26th September 2022. Thereafter further engagement will take place with Irish Water so that remedial works can be tendered as soon as possible.

Sruthan Claddagh, Meeting House Lane, Ballybay.

A taking in charge application was received in August 2022. The Local Authority has carried out a technical assessment of the development. In addition, it has consulted with Irish Water and are currently awaiting their response. The process shall be progressed upon the receipt of their comments.

Knocknamaddy Estate, Ballybay.

A taking in charge application was received in April 2022. The Local Authority has carried out a technical assessment of the development. In addition, it has consulted with Irish Water and are currently awaiting their response. The process shall be progressed upon the receipt of their comments.

Dartry Court, Rockcorry.

A taking in charge application was received in March 2022. Water Services section are carrying out CCTV surveys on the foul and water services network at present. Upon completion of the surveys, the response of Irish Water will be sought to take the estate in charge.

Carrowbarra Island, Smithborough.

Following a technical assessment, remedial works necessary to bring the estate up to taking in charge standard have been identified and costed. In addition, the Planning Authority, through its solicitor, is pursuing the drawdown of the planning bond submitted in compliance with the related planning permission. Irish Water have advised that the pursuit of the bond must be exhausted in order for the taking in charge process to be concluded.

8. A) Can Monaghan County Council outline the number of Housing Units completed and occupied in 2018,2019,2020,2021 & 2022, including the numbers that will be occupied by the 31st December 2022, in the following categories-
- 4 bedroomed or larger family homes,
 - 3 bedroomed family homes.
 - 2 bedroomed homes.
 - single person homes.
 - O.P.D.s

B) Also, the numbers in each of the above categories completed by Monaghan County Council or an Approved Voluntary Housing Body?

Reply: Please see Table below detailing number of units per municipal district provided by Monaghan County Council or an Approved Housing Bodies from 2018-2022. Approved Housing Bodies provided 39% of units in past five years.

Municipal District	Monaghan		Ballybay - Clones		Carrick - Castleblayney		Acquisitions & Part Vs (County Wide)		TOTAL	Comments
	AHB	MCC	AHB	MCC	AHB	MCC	AHB	MCC		
2018	0	0	6	11	38	4	6	33	98	Figure excludes Voids
2019	0	46	0	5	50	21	3	21	146	Figure excludes Voids
2020	0	9	23	6	0	34	2	23	97	Figure excludes Voids
2021	0	14	19	6	45	6	8	1	99	Figure excludes Voids
2022	0	26	0	22	25	56	0	3	132	Figure excludes Voids
TOTAL	0	95	48	50	158	121	19	81	572	

Please see Table below for 2022 detailing number of units, location, and delivery breakdown. The sizes of homes to be completed are as follows; 1 or 2-bedrooms 42%, 3 bedrooms 53% and 4 or 5 bedrooms 5%.

Housing For All 2022								
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	Delivered April 2022	8	5		6 OPDs completed in 2021
Ballybay - Clones	An Bonnan Bui & Flower Shop Fermanagh Street	MCC	6	Delivered June 2022	6			
Ballybay - Clones	63 Fermanagh Street Clones	MCC	3	Delivered June 2022	3			
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radharc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney	AHB	13	Delivered June 2022	5	8		Remaining 13 of 38.
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Lakeview Apartments, Drummond Radhairc	AHB	12	Delivered June 2022	12			
Ballybay - Clones	82 & 83 Fermanagh St., Clones	MCC	3	Aug-22	3			
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	1			
County Wide	Acquisitions & Part Vs (County Wide)	MCC	3	Oct-22		2	1	
Ballybay - Clones	12 Church St., Ballybay	MCC	2	Oct-22	2			
Monaghan	Lui na Greine, Scotstown	MCC	13	Oct-22	4	5	4	Remaining 13 of 32.
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	21	Dec-22	4	17		4 OPDs in this phase
PROJECTED TOTAL:			132					

9. Can Monaghan County Council immediately have the Public Lighting at Sruthan Claddagh, Meeting House Lane, Ballybay reconnected, as the Public Lighting in the Estate has been out of action for the past two years, as dark winter evening's approach, this is a great safety concern for residents and their families?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has recently arranged for a survey of the Public Lighting network to be completed at Sruthan Claddagh, Meeting House Lane, Ballybay.

This survey has identified a number of issues with the existing public lighting network at this location. The Council is arranging for quotations to be obtained for the required remedial works to address the identified issues.

Completion of the remedial works will be dependent on available funding.

10. Have Monaghan County Council made application to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for funding to address problems in Housing Estates in County Monaghan due to inferior Developer Provided Infrastructure, under the Department's Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme, how much funding has been received under this programme and what Estates in the County have benefitted?

Reply: An application was made in October 2019 to the 2019-2021 Department's Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme for 4no estates in the county. The total amount requested within this application was to the value of circa €263k.

Funding was sought for the following estates

- Siabh Dubh, Corduff
- Oisín Vale & Brian Knockconnan
- Forth View, Lisdoonan
- Drumakelly, Annyalla

Monaghan County Council were unsuccessful in their application and received no funding under the programme.

The Dept responded outlining those counties and estates that were successful in their application, complete with funding being provided. Applications that were successful

were where the Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) could reasonably easily be connected to the public network.

The reason given for being unsuccessful was that Irish Water intend to complete a national study on some sample sites and this study will provide options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment for future DPI programmes.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

11. Given the difficulties that our country may be facing in terms of energy security and supply in the time ahead, what plans if any have the council in terms of extra energy saving measures or indeed encouraging our housing tenants to implement energy saving measures in their homes etc.

Reply: In 2021, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced the ten-year Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. The aim of this programme is to improve the energy efficiency of older, poorer performing housing stock. Following the success of the 2021 programme of works the Housing Department within Monaghan County Council have developed an ambitious programme of works for 2022. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has provided a funding allocation for 54 properties in 2022. Monaghan County Council has targeted upgrade works to 72 properties (€2.4million) which will have a phased delivery some of which concludes in early 2023. This work will continue over the next number years as extra funding becomes available.

12. In relation to the new (town) vacant property refurbishment grant aid of up to (€50,000), how many applications have been received to date? How many have been approved, rejected, or are currently being processed?

Reply: To date, 11 expressions of interest have been received. See the following breakdown: -

8 have been rejected for the reasons listed below.

- 1 - not been vacant for at least two years
- 7 - not within a town or village boundary.

Three are currently being considered and Housing are awaiting final application with their required details.

13. In relation to climate action and the need for additional specialist resources, what is the up-to-date position regarding the provision of a climate action coordinator, energy and emissions manager, green solution specialist and community climate action officer?

Reply: Regarding the Climate Co-Ordinator post, Monaghan County Council has applied for sanction to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for the filling of this post, but no approval has issued yet from the Department.

The Department has confirmed that funding has been allocated towards the provision of a Community Climate Action Officer in each local authority. Monaghan County Council is progressing this recruitment process to fill this position.

Monaghan County Council has recruited an Energy officer Niall Skinnader, Assistant Engineer.

Whilst the Green Solution Specialist position was identified in the "Local authority sector strategy for delivering on the Climate Action Charter and Climate Action Plan" which was prepared by the CCMA and the Climate Action Regional Offices, it appears that the Department may not be intending to progress this position in local authorities presently.

14. When is it hoped to complete the taken in charge process by this local authority of the Sliabh Dubh Estate at Corduff?

Reply: The Planning Authority have commenced the advertising of its intention to take this estate in charge. Following the expiry of period for the submission of comments in November 2022, it is anticipated that a report will subsequently be put before the Council for consideration.

15. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the local lane improvement scheme (LIS) in terms of lanes completed this year, lanes remaining on the list and lanes currently been accessed, when is it hoped to open up the application process for new applicants?

Reply: All lanes on the historic list will be completed in 2022.

It is expected to have 13 lanes completed in total for 2022.

The new applications received in 2017/18 have been assessed and ranked in accordance with the adopted scoring criteria.

- **118 Applications received 2017/18**
- **79 Applications were deemed to be eligible**
- **39 Application were deemed ineligible**

New application will be accepted when the 2017/18 list is substantially complete. The timeframe for which will depend on the funding allocation from the department.

20. Notices of Motion

In the absence of Cllr Coyle, consideration of Notice of Motion 20(3) was deferred to the November Council meeting.

Cllr P Treanor proposed, Cllr N Keelan seconded:

1. That Monaghan County Council notes that Citizens' Assemblies are powerful democratic exercises that inform citizens, allowing them to debate specifics, develop positions and inform policy. They have operated effectively in many jurisdictions across the world. This Council calls on the Irish Government to establish an all-Ireland Citizens' Assembly to debate and discuss our constitutional future. The debate on Irish Unity is live and growing, and we must plan for constitutional change, in the context of the Good Friday Agreement provision for a Unity referendum.

That Monaghan County Council also invites officials from the Taoiseach's Shared Island Unit to present to Council and provide an update on activity and plans for the future.

Following a short debate on the motion, a vote by show of hands resulted in 8 for, 2 abstentions. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

2. That Monaghan County Council supports the appeal from Glaslough Development Association that the members pass a motion of no confidence in An Bord Pleanála regarding the multiple failures with internal procedures, improper decision making and non-declared conflict of interest issues at this Government agency.

And, that this Council write to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Dara O'Brien TD and the Office of the Planning Regulator requesting that An Bord Pleanála overturn their decision to grant permission to a 19.5 telecommunications mast in Glaslough Village due to the Deputy Chair of An Bord Pleanála Paul Hyde's intervention that overruled both Monaghan County Council and his Boards recommendations that sought a refusal to the mast.

And, that we request that the circumstances relating to this planning debacle are included within the scope of the two separate inquiries currently investigating repeated governance violations within An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr S Conlon requested that his motion be withdrawn. This was agreed.

21. Votes of Sympathy

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

- Margaret McCusker, Head of Health and Safety, on the death of her Mother Margaret (Madge) Byrne, 8 Derryolam Park, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on Tuesday, 13th September.
- Karen McDonald, Staff Officer, Community and Enterprise, on the death of her Father Bernard (Barney) McDonald on Saturday, 17th September.
- Sean Treanor, W&S Plumber/Caretaker, on the death of his Mother Bernadette Treanor on Sunday, 18th September.

22. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr N Keelan 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
AILG	Disability and Access	Radisson Hotel, Sligo	20.10.22	Cllr C Carthy
AILG	Disability and Access	Brehon Hotel, Killarney	22.10.22	Cllr. Richard Truell Cllr. Paudge Connolly Cllr. Sean Gilliland Cllr. David Maxwell
Celtic Conferences	Innovation in Solar Energy Technology	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	28 th , 29 th & 30 th October	Cllr Sean Gilliland
Celtic Conferences	The role of local authorities in addressing the needs of Older People	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	11 th , 12 th & 13 th November	

Urgent Business

Cllr Connolly proposed, Cllr McElvaney seconded:

In view of the fact that waiting times for NCT testing continues to increase, that Monaghan County Council calls on the RSA to provide the necessary increased short-term resources to clear the back log and bring wait times down to an acceptable time span

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: _____