

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Hillgrove hotel, Monaghan on Tuesday 01 November 2022 at 2.00 pm

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs. Aughey, Bennett, Conlon, Carthy, Campbell, Connolly, Keelan, McCooey, McElvaney, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, Maxwell, McKenna, 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

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr A Campbell, it was agreed that votes of sympathy be extended to the family of Ronnie and Jean Hollinger who tragically passed away on 27 October 2022 and to the family of Owen (Hughie) McKenna who passed away on 28 October 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr A McCooey, it was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of Fearghal Duffy, Ballybay who passed away on 30 October 2022.

All members associated themselves with the votes of sympathy.

Urgent Business:

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

That this Council call on the Government to defer the introduction of a 'concrete/block levy' for the foreseeable future.

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

Following a vote by show of hands resulting in 10 for, 5 against it was agreed to take the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 03 October 2022

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 03 October 2022, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

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

- Letter from the David O'Callaghan, Pensions Policy and Free Scheme Unit, Department of Social Protection regarding increasing the means threshold for the fuel allowance

payment.

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding Long Covid.
- Letter from Ms. Veronica Rowland, Vehicle Standards & Enforcement, Road Safety Authority regarding National Car Testing Service (NCTS).
- from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Stephen Mulvany regarding the payment of the Covid bonus to Community Healthcare workers.
- Acknowledgment letter from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Stephen Mulvany regarding the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Acknowledgement email from the private secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding income limits for social housing.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Micheal Martin, T.D., regarding the establishment of an All-Ireland Citizens' Assembly.
- Resolution from Cork County Council regarding elected members power in relation to the adoption of Statutory Plans made under the Planning Acts.

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

- Email from Ms, Stephanie Dunne, Communications Manager, RCSI Hospital Group regarding an extension to the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding an extension to the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan General Hospital.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council supports the Cork Co Co motion seeking support from Local Authorities to address the undermining of Elected Members power in relation to the adoption of Statutory Plans made under the Planning Acts.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr N Keelan, it was agreed that this Council respond to correspondence from Fiona Conroy, Private Secretary to Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, TD requesting increased support for long covid sufferers. They should be offered emergency medical card cover for the duration of their illness and support with rent/mortgage and other hardships.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council welcomes the additionality of opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit at Monaghan Hospital from its current 9-5, 40 hours of operation per week, to an extended 8am to 8pm during Monday to Friday only. However, that we also convey our profound disappointment at the failure of the HSE and Department of Health in recognising that these extra opening hours fall far short of the opening times of all other Minor Injury Units in this State that operate every day of the week. That this Council also question the temporary and conditional nature of these new extended hours that are only to remain in place as part of the Winter Plan 2022/23.

We therefore call on the HSE, the Department of Health and Minister Stephen Donnelly to implement immediately an 8am to 8pm, 7 days per week service at the Minor Injury Unit at Monaghan Hospital in an effort to address the continuously declining provision of Emergency

Department services at Cavan Hospital due to capacity and overcrowding issues that create hardship for both patients and staff.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that this Council write to the Health Service Executive seeking that a full promotional campaign be initiated to highlight the 50% increase in hours in the Monaghan Minor Injuries Unit.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice - Disposal of Land at 74 Glaslough Street, Monaghan

Mr. C. Flynn, Director of Services, outlined the S183 circulated for the disposal of 0.0151 hectares of land at 74 Glaslough Street, Monaghan to Mr K. Corley, Stracunnion, Monaghan.

On the proposal Cllr R Aughey seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Land located at 74 Glaslough Street, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 03 October 2022 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for the development of a new surface carpark at the N54 Broad Road

Mr T Gourley, Planning Officer, referred to the Part VIII Report which had been circulated in respect of the development of a new surface carpark and associated works at the N54 Broad Road. He advised that no submissions had been received during the public consultation period.

Mr D McElwain, MD Co-Ordinator, responded to members queries.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed to approve the development of a new surface carpark and associated works at the N54 Broad Road as detailed in the Chief Executive's Reports prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

5. To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for development, consisting of the change of use, refurbishment and restoration of the former Castleblayney Market House/Court House (a protected structure) into a public facility.

Mr T Gourley, Planning Officer, referred to the Part VIII Report which had been circulated in respect of the development, consisting of the change of use, refurbishment and restoration of the former Castleblayney Market House/Court House (a protected structure) into a public facility. He advised that no submissions had been received during the public consultation period.

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell seconded by Cllr A McCooey, it was agreed to approve the development, consisting of the change of use, refurbishment and restoration of the former Castleblayney Market House/Court House (a protected structure) into a public facility as detailed in the Chief Executive's Reports prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

6. To receive an overview of Residential Zoned Land Tax

Mr T. Gourley, Planning Section outlined a presentation on Residential Zoned Land Tax. He advised that RZLT was provided for within the Finance Act 2021 and announced in Budget 2022, with the purpose of activating existing residential planning permissions and development plan zonings where housing is permitted and where the land is connected to, or has access to services, but remains undeveloped.

Local Authorities are required to undertake a mapping exercise annually in their functional area and publish. The tax will be administered by Revenue.

T Gourley outlined the Milestone dates stating that Draft Maps must be published by the LA by 01 November 2022 with public submission period to LA ending 01 January 2023. The process will conclude with the publication of the Final Map on 1st December, following the outcome of any appeals lodged to An Bord Pleanála.

In Monaghan, the RZLT will apply to zonings in Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay. It will also apply to Tier 4 villages. He outlined the Planning Authority actions in respect of the legislation. He acknowledged the input of the Municipal Districts, Water Services Section and IT section in respect of the mapping exercise, which was a significant body of work.

He advised members that a national publicity campaign would commence on 2 November and that a local awareness campaign through use of multiple channels would also commence to convey awareness in the county.

Mr Gourley responded to members queries and the Cathaoirleach thanked him for his presentation.

7. To consider allocation of grants under Round 2 of the Disability Participation and Awareness Grant Scheme 2022.

The Members noted the report circulated which recommended the allocation of funding under Round 2 of the Disability and Awareness Grant Scheme 2022.

Mr B Eaton, Community Section outlined the recommendations for Round 2 of the Disability Participation and Awareness Grant Scheme 2022. The Scheme aims to promote positive attitudes to disability in our communities, as they are key to achieving inclusion and ensuring people with disabilities can reach their full potential.

A total of 13 funding applications were received under Round 2. Following assessment, 7 applications were deemed successful. The remaining budget available for funding was €17,111.21.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the Round 2 allocation of funding, as outlined in the report, under the Disability and Awareness Grant Scheme 2022.

8. To receive an update on MCC Energy Considerations

Mr. N. Skinnader, Environment Section joined the meeting to give a presentation on Monaghan Co Co Energy Upgrades.

During the course of his presentation, he provided detail on the following points:

- Energy Efficiency within Monaghan County Council
 - Climate Action Energy Targets
 - Energy projects to date
- Housing Energy Upgrades
 - Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme
 - Capital Works
- Capital Funding Projects with SEAI
 - Pathfinder Funding
 - Pathfinder Projects
- What Next – 2030 Targets
 - Plans to improve energy efficiency and carbon footprint
 - Reduce Your Use Campaign

Mr Skinnader and Ms N Woods responded to members queries. The Cathaoirleach thanked him for his presentation.

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr S Treanor, it was agreed that this Council call on the Ministers for Energy and Finance to initiate a scheme, similar to the 'Fair Deal' scheme, whereby pensioners and retired people's homes would have solar panels fitted to their homes, thereby greatly reducing their energy costs.

On the proposal of Cllr C Carthy, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that this Council calls on the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) to outline what businesses are provided with cheaper rate energy on a wholesale purchase basis and ask that the cheaper rate in question be given to SMEs who are currently seeing their rates significantly increase (in some cases, 4 times higher than last year). We also ask that this request be forwarded to the Minister for Environment, Eamonn Ryan TD for response.

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 18 October 2022.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 18 October 2022 which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 18 September 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

10. To receive Management Report – October 2022

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

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

11. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Deputy Chief Executive informed members that there were no matters for consideration

under this item.

12. 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 03 October 2022.

13. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Mr G McMahon, A/Director of Services advised that the most recent update was incorporated in the Management Report circulated with the Agenda.

14. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

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

- Letter from Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D., regarding a parliamentary transcript debate he had recently with the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D., regarding a review of the North South Interconnector Project.

15. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal Project.

16. Questions:

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

1. What is the update on the approved housing developments and Monaghan County Council own build projects in the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD?

Reply: Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies in Carrickmacross- Castleblayney MD continue to deliver with 186 additional social houses at a budget of over €45 million proposed between 2022 to 2024.

The breakdown of ownership of additional social houses between 2022 to 2024 will be 67% (125) Council owned properties and 33% (61) Approved Housing Body properties.

The table below sets out current situation regarding approved housing delivery in all Municipal Districts for the period 2022 to 2024.

| Housing For All 2022-2024 | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| MD | Project Name | MCC or AHB | No of Units | Delivery Date |
| Monaghan | Lui na Greine, Scotstown | MCC | 13 | Delivered April 2022 |
| Ballybay - Clones | An Bonnan Bui & Flower Shop Fermanagh Street | MCC | 6 | Delivered June 2022 |
| Ballybay - Clones | 63 Fermanagh Street Clones | MCC | 3 | Delivered June 2022 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Radharc an Bhri, Bree, Castleblayney | AHB | 13 | Delivered June 2022 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Lakeview Apartments, Drummond Radhairc | AHB | 12 | Delivered June 2022 |
| Ballybay - Clones | 82 & 83 Fermanagh St., Clones | MCC | 3 | Delivered September 2022 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Ard an Radhairc, Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross | MCC | 28 | Delivered September 2022 |
| Ballybay - Clones | Abbey Gatehouse, Analore St., Clones | MCC | 4 | Oct-22 |
| Ballybay - Clones | 2a & 3 Analore St., Clones | MCC | 2 | Oct-22 |
| Ballybay - Clones | 13 Church Hill, Clones | MCC | 2 | Oct-22 |
| Ballybay - Clones | 12 Church St., Ballybay | MCC | 2 | Nov-22 |
| Monaghan | Lui na Greine, Scotstown | MCC | 13 | Dec-22 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Ard an Radhairc, Ballybay Road, Carrickmacross | MCC | 7 | Dec-22 |
| Monaghan | Acquisitions & Part Vs (County Wide) | MCC | 8 | Dec-22 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Coill Darach, Castleblayney | MCC | 30 | 14 in 2022, 16 in 2023 |
| Ballybay - Clones | 13 McCurtain Street, Clones | MCC | 1 | 2023 |
| Monaghan | Emy, Emyvale, Co Monaghan | AHB | 14 | 2023 |
| Monaghan | Drumbear, Monaghan | AHB | 17 | 2023 |
| Ballybay - Clones | An Clós, Ballybay (Formerly Ballybay Courtyard) | MCC | 7 | 2023 |
| Ballybay - Clones | 4 apartments at Birch Court Ballybay | AHB | 4 | 2023 |
| Various | Part V | MCC | 4 | 2023 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross | MCC | 30 | 2023 / 2024 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan | MCC | 30 | 2023 / 2024 |
| Carrickmacross - Castleblayney | Part 2, Radhairc An Bhri. Bree, Castleblayney | AHB | 10 | 2023 /2024 |
| Monaghan | Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan | AHB | 16 | 2023 / 2024 |
| Monaghan | Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan | AHB | 41 | 2024 |
| PROJECTED TOTAL: | | | 320 | |

- With the new “Ready to Build” Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund being announced where the scheme will see local authorities make serviced sites available in towns and villages at discounted rates for individuals/families who wish to build their own home but require a site Local Authorities will make sites with the necessary infrastructure, such as electricity, water and wastewater, available for the building of a house. The sites will be sold at a discounted rate of up to €30,000 from the market value. What plans has Monaghan County Council for this new scheme?

Reply: Under this *Ready to Build Scheme; Serviced Sites for New Homes Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund* local authorities will make serviced sites in towns and villages available to potential individual purchasers. At present Monaghan County Council does not have any land or sites except for Latlorcan where four sites have already been purchased and another two are available for sale.

The Housing Section are exploring options to make further sites available in this area. Once this desktop research is concluded, Housing Section will bring the proposal to Monaghan MD for further discussion.

- The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund, announced in July and relating to grants for Renovating vacant properties. What plans has Monaghan County Council in place to promote this scheme?

Reply: Details of the scheme are on the Council's website [Croí Cónaithe \(Town\) Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant - Housing \(monaghan.ie\)](https://www.monaghan.ie/croi-conaithe-town) and the following video has been circulated on Council's social media channels <https://fb.watch/ggRxHTZjji/> to create awareness of the scheme.

4. What is the update on all the active travels projects that have been funded?

Reply: The timeframe for each project varies depending on the objectives of any scheme. 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.

| Monaghan County Council NTA Allocation 2022 | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Project Code | Project Name | Municipal District | Status | Estimated Completion |
| MN/21/0001 | Upgrade of Monaghan Town Greenway | Monaghan | Section A&B complete. Section C under construction | Q4 2022 |
| MN/21/0002 | Monaghan Town Greenway along N2 | Monaghan | OSR in draft. To be discussed with TII and NTA. | Q4 2023 |
| MN/21/0003 | Footpath Package A - Ballybay, Rockcorry, Clones, Smithboro | BBY/CLN | 7 individual schemes at varying stages. R162 - Works commenced. Cannons Lane, works to be completed by MD in Q4. Tirnahinch -SAC screening being carried out at present, Tender returned for Magherarney and contractor appointed, commencement Q4, Smithboro Village statutory processes ongoing. | Q1 2023 |
| MN/21/0004 | Footpath Package B - Castleblaney, Carrickmacross | CBY/CMX | 4 individual schemes at varying stages. Coill Darach/Knockturnagh construction completed, Conabury Rd preliminary design to be amended to the specification from the R.S.A report. R178 Dundalk Rd, waiting on approval to proceed to Phase 3 Prelim design. R179 Oriel Road at OSR stage. | Q3 2023 |
| MN/21/0005 | Footpath Package C - Castleblaney, Carrickmacross | CBY/CMX | The Lurgans - ready to issue LoA to contractor for construction. 8–10-week programme for works. Drumillard to commence in Q1 2023 | Q1 2023 |
| MN/21/0006 | Footpath Package D - Monaghan Town | Monaghan | Mall Road - scheme progressing to OSR stage. TTMP planned for Nov on Mall Rd/link Rd for 1-way traffic system. Woodview to Mall, Woodview to Glen. OSR with NTA for feedback. | Q4 2023 |
| MN/21/0007 | Footpath Package E - Tullyhirm Lane, Coolshannagh, | Monaghan | Scotstown construction complete. Tullyhirm/Coolshannagh at OSR stage. | Q3 2023 |

| | | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------|--|---------|
| | Scotstown Village | | | |
| MN/21/0008 | Streetlighting - Ballybay, Clones, Smithboro | BBY/CLN | Mullanamoy Lane complete. N54 - tree cutting commenced, civils to follow. R212 - under review by NTA. | Q2 2023 |
| MN/21/0009 | Cycle Lane - 98 Avenue, Clones | BBY/CLN | OSR has been reviewed by NTA and will be revised following a high-level overview of Clones Town which will commence in Q4 2022 | Q1 2023 |
| MN/21/0010 | Cycle Lane Ross Road, Carrickmacross | CBY/CMX | Consultant preparing OSR including extended scope | Q3 2023 |
| MN/21/0011 | Scotshouse Village Pedestrian / Cycle Bridge Options | BBY/CLN | LoI issued to contractor | Q1 2023 |
| MN/21/0012 | Inniskeen Village Pedestrian / Cycle Bridge Options | CBY/CMX | OSR under review before sending to NTA for approval | Q4 2022 |
| MN/21/0013 | Monaghan Town Horseshoe Bridge Pedestrian / Cycle Bridge Options | Monaghan | NTA have given approval to proceed to next phase which is prelim design | Q3 2023 |
| MN/21/0014 | Monaghan Town Ballyalbany Bridge Pedestrian / Cycle Bridge Options | Monaghan | NTA have given approval to proceed to next phase which is prelim design | Q3 2023 |
| MN/21/0015 | Pedestrian Crossings - Clones, Inniskeen, Annayalla | 3 MDS | Inniskeen Ped crossing, preliminary design to be amended to the specification from the R.S.A report. | Q1 2023 |
| MN/21/0016 | Dublin Street Regeneration Project Monaghan Town | Monaghan | OSR in process | Q3 2023 |
| MN/21/0019 | Safe to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure | BBY/CLN | St Michaels Corcaghan Complete. Delivery plans received from An Tasice, procurement of consultants to progress next schools - St Louis GNS & Infant School | Q4 2023 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--|---------|
| MN/21/0020 | Low-Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes | 3 MDS | 3 schemes identified, 1 in each MD for progression. Tender docs being prepared for appointment of consultant. | Q4 2023 |
| MN/21/0021 | Light Segregation Cycle Schemes | CBY/CMX | Construction Tender currently being assessed. Intention to commence construction in December 8-week programme of works | Q1 2023 |
| MN/21/0023 | Low-Cost Permeability Measures | CBY/CMX | Prelim design ongoing for Plantation Lane | Q1 2023 |
| MN/21/0024 | Additional Outdoor Infrastructure | CBY/CMX | All works complete | |
| New Funding allocations | | | | |
| MN/22/0001 | St Tiarnachs Plaza | BBY/CLN | Prelim design complete. GI contract in progress. Part 8 in progress. | Q3 2023 |
| MN/22/0002 | Monaghan LTP | 3MD's | Tender to be prepared for appointment of consultants to produce plan. | Q3 2023 |
| MN/22/0003 | Staff Costs | AT | | |
| MN/22/0004 | Lough Egish | BBY/CLN | OSR received from NTA and under review | |

Clr C. Carthy asked:

5. Have Monaghan County Council Tenants (those eligible) been notified of the changes made to the Tenant Purchase scheme earlier this year or are there plans in place to make them aware of their options?

Reply: Monaghan County Council had gone through previous enquiries from tenants, that were ineligible but now may be eligible, contact will be made with these tenants to inform them of their options. We have updated the local authority website www.monaghan.ie with the current information and details of the changes to the scheme will be circulated through the council's social media outlets. Tenants are also informed of their option to purchase a property through the Tenant Handbook.

6. When is it expected upgrade works will be carried out on the Carrickmacross Fire Station?

Reply: Upgrade works such as the treatment and painting of the Fire Station appliance bay floor and replacement of electrical radiators has been completed this year. The replacement of appliance bay doors to the front of the building will be completed by Q1 2023. The upgrading the energy saving performance of the Fire Station has been identified as a priority for 2023.

7. When is it expected that Public Access AED (defibrillator) locations throughout County Monaghan will be added to Google Maps?

Reply: Arising from an action from the JPC Monaghan County Council facilitated the gathering of information on the locations of AEDs throughout Monaghan. This information was shared with the National Ambulance Service.

The current recommendations for anyone who has an emergency medical need is for

them to call 999. The ambulance service can then share with them the known location of the nearest AED as well as providing other emergency response aid over the telephone.

Before putting the information regarding the AED locations up on google maps it would be necessary to assess if there is a GDPR issue regarding sharing personal data of the individuals who own the AEDs, there is also a concern that if the information is not regularly reviewed and updated that an individual may be directed to a location that does not have a functional AED.

Further advice will be sought from the Ambulance Service to determine whether posting these locations on google maps is considered beneficial.

8. (a) Has this council established a schedule of all privately owned vacant housing units in our towns and villages.

Reply: Monaghan County Council's Housing Section is continuing to progress the Vacant Homes Programme and is collating information regarding all properties inspected for vacancy. Since the inception of the Vacant Homes Programme and after reviewing initial desktop information the Vacant Homes Office have identified 276 vacant homes, 58 in Monaghan MD, 144 in Ballybay - Clones MD and 71 in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD.

Monaghan County Council's Vacant Homes Office is registered with www.vacanthomes.ie where the public can provide the details of any vacant homes in their locality and the website will automatically notify the Vacant Homes Officer by email. At the moment there are 50 properties registered vacant on the website. These properties will be investigated and collated with the properties already recorded above.

- (b) Is consideration being given to mapping those located in rural areas also?

Reply: As referenced above Monaghan County Council's Housing Section is continuing to progress the Vacant Homes Programme and is collating information regarding all properties inspected for vacancy. At present greater emphasis is being placed on surveying Towns and Villages as this is where there is a greater housing need however rural properties have been recorded especially those notified to us through the vacanthomes.ie website.

- (c) What plans are now in place to encourage the owners of vacant housing to bring them back into use and will the Vacant Housing Office(r) be liaising directly with the owners?

Reply: The main ways in which The Vacant homes office encourage vacant property owners to bring their properties back into use are the Buy and Renew Scheme which is where the property is purchased and refurbished by MCC.

For example, The Housing Section is commencing a Ballybay Renewal Scheme with the demolition of a derelict property at Church Street and construction of 2 houses in its place, the development of 7 houses at An Clós Ballybay in place of unfinished derelict apartments. Work is also progressing on the acquisition of other derelict properties in Ballybay to be included in the renewal scheme and an Approved Housing Body is in the process of acquiring 4 vacant apartments and 7 vacant unfinished houses that are to be brought into use in 2023.

The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme was launched by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in July 2022. The Scheme is to provide new choices for people to live in towns and villages in Ireland, initially through the provision of a grant to support the refurbishment of vacant properties, with priority given to areas where the level of vacancy or dereliction is high. A grant of €30,000 to €50,000 will be made available for the refurbishment of vacant properties for occupation as a principal private residence, including the conversion of a property which has not been used as residential heretofore. To date Monaghan County Council have received 14 applications with 2 approved and 12 refused. There also has been 27 enquires made via telephone to our Vacant Homes Office regarding the scheme. Guidance and advice are provided to interested applicants on whether they meet the approval criteria prior to making a formal application.

(d) Does this Local Authority plan on purchasing any vacant/derelict properties to bring them back into use and in the ownership of the state?

Reply: Monaghan County Council's Housing Section will continue to seek opportunities to acquire derelict properties that are suitable for refurbishment into Social Housing in our towns and villages.

Monaghan MD have no plans at present to purchase vacant/derelict housing.

The Municipal District of Ballybay Clones are engaging with a number of owners of vacant/derelict properties, seeking them to address dereliction and preferably bring the properties back into use. In the event that this engagement is unsuccessful, the Council may seek to acquire the relevant properties, repurpose them or dispose of same on the open market.

17. Notices of Motion

In the absence of Cllr Coyle, consideration of Notice of Motion 17(1) was deferred to the December Council meeting.

18. Votes of Sympathy

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

- Martin Taylor on the passing of his Father, Joe Taylor, 19 Coronation Park, Aughnacloy, Co Tyrone on Tuesday, 25th October 2022.
- Dette Hughes, wife of Senior Planner Adrian Hughes, on the death of her father, Frank O'Toole
- Teresa McGuirk, Grainne McNamee and the extended McKenna (Hughie) family on the death of Owen McKenna, Drumgeeney, Monaghan

19. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr B McKenna 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 | Webinar on the Electoral Reform Act 2022 | Online | 4 th November 2022 | All members |
| AILG | Data Protection – What Councillors Need to Know | The Tower Hotel, Waterford & Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth | 17 th November 2022 19 th November 2022 | |
| 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 2022 | |
| AILG | The role of Planning in protecting Ireland's water quality | Online | 26 th November 2022 | |
| LAMA | LAMA Annual Conference | Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan | 09 th & 10 th November 2022 | All members |

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that the attendance of Cllr S Gilliland, member of EBR Forum, at EBR Westminster Exchange visit be approved.

Urgent Business

Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr C Bennett seconded:

That this Council call on the Government to defer the introduction of a 'concrete/block levy' for the foreseeable future.

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: _____