

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan, County Monaghan on Monday 06 March 2023 at 10.00am**

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

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

Ms. P. Monahan, Chief Executive; Ms. N. Woods, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. C. Flynn, Directors of Services; Mr. G. McMahon & Ms. O. McConnon A/ Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllrs Coyle and Campbell, Ms C. O'Hare, A/Director of Services

At the outset, all members associated themselves with a collective revulsion of the attempted murder of Det. Chief Inspector, John Caldwell at a sports complex in Omagh. They wished him a speedy recovery from his injuries.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 13 February 2023**

*On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13 February 2023, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence**

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

- Letter from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael Martin, T.D., regarding the Shared Island programme.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, regarding dog control legislation.
- Acknowledgement email from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding dog control legislation.
- Acknowledgement email from the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue, T.D., regarding dog control legislation.
- Email from the Irish Heart Foundation, Mr. Mark Murphy, regarding extending the smoking ban to all outdoor hospitality areas.
- Resolution from Wicklow County Council regarding the Coillte decision to partner with a UK based Investment Fund to purchase Irish forestry lands.
- Resolution from Cavan County Council regarding a partnership between Coillte and a UK based Investment Fund to purchase Irish forestry lands.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding the introduction of legislation at EU level so that social media accounts are traceable to prevent online bullying and trolling.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding the Older and Disability Grants Scheme.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding the Fuel Allowance Payment Scheme.
- Email from Professor Jane Suiter, School of Communications, Dublin City University regarding the EUComMeet project.

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

- Email from the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery & Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., regarding solar panels for pensioners.
- Letter from the Turkish Embassy, thanking members for their letter of condolence to the victims and families affected by the earthquake that hit south-east Turkey on 06 February 2023.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that this Council supports the Wicklow Co Co motion calling on the Government to halt the Coillte decision to partner with a UK based Investment Fund, Gresham House, in the purchase by this Fund of thousands of hectares of Irish forestry lands depriving the Irish people of the profits accruing and at the same time driving up the price of agricultural land which could be bought by Irish farmers.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that this Council supports the Sligo Co Co motion calling on the Minister for Communications, Eamonn Ryan TD and Minister for Justice, Simon Harris TD seeking the introduction of legislation at an EU level so that social media accounts are traceable to people operating them. This would immediately stop anonymous abuse, online bullying and trolling.*

*On the proposal of Cllr C. Bennett, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor it was agreed that this Council supports the Sligo Co Co motion calling on Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, The Greens and the Independents in Government to make provisions ASAP to include those on Working Family Payment to avail of the Fuel Allowance Payment Scheme.*

**3. To consider Part VIII proposals for a new Council Depot incorporating a storage yard and parking, welfare facilities, office and workshop, improvements to access, and associated works at Scotshouse Road, Teehill, Clones (22/8010)**

Members considered the Part VIII circulated for a new Council Depot incorporating a storage yard and parking, welfare facilities, office and workshop, improvements to access, and associated works at Scotshouse Road, Teehill, Clones (22/8010).

*On the proposal Cllr H McElvaney seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that the Council approve the new Council Depot incorporating a storage yard and parking, welfare facilities, office and workshop, improvements to access, and associated works at Scotshouse Road, Teehill, Clones as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

**4. To receive a Presentation on the Preparation of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031**

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, advised members that the process of formulating the new Co Monaghan Development Plan is commencing. The plan will run from 2025-2031 and it is intended to hold at least eight weeks of public consultation concluding in May/June 2023. He stated that it is a statutory requirement on each local authority to have a

Development Plan for their county and to adopt one every six years following a two-year consultation and formulation process. The policies contained in the plan govern planning and sustainable development across the economic, infrastructure, social and cultural spheres. Mr Gourley stated that while the plan must be agreed by the elected members of Monaghan Co Co, it also must align with Government policy as set out in the National Planning Framework and with the Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region. The Plan will set out objectives in relation to the zoning of land, the provision of transport, water and waste services, urban and rural regeneration, the development of amenities and community services, Traveller accommodation, natural and built heritage, landscape, the environment and Climate Change. He stated that Climate Action is likely to have an enhanced emphasis in the 2025-2031 document. Mr Gourley went on to outline the three principal stages involved in the review process and highlighted the importance of encouraging discussion and getting people involved in the Development Plan process.

A lengthy discussion followed, Mr Gourley and Mr Flynn, Director of Services responded to members comments and queries.

*On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan it was agreed that this Council write to Minister Darragh O'Brien and Minister Ciaran O'Connell asking what findings have been arrived at relating to the review of the Sustainable Rural Housing Planning Guidelines 2005 which has created severe negative impacts on people who want to build houses in rural Ireland, and in relation to the principles of the Flemish Decree ruling made in the European Court of Justice in 2013.*

## **5. To consider the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2023**

Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, outlined the main elements of the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) for 2023, which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. She stated that the plan, which had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and in conjunction with the Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024, identifies the services that the Council intends to provide to the public in the year ahead. She further stated that the Plan, which reflected the provisions of Budget 2023, sets out the objectives and priorities for each department; the strategies for achieving those objectives and the priorities and performance standards intended to be met. She acknowledged the contribution of all staff and Directors in the preparation of the plan and responded to members questions.

*On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Further Education and Training Simon Harris TD, the Higher Education Authority, SOLAS and the National Apprenticeship Alliance, seeking details of how Local Authorities are being included in the 'Action Plan for Apprenticeships 2021 to 2025' whereby 750 apprentices are being recruited each year of the plan within the Public Sector.*

*On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell seconded by Cllr R. Aughey it was agreed that the Council approve the Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023.*

## **6. To approve nominations to the Monaghan Walking & Cycling Forum**

*On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that the following members be appointed to the Monaghan Walking and Cycling Forum.*

- Ballybay/Clones MD - Cllr Richard Truell
- Monaghan MD - Cllr S Conlon
- CMX/Cby MD - Cllr N Keelan

#### **7. To note the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022 including Performance & Effectiveness**

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2022 circulated with the Agenda was noted and agreed by members.

#### **8. To note the Annual Report of the County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee for 2022**

Cllr B McKenna, Chairperson of Co Monaghan JPC presented the Annual Report of Co Monaghan JPC which details the work of the Committee over the past 12 months and is also an important means of communicating and highlighting the role and work of the Committee.

Cllr McKenna acknowledged the sad passing of fellow committee member, Marion Donnelly in December 2022.

*The report was noted and agreed by members.*

#### **9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 21 February 2023.**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21 February 2023, which had been circulated.

It was agreed that a presentation on elected members personal security was not necessary at the April Co Co meeting as members have already had the benefit of a presentation at a recent JPC meeting by Sgt Michael Duffy.

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21 February 2023 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

#### **10. Diospoireacht as Gaeilge**

An tUasal Nial Ó Conchúir, Oifigeach Gaeilge outlined the work of the Coiste Gaeilge during 2022 and thanked them for their help and support. He stated that the Coiste delivers a wide range of activities as Gaeilge, highlighting in particular:

- Gaeltacht Scholarships – 37 scholarships awarded in 2022
- Óiche Nollaig na mBan concert in the Garage Theatre Monaghan on 06 January 2022 which the Coiste have agreed to make an annual event
- Administration of small grants scheme
- Ulster Council of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann concert in Garage Theatre - A suite of music composed by Michael Rooney, TG4 Composer of the Year 2017, and performed by the Ulster Youth Folk Orchestra and friends.

Nial Ó Conchúir outlined the new obligations for public bodies of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act. Section 10A of the act places a statutory obligation on public bodies in

relation to advertising, general communications and commercial communications which engage with the public. The provisions of this section came into effect on 10 October 2022 and require the following:

- 20% of any advertising placed by the LA in any year shall be in the Irish language
- 5% of any monies spent on advertising by the LA in any year shall be in the Irish language through Irish language media.

Cllr Treanor thanked Nial Ó Conchúir for the report and thanked the other members of the Coiste Gaeilge for their work during the year and outlined details of the activities listed in the report.

Seán Ó Murchadha & Stíofan Ó Connachtaigh, from the local community group Muineachán le Gaeilge joined the meeting to provide members with an update in relation to its work with the Irish speaking community within the county, their aims for the future and how Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin could assist with those aims.

- Mr O’Murchadha advised that Monaghan is advancing towards the status of a Lónra Gaeilge which will provide for greater funding opportunities. A Ciste Caipitil na Roinne Gaeltachta is available and application can be made for funding for already-acquired buildings. He advised that Muineachán le Gaeilge now require Monaghan County Council’s practical and financial assistance in identifying and acquiring a facility that will be a home for Irish Language in Monaghan.

The Chief Executive and members assured Muineachán le Gaeilge of their support in achieving their ambitions.

The Cathaoirleach thanked an tUasal Ó ’Murchadha and an tUasal Stíofan Ó Connachtaigh for their informative presentation.

*On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that this Council write to Minister Catherine Martin TD expressing our support for the proposal to designate Muineachán as a Lónra Gaeilge and seeking an update and timeline for this development.*

## **11. To receive Management Report – February 2023**

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

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members. Mr G McMahon, A/Director of Services advised members that a presentation on the reclaimed asphalt pilot project would be provided at the April Co Co Meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr C Carthy seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that the following recommendation be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration:*

*In exceptional circumstances, where a tenant can show the economic benefit of having their fireplace retained, that our Council policy for such be amended to facilitate it and carry out the repairs.*

## **12. To receive Reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

The members noted the Report from Cllr. Carthy in relation to his attendance at the following Conference/Training event:

- AIR Regional Seminar – Regional Development, 08<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Four Seasons, Monaghan.

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

The Chief Executive informed the members there was no matters for consideration under this item.

## **14. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 13 February 2023**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 February 2023.

*On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that this Council's motion in relation the Citizen's Assembly on a United Ireland be reissued to Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD seeking his support.*

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

Mr G McMahon, A/Director of Services, advised members that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) 2023 funding allocations announcement was made on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

In relation to Clontibret to the Border scheme, Mr McMahon advised that The TII has made provision for an allocation of €2,500,000 for this scheme. The allocation document notes this funding is provided 'to match TEN-T grant funding from EU for planning and design'. Clarification has been received from TII that this funding will only be made available if Monaghan County Council receives funding from the EU 'Connecting Europe Facility' grant funding scheme. The application to the CEF fund was submitted by the closing date of 18th January 2023, and a decision is expected by June 2023.

Mr McMahon advised that €600,000 was allocated to the Ardee to Castleblayney project for 2023, which TII state is intended to 'meet current project commitments'. Due to ongoing changes in Government policy and design standards, additional design works are required and the Project Team has indicated that more funding will be required to close out and complete the current Phase 3 design process. Clarification has been provided by TII that no additional funding will be forthcoming in 2023 unless approved by the Dept of Transport.

A lengthy discussion followed. Mr McMahon responded to members queries and concerns.

*On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed that following the recent announcement of TII funding for the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme and the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme, and the conditions the Minister has included for new roads under Section 24 of the Roads Acts 1993 to 2015, that this Council request an urgent meeting with the Minister for Environment, Climate Action and Communications, Eamonn Ryan TD.*

*On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed that following*

*the publication of the TII 2023 funding allocations for the N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme and the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme, that this Council seek an urgent meeting with Cavan / Monaghan Oireachtas members in relation to the allocations and the future of the projects, and to request their support in ensuring a meeting between Monaghan Co and the Minister for Environment, Climate Action & Communications, Eamonn Ryan TD is facilitated as a matter of urgency.*

#### 16. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

No further update on the North South Interconnector project.

*On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon it was agreed that this Council write to Eirgrid requesting a meeting to discuss the reasons why the Celtic Interconnector between Ireland and France and the Kildare to Meath Interconnector can be put underground and in light of these developments, to discuss the possibility of undergrounding the North South interconnector.*

#### 17. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

Cllr Treanor requested an update from Planning Section for the next meeting on whether or not there has been any communications with Waterways Ireland in relation to Planning permission that is due to expire in May of 2023.

#### 18. Questions:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. Given the announcement of roads funding made in February 2023, can the roads section give a breakdown/description of what works are planned to be carried out under the Safety Improvements scheme 2023?

Reply:

Safety Improvement Works 2023					
Road Number	Location	MD	Description of Proposed Scheme	Length (m)	Allocation
LP3900/R183	Camphill Ballybay	BBY/CLN	Lowering of wall to the west of the junction and removal of hedge to the east of the junction to improve sight visibility splays.	40	€25,000.00
R184/LP3421	Scotch Corner	MON	Design & Build Safety scheme to include: Signage, Vehicle actuated sign, Build outs etc	80	€135,000.00
R179	Kingscourt RD CMX	CBY/CMX	Lay high friction anti skid		€35,000.00
L6213/2270/2220	Mullaghboy, Scotshouse	BBY/CLN	It is proposed to move fencing and hedges to improve visibility.	40	€20,000.00
LT48002	Woodlands, Carrickmacross	CBY/CMX	Provide two speed cushions and new road markings	500	€10,000.00
R181-4	Shercock Rd Castleblayney	CBY/CMX	Additional road markings	500	€15,000.00
R181-3	Muckno St Castleblayney	CBY/CMX	Additional road markings		€15,000.00
LS8510	Cloughvalley Carrickmacross	CBY/CMX	Design & Install of Traffic calming measures	30	€10,000.00
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>€265,000.00</b>

2. Can the Active Travel unit carry out an assessment of existing footpaths and walkways in the county that do not have lighting and ensure they are included in future funding



proposed sheltered housing development on the site of the old fire station and Council yard at the Commons in Castleblayney. The site is one of four sites to be included in the prestigious “Town Centre Living” Architectural Design Competition that is being run by the Department of Housing in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Architects Ireland (RIAI) please see extract from Government press release below.

The closing date for entries to Architectural design competition will be in March 2023. Detailed design will be completed during 2023 and it is intended that the project will be on site in 2024 and completed in late 2024 / early 2025 subject to programme and funding.

## “Town Centre Living” Architectural Design Competition launched by Minister O’Brien and RIAI

From [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#)  
Published on 27 January 2023  
Last updated on 27 January 2023

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien, and the President of The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, Charlotte Sheridan, today launched the ‘Town Centre Living’ Architectural Design Competitions for the design of four social housing schemes, with one in each of four town centre sites across the country.

The competitions aim to encourage innovative design for social housing within town centres and progress the government’s Town Centre First policy’s objectives of compact growth and town-centre revitalisation. The competitions also seek to encourage more architectural firms to compete for social housing design projects.

Following an open invitation to, and close liaison with local authorities, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has selected four town-centre sites that will each have a separate social housing design competition. All four competitions will run concurrently. The winning architectural practice for each competition will, in addition to prize money, be awarded the design commission for the project. The winning proposals will be progressed by the various local authorities as live projects funded by DHLGH, through to construction and delivery.

The sites are at:

- Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
- Kildare Town, Co. Kildare
- Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
- Sligo Town, Co. Sligo

5. What is the current timeline on the development of the Workhouse site in Carrickmacross; when is it expected preliminary designs will be presented to members?

**Reply:** It is intended that a Multidisciplinary Design Team shall be engaged in early Q2 2023, to progress the scheme through to construction readiness. The programme for the delivery of the current enabling project anticipates a project duration of 12 months from the date of the appointment of consultants. Broadly, the process shall involve two stages. Stage 1 (6 months) shall provide for analysis, engagement with key stakeholders, non-statutory public consultation, the development and appraisal of preliminary options and the selection of a finalised strategy. It is anticipated that preliminary designs shall be available for presentation to the Members in late Q3 2023. Stage 2 shall provide for detailed development, including environmental evaluation, of the preferred option and the progression of the scheme through

Part 8 Planning procedures. The finalised masterplan for the Workhouse site shall provide for a pipeline of integrated shovel-ready projects that it is hoped will be delivered over a 10-year time horizon.

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

6. How much per annum is Monaghan County Council paying out to private landlords under the housing assistance payment scheme (HAP)?

**Reply: HAP Shared Services Centre based in Limerick City and County Council have the responsibility for all financial transactions, collection of rent from tenants and landlord payment at month end. The monthly payment from the HAP shared service to landlords on behalf of tenants on Monaghan County Council's waiting list is circa €280,000. Please note that not all HAP tenancies are within the County boundary as inter county HAP is facilitated.**

7. In relation to the recent road funding announcement will the three municipal district councils be in a position to add additional roads to the upgrading and resurfacing programme this year 2023 as a result of this announcement?

**Reply: The tender for the resurfacing programme has been published in January 2023 and the contract is to be awarded in March 2023. Until the tender costs have been reviewed it is unclear whether there will be any additional roads added or if roads have to be removed from the programme.**

8. How many staff are currently employed by Monaghan County Council & how does this figure compare with 2019 / 2020 ?

**Reply: The Headcount figures provided below were confirmed and have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as part of the End of Year Staffing Returns:-**

	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019
Total No. of Staff	427	412	419	424
No. of Retained Firefighters	49	50	51	49

9. When is it hoped to complete the taken in charge process by Monaghan County Council of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff?

**Reply: The Planning Authority have completed the advertising of its intention to take this estate in charge. A report will be put to a Council meeting on the matter as soon as possible.**

10. What plans have the council in the time ahead in consultation with local communities to provide social and affordable housing in some of the village areas across south Monaghan such as, Lisdoonan , Donaghmoynne , Corduff , Inniskeen ?

**Reply:**

**Social Housing**

Monaghan County Council received an Expression of Interest regarding a proposed turnkey housing development in Inniskeen however a planning application for the development was refused by Monaghan County Council and An Bord Pleanala. The net social housing need in Inniskeen is three at present and two Monaghan County Council-owned houses have recently become vacant in Inniskeen. It appears that the relatively small social housing need in Inniskeen may be addressed through a combination of vacancies in existing Monaghan County Council-owned social housing and a small number of acquisitions if needed.

As noted previously: County Monaghan is a predominantly rural county with more than 60 % of the population living in small towns, villages and rural areas. Monaghan County Council has historically provided social housing in small towns, villages and rural areas throughout the county such as Inniskeen, Magheracloone, Oram, Bawn, Tyholland, Knockatallon, Newbliss, Rockcorry, Annyalla, Clontibret, Clara, Emyvale, Glaslough,

Tydavnet, Latton, Doohamlet, Threemilehouse, Scotshouse, Ballinode, Knockatallon and Scotstown.

With regard to “Dispersed Rural Communities” which might include Donaghmoynne and Lisdoonan; the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 states “Within the rural area there are dispersed rural communities which have small scale clustering around one or more focal points which may include a crossroads, a shop or a church. It is considered that there is scope for some additional dwellings which may consolidate existing focal points and utilise existing services in the area subject to normal planning considerations. It is anticipated that the majority of development taking place will be individual dwellings”. With regard to Tier 5 settlements such as Corduff the Monaghan County Development Plan states “Within the rural area there are several smaller cluster settlements that have existing congregation areas and services such as schools, shops, post offices, public houses and residential houses. The function of these settlements is recognised as a critical component of the social, community and cultural identity of the County. It is recognised that the strengthening of rural communities is essential to ensure the survival of their unique character. Residential development in these areas is only suitable at a small scale, reflective of the character of the existing settlement and will be promoted to alleviate the pressures for one-off housing in the open countryside”

The relatively small housing need in Tier 5 Settlements and Dispersed Rural Communities may be addressed through a combination of vacancies in existing Monaghan County Council-owned social housing, existing Approved Housing Body-owned social housing and a small number of acquisitions if needed.

#### Affordable Housing

County Monaghan is a relatively affordable place to buy a home. Circa 562 dwellings in County Monaghan were registered as sold on the Property Price Register in 2022.

The median selling price registered in County Monaghan in 2022 was €195,000.

280 dwellings registered as sold in County Monaghan in 2022 were sold for less than €195,000.

184 dwellings registered as sold in County Monaghan in 2022 were sold for less than €150,000.

#### First Home Scheme

The First Home Scheme is a kind of affordable housing scheme that is available in County Monaghan for first time buyers of new homes. The First Home Scheme is a shared equity scheme, sponsored by the Government of Ireland (Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) and Participating Lenders. It aims to bridge the gap for first-time buyers and eligible homebuyers between their deposit and mortgage, and the price of a new home within property price ceilings set up across the Republic of Ireland, by local authority area. The upper price limit of new houses that can be purchased under the First Home Scheme has been raised to €325,000 for County Monaghan. The First Home Scheme and Help to Buy Scheme can be combined to help first time buyers to buy a new home.

For further information please see [www.firsthomescheme.ie](http://www.firsthomescheme.ie)

## 19. Notices of Motion

### **Cllr D. Maxwell proposed Cllr C Bennett seconded:**

1. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Chief Executive to appoint an EU Funding Officer. The role of this officer would be to identify where EU funding could be used to progress projects, for both Monahan, county council and community groups, as well as supporting the delivery of the county development plan.

Furthermore, we call on Min. O'Brien to set up a fund to support Local Authorities to access EU Funding.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting and

the motion was agreed unanimously.

Ms O McConnon, A/Head of Finance to include an update on Europe Direct in the next Management Report.

**Cllrs C. Carthy proposed Cllr P Treanor seconded:**

2. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tánaiste Michéal Martin TD, the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Oireachtas members and Members of the European Parliament to push for the inclusion of Environmental clauses to all future tenders for public construction projects.

These Environmental Clauses should include, but not be limited to, account of the greenhouse gas emissions from travel and transport that would be generated by companies tendering for a project (considering distance travelled, the carbon-intensity of the means of transport used, and any other pertinent factors), the numbers of people employed local to the project, and the distance of suppliers used – all by way of reducing the carbon-footprint of a project.

We believe that some projects being awarded to contractors are mainly based on the bottom-line costs but are far more damaging to the environment. We also feel that building supplies/products being delivered from outside an area use a far greater amount of carbon etc.

We ask that consideration be given to a weighted scoring of contracts that would benefit those who travel shorter distances and use providers that are geographically closer to the project itself.

We ask that, if passed, this motion be circulated to all other Local Authorities in the state and our local Oireachtas members.

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

**20. Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations**

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

- Cllr Colm Carthy and Deputy Matt Carthy on the death of their Aunt Ann Kelly.
- Gearoid McCarthy, Roads Section on the death of his Mother Bernadette McCarthy
- Betty Finlay nee Cole on the death of her sister Jacinta Duffy

## 21. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr S Conlon 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>	CARO – Climate Action Plans (Module 2) <i>Eastern &amp; Midland/ Northern &amp; Western</i>	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	<b>Cllr. Brian McKenna</b> <b>Cllr. David Maxwell</b> <b>Cllr. Peter Conlon</b> <b>Cllr. Seamus Treanor</b> <b>Cllr. Richard Truell</b> <b>Cllr. Seamus Coyle</b> <b>Cllr. Paudge Connolly</b>
<b>AILG</b>	Annual Conference	Hotel Kilkenny, College Rd, Sugarloaf Hill, Kilkenny	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<b>Cllr. Brian McKenna</b> <b>Cllr. Noel Keelan</b> <b>Cllr. Colm Carthy</b> <b>Cllr. Paudge Connolly</b> <b>Cllr. Richard Truell</b> <b>Cllr. David Maxwell</b> <b>Cllr. Sean Conlon</b> <b>Cllr. Seamus Coyle</b>
<b>EM CARO</b>	Climate Action Economic Opportunities   Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly	26th April 2023	<b>Cllr. Sean Conlon</b>

The meeting concluded.

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

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

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