

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan, County Monaghan on Monday 03 April 2023 at 10.00am**

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

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

Cllr Maxwell in attendance via TEAMS

Ms. P. Monahan, Chief Executive; Ms. N. Woods, Mr. C. Flynn, Directors of Services; Mr. G. McMahon, Ms. C. O'Hare A/ Director of Services, Mr N. O'Connor deputising for Ms O. McConnon, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** O. McConnon, A/Director of Services

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 06 March 2023**

*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 06 March 2023, be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence**

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

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie Mc Conalogue, T.D., regarding Coillte and Gresham House.
- Email from the Minister of State for the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan, Delivery and Reform with special responsibility for Communications and the Circular Economy, Mr. Ossian Smyth, T.D., regarding online bullying and trolling.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael Martin, T.D., regarding the inclusion of environmental clauses in future tenders.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., regarding legislation for social media accounts.
- Resolution from Tipperary County Council regarding the Mother and Baby Homes Redress Scheme.
- Resolution from Westmeath County Council regarding local banking services.
- Resolution from Cork County Council regarding the new Planning and Development Bill.
- Resolution from Clare County Council regarding the Croi Conaithe Scheme.
- Resolution from Sligo County Council regarding making the medication, Kaftrio, for Cystic Fibrosis available to all who require it.

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

- Resolution from Wexford County Council regarding the Planning and Development Bill.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., regarding the inclusion of environmental clauses in tenders.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., regarding Citizens Assemblies.
- Letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., regarding Coillte and Gresham House.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that this Council support the Clare Co Co motion to the Minister for Housing and Local Government requesting that the laudable Crio Conaithe scheme targeted to assist in bringing derelict and vacant properties back into use is adjusted to allow owners of qualifying properties to access the scheme subject to conditions that the property is subsequently used for long term occupancy either through sale or long term lease.*

*On the proposal of Cllr C. Bennett, seconded by Cllr H. McElvaney, it was agreed that this Council support the Tipperary Co Co motion calling on the Government to amend the Mother and Baby Homes redress scheme to include the 24,000 survivors who were excluded from the redress scheme.*

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that this Council support the Cork Co Co motion - 'that rather than its apparent aims of limiting public participation and access to justice, the new Planning & Development Bill would take the opportunity to address identified concerns with regard to Ireland's need to meet the requirements of the Aarhus Convention, to which it is a signatory'.*

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that this Council support the Sligo Co Co motion, calling on the Minister for Health to make the CF medication Kaftrio available to all patients who require it within the State.*

**3. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to leasing of the Lease of the Meteorological Office, Carn Heights, Clones.**

Members considered the Section 183 Notice circulated relating to the leasing of the Meteorological Office, Carn Heights, Clones to Clones Chamber of Commerce CLG.

*On the proposal Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr R Truell it was agreed that the Council approve the Lease of the former Meteorological Office located at Carn Heights, Clones, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the terms of notice dated 20 February 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

**4. To consider the Arts Partnership Grant Scheme 2023**

In accordance with the Ethics Framework, Cllr Bennett declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the meeting room whilst the matter was being dealt with.

The members considered the report from the Arts Officer recommending the allocation of grants under the Arts Partnership Grant 2023. The Arts Officer responded to members queries.

*On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Arts Partnership Grant 2023:*

	<b>Arts Partnership Grant Applicants</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
1	The Garage Theatre	€ 22,000
2	Castleblayney Drama Festival	€ 4,000
3	Clones Film Festival	€ 11,000
4	Féile Patrick Byrne	€ 6,000
5	Muckno Mania	€ 3,000
6	Íontas Theatre	€ 22,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 68,000</b>

**5. To receive a presentation on the Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Project**

Mr. K. West, Acting Senior Executive Engineer joined the meeting to provide members with a comprehensive presentation on the progress of the reclaimed asphalt project in the county. Monaghan Co Co has been allocated €750,000 in 2023 to further develop a pilot initiative using reclaimed asphalt which could become a national template for the repair of roads.

During his presentation, Mr West outlined the focus of the Working Group, the 2022 Trial – site election, design, post construction performance testing and Environmental benefits. Mr West concluded his presentation by highlighting findings and recommendations for the 2023 trial and responded to members queries.

The Cathaoirleach and members congratulated Mr West for being the driving force behind this project. Mr G McMahon, A/Director of Services thanked Mr West for his input to the project stating that he had driven the initiative pretty much single-handed with the assistance of national bodies. Mr McMahon conclude by asking for members patience, stating that the trial ‘involves a learning process’.

**6. To consider the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report 2022**

The members considered the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2022 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Ms M McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, outlined the main elements of the Draft Annual Report for 2022. The comprehensive report, which had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001, provides an overview of the activities and progress made by each of the Directorates within Monaghan County Council during 2022.

Members commended staff on the volume of work undertaken during the year and the significant progress being made in the delivery of services across all sections of the organisation.

*On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey , seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed to adopt the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2022 as presented.*

**7. To consider nominations to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

*On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that Mr Packie Kelly, nominated by the Public Participation Network (PPN), would replace Ms Eileen Gordon on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).*

**8. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 21 March 2023.**

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

*On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr S Gilliland it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21 March 2023 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**9. To receive Management Report – March 2023**

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

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

*On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr A McCooey it was agreed that this Council would investigate the possibility of installing PV panels on council properties with heat pumps that have been retrofitted to alleviate hardship on families struggling as a result of the energy poverty crisis.*

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

The members noted the Reports from Cllrs. Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Keelan, McKenna and S. Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following Conference/Training events:

- AILG – Electoral Reform Act, 23 February 2023, Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly.
- LAMA Spring Seminar, Further Education & Training, Apprenticeships, Recruitment and Training Initiatives, 02 – 04 March 2023, Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Cork.

**11. Business submitted by Chief Executive**

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

**12. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 06 March 2023**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 06 March 2023.

### **13. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Scheme**

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

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

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland it was agreed that this Council rejects the findings of the independent review of the north south interconnector which was recently published given the review was a desktop study of previous reports & studies and also given the terms of reference for the review did not allow for a comprehensive cost benefit analysis on a site-specific route taken all of the relevant issues into account.*

*On the proposal of Cllr H. McElvaney, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland it was agreed that a delegation from Monaghan Co Co along with Cavan/Monaghan Oireachtas members seek a meeting with Minister Humphreys to show our support on her stand on the North South Interconnector.*

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that this Council write to all our Oireachtas members advising them of our rejection of the independent review of the north south interconnector and request that they engage with Eirgrid and Minister Ryan & use any opportunity to raise this very important issue with a view to bringing forward plans to develop and deliver this project using the undergrounding technology available given that this is the only methodology which is acceptable to the people of Co Monaghan & other affected communities.*

Ms M McGarvey, Meetings Administrator advised the meeting that she had just received correspondence from Eirgrid seeking an opportunity to address members at a future Council meeting. It was agreed that Eirgrid would be invited to attend the May Co Co meeting at 2.00 pm.

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

Cllr P Treanor advised that the Ballybay/Clones Municipal District had received a very positive in-depth presentation from Waterways Ireland on their progress. It is expected that the Marina will be in place by the end of this year.

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.

### **16. Questions:**

#### **Cllr C. Bennett asked:**

1. Please provide the following information: the number of tenant in situ applications since the scheme reopened in April 2023; the number of properties purchased; currently with the valuers' office; currently with the Councils law department; and the number of properties refused by the Council; and the number of properties withdrawn by the landlord.

**Reply: For clarity, there is no application scheme, rather, when the Housing Section is informed**

by a person on the housing list that they have been issued with a notice to quit, Housing Section will work with the individual and if appropriate acquire the property in line with the agreed policy which was brought before the Members recently. To date Housing Section has bought one property and we have sale agreed on another property. Another individual on notice to quit has been given allocation of social housing recently which was their preferred option.

**Cllr C. Carthy asked:**

- Following on from the confirmation I received last year relating to the tidying up (painting etc.) of Hope Castle (Castleblayney) in Spring 2023, can the executive confirm when this work will take place?

**Reply: It is anticipated that the proposed aesthetic maintenance works shall commence in late April 2023.**

- What is the current make up of our Council Housing Waiting list with a breakdown of numbers for each Municipal Districts and size of units required?

**Reply: As Members are aware Social Housing applicants can pick 3 areas of choice which makes providing accurate information to the above question difficult. However, an analysis of the 1<sup>st</sup> area of choice provides the following information and some villages that have no 1<sup>st</sup> area of choice have been included to provide information on these villages to Members.**

MD/ TOWN	1BED	2BED	3BED	4BED	5BED	TOTAL
<b>CARRICKMACROSS / CASTLEBLAYNEY MD</b>						
Annyalla	1	2	3	0	0	6
Carrickmacross	103	42	11	8	7	171
Castleblayney	72	24	14	6	1	117
Inniskeen	4	1	1	1	0	7
Oram	1	0	1	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>303</b>
<i>Magheracloone (2nd area of choice only)</i>	8	7	0	0	1	16
<b>MONAGHAN MD</b>						
Ballinode	6	4	3	1	0	14
Clontibret	1	0	1	0	0	2
Emyvale	11	9	8	2	0	30
Glaslough	6	5	4	0	0	15
Monaghan	183	133	120	22	3	461
Scotstown	3	0	3	0	0	6
Tydavnet	1	0	0	1	0	2
Tyholland	2	2	1	0	0	5
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>535</b>
<i>Carrickroe (2nd area of choice only)</i>	3	2	2	0	0	7
<i>Knockatallon (2nd area of choice only)</i>	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>CLONES / BALLYBAY MD</b>						
Ballybay	31	12	8	4	0	55
Clones	24	7	11	5	1	48

Doohamlet	1	1	2	1	0	5
Newbliss	7	2	2	0	0	11
Rockcorry	3	1	3	1	0	8
Scotshouse	0	3	1	2	0	6
Smithboro'	2	3	1	1	0	7
Threemilehouse	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>142</b>
<i>Bawn (2nd area of choice only)</i>	0	0	2	0	0	2
<i>Latton (2nd area of choice only)</i>	0	0	4	1	0	5
<b>Total Approved Applications as of 22.03.2023</b>						<b>980</b>

4. How many beds/units are available to Monaghan County Council for Emergency/Homeless accommodation and where are they located; can the executive also give a breakdown of whether units/beds are owned by the Council, AHB's or private providers?

**Reply: Our homeless service currently includes:**

**1 hostel bed with Simon Hostel, Dundalk.**

**2 one bed units and one two bed unit with Castleblayney Trust (AHB).**

**One two bed apartment in Monaghan rented from landlord.**

**One B&B bed on retainer with local provider.**

**We have a number of other private B&B providers who we use on occasion.**

**Currently we have one 1 bed unit and the B&B bed available, but this can change very quickly if there is a presentation or the person in emergency accommodation secures their own accommodation or is provided with social housing.**

5. Can the housing section confirm the number of council tenants in Co. Monaghan that have applied to buy their homes under the current tenant purchase scheme and how many have been approved (with a breakdown of each Municipal District); and has the housing section advised tenants, since changes were introduced last year, of their eligibility?

**Reply: Changes to the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 were approved by Government and came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.**

**To date (21/03/2023) Monaghan County Council have received 16 applications under the new eligibility rules. A breakdown of these is provided in the table below:**

**Information on the new Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 changes and eligibility have been updated on the local authority website [www.monaghan.ie](http://www.monaghan.ie). Tenants are also informed of their option to purchase a property through their Tenant Handbook, which has been updated.**

		BB / CL MD	CMX/CBY MD	MON MD
Approved Stage	8	2	4	2
Pre-Approval Stage	3	2	0	1

Expired / Withdrawn	5	0	2	3
Total	16	4	6	6

6. What date is it proposed to send elected representatives a 'one-point-in-time' version of the electoral register on an annual basis now that the register is renewed on a rolling basis (To replace the Draft/Annual register that was in place up until 2022)? And what plans are in place to encourage members of the public in Co. Monaghan to register?

**Reply: The new Rolling Register is one continuous register that can be updated at anytime, it replaces the Annual Cycle of Draft, Live and Supplement Registers. There is no statutory deadline or legally prescribed way of publishing the Register. It is a matter for each local authority to consider the most appropriate period and manner of publishing the Register. Monaghan County Council propose to make the Register, as a point-in-time extract, available on the Decision Time platform to Elected Members on a bi-annual basis by 31 March and 30 September of each year.**

**Extensive campaigns have been run across all our social media platforms in Q4 2022 to coincide with the national campaign. We have continued to post the campaign imagery at regular intervals to raise public awareness. In the last 90 days, 45 advertisements have been published on Monaghan County Council Social Media platforms yielding over 10,000 views across Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram.**

**Over 400 forms have been processed because of the online application process. This is a significant increase in electoral engagement compared to the same period prior to the commencement of the Electoral Reform Act 2022.**

**The Department will shortly be running another national campaign and Monaghan County Council will continue to actively promote 'ChecktheRegister' across our social media platforms.**

**Cllr S. Coyle asked:**

7. Can Monaghan County Council give an update, on when tenancies will be offered to potential residences for the seven houses on Hall Street/Clones Road, Ballybay, which are unoccupied for a very lengthy period at a time of great need for housing in Ballybay, County Monaghan and throughout the Country, also what are the potential dates for occupancy etc of these dwellings, in a town centre location, easily accessible to all local services etc?

**Reply: North and East Housing Association have provided an update. It is envisaged that six of the houses will be available for occupation in July 2023 and the 7th house will be available in Q4 of 2023.**

8. Can Monaghan County Council give an up-to-date report on Housing Waiting Lists for each of our towns, villages, and social housing locations in the County, in the following categories:  
-4 bedroomed or larger family homes  
-3 bedroomed family homes  
-2 bedroomed homes  
-Numbers of single persons on waiting list in each area

**Reply: As Members are aware Social Housing applicants can pick 3 areas of choice which makes providing accurate information to the above question difficult. However, an analysis of the 1<sup>st</sup> area of choice provides the following information and some villages that have no 1<sup>st</sup> area of choice have been included to provide information on these villages to members.**

MD/ TOWN	1BED	2BED	3BED	4BED	5BED	TOTAL
<b>CARRICKMACROSS / CASTLEBLAYNEY MD</b>						
Annyalla	1	2	3	0	0	6

Carrickmacross	103	42	11	8	7	171
Castleblayney	72	24	14	6	1	117
Inniskeen	4	1	1	1	0	7
Oram	1	0	1	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>303</b>
<i>Magheracloone (2<sup>nd</sup> area of choice only)</i>	8	7	0	0	1	16
<b>MONAGHAN MD</b>						
Ballinode	6	4	3	1	0	14
Clontibret	1	0	1	0	0	2
Emyvale	11	9	8	2	0	30
Glaslough	6	5	4	0	0	15
Monaghan	183	133	120	22	3	461
Scotstown	3	0	3	0	0	6
Tydavnet	1	0	0	1	0	2
Tyholland	2	2	1	0	0	5
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>535</b>
<i>Carrickroe (2<sup>nd</sup> area of choice only)</i>	3	2	2	0	0	7
<i>Knockatallon (2<sup>nd</sup> area of choice only)</i>	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>CLONES / BALLYBAY MD</b>						
Ballybay	31	12	8	4	0	55
Clones	24	7	11	5	1	48
Doomhamlet	1	1	2	1	0	5
Newbliss	7	2	2	0	0	11
Rockcorry	3	1	3	1	0	8
Scotshouse	0	3	1	2	0	6
Smithboro'	2	3	1	1	0	7
Threemilehouse	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>142</b>
<i>Bawn (2<sup>nd</sup> area of choice only)</i>	0	0	2	0	0	2
<i>Latton (2<sup>nd</sup> area of choice only)</i>	0	0	4	1	0	5
<b>Total Approved Applications as of 22.03.2023</b>						<b>980</b>

9. Can Monaghan County Council give an up-to-date report on the numbers of Homeless Persons/Families presenting to the County Council in each of the past 4 years, 2019, 2020, 2021

& 2022 and the number in each of above categories, currently in emergency accommodation, throughout the County?

**Reply: Please see below information in relation to the homeless query.**

Homeless Presentation to Monaghan County Council	2019	2020	2021	2022
Adults	65	147	97	122
Children	36	44	11	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>145</b>

Currently in Emergency Accommodation	2023
Adults	6
Children	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

**10.** Can Monaghan County Council give an up-to-date report on the HAP Scheme in each of our towns, villages and social housing locations in the County, in the following categories:

- 4 bedroomed or larger family homes
- 3 bedroomed family homes
- 2 bedroomed homes
- Numbers of single persons in HAP accommodation in each area

**Reply: The table below provides the requested information**

	1 BED	2 BED	3 BED	4 BED
Ballinode	1	3	2	2
Ballybay	3	7	19	5
Carrickmacross	6	16	24	15
Castleblayney	7	21	22	7
Clones	3	8	15	8
Clontibret	1		1	2
Doohamlet			2	
Emyvale	1	2	8	6
Glaslough		1	6	1
Inniskeen	1	1	2	
Latton			1	
Monaghan	34	84	73	32
Newbliss		1	4	
Oram			3	
Rockcorry				1
Scotshouse			2	5
Scotstown		2	3	2
Smithborough		1	5	
Stranooden				1
Threemilehouse			2	
Tydavnet			1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>88</b>
Inter Authority HAP	8	11	9	6

**No. of single persons in HAP accommodation by MD:-**

<b>Carrickmacross/Castleblayney</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Ballybay/Clones</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Inter authority HAP</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>

11. Can Monaghan County Council across each MD, carry out an inspection and repair/replacement of directional/safety signage, as in many cases, it can be damaged etc. during hedge trimming etc., from a Road Safety issue, it is very important, that all signage is correctly in position?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council will seek to survey a number of regional roads in 2023 and arrange for the replacement of defective signage were necessary. However, issues at any specific location, once reported will be investigated and dealt with immediately.**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

12. In welcoming the recent funding announcement for our county road network and given the slight increase in the allocation will the council be in a position to add any additional roads to the upgrading and resurfacing programme for this year 2023?

**Reply: Following receipt of the tenders for the 2023 Restoration Improvement works there is no capacity to add any additional roads to the 2023 programme.**

13. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the local lane improvement scheme (LIS) in terms of number of lanes on the waiting list and proposed lane completions in this current year etc.?

**Reply: There are currently 73 lanes on the LIS list. An allocation of €305k has been awarded for 2023 and it is envisaged that 7-8 lanes will be completed. Further lanes will be completed should an additional allocation be received.**

14. Approximately how many vacant residential properties are there throughout the county at present that could be brought back into residential use, how many properties have Monaghan County Council acquired in recent years and brought back into residential use?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council is continuing to progress the Vacant Homes Programme and is collating information regarding all properties inspected for vacancy.**

Monaghan County Council is currently one of six Local Authorities piloting a new Vacant Homes App introduced by the Housing Agency. This app is a mapping tool that allows the Vacant Homes Office to pinpoint properties indicated as potentially vacant by the latest CSO data and confirm whether the property is vacant or not. The app has highlighted 1422 properties that might be vacant in County Monaghan. To date the Vacant Homes Office have inspected 323 vacant homes, 84 in Monaghan MD, 159 in Ballybay – Clones MD and 80 in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD. The Vacant Homes Office will continue its work in identifying genuinely vacant properties and finding solutions to address vacancy where possible.

Since 2017 Monaghan County Council have or are in the process of providing an additional 165 social housing units through various means including acquisition and renovation of vacant properties, acquisition and completion of unfinished housing developments, acquisition through Compulsory Purchase Orders under derelict sites legislation of derelict properties to be used for new housing developments and Repair and Lease. 11 Derelict Sites have been acquired through Compulsory Purchase Order which resulted in the provision of 64 social housing units. Also during this time, the Housing Section through negotiation have acquired 32 properties which have resulted or will result when completed in a further 66 social housing units. In addition, 29 properties have been provided in Unfinished Housing Developments under Turnkey agreements and 6 units under the Repair and Lease Scheme.

Going forward a number of Derelict Sites have been acquired over the last 6 months including:

- The Old School Site Roslea Road Clones with the possibility of circa 15 new social houses
- Slí na Coille Site Killyconnigan Monaghan with the possibility of circa 20 new social houses
- Main Street Newbliss with the possibility of two new social homes
- Killyfargy Site Scotshouse with the possibility of a small number of new social houses and / or serviced sites and an area to facilitate a new community creche facility
- Two prominent derelict properties on Main Street Ballybay are in the process of being acquired through agreement with property owners
- Two new houses have been recently completed in place of a derelict house on Church Street Ballybay
- Work is progressing on seven new houses at an Clós Ballybay
- Seven unfinished houses are being brought into use at Hall Street Ballybay
- Four vacant apartments have been acquired and are to be renovated on Main Street Ballybay in conjunction with North & East Housing Association.

These properties will provide further social housing units while also improving the areas in which they are situated.

Finally, the Croí Cónaithe Scheme was launched by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in July 2022. The Scheme provides new options to encourage 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 properties (that have been vacant for two years or more) for occupation as a principal private residence, including the conversion of a property which has not been used as residential previously. To date Monaghan County Council have received 38 applications under the Croí Cónaithe Scheme with 14 approved in principle, 6 refused and 18 under review/further information requested. This is a grant which will hopefully bring a lot of vacant properties back into use and reduce the overall vacancy number throughout the County Monaghan.

15. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of emergency accommodation in our county to cater for individuals and families and in particular women and children that find themselves in a crisis situation?

**Reply: Our homeless service currently includes:**

**1 hostel bed with Simon Hostel, Dundalk**

**2 one bed units and one two bed unit with Castleblayney Trust (AHB)**

**One two bed apartment in Monaghan rented private with landlord.**

**One B&B bed on retainer with local provider.**

**We have a number of other private B&B providers who we use on occasion.**

**Currently we have one 1 bed unit and the B&B bed available, but this can change very quickly if there is a presentation or the person in emergency accommodation secures their own accommodation or is provided with social housing.**

16. When an individual or family presents to our housing section desk as homeless or has received a notice to quit, what assistance can the housing section give in such situations?

**Reply: When a person presents as homeless a housing assessment on the individual will be carried out by the Social Worker and the necessary assistance relevant to the individual will be provided.**

**Cllr S. Conlon asked:**

17. Since the introduction of the Department of Housing 'Tenant-in-Situ' scheme last April initiated to curtail evictions by landlords seeking to sell their properties, how many expressions of interest have been lodged by rental property owners seeking to sell their property to Monaghan County Council? Following that engagement, how many houses were subsequently

purchased by the Council through the 'Tenant-in-Situ' scheme that resulted in sitting HAP tenants remaining housed?

**Reply: When the Housing Section is informed by a person on the housing list that they have been issued with a notice to quit, MCC will work with the individual and if appropriate we look to acquire the property in line with the agreed policy which was brought before the Members recently. To date, we have bought one property and we have sale agreed on another property. Another individual on notice has been given allocation of social housing.**

- 18.** What emergency overnight bed capacity exists in County Monaghan for people who present as homeless to our Local Authority and that have exited short term, typically 3 night, B&B accommodation?

**Reply: Our homeless service currently includes:**

**1 hostel bed with Simon Hostel, Dundalk**

**2 one bed units and one two bed unit with Castleblayney Trust (AHB)**

**One two bed apartment in Monaghan rented private with landlord.**

**One B&B bed on retainer with local provider.**

**We have a number of other private B&B providers who we use on occasion.**

- 19.** Of the combined 2022 / 2023 €793,000 allocation towards Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works, what projects are to benefit from this funding scheme?

**Reply: The following schemes benefited in 2022:**

Road No	Scheme Title	Description
LT30103	Drumfaltra, Ballybay	Cleaning Channel, upgrading 2 Culverts
R180	Nafferty Phase 2	Flood alleviation measures
R183	Analore Bridge	Raising of road due to flooding
R180	Cloughvalley, Phase 2	Installation of new drainage pipeline and gully's
R938	Castleblayney	Replacement of 70m defective storm drainage pipe

**The following schemes will benefit in 2023:**

Road No.	Scheme Title	Description
L1413-0	Plantation Road Culvert	Construction of surface water drainage System
LP3720	Annadrummond, Castleblayney	Design of flood relief scheme
R183-N54	Clones	Cleaning of 500m of open drain
LP3310	Kilnacran	Upgrading of culvert & cleaning of drains

- 20.** To maximise pedestrian and cyclist safety along the Monaghan to Emyvale N2 road what progress is occurring following my previous request to have additional Vehicle Restraint Systems (crash barriers) and signage installed along this national route?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are currently working on the Planning & Design of an Active Travel facility commencing from Ballyalbany Junction and extending to Tydavnet and another section along the southern approach into Emyvale Village. As part of the design of these 2 schemes, the requirements for Vehicle Restraint Systems will be assessed in accordance with Design Standards, and if warranted, they will be included.**

In addition, a Road Safety Inspection Programme, commissioned by TII is currently ongoing, whereby safety issues are identified along the national road network, with recommended safety interventions documented. Vehicle run-off from the carriageway is a risk that is included in this survey, whereby hazards such as verge drop off, water courses, walls, embankments, utility apparatus etc. are assessed.

## 17. Conferences

*On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett seconded by Cllr S Gilliland 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>	Connecting Ireland and Rural Public Transport – Opportunities for Rural Regeneration	Online	28 April '12	Cllr Pat Treanor Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Seamus Treanor

## 18. Notices of Motion

### **Cllr C. Bennett proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded:**

1. That Monaghan County Council calls on the Government to extend the ban on evictions until the end of the year; to expand the tenant in situ scheme for social and affordable cost rental tenants; and to use emergency planning and procurement powers to target vacant and derelict properties and new building technologies to deliver additional social and affordable homes above the targets for this year.

A vote by show of hands resulted in 7 for, 5 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

2. In the absence of Cllr Coyle, consideration of Notice of Motion 20(2) was deferred to the May Council meeting.
3. In the absence of Cllr S Conlon, consideration of Notice of Motion 20(3) was deferred to the May Council meeting.
4. It was agreed that a request for a meeting with the National Ambulance Service would be issued by Monaghan Municipal District.

## 19. Votes of Sympathy

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

- Stephen Kelly, Water Services, on the death of his father, Joeseeph (Joe) Kelly.
- Marcia McMeel, Monaghan MD, on the death of her father, Sam Boyd.
- Eamon Duffy, Internal Audit, on the death of his father, Francis Duffy.

The meeting concluded.

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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

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