

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 17th April 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Raymond Aughey presided.

Present: Cllrs. Cathy Bennett, Sean Conlon, David Maxwell, Brian McKenna, Paudge Connolly and Seamus Treanor.

In Attendance: Nuala Woods, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Dermot Deeney, Executive Engineer, Michelle Curran, Senior Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Bennett, seconded by Cllr. Treanor, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 20th March 2023 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Monaghan CCTV Scheme

Cllr McKenna requested update on CCTV appointed Consultant.

Mr. McElwain advised approval to continue on with same Consultant for additional €14,000 - €20,000. The overall cost of the project is estimated to be €250,000 with €80,000 already allocated by MD from the MD Allocation plus €40,000 from the Dept of Justice which we still need to confirm is still available.

Cllr Maxwell asked if we could proceed with €120,000 work in order to commence work now and add to project as further allocations received?

Cllr McKenna supported to commence works for design and tender stages and proceed.

Cllr Connolly suggested completing full project at €250,000 taking monies from parking etc.

Mr McElwain advised on target to complete this year.

Cllr Conlon asked if some patching be completed at the traffic lights, please to tie over until works done and all works to be done during school holidays or at night-time in order to avoid traffic congestions. It was confirmed that the MD had completed minor patching on the previous Friday, the 14th April.

Cllr Bennett – Looking Community Development Plans to aid and assist villages – Scotstown require a Community Development Plans.

Cllr McKenna – Community Development Committee should be in contact with Carol Lambe.

Cllr Conlon – Noted the condition of the Mall Road and requested the MD to write to Irish Water and request timeline and schedule for their watermain works.

D McElwain confirmed that this was already requested. IW latest programme was that they were planning the works in July.

Cllr Connolly – Requested the start date for the Rossmore Park numbered nature trail of figurines.

D McElwain – Quarter 3 due to staff resources.

Members noted the tree surgeons cutting and carving sculptures in Smithborough.

Cllr Conlon – Noted that €5,000 funding was provided from the Blackwater 10k Run committee to Paul Bond and Mark Kelly. Can the MD seek an update.

Cllr Treanor – Raised the issue Taking in Charge of Killyvane lane.

D McElwain – Roads have confirmed that there is no funding allocated for 2023. It is better not to TIC until we know funding is available. It was also noted we are still waiting agreement from one resident.

3. Municipal District Co-Ordinators Report

Cllr Bennett asked if the new Pothole fixer was operating.

D McElwain confirmed that the new velocity patcher is in use.

Cllr Conlon – Quality of road surfacing being used, does the council test the integrity of surface and materials used.

D McElwain – Our Road Section manage the sampling and testing.

Some discussion took place on the need to get proper funding to fix our roads, members agreed that there is substandard funding available for roads.

Cllr Bennett – Collapse of the bridge at Black Lane, Scotstown and the road currently closed for repairs.

D McElwain – Roads have fast tracked the design and procurement, funding to be from the Monaghan MD, Regional Discretionary grant.

Town Team

Cllr Bennett noted that the Cathaoirleach of MCC, Cllr Conlon wasn't asked to participate in the latest promotional video.

D McElwain – Noted it was more of the businesses that were involved, and agreed to inform the Town Team.

4. Questions & Motions

Cllr Aughey asked

Can the Municipal District explore what opportunities exist for extending the cycle path/footpath from Emyvale to Ballyoisin and on to the border at Aughnacloy and ultimately to link safely from Emyvale to Glaslough, Mullan Village and Carrickroe?

Response:

The TII funded the cycle path/footpath from Monaghan Town to Emyvale and the proposed upgrades currently under design. The Council will continue to seek funding to extend cycle paths/footpaths through the county where funding streams are available.

Does the Municipal District have any plans to provide safe cycle parking in Monaghan town and the villages across the Municipal District area?

Response:

There is no current plan to provide additional cycle parking in Monaghan town or in the villages. As the need arises the council will seek the necessary funding to provide cycle parking facilities.

The Municipal District has acquired a number of vacant buildings in Monaghan Town over recent years with a view to selling them on for development. What is the current status of these buildings, some of which are in very poor condition?

Response:

The council acquired five properties in Monaghan Town. Currently two are being progressed for council housing, two have been sold off for private development and one remaining to be sold. A more detailed report will be provided at the May meeting.

What opportunity will residents committees in local housing estates have to organise skips this year and when is the next WEEE collection due in Monaghan Town (as there was a very high volume of WEEE material for disposal at last year's event)?

Response:

The Spring Clean is currently open and any large groups may apply for skips via an email to litter@monaghancoco.ie . To note only applications that are for a general clean-up of the area will be approved, i.e. it is not for cleaning out people's personal garages or for large bulky household items.

The first WEEE collection of 2023 will take place on Saturday 20th May in the Lidl car park, Monaghan town. The remaining locations and dates are as follows:

Sat	20 th May	Monaghan	Monaghan Town Centre	Lidl Car Park
Fri	18 th Aug	Monaghan	Castleblaney	TBC
Sat	23 rd Sept	Monaghan	Clones	The Mart

Can the Municipal District plan and liaise with Tidy Towns and other relevant groups to increase efforts as soon as possible for comprehensive maintenance at recycling banks, litter in the canal, the Shambles River and indeed either side of the Greenway, and on the convent side of the Greenway in advance of the IBAL Report and Tidy Towns judging?

Response:

As a pro-active action and in order to maintain the current position of Monaghan Town in the IBAL report – currently ranked 8th out of 40 in 2022, up from 20th place out of 40 in 2021, the Environmental Awareness Officer has a site meeting organised for mid-April, to detail the works required as part of the IBAL imminent surveys, with the Municipal District Area Foreman and reps from Monaghan Tidy Towns. To note, bottle banks are cleaned up daily throughout the county by Municipal District staff and in addition the Environmental Patrol Officer carries out weekly inspections and clean ups, at bottle bank locations.

For the future that the council will organise an annual plan and liaise with relevant parties such as TT for dealing on an ongoing and regular basis with litter in the Ulster Canal, the Shambles River and indeed either side of the Monaghan Greenway as this is an ongoing environmental issue along an important amenity in the town as well as following up with

commercial partners providing services at recycling banks regarding their obligations to maintain their sites in a clean & hygienic manner, that their bottle banks are maintained and presented in a safe manner and they have a responsibility to maintain the areas surrounding their banks.

Response:

Tidy Towns and the Environmental Awareness Officer maintain very regular contact in relation to both potential projects and delivery of new initiatives but also potential issues arising within the county. Municipal District staff also collaborate with both in relation to areas of concern or to provide assistance in the delivery of projects including the addition of solar bins, litter picking stations etc and are fully supportive of the works of volunteers. In addition, our bring site servicing contractor has been liaising with Environmental Services in relation to the cleaning of bottle banks and replacing any defective receptacles that may require replacing. A further clean up in between the actual bottle banks will be done in conjunction with the emptying/replacing of these banks.

Cllr Conlon asked

Given the increasing level of dog fouling, both on the Greenway and on the streets of Monaghan Town, what steps does this Council propose to take in an effort to curb this serious health hazard?

Response:

In March, an advertising campaign “Your Dog, Your Responsibility” took place on Northern Sound in both Irish and English, advising dog owners of their obligations and duties when out walking their dogs. A further digital campaign ran parallel with this on the Northern Sound social media feed.

Environmental Services will arrange for joint patrols with the dog warden and Environmental Patrol Officer. During these patrols, dog owners are spoken to and reminded of their obligations and provided with free dog bags.

Environmental Services with the assistance of the MD’s throughout the county also provide and maintain dog fouling bins and supply the bio compostable bags used in them. All bins are maintained regularly along both areas mentioned and also throughout the rest of the county.

As a further note, the above-mentioned locations will be included on the patrol list.

With the inordinate delays and unsatisfactory progress of the Department of Environment’s Local Authority Climate Action Plan’s, and uncertainty regarding the implementation of measures associated with the selection of Monaghan Town as a Decarbonising Zone for County Monaghan two years ago, what actions are planned during 2023, such as purchase of additional Electric Vehicles and other specific carbon footprint reduction measures that will contribute towards lowering air pollution in this County, currently at nearly 50% above World Health Organisation recommended levels?

Response:

Monaghan County Council has commenced preparatory work on preparation of the new Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA CAP). Works carried out to date include the preparation of a climate Risk assessment and a Baseline Emissions Inventory for the County in line with the national LA CAP guidelines that were issued recently. In addition,

KPMG Consultants have been recently engaged to carry out a Decarbonisation Zone Baseline Inventory for the Monaghan DZ in line with the national guidelines to help inform the development of the Climate Action Plan and specific measures and actions relating to the DZ. The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) has indicated that further training is to be rolled out to local authorities in the coming months to assist local authorities to prepare their respective Climate Action Plan. Drafting of the plan, based on guidance from CARO, is expected to commence in July 2023 and the plan will contain adaptation actions to help local authorities adapt to climate change and a range of mitigation measures aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases which are driving climate change.

Cllr Connolly asked:

What plans have Monaghan Municipal District,

- a) to provide a Refill Water Station in Emyvale village,
- b) and in other villages throughout the Municipal District area?

Response:

Funding was secured by the Environmental Awareness Officer via a grant offered by the EPA (Local Authority Prevention Network) which allowed the purchase of 3 no. water stations in specific high foot fall locations within the county. To date one has been installed in Carrickmacross, with two additional units being installed in Rossmore and along the Greenway in the coming quarter.

Environmental Services have no plans to install refill water stations throughout the county due to the costs involved in (a) Irish Water connection fee and (b) cost of the refill machines.

If further funding becomes available, a case study on high footfall areas will be considered and applied for.

MOTIONS:

"That this Municipal District re-engage with the local community in Emyvale in order to progress the work that was carried out a few years ago around a Development Plan for the village."

Cllr McKenna

Motions

Cllr McKenna discussed his motion's background.

Cllr Conlon seconded the motion citing previous success in Glaslough/Ballinode.

Cllr Connolly supports motion and would support MD meeting in Emyvale to discuss community plans.

Cllr Aughey advised separate day to travel and meet community groups in several villages, in planning stage with Ms. Curran.

Cllr Connolly asked for an update on the Safety concerns in Emyvale village.

Cllr McKenna – Footpath Village to Emyvale football field.

Renaming Steele's corner, TII realignment at Steel's Corner

The MD to make contact with Community Section regarding the Community Plan.

Votes of Congratulations

Cllr McKenna proposed, seconded by Cllr Conlon that congratulations be extended to Barry Todd, Derrykinard, Emyvale on winning the prestigious RDS Craft Award for his work in designing furniture in high quality hardwood with Irish design and importantly €10,000 bursary.

AOB

Cllr McKenna noted some footpaths with loose paving with trip and fall issues in a number of locations. Need to be checked and repaired as soon as possible.

D McElwain – Area Foreman to review and to arrange repairs.

Cllr Connolly raised concerns over the sight lines at the N12, Armagh Road and junction with local road opposite Tyholland Chapel.

Cllr Conlon, Dog Fouling on greenway and throughout town.

Looking increasing patrols of dog warden and environment office – can they issue fines?

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 17th day of April 2023

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator