

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan, County Monaghan on Monday 08 May 2023 at 10.00am

Chair: Cllr S. Conlon, Cathaoirleach

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

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, Ms. O. McConnon, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr S Gilliland

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to Cllr Maxwell on the passing of his Uncle Kenneth Maxwell, Winnipeg, Canada.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr H McElvaney, it was agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to Cathal Flynn, Director of Services on the passing of his mother-in-law, Dympna McGuirk.

Urgent Business:

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a notice of urgent business in the name of the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District members as follows:

As the members are aware, since 2020, Monaghan County Council has received €2.25m in funding under the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme. In 2020, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District received an allocation of €89,912.85, less than 4% of the €2.25m. In 2021 and 2022, this Municipal District did not receive an allocation under the scheme. Following the recent clarification that this Municipal District is again not to receive an allocation in 2023, I am proposing that the elected Members of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal district collectively submit a notice of urgent business for discussion at the May meeting of Monaghan Co Co, requesting that priority funding that may be received under the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme in 2024 is focused on road improvement works to local roads in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District, which according to the most recent NOAC report are the worst roads in the county.

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

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr A McCooey, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 03 April 2023

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 03 April 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 inclusion of environmental clauses in future tenders.
- Letter from the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, T.D., regarding the review of the Rural Planning Guidelines 2005.
- Acknowledgement Email from the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., regarding the Mother and Baby Homes Redress Scheme.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., regarding the Mother and Baby Homes Redress Scheme.
- Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., regarding the extension of the ban on evictions, the tenant in situ scheme and affordable homes.
- Acknowledgement email from the private secretary to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., regarding the 'Action Plan for Apprenticeships 2021 – 2025'.
- Acknowledgement email from private secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding the extension of the ban on evictions, the tenant in situ scheme and affordable homes.
- Resolution from Wexford County Council regarding the 'Able Disabled' Campaign.
- Resolution from Westmeath County Council regarding affordable housing units.

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

- Email from the private secretary to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., regarding the 'Action Plan for Apprenticeships 2021 – 2025'.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon , seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that this Council would forward correspondence received in relation to the use of the apprenticeship model in the public service to Human Resources for assessment and response on how Monaghan County Council are playing a role.

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr S Treanor it was agreed that this Council holds a meeting to discuss housing development in rural areas and the implications of the unresolved 'Flemish Decree' to ensure Monaghan Co Council's concerns are dealt with.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor, seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that this Council supports the Westmeath Co Co motion requesting the Minister for Housing to support and encourage the immediate construction of affordable housing units by temporarily removing the need for local authority contributions and facilitating the designation of affordable units in developments that are in the planning system or that have a grant of planning.

On the proposal of Cllr C Carthy, seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that following the response received from An Tánaiste Micheál Martin TD regarding the Monaghan Co Co motion on environmental clauses to public contracts, we call on the executive to, again,

*write to the Tánaiste calling on changes to be made to public procurement as per motion passed at April meeting of Monaghan Co Co to include specific environmental clauses as per text of motion: "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.
(Cllr D Maxwell's objection to the motion was noted).*

On the proposal of Cllr C Carthy, seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that this Council supports the Wexford Co Co motion endorsing the roll out of the Able Disabled campaign as a means of inclusion and prioritizing the needs of those with a disability by companies and utilities.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan it was agreed that the Executive would write to all local TDs and Senators regarding what action they have taken to secure a meeting with Minister Ryan in relation to the N2.

3. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to relating to the sale of lands at 1 Pearse Place, Ballybay.

Members considered the Section 183 Notice circulated relating to the sale of lands at 1 Pearse Place, Ballybay to All Creature Veterinary Group.

On the proposal Cllr S Coyle seconded by Cllr R Truell it was agreed that the Council approve the sale of the lands located at 1 Pearse Place, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 23 February 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider Section 183 Notice relating to relating to the lease of Castleblayney Enterprise Centre "The Ridge".

Members considered the Section 183 Notice circulated relating to the lease of Castleblayney Enterprise Centre "The Ridge".

On the proposal Cllr P Conlon seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the Council approve the lease of Castleblayney Enterprise Centre, "The Ridge", in accordance with the terms of notice dated 13 April 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

5. To consider the Taking in Charge Application for Drummond Radhairc, Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross.

Members considered the Taking in Charge Application circulated for Drummond Radhairc, Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross.

On the proposal Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon it was agreed that the Council approve the application for Drummond Radhairc, Dundalk Road, Carrickmacross, in accordance with the Taking in Charge of Estates and Declaration of Public Road Notice, under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), & Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

On the proposal of Cllr D Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that this Council look at the Taking in Charge of Beechgrove Housing estate and look at the areas of the estate that were not included in the Taking in Charge. These areas are in the ownership of the original owners who do not maintain these areas after numerous requests.

6. To consider the Environment and Community Fund 2023 Allocations

Members noted the Report circulated which recommended the allocation of funding under the Environment and Community Fund 2023.

Ms. S. Finnegan, Environmental Awareness Officer, and Mr B. Eaton, Community Section advised that the total budget to support and assist in the delivery of projects for 2023 is:

Environmental Services Fund: €70,000, which is allocated to Tidy Town, Residents Associations and Local Community Groups (Other)

Community Development Fund: €98,819, which is allocated to Community Groups

89 applications were received under the Environmental Services Fund. It is proposed to fund all 89 applications received to the value of €66,700.

80 applications were received under the Community Development Fund. It is proposed to fund 60 out of the 80 applications received to the value of €98,819. Projects not funded include those deemed ineligible or applications that may be eligible to receive funding under an alternative funding source.

Members commended Ms Finnegan and Mr Eaton for all their work on the Environment & Community fund.

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle seconded by Cllr C Carthy it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of funding under the Environment and Community Fund 2023 Scheme, as per the Report circulated with the agenda was agreed.

7. To fix a date for the Annual Meeting

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell seconded by Cllr S Conlon, it was agreed that the Annual Meeting of Monaghan County Council would be held on Monday, 19 June 2023, at 2.00 pm.

8. To note the Annual Financial Statements and Approve Over Expenditure and Transfers to the Capital Account for the Financial Year 2022

The Members noted the Annual Financial Statement for 2022 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Ms O McConnon, A/Director of Service, advised members that the Council recorded a surplus of €274,584 for the year ended 31 December 2022 resulting in a cumulative surplus of €404,986.

On the proposal of Cllr H McElvaney seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed to note the Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2022) and to approve over-expenditures and transfers to Capital Account, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

Over Expenditure

Division		Expenditure	Income	Net Position
		(Over)/Under	Over/(Under)	
		Estimates	Estimates	
		2022	2022	2022
		€	€	€
A	Housing and Building	-760,057	901,972	141,915
B	Roads Transportation & Safety	-1,909,288	1,683,068	-226,220
C	Water services	-1,561,257	1,547,410	-13,847
D	Development Management	-1,709,649	1,481,776	-227,873
E	Environmental Services	-378,344	266,402	-111,942
F	Recreation & Amenity	-781,472	297,577	-483,895
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-40,471	39,160	-1,311
H	Miscellaneous Services	-503,727	1,857,561	1,353,834
		-7,644,265	8,074,926	430,661

Transfers

			Transfer	Budget	Difference
			Amount	Provision	
02140002	1	Regional Lighting Running Cost	€76,788	€76,095	-€693
04580057	2	Clones Sports Project	€30,000	€30,000	€0
04780099	3	Industrial and Economic Development Budget Only	€150,000	€150,000	€0
04782001	4	Clones / Ballybay MD Allocation	€337,043	€337,043	€0
04783001	5	Monaghan MD Allocation	€337,043	€337,043	€0
04785001	6	Carrickmacross / Castleblayney MD Allocation	€337,043	€337,043	€0
05310001	7	Civil Defence General	€15,000	€15,000	€0
06213001	8	Library Headquarters	€38,234	€38,234	€0
06410003	9	Peace Campus Loan Charges	€75,647	€75,647	€0
06480025	10	Patrick Kavanagh Exhibition Centre Operation	€25,000	€25,000	€0
08420001	11	Local Election	€20,000	€20,000	€0
08880018	12	Transfer to / from Capital Account	€100,000	€100,000	€0
ZCA02018	13	Disability Initiatives	€10,000	€10,000	€0
ZCB01031	14	New Offices Provision	€200,000	€200,000	€0
06140001	15	Loan Charges Swimming Pool	€107,000	€107,000	€0
05410018	16	Fire Service Gratuities	€50,000	€50,000	€0
08330001	17	Irrecoverable Rates	€538,000	€538,000	€0
08890009	18	Members Gratuity Scheme	€100,000	€100,000	€0
ZPC03011	19	Maintenance of Networks & PC's	€186,568	€183,867	-€2,701
02152002	20	Local Lighting Running Cost	€153,533	€147,975	-€5,558
02320003	21	Traffic Management	€7,874	€0	-€7,874
02320005	22	Monaghan Town Improvement (Parking Surplus)	€30,145	€0	-€30,145
04580114	23	Monaghan Festivals & Events Grant Scheme 2022	€5,276	€0	-€5,276
08216099	24	Workshop & Overheads	€400,000	€0	-€400,000
			€3,330,194	€2,877,947	-€452,247

9. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 25 April 2023

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25 April 2023, which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25 April 2023 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by PJ O'Hanlon it was agreed that this Council write to the Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe and Minister for Finance

Michael McGrath seeking an increase in the Local Government Fund allocation that, following a ten-year absence of any increase, is urgently required to address considerable costs associated with our continuously expanding organisation, and cost of living and inflationary impacts.

10. To receive Management Report – April 2023

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

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

11. To receive a presentation from EirGrid

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Mark Foley Chief Executive, Mr Michael Mahon Chief Infrastructure Officer and Ms Sinead Dooley Head of Public Engagement from EirGrid to the meeting to update members on status of the North-South Interconnector project. Mr Foley commenced by outlining the need for the project and the reasons why the undergrounding of the interconnector infrastructure was not feasible. Mr Mahon outlined the current position of the project from the Independent Government review published in March 2023 and advised that EirGrid intend to award the contract for the construction of the interconnector project by the end of this year. Ms Dooley outlined the next steps and referred to an EirGrid information and public engagement campaign in advance of the planned contract award. She advised that work is also taking place on finalising of the compensation package for affected landowners.

The presentation concluded with the EirGrid Executives responding to members questions.

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle , seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that this Council demand of the Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications & Transport, Eamon Ryan TD and the Government to immediately initiate and carry out a full independent appraisal of the undergrounding of the North-South 400Kv Interconnector as to its feasibility.

Overgrounding the project will have huge knock-on effects on the landscape, tourism, agricultural activity, property valuations and communities who have for the past two decades clearly voiced their opposition to the overgrounding option. Monaghan County Council also request the Minister and the Government to fully investigate the status of the Planning Permission granted by An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for the North-South 400Kv Interconnector as an EU "Project of Common Interest (PCI), the Corner Stone of EirGrid's Planning Application. The EU have downgraded this project from this status, which if the Government and Eirgrid, were to persist with attempts to commence works on overgrounding the North-South 400KV Interconnector, will lead to huge opposition on the ground across the affected communities and lead to years/decades of further delay in the delivery of the project including Court Orders/Contempt of Court, similarly to the jailing of Offaly lady, Teresa Tracey, some years ago and the horror, anger and disruption, this would bring to our Communities ".

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

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

- OPR - Climate Action Plan, 26 March 2023, Riverdale, Dundalk, County Louth.
- Citizens Assembly on Drug Abuse, 28 March 2023, Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin.

13. Business submitted by Chief Executive

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

14. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 03 April 2023

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 03 April 2023.

15. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Scheme

- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding correspondence received from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, regarding Transport Infrastructure Ireland's road grant allocations.

16. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

Update as per item 11 above

- Email from Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding correspondence received from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, TD, regarding delivery of the North-South Interconnector project.

17. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

18. Questions:

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. Have any official dates been received by our housing section as to when the next phase of Clos na Droimainne (Carrickmacross) housing estate will be made available to tenants on our Council housing list?

Reply: There will be two handover dates for the 12 four-bedroom houses in Clos na Droimainne with the first 6 expected in June and remaining 6 in October. The housing section is currently liaising with Tuath on nominations for all 12 properties.

2. How many Social Housing Units, both MCC & AHB owned, are in Co. Monaghan and can the executive give a breakdown of unit size (number of bedrooms) and Municipal District?

Reply: Currently Monaghan County Council has 1,759 Social Houses / dwellings. Twenty Approved Housing Bodies operating in County Monaghan own 466 social houses / dwellings plus 14 Group homes with 100 bedrooms occupied primarily by people with disabilities availing of individual care packages and HSE supports under individual tenancies. This equates to 2,325 individual tenancies in the Social Housing / Dwellings that Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies have provided to date in County Monaghan. See tables below for breakdown on figures.

Municipal District	Number of Bedrooms					TOTAL Number of Properties
	1	2	3	4	5 or 6	
Ballybay-Clones	51	145	205	46	5	452
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney	56	170	369	59	3	657
Monaghan	35	231	325	56	3	650
TOTAL Social Housing breakdown per Bedroom size:	142	546	899	161	11	1759*
TOTAL %	8%	31%	51%	9%	1%	100%

* Please Note figure excludes Demountable and Halting Site units

3. What new measures have been implemented, and what additional processes have been passed on to Local Authorities, to deal with no-fault evictions?

Reply: Following the ending of the moratorium on no fault evictions on the 31st of March 2023 the Housing Authority have initiated a process to address the households that have been impacted upon by Notice to Quit proceedings. This process has been communicated to the Members.

Municipal District	Approved Housing Body Dwellings	Individual Beds in Group Homes	TOTAL
Ballybay-Clones	40	21	61
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney	378	13	391
Monaghan	48	66	114
TOTAL:	466*	100	566

* Please Note: Breakdown of dwellings consists of 1/2/3 bedroom size and includes Mortgage to Rent dwellings

Where the housing authority are made aware of Notice to Quit proceedings having been initiated households are encouraged to engage with their local authority.

Where the household presents the local authority will firstly following procedures to ascertain whether the household is at risk of homeless as per the definition in the Housing Act 1988; ascertain whether they qualify for social housing support; and refer persons to Threshold or other tenant support service to assess the validity of the notice of termination were deemed necessary.

In the case of a household qualifying for social housing support the local authority will pursue social housing support options including private rented accommodation options with HAP support, options for accommodating the household in LA accommodation, option of acquiring the house they are living in under the social housing tenant in situ scheme, accommodating the household in emergency accommodation.

For households that do not qualify for social housing support the local authority can refer

their case to the Housing Agency where there is the potential for the house that they are renting to be acquired under the Cost Rental in situ scheme. In addition, they will be advised of the local authority home loans scheme, the First Home Shared equity scheme and the pending legislation relating to First Right of Refusal scheme. Where no alternative accommodation is being identified and there is immediate risk of homelessness, they will be advised of emergency accommodation provision available.

Since the 1st of April 24 households have presented to the Council and of those 17 have been met and advised accordingly having regard to the process outlined above.

4. How many public litter bins are in place within Co. Monaghan and how does the current figure compare to 10 years ago? Can a breakdown of Towns and Villages be provided?

Reply:

CMX-CB Municipal District:

In total, there are circa 108 litter bins and 12 dog waste bins installed. Break down as follows:

Town/Village	Litter Bins (Incl. Solar)	Dog waste Bins
Carrickmacross Urban	60	6
Inniskeen Village	10	2
Castleblayney Urban	35	4
Annyalla Settlement (small area that lies with CMX-CBLNY MD)	2	
Rural - Toome Point	1	

No comparative figures from 10 years ago available.

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District:

Litter bins are primarily located in Ballybay and Clones Towns with approximately 37 in Clones and 31 Ballybay. No comparative figures from 10 years ago available.

Monaghan Municipal District:

Litter bins in the Monaghan Municipal District are mostly located in Monaghan Town and in a number of the larger villages.

We currently have 117 bins in the Monaghan Town urban area. The council do not have a record of the number of bins from 10 years ago, but that number would be similar to the current number.

5. To date, how many applications have been received under the Council Grant scheme (Mobility Aid, Housing Adaption & Housing Aid for Older people) in 2023 and when is it expected that this grant will close to non-priority applicants?

Reply: Monaghan County Council has received 150 complete applications to date (25 April 2023) as per list below. It is expected to close the scheme for non-priority applicants on 30th June 2023

HGD 39

HOP 106

MAG 5

TOTAL 150

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

6. In consideration of the substantial investment of Monaghan County Council and Municipal District funds in building the Bio-Connect Centre:
- what is the anticipated date of commencement of operations at Bio-Connect?
 - at commencement, what number of employees will occupy the building, and what is the forecast for expansion of staff?
 - has a promotion / recruitment drive been initiated to attract employees to take up posts at this highly specialised facility?
 - who are the committed industry stakeholders, and what level of finance / resources have they committed to the project?

- e) what are the core objectives, and anticipated outcomes, of Bio-Connect?
- f) what agency / stakeholder will have managerial oversight, and on what basis will annual running costs of the facility be met.

Reply:

- a) **Civil Engineering and Building Works will reach substantial completion in June 2023. Operations will commence following the fit out of laboratory infrastructure. Q3 /Q4**
- b) **Bioconnect CLG has only one employee at present, a Chief Executive Officer. The Enterprise Ireland funding support provides for a Chief Executive Officer and 4 Principal Investigators. While the company will have a small number of direct employees, the Bioconnect Centre has the potential to house up to 125 professionals in Phase 1.**
- c) **The Chief Executive Officer campaign is the only recruitment campaign completed at this time.**
- d) **Monaghan County Council
Monaghan Bioscience
Lakelands Dairies
Manor Farm
BioMarine Ingredients
PE Services
Silver Hill Duck
Enterprising Monaghan**
The cumulative anticipated contribution from industry stakeholders is €1,135,000.
- e) **BioConnect Innovation Centre CLG has been founded to create a platform for regional transformation, by supporting companies in the NWRA region seeking to undertake strategic, commercial and collaborative research using biotechnology. BioConnect facilitates companies use of biotechnology to develop high value products by providing access to:**
 - **Biotechnology focused Principal Investigator researchers.**
 - **Academic partners and skilled graduates.**
 - **Fully equipped office and wet laboratory**

BioConnect has the potential house up to 125 professionals in Phase 1. An additional 1,000+ indirect jobs will be created as member companies commercialise high value products. This will ultimately translate into annual revenues of >€100m for member companies.

BioConnect has established deep linkages with Queens University Belfast, Ulster University, Dundalk, Sligo & Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Monaghan Institute who are focused on the provision of biotechnology focused education and training.

BioConnect directly contributes to achieving Government Objectives outlined in the National Policy Statement on the Bio-Economy (2018); Innovation 2020 – Excellence Talent Impact; Action Plan for Jobs 2018; and Research Priority Areas 2018-2023.

BioConnect is complementary to other Innovation Centers and Technology Gateways as well as existing regional enterprise development centers and will provide a regional node for company specific research activities. It will generate product development scale up requirements at facilities such as Lisheen and Moorepark.
- f) **BioConnect have a Technical Advisory Board, comprising stakeholder and industry experts, to advise on the biotechnology research focus proposed for the Centre. The Chief Executive will manage the link between the Technical Advisory Board and the business / technical needs of partners.**

- 7. What is the breakdown of social housing applicants throughout County Monaghan in terms of:**
- a) family qualifying for a four bed or more dwelling?
 - b) family qualifying for a three-bed dwelling?
 - c) those qualifying for a two-bed dwelling?
 - d) those qualifying for a one bed dwelling?

e) Do current designs standards for a one bed dwelling / apartment unit, take into consideration the need for additional space in the event of an additional bed being set up for the purpose of a carer or family member staying overnight with a vulnerable tenant?

Reply:

MD/ TOWN	1BED	2BED	3BED	4BED	5BED	TOTAL
CARRICKMACROSS / CASTLEBLAYNEY MD						
Annyalla	1	2	3	0	0	6
Carrickmacross	104	45	11	8	7	175
Castleblayney	73	24	15	6	1	119
Inniskeen	4	1	1	1	0	7
Oram	1	0	1	0	0	2
TOTAL	183	72	31	15	8	309
<i>Magheracloone</i>	8	7	0	0	1	16
MONAGHAN MD						
Ballinode	6	5	3	1	0	15
Clontibret	1	0	1	0	0	2
Emyvale	11	9	9	2	0	31
Glaslough	6	5	4	0	0	15
Monaghan	184	135	120	22	3	464
Scotstown	3	0	3	0	0	6
Tydavnet	1	0	0	1	0	2
Tyholland	2	2	1	0	0	5
TOTAL	214	156	141	26	3	540
<i>Carrickroe</i>	3	2	2	0	0	7
<i>Knockatallon</i>	0	0	2	0	0	2
CLONES / BALLYBAY MD						
Ballybay	31	12	9	4	0	56
Clones	24	7	11	5	1	48
Doohamlet	1	2	2	1	0	6
Newbliss	7	2	2	0	0	11
Rockcorry	3	2	3	1	0	9
Scotshouse	0	3	1	2	0	6
Smithboro'	2	3	1	1	0	7
Threemilehouse	1	1	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	69	32	29	14	1	145
<i>Bawn</i>	0	0	2	0	0	2
<i>Latton</i>	0	0	4	1	0	5
Total Approved Applications as of 25.04.23						994
By Bed Type	466	260	201	55	12	

8. Following the recent completion of the final phase of residential development at Knockroe Glen, Clones Rd. Monaghan, will this Council now undertake to assemble a 'snag list' of incomplete works at this estate, and to remedy major infrastructure flaws that include:

- a) driveway and footpath subsidence
- b) damaged drainage pipe network causing smell from gullies
- c) culverting of polluted stream

- d) wastewater treatment pumping station
- e) unfinished tarmac overlay
- f) damaged kerbing
- g) speed reduction measures.

Reply: When a taking in charge application is received, inspections of the development will take place by various sections of the Local Authority. Consultation will also take place with Uisce Eireann. The Planning Authority will then engage with the developer to require that the development is completed in accordance with its planning permission(s), Uisce Eireann requirements and the Local Authority Taking in Charge Procedures document before formally taking in charge.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

9. What plans have Monaghan County council to roll out an affordable housing scheme across our county given the recent announcement by the department of an affordable housing fund (AHF)?

Reply: Housing circular 06/2023 was issued to Local Authorities on the 21st Feb 2023. The circular provides Guidance to local authorities for making an application for funding under the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) Scheme in the absence of a clearly assessed substantial housing need with affordability constraint. Housing Section is currently working through the guidance and gathering the required information to make an application.

10. How many applications are currently on hand in relation to the community involvement scheme (CIS) which allows for the upgrading and resurfacing of public roads subject to a financial contribution from local residents, how many roads will be resurfaced this year 2023 under this scheme ?

Reply: There are 15 applications and funding to progress 3 schemes this year.

11. What progress if any has been made in relation to the proposed upgrading and improvement of the Dundalk to Cavan town regional roadway (R178) given this important transport and economic link is not fit for purpose including the section from Carrickmacross to Shercock town?

Reply: The Department of Transport (DOT) and County Council Senior Engineer working group meet regularly to identify strategically important sections of this route that can be advanced in the coming years which includes the R178. It is planned to apply for funding for this section along with other Strategically important sections in the county under the DOT Strategic Improvement Scheme and when the current R181 Lough Egish to the Cavan Border is completed.

12. How many claims for compensation have been notified to Irish public bodies (IPB) the local authority insurer in the last 18 months resulting from damage to motor vehicles in relation to poor road maintenance including pothole damage, does the council know how much compensation has been paid out in the last 18 months resulting from poor road repair?

**Reply: (i) 66 claims notified in the last 18 months
(ii) €7,659 paid out in compensation in the last 18 months**

13. What plans have the council in the time ahead working with energy providers and other stakeholders including local businesses, community and sporting organisations to provide additional electric vehicle charging points throughout our county?

Reply: We have held initial meetings with ZEVI (Zero emissions vehicles Ireland) in order to receive support in our transition to zero emission vehicles.

Operations will include;

- Supports for the uptake of zero emission vehicles;
- infrastructure delivery through funding and policy guidance;
- strategy and policy lead, including taxation and regulation;

- research and innovation, and
- communications and public and stakeholder engagement.

Future meetings are planned to identify the need/delivery of infrastructure throughout the country and how we engage all relevant stakeholders.

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

- 14.** Has Monaghan County Council discussed with the Department of Housing the potential of an Affordable Housing Scheme or Affordable Rental Scheme for the county, and what was their response?

Reply: Housing circular 06/2023 was issued to Local Authorities on the 21 Feb 2023. The circular provides Guidance to local authorities for making an application for funding under the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) Scheme in the absence of a clearly assessed substantial housing need with affordability constraint. Housing Section is currently working through the guidance and gathering the required information to make an application.

- 15.** How many new Social Housing Applications have the Council received since 1st January 2023? How does this compare to 2022?

Reply: There has been 112 Applications received and approved with a further 7 applications pending decision since the beginning of 2023. It is not possible to provide an accurate comparison with 2022 data.

- 16.** How many applications have the Council received for the Croí Conaithe supports? What are the emerging barriers for those who do not qualify?

Reply: To date 46 applications have been received for the Croí Conaithe Scheme. 6 applicants did not qualify for the following reasons: -

- 1 not vacant for at least two years.
- 1 currently occupied.
- 1 proposal to demolish & replace with a new build.
- 3 not within a town or village boundary – All ineligible applicants have been notified that the scheme had been expanded to include rural areas.

The barriers emerging are: obtaining proof of two years vacancy, legal ownership, house not suitable to be refurbished and needs to be totally demolished and when applicants are separated providing legal evidence of separation.

19. Notices of Motion

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr N Keelan seconded:

1. That in anticipation of the opening of the North Monaghan Primary Care Centre on the St. Davnet's Campus, that this Council write to the HSE and Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD seeking clarification on what services are to be provided at this facility. Also, to ask which of these services are migrating from the Monaghan Hospital site that will result in additional capacity becoming available.

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

2. Notice of Motion 19(2) was withdrawn by Cllr S Coyle.

Clrs R. Aughey proposed, Cllr P Treanor seconded:

3. That Monaghan County Council consider putting in place a specialist internal design team who would be equipped to carry out general project designs such as traffic calming community projects, small road realignment projects and road safety projects.

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

20. Votes of Sympathy

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

- Grainne Boyle, Healthy County Coordinator, on the death of her father, Patsy Boyle.
- Eamonn O’Sullivan on the death of his father-in-law, Tom Malone
- Geraldine Heaphey on the death of her husband John Heaphey (*Retired Principal Beech Hill College, Monaghan and former Rúnaí CLG Coiste Chontae Mhuineacháin and Ard Comhairle delegate*)
- Seamus Deery on the death of his wife Patricia Deery (née Treanor), former staff member of Monaghan County Council

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

- Taste of Monaghan Food Festival event organisers
- Feile Oriel event organisers
- Darkness Into Light event organisers

21. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr D Maxwell 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	OPR - Climate Action Plan 2023: Implications for City and County Development Plans <i>(Eastern & Midland/ Northern & Western)</i>	Mullingar Park Hotel Mullingar Co Westmeath	15 th June 2023	Cllr Seamus Treanor Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Noel Keelan Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Richard Truell
AILG	OPR - Climate Action Plan 2023: Implications for City and County Development Plans <i>(Southern Region)</i>	Avalon Hotel, Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny	17 th June 2023	Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr Seamus Coyle
AILG	Urban Regeneration and Development Fund” - Call	ONLINE	26 th June 2023	Cllr Brian McKenna

	3 Funding and Engagement with Elected Member			Clr David Maxwell
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Urgent Business

Clr PJ O’Hanlon proposed, Cllr A McCooey seconded that as the members are aware, since 2020, Monaghan County Council has received €2.25m in funding under the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme. In 2020, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District received an allocation of €89,912.85, less than 4% of the €2.25m. In 2021 and 2022, this Municipal District did not receive an allocation under the scheme. Following the recent clarification that this Municipal District is again not to receive an allocation in 2023, I am proposing that the elected Members of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal district collectively submit a notice of urgent business for discussion at the May meeting of Monaghan Co Co, requesting that priority funding that may be received under the Reclaimed Asphalt Scheme in 2024 is focused on road improvement works to local roads in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District, which according to the most recent NOAC report are the worst roads in the county.

On the proposal of Cllr H McElvaney, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed to extend the meeting for a further 15 minutes to discuss the motion.

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

The meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____