



Live, Work, Visit

Monaghan

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#MONAGHANCOUNTYCOUNCIL



Tag us on social media !

See below MCC social media handles for tagging/engaging on all digital platforms, don't forget to tag/mention us in any events that are associated with Monaghan County Council.



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@MonaghanCoCo



@monaghan_coco



Monaghan County Council



Monaghan County Council

CHECK THE REGISTER

Already registered? You need to complete your details to confirm your vote.

Following a recent change in electoral law, we now have to include date of birth and PPSN for everyone. This will improve the integrity and accuracy of the Register.

To secure your vote, you can fill in your missing details online, it only takes a few minutes. Log on to www.checktheregister.ie and "Confirm or update details"

For any queries, please contact us on register@monaghancoco.ie or 047 30551



THE EASY WAY TO SECURE YOUR SAY

Your voice matters and your vote is important

checktheregister.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Campas Síochána
Mhuineacháin

Monaghan
Peace Campus

Peace



EUROPEAN UNION

Northern Ireland - Ireland

European Regional Development Fund

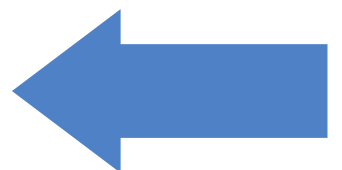
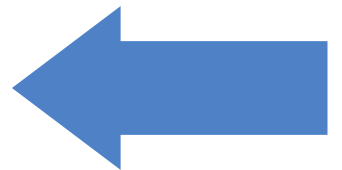
Construction of Monaghan Peace Campus commenced in 2020 and completion is scheduled for Q4 2023.

The Peace Campus will act as a new landmark for the town, providing high-quality civic gathering spaces, landscaped areas and pedestrian routes. The site has been designed with universal access in mind to encourage a diversity of both uses and users and will offer a range of facilities all under one roof.

Facilities include Youth Space, Community Space, County Museum and Branch Library.



This project is supported by the EU's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) www.seupb.eu and the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Hedgerow Training

The Heritage section in Monaghan County Council along with the hedge laying association of Ireland delivered a practical training day on hedge laying and hedge maintenance on the 24th of February 2023. The training took place at a local farmyard in Castleblayney with 12 Monaghan County Council staff taking part. The hedge laying association of Ireland provided 2 trainers on the day who took the staff through different environmental and biodiversity friendly hedge laying and maintenance techniques. Equipment used included a variety of hand saws, loppers and PPE. The training began with an introduction to the importance of hedgerows from trainers Clive and Norman, followed by a practical demonstration from the trainers and then a guided practice with all staff taking part. Stems were cut at the base of the trees about 70-80% of the way through, keeping the cuts as low as possible to the ground. The stems were laid at an angle of 45 degrees, producing a hedge approximately 1 meter in height. The stems were then woven into each other with wooden stakes placed every 1 meter in the hedge to give it more structure and stability. Hedgerows are extremely important habitats and have many environmental and biodiversity benefits e.g., they provide shelter and habitat for different types of wildlife, they sequester carbon, they provide food for insects & birds and they provide corridors for animals to move between habitats.



Dawn Chorus event

This event took place on Sunday 23rd April as part of biodiversity week. It took place at 7am in Rossmore. The walk was lead by Joe Shannon, Birdwatch Ireland. The participants enjoyed a cuppa afterwards to warm them up.

We also had a raffle for Patrick Kavanagh Centre vouchers to four lucky winners



Bio Diversity Week 2023

Biodiversity Week 2023 took place between 19th May to 28th May.

Biodiversity Week is a national initiative to highlight our country's biodiversity and its contribution. We learn how important biodiversity is to the way we live and the difference it makes to the world we live in. Education is key in relation to understanding how biodiversity works and how you, your community, your school, your workplace can enhance and play your part to protect it.

Monaghan Council County organised a programme of events to celebrate Biodiversity Week:

- Bat Walk & Talk – Bat Conservation Ireland
- Old Traditional Cures Talk – Anne Bleakley
- Hedgerow Laying Workshop with HLAI and Flynn, Furney Environmentalists
- LAWPRO Water Quality Event with Ben Malone and Paul Sherlock
- Along with schools events in Carrickmacross and Clones





Monaghan County Council Active Travel Unit



Bike Week 2023

Bike week 2023 is done and dusted in Monaghan! Thanks to all our facilitators and participants who took part in a huge variety of events happening right across the County. We had family cycles, e-bike tours, skills training for children and Secondary schools greenway cycles. There was opportunities to take part in guided walks, children could try out balance bikes and we had e-bike demonstrations for adults on Monaghan Town Greenway.

We tried to create awareness of the benefits of cycling through our various events and attracted and encouraged cyclists, particularly new cyclists of all age groups to discover the enjoyment of cycling, promoting a sustainable and healthy method of transport. Over the 10 days we seen young and old get out and get active!





Launch of Upgrade to Monaghan Town Greenway

A tree planting and plaque unveiling by Minister Heather Humphreys took place on the 5th May and marked the formal culmination of one of the flagship Active Travel schemes currently being delivered in the County. The works that have been undertaken on the 4.5km stretch of the Greenway will make it easier, safer, and more attractive for people to cycle within and beyond their local community. It is a significant addition to Monaghan's walking infrastructure and services many schools, hoteliers and some of the bigger employers in the area. The investment over 2 years of 1.6 million, has allowed for a better bitmac surface, improved drainage, public lighting, fencing and planting to be delivered.



New Monaghan Town Greeway map produced

An information map for the newly upgraded Monaghan Town Greenway was circulated to all in attendance at the official launch of the upgrade works recently. This map highlights the route to locals and visitors giving clear guidance on how the greenway can be accessed. Included also is information on various points of interest along the route, such as Tom Youngs Wood, St Louis Convent, the Ulster Canal Walk, Old Cross Square, the old Asylum Lock and Lock House, the Moving On sculpture and the tranquil Rotary Club Memorial Garden. The map will be circulated widely through our library network, local hotels, businesses, and schools.





HOUSING FOR ALL

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (part of "Housing for All") Monaghan County Council completed upgrade works to 72 social houses in County Monaghan in 2022.

The aim of this programme is to improve the energy efficiency of older, poorer performing housing stock.

Following the success of the 2022 programme of works the Housing Department within Monaghan County Council have developed an ambitious programme of works for 2023 with circa 80 social houses to receive works.

Typical Energy Efficiency works consist of the following;

- Replacing timber doors with new highly insulated draught-proof composite doors.
- Old PVC double-glazed windows being replaced with triple-glazed windows
- Removing old inefficient oil burners and solid fuel heating systems and installing new heat pump heating systems.



These upgrade works have improved the homes to a B2 Building Energy Rating with a 60% reduction in the energy required to heat the house.

The works completed have resulted in economic and health benefits to the tenants as they have a reduced cost of heating compared to fossil fuels and improved indoor & outdoor air quality due to not burning fossil fuels.

Cortolvin Villas, Monaghan



Mulladuff, Smithborough



Coill Darach, Castleblayney

The project consists of the provision of 30 houses at Coill Darach, Castleblayney constructed by Geda Construction Ltd.

The development comprises of the 5no 2-Bedroom Houses & 25no 3-Bedroom Houses including open space, landscaping, new access roads, drainage, street lighting and siteworks.

Works commenced in January 2022 and were completed in December 2022, delivering high quality homes with a Building Energy Rating of A2.



CORPORATE SERVICES

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL AWARDS SCHEME 2022



The 16th Monaghan County Council Annual Awards Ceremony took place on Tuesday, 18 April 2023 in the Hillgrove Hotel. The members of Monaghan County Council initiated this Scheme back in 2003 in order to give due recognition to those individuals/groups in County Monaghan who have excelled in the areas of Sport, Arts/Culture, Youth, Community, Environment/Heritage. The Awards Scheme permits Monaghan County Council to publicly acknowledge them for their contribution to our society and to show them that their efforts have not gone unnoticed. 21 individuals/groups were presented with awards on the night by Cathaoirleach Seán Conlon. Well done to all!!!

GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIP MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Bronnadh an Coiste Gaeilge 37 scoláireachtaí ar mic léinn atá ag dul go dtí an Gaeltacht i mbliana, Dé Ceadaoain seo chaite i nAmharchlann an Gháraiste.

Coiste Gaeilge awarded 37 scholarships to students who are going to the Gaeltacht this year. This presentation took place last Wednesday 26th April in the Garage Theatre, Monaghan. Congratulations to all! 🍀





Roads & Transport



Brine Station

The new brine station was installed in late 2022 and will be in use for the 2023/24 winter maintenance season.

This will enable us to spread brine along with traditional rock salt which will increase the rate of the chemical reaction so it works faster.



New Vehicles

The new multitone loader was purchased to keep the greenway and local footpaths tidy. We have a trailer, sweeper collector, salt spreader, weed brush, grass cutter/collector in order to keep our recreation areas looking tidy.

The new Bitumen Sprayer and has arrived in time for the 2023 surface dressing season. The new chipping spreader will arrive in June to complete a new Surface Dressing machinery overhaul at a cost of €750,000.





Roads & Transport



Lislanly Yard Upgrade

We have recently installed precast panels at Lislanly Yard.

These areas will be used to store stone chips used for the surface dressing.

This new area will keep the stone chips segregated from each other and free from contamination resulting in a much better finish to the county roads.



PLANNING

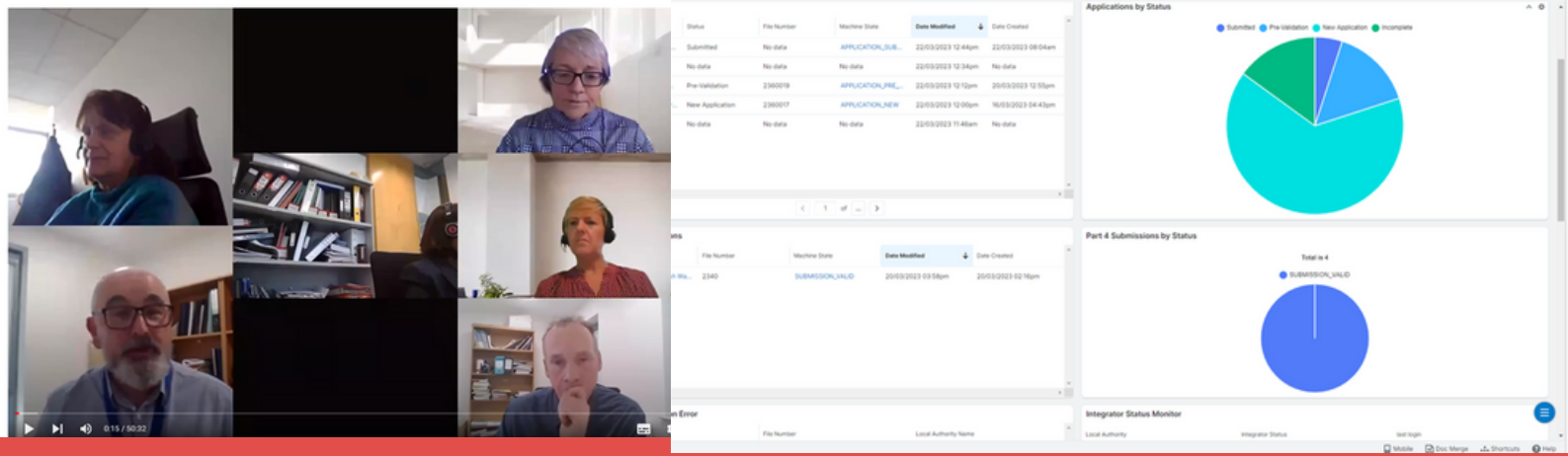


Online Planning

The online Planning portal for Monaghan County Council became fully operational on Tuesday 21st February. An Agents' Workshop took place on the same day to introduce the system and it was attended by local agents, staff from the Planning Section, and the Local Government Management Agency, which facilitated the roll out of the system. The first online planning application was received the following day and there has been significant uptake of the option to submit applications and make comments / submissions on them.

The link to the online planning portal is available on the County Council website and the recording of the Agents' Workshop along with a number of helpful videos were emailed to planning agents.

In the first month since the launch, online applications accounted for 33% of planning applications submitted to Monaghan Planning Section. Below is a screenshot of the CRM system which shows the status of each application and submission received.



Preparation of a new Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 – Your Chance to Shape it

Monaghan County Council has commenced the preparation of a new County Development Plan for the period 2025-2031. The Monaghan County Development Plan is the main public statement of planning policies for the County, setting out the land use, infrastructure, amenity and development objectives and policies for a six year period. The Development Plan comprises of a written statement of policies and objectives, and a series of maps. The Plan incorporates a set of broad aims, reinforced by various objectives, which are actions or projects the Council intends to accomplish over the life time of the Plan, and policies, which are the Council's agreed position is on a particular issue. The Plan underpins the economic and social progress of the County as a whole and thus is one of the most important functions of Monaghan County Council

To facilitate comments and submissions, a series of public consultation events/workshops were held in each of the five towns in June as follows:

- Monaghan Town – Monday 12th June from 6pm to 8pm in Planning Offices, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan, H18 X982
- Carrickmacross – Tuesday 13th June from 6pm to 8pm in Municipal District Offices, Civic Offices, Riverside Road, Carrickmacross, A81 RY22
- Castleblayney – Monday 19th June from 6pm to 8pm in the Gatelodge, Market Square, Castleblayney, A75 KP73
- Clones – Tuesday 20th June from 6pm to 8pm in the Court House, McCurtain Street, Clones, H23 N290
- Ballybay – Monday 26th June from 6pm to 8pm in Church of Ireland Parochial Hall, Church Street, Ballybay





ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Green Schools 2023

Twelve schools from within the county will receive their Green Flag at a prestigious award ceremony in City West Hotel, Gormanstown. Schools comprising of primary and secondary school pupils, will travel on a bus organised by the EAO on the day to receive their award over the various themes.

As a further acknowledgement of their hard work, the Convent Junior School from Castleblayney performed at the award ceremony on the 24th May.

Well done to all involved and I look forward to raising plenty of Green Flags throughout the county later on in the year.



Spring Clean

This year as part of Spring Clean month, volunteers from the Tidy Town Network took part in a county wide Spring Clean blitz. Emyvale, Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones, Inniskeen, Tydavnet and Ballybay all were out and did a fantastic job.





ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



Conscious Cup

Sustainability, as part of the Tidy Town competition theme, is one where groups throughout the county felt they could improve in their marks.

Therefore, as part of Oram Community Development Association's endeavours, the group were assisted in rolling out the Conscious Cup campaign, by supplying the main village shop with reusable coffee cups.

Launch of Contactless Water Fountain - Carrickmacross



The launch of the newly installed contactless water fountain took place at the end of February with primary and secondary schools from the town, who are in the Green School programme, Tidy Town reps, elected members and MD staff. The EAO did an awareness talk about the importance of reducing plastic and the impact it has on our environs.

The fountain was funded by the EPA (LAPN) and ground works were carried out by MD staff. As a further addition to the launch, reusable bottles were provided to all who attended. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet and greet our local students, local elected members and tidy town volunteers.

Dog Fouling – Your Dog, Your Responsibility Campaign

A radio advert was released on Northern Sound radio during March, in both English and as Gaeilge, to draw awareness of dog owner's responsibilities in relation to dog fouling. The purpose of the campaign was to highlight the negative aspects of dog fouling. Monaghan County Council Environmental Services, would like to remind all dog owners, that when out walking your dog in public spaces, it's your responsibility to make sure you clean up after your dog.

This affects everyone, including toddlers, kids, wheelchair users, pushchairs, and everyone else. You are encouraged to Bag It, and Bin It by bringing your own disposable bag or pooper scooper and dispose of it in a safe and hygienic way! Be responsible and respect all of our shared spaces!

LEATSA an madra, LEATSA an fhreagracht!

Tabhair ómós dár spás i bpáirt.

Baol sláinte poiblí is ea salachar madraí. Beir leat mála sluaiste i gcónaí is tú agus siúl le madraí.

TEACHTAIRIACHT Ó:
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



Electrical Goods Days

Electrical Recycling Drop Off Days were back again this year commencing in Lidl Car Park, Monaghan Town on Saturday 20th May - 10am to 4pm.

You can drop off any household item with a plug or a battery such as TVs, washing machines, IT equipment, stereos, mobile phones, broken battery-operated toys, cables, chargers and even wireless ear buds! Also don't forget to support Batteries for Barretstown and bring your used batteries for recycling.

Other Collection Days will take place in Castleblayney (location tbc) on Friday 18th August and Clones Mart on Saturday 23rd September.

Junk Kouture

As part of the Junk Kouture competition, the following schools were North Regional Finalists with their individual and unique creations which were made out of old, upcycled, discard junk.

- Beech Hill
- Castleblayney College
- Inver College
- Largy College
- Our Lady's Secondary School
- St. Louis Secondary School, CMX.

Congratulations to all the teachers and pupils involved in your creations.





MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARY



Creative Café's @ the Library

Monaghan County Library service were delighted to have the opportunity to team up with the new Social Prescribing programme in Co. Monaghan to launch 2 new Creative Café's - one in Monaghan Branch Library and one in Carrickmacross branch. The Creative Café's are an opportunity for people who may be feeling socially excluded or anxious about getting out and about to engage in a small group activity once a week. Engaging in creative activities such as painting and crafting can help alleviate stress by providing an outlet for self-expression and emotional release. It also serves as a form of relaxation and can divert attention away from everyday worries.

Artist Mary Scott has been rolling out the Art: no Experience Necessary Creative Café whilst in Carrickmacross Aga Hutcheson has been facilitating the Creative Crafting Café.



Launch of new Storytrail in Barry McGuigan Park

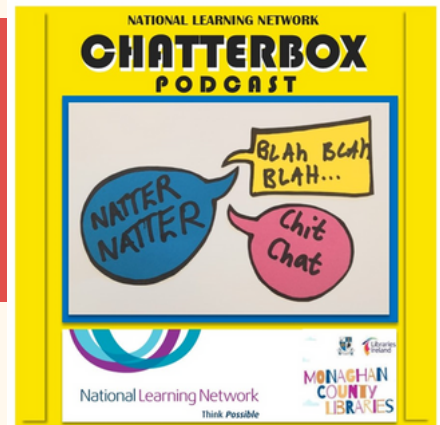
If you go down to Barry McGuigan Park in Clones today you're sure of a big surprise! Flossy Mc Fluff, an environmentally conscious Irish fairy and her friends have taken up residence in the park. As you wander through the park you can follow the story of Flossy as she chases litter louts, helps a Banshee find a friend and a leprechaun find his pot of gold. An audio version of the storytrail is also available by scanning QR code on the introductory panel. You can also find the audio version at www.monaghan.ie/library/storytrail.

The storytrail was officially launched by author Eoin O'Brien and pupils from St. Enda's N.S, Scotshouse on the 24th March. The trail will remain in place until next spring.

NLN Chatterbox Podcast

Creating Podcasts can be an enjoyable way to combine literacy, communication skills & digital skills. With this in mind, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to work with a fantastic group of students in National Learning Network who wrote and presented a fantastic podcast which looked at ways to look after your mental health. Their podcast is available now on Spotify by searching Chatterbox NLN.

If this is something you'd like to do with a group you're involved with get in touch!



Monaghan County Libraries have just launched a new service for children & families who come from Non-English speaking backgrounds. It may also be useful for teachers who have a multilingual classroom.

LOTE4Kids is our new online database of digital books in World Languages, that allows kids to enjoy the magic of books in LOTE (Languages Other Than English). Each book also comes with English translations to help kids learn languages. LOTE4Kids has over 2,000+ digital picture books in 50+ languages, with new books and languages released each month - helping schools & libraries to engage immigrant, refugee, and multilingual families.

As well as enjoying the stories, these books could also be used to explore how different languages look and sound. For example, text such as Punjabi, Cantonese and Arabic is so different from English script, it might be interesting to highlight how difficult it must be for immigrants from these countries to learn English.

If you would like to explore this new service you can access it through [the e-resources section of our website](#) under Lote4Kids.

Search for Monaghan County Library as the library service and enter a valid library card number for full access to all the resources for free.

We hope you find this new service useful. If you have any feedback please do let us know as we are constantly evaluating our services & subscriptions.



MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARY



Comics Plus

When you think of reading, you probably think of traditional books. But did you know that Comics and graphic novels can be valuable tools for improving reading skills, particularly for reluctant readers or individuals with learning difficulties. The visual cues, dialogue, and sequential storytelling help with comprehension, decoding, and inference skills. They also introduce readers to different writing styles and narrative structures. But everyone can enjoy them! You can browse and read thousands of Comics and Graphic novels for free using our Comics plus App. Download it from your App Store or access the desktop version at www.monaghan.ie/library/onlineservices. You'll need your Library card number to access our subscription. Please note, children should be supervised when accessing the service as Comics Plus provides Graphic novels for older readers as well as younger audiences.



MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARIES

Monaghan County Libraries & Drumlin Yarnspinnners
COME HERE TILL I TELL YE!
 Stories, Recitations, Songs & More
FREE ADMISSION

Storyteller In Residence Francis McCarron hosts a new Storytelling Club in **Market House, Monaghan** 8pm Last Tues of each month

Drumlin Yarnspinnners
 Keeping the oral tradition alive in Co. Monaghan

Drumlin Yarnspinnners

The Drumlin Yarnspinnners club continues on the last Tuesday of the month in The Market house, Monaghan. This storytelling Club has gone from strength to strength thanks to Monaghan County Libraries Storyteller-in-residence Francis McCarron who has been sharing tales throughout Ireland for over 30 years. Each month Francis is joined by a guest teller as well as contributions from the audience. We've heard some wonderful stories from guest tellers like Colin Urwin from the Glens of Antrim, Frances Quinn from Armagh, Liz Weir from Belfast and Bryan Gallagher from Fermanagh. Sessions start at 8pm and run for around 2 hours. But don't worry, there's time to mingle over a cup of tea half was through.

Drumlin Yarnspinnners is part of the Monaghan County Council Library Service Storyteller in Residence project. Funded by Creative Ireland, it aims to keep alive the ancient art of oral storytelling. It also seeks to gather local tales from across Monaghan. For more information contact Francis: email fmccarron@hotmail.com / 087 2068601.

Europe Day Celebrations 2023

Monaghan County Library service and Europe Direct Clones marked Europe Day on Tuesday 9th May with a series of events across the County. This programme of activities was made possible by funding from the Department of Foreign affairs and their Ireland EU 50 programme of activities. It was a jammed packed week events happening north & south of the County.

ArtsEkta @ Carrickmacross Library

Europe is a melting pot of languages, cultures, art & music. ArtsEkta joined us in Carrickmacross Library on Europe Day (Tuesday 9th May) to showcase just a taster of this Cultural diversity. ArtsEkta is a multi-award winning cultural organisation that works to develop intercultural relationships at the heart of the community and is home to the Belfast Mela - the largest celebration of cultural diversity on the island of Ireland. We were thrilled that they could join us for a colourful celebration of European Culture and music. We were also joined by pupils from St. Daigh's N.S, Inniskeen and Scoil Bhríde, Magheraclone.





MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARY



The Big European Quiz for Primary Schools

Over 30 teams from Primary schools across the County took part in the Europe Day Quiz. Children were quizzed on a variety of European topics which really put their European knowledge to the test. Mrs. Trappe's 5th/6th Class in Urbleshanny came out tops with a score of 229 points.



Europe Day Craft Boxes

Library branches throughout the county distributed also Europe Day Craft Boxes which were full of crafts, recipes, literature and factsheets about Europe and its citizens to help our younger members learn about our membership of the EU. Did you get one?

Summer Reading Challenge

It's getting to that time of year when we encourage readers to take on our Summer Reading challenge. We want children to keep up their reading levels over the Summer and avoid the literacy 'Summer Slump' by accepting the challenge to read 8 books of their choosing between June and the end of August. More details available in your local library soon!



CASTLEBLAYNEY LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSING ON THE 16TH OF JUNE

TO FACILITATE THE MOVE TO OUR NEW LIBRARY AT GATE LODGE 2, MARKET SQUARE

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU SOON

Castleblayney Library is moving!

Castleblayney Library closed on Friday the 16th of June to facilitate the move to our brand new library at Gate lodge 2, Market Square. During this time there will be no library service in Castleblayney Library as we work away behind the scenes to get everything in place to welcome you to the new library.



Behind Closed Doors: Preparations for the Move

The museum is a hive of activity with everyone occupied in some way with preparations for the move to the Peace Campus later this year. Whether it be on the grand scale of exhibition design to the more banal, but equally important, packing of objects, it's all hands-on deck.

In order to facilitate the meticulous process of moving the collection, the temporary gallery space closed to the public in January. This gallery space has now become the organisational hub of the physical move. Before this could happen our nationally acclaimed Monaghan's War of Independence exhibition had to be carefully dismantled.



With the gallery cleared the space is now being used to facilitate auditing, photography, numbering, packing, and storing the collection before the move. The relocation to a new building has provided collections care staff a unique opportunity to audit the entire collection within an 18-month timescale. The best part of it has been the rediscovery of objects in the store, some which many never have been exhibited before and may now be displayed in the new Peace Campus galleries.

International Women's Day



On March 8th, the museum celebrated International Women's Day 2023 with a special presentation on 'How to Care for Your Skin' in conjunction with Cavan Monaghan ETB. Those who attended were provided with information on how to establish a suitable regime for glowing, healthy skin regardless of age, gender, or skin type.



more to Monaghan

Development of Monaghan Tourism Strategy 2023-2028

Monaghan County Council is in the process of developing a new Tourism Strategy for the county for the next five years which will set out a clearly articulated, refreshed vision for driving sustainable, innovative, resilient, and inclusive tourism sector growth in Monaghan. At a time of great change and opportunity for Monaghan, this strategy will benefit greatly from the input of key stakeholders, groups, organisations, and the general public at large - whether from a service provider, community, visitor, tourism trade or business perspective.

Development of the new strategy is being led by Monaghan County Council's Tourism Unit in conjunction with a multi-disciplinary team led by tourism consultant Alan Hill, with the consultation phase now underway. This process has been so far undertaken by way of an online survey and will be further bolstered by a series of upcoming focus groups and workshop sessions targeted at community and tourism trade/business groups. Information gathered from these sessions will help shape the resulting strategy, allowing a set of findings be collated and further developed into recommendations that can be resourced and actioned over the lifetime of the strategy up to 2028.

It is anticipated that the new tourism strategy will be completed by end summer 2023.



Launch of Agri-Food Tourism Scheme and Monaghan Street Food Festival 2023

Monday 24th April 2023 saw the official launch of the Agri-Food Tourism Scheme as well as one of its funded initiatives, the Monaghan Street Food Festival, taking place on Saturday 6th May 2023. The Agri-Food Tourism Initiative, offered under the 2023 Rural Innovation and Development Fund, provides support towards the development of agri-food tourism initiatives which help businesses develop products and services that connect with the community and visitors, and enhance the tourism experience in rural regions across the country.

Monaghan Street Food Festival will showcase products from the finest local food producers, talented crafters and give visitors the opportunity to enjoy the tastiest food truck experiences. The event is free to the public and takes place in the heart of Monaghan town from the Diamond through to Church Square. In addition to street food, local and celebrity chefs will take over "The Monaghan Local Enterprise Office Demonstration Kitchen", including TV Chef & Food Writer Jeeny Maltese, Chef Karl Breen of Wild Thyme Restaurant in Threemilehouse, and Gareth Moore of Fat Boy Sauces, with Chef Joe Shannon serving as MC for the day.

Check out www.tasteofmonaghan.com for further details.





Over 200 local businesses participated in the 6 Local Enterprise Week events hosted by Monaghan LEO from March 6th to 11th inc. Our headline event was evolve-Digital Transformation for Local Businesses which was ran in conjunction with the Monaghan Digital Steering Group.

The world is rapidly racing towards digital transfer in all domains, and it is essential for local companies to renovate their working processes digitally to increase efficiencies, productivity, and profits. Small and medium businesses need to maximise every advantage - and implementing a digital strategy can certainly give businesses a competitive edge. This digital transformation conference was aimed at local businesses from all sectors, interested in adopting technology solutions to enhance profits.

The first keynote speaker was Tim Morthorst from E & Y who gave us some global AI trends and outlined the reasons why businesses need to be embracing digitalisation. Fergal Geraghty of the Data Value Hub facilitated the 1st panel discussion which focused on the impacts that Digitalisation had within three manufacturing companies: McAree Engineering, Mullan Lighting and Exitex.



During the second segment of the conference, Chris Lynch from Google outlined the 'Workspace' Applications available from Google that is aiding productivity and efficiency in businesses. The 2nd panel was facilitated by Bernie McGahon from IRDG and this time the focus was on Services ; Servisource, Hospitality ; GR8 Entertainment and the Retail sector; Daisy Boutique.

Go Green- Climate Action Series



The first quarter of 2023 has seen a strong demand for training and mentoring with over 500 businesses supported to date. With sustainability and climate action a policy priority we are continuing with our Go Green-climate Action series.

The most recent in the series was our 'Go Green'; best practice visit took place recently in Shabra Plastics, Castleblayney with a focus on energy monitoring.





The Relaunch of The Monaghan Women in Business network also took place during Local Enterprise week ON Tuesday 7th March in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. New coordinators, Dawn Leane from Leane Empower and Jean Evans from Network me welcomed 50 businesswomen from across the County to learn more about the network and plans for the year ahead.

The network has received a fresh new brand to be representative of the strong vibrant women in business in Monaghan. The women were informed about the new and improved changes to the website including an online directory for them to spotlight their business and information in relation to the introduction of a new membership that will cover access to all events throughout the year. Cllr Aoife McCooley addressed the network and spoke about being a woman in politics and her career to date and Pamela Kerr, Business Advisor LEO Monaghan informed the network on the various supports available to them from LEO Monaghan.



The keynote speaker was Sharon Keegan, CEO, and Chief Confidence creator for Peachy Lean Athleisurewear. Sharon gave an inspiring, honest, and practical overview of what it has taken for her to grow her business from an idea to her kitchen table to one that is now selling in 23 countries and getting ready to break into the US.

Student Enterprise Programme County Finals

Over 130 students from across the country competed in the Monaghan County Final on Tuesday 14th March, which was held at the Glencarn Hotel, Castleblayney. An estimated 650 students from 9 schools took part in the annual programme locally. The programme supports students to create, design and market their own business, all with the hope of reaching the National Finals.

The enterprise education initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw over 25,000 students from just under 500 secondary schools across the country take part in 2021 / 2022. The programme supports students to create, design and market their own business, all with the hope of reaching the National Finals.

In the Junior Category, the students representing Monaghan at the National Finals are Yvie Carron, Ciara McPhillips, Gemma Smith & Zoe Morgan from Chocolate Explosion at Largy College

In the Intermediate Category, Clodagh O' Reilly and Denisa Horvat from Spin 'n' Stitch from Largy College, Clones will be representing Monaghan the county at the Finals.

In the Senior Category of the competition, Monaghan will be represented on May 5th by Rachel Hickey, Keelin Quigley, Katie McDonald & Katie McCaffrey from Chapped at Largy College, Clones.





In the "My Entrepreneurial Journey" category open to junior and intermediate students, Aoife O' Neill from Our Lady's Secondary School, Castleblayney (Junior category) and Joshua McGahon Beech Hill College, Monaghan (Intermediate category) will represent Monaghan in the National Finals in Croke Park on May 5th if chosen by judges prior to the event.



Special guests at the Monaghan Final included Chathaoirleach Sean Conlon, Cllr Aoife McCooey Cllr Seamus Coyle & Cllr Aidan Campbell. The judging panel included Martin McVicar from Combilift, Rita Shah from Shabra, Steven Murphy from Old Carrick Mill and Sean Mulholland from JCT (Junior Cycle for Teachers).

The local students will be competing against hundreds of other student entrepreneurs from all over Ireland at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals, taking place at Croke Park in Dublin on Friday May 5th.

Local Development Services

Success for Inver College Students at the Young Cook of the Year Regional Awards Cavan.

This is the inaugural regional competition, which was run in association with Created in Cavan, Cavan County Council, Cavan Institute and Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training Board and Local Enterprise Office Monaghan, Monaghan County Council. The event took place at Cavan Institute last month.



Representatives from LEO Monaghan and Taste of Monaghan were invited to attend the regional final of the Schools Young Cook of the Year.

Many Local food producers also contributed to a wonderful display of local monaghan produce (photo to left).



Monaghan County was represented by teams from Inver College, Carrickmacross (Sarah Callinan and Emma Hernandez) and Beech Hill College, Monaghan (Ella Coyle and Deirbhile Kenny). There were also schools from Cavan, Meath and Louth that took part in the competition. Students were tasked with using as much local produce from their region in their dishes, in addition to a 'mystery box'. Teams had two hours to prepare, cook, and present a two-course dish to impress judges Norbert Neylon, Oak Room Restaurant; chef, broadcaster and columnist Gary O'Hanlon and Carmel Biggane, Food Academy Manager, SuperValu.

Inver College were the deserving winners of first place in the competition with second place going to Coláiste Dún an Rí, Kingscourt & third place to the team from St Clare's College Ballyjamesduff.

The aim of competition was to engage with local schools and introduce them to the possibility of a career in the hospitality sector and to educate them on the importance of our local food economy. The event was a great success, and it was worthwhile to have the focus on local produce from the Monaghan Food Network and other regions.

Monaghan Local Enterprise Office were successful in securing funding of €86,510 under the Creative Communities Economic Action Fund.

Monaghan LEO will be the lead partner for "Northeast Creative Conversations". This is a Design Sector Cluster Development Programme, the programme will aim to assist design practitioners to network and build capacity by enhancing their innovation and digital skills to bring their work to new markets locally, nationally, and internationally.

This project aims to strengthen and develop the Northeast Regions, (Louth, Monaghan, and Cavan), capacity as a creative centre of excellence in Design and enhance potential for economic development and sustainability in the Creative Sector. It is a collaboration between; Creative Spark, which is a dedicated creative enterprise centre and training hub for the creative industries in the Northeast. DKIT Dundalk Institute of Technology, Local Enterprise Offices Cavan and Louth and the Creative Ireland Culture Teams within the three local authorities.



COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

PEACEPLUS



Peace Plus is the new EU funding programme aimed at Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. This new programme follows on from previous Peace and Interreg programmes. Monaghan County Council have been awarded €4.5 million to develop a Local Peace Action Plan to deliver projects with communities that will make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation. A Peace Partnership Board has been set up that is made up of County Councillors, PPN representatives and State Agency representatives, and over the last few months the board has been undertaking a number of consultation events to identify needs and priorities, and potential actions for the plan.

Once the programme has been launched by the funders SEUPB, the plan will be submitted for approval with the expectation that project activity will commence early 2024.

If you wish to find out more information about the Peace Plus Programme please visit our website [PEACEPLUS - Community Development \(monaghan.ie\)](http://PEACEPLUS - Community Development (monaghan.ie))

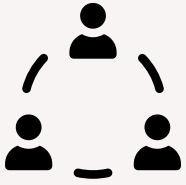
Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Monaghan County Council are in the process of developing a new LECP for the County. This is the 2nd LECP and will be in operation for the next 6 years. The aim of the LECP is to develop objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Monaghan. Every County across Ireland has an LECP.

To develop the new plan, Monaghan County Council have appointed consultants KPMG who are undertaking a number of consultation events, stakeholder interviews and online surveys to identify needs and to finalise the high levels goals of the plan. The next stage will be to develop the actions that sit underneath the goal, and assign a lead agency to take ownership of the action. The aim is that the plan will be launched at the September meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

If you wish to find out more about the LECP or the work of the LCDC please visit our website Monaghan Local Community Development Committee - Community Development





COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE



Monaghan Alerts service extended to include Garda alerts

Monaghan County Council is pleased to announce that we have extended our existing Monaghan Alerts service to now also carry Garda Alerts. Formerly, members of the public had to subscribe to a separate service operated under the service provider Komeer in order to receive Garda messages. However, this new development means that people need only subscribe to a single service in order to receive all the available local alerts.

Monaghan Alerts now offers:

- Council alerts such as emergency road closures, flooding etc
- Weather alerts on status orange and red warnings issued by Met Eireann
- Irish Water Alerts related to the public water supply, such as boil water notices
- Crime and public safety alerts from An Garda Síochána

The service remains free to the public, with the cost being borne by Monaghan County Council. There are three ways to subscribe to the service:

- On the Council's website. Go to <http://alerts.monaghancoco.ie>
- On a paper form, which can be completed at any Council public desk or Garda station
- By downloading the Monaghan Alerts app from your preferred app store

If you are already a subscriber to Monaghan Alerts and wish to start receiving Garda alerts, you will need to log in to your account on the website and opt in to the new service. (your phone number is your username. If you have forgotten your password, you can request a new one be sent to you. A 'support' option is available at the bottom of the web page if there are problems)

Community groups can have messages sent out via the service by emailing communityalerts@monaghancoco.ie. You should list the area of the county you wish the message to go out to, and the date you want the message to be sent, as well as the content of the message you wish sent. Messages are restricted to 160 characters.

Pictured at the launch of the new service at the February 2023 Joint Policing Committee meeting are members of the JPC and representatives from community text alert groups who are participating in the initiative.



Municipal Districts
Ballybay & Clones
 Town & Village
 Vision Plans Drum & Rockcorry



Town & Village 2022 funding in Ballybay Clones Municipal District has enabled the development of vision plans for the villages of Drum and Rockcorry, with funding of €25,000 for each project. To date public consultation has taken place which received a positive response. Internal consultation in Monaghan County Council is completed and our consultants Sheridan Woods are in the final stages of this project, the vision plans will identify key priorities for the villages to 2030 and beyond. The completion date for village plans is July 2023.

Street Scape Clones



Currently there are 2 Street Scape Schemes being rolled out in Clones, The Diamond Clones and Fermanagh Street. Craftstudio Consultants developed a plan for project delivery in keeping with the Heritage of the town. The Diamond Clones received funding in the sum of €100,000 and Fermanagh Street received funding in the sum of €232,000, providing grant assistance to property owners to paint and improve the facades of their buildings. The schemes will see the provision of a micro park and additional carparking spaces.

The schemes have been received positively with all residential and commercial properties submitting applications.

Renewal Programme

Funding secured from The Department of Children and Youth Affairs enabled the repair and upgrade the existing playground facilities at O'Neill Park Clones.



Municipal Districts Ballybay & Clones



Corrybrennan Play Park



Funding of €220,000 under the Departments Town and Village Renewal Programme will see the redesign and improvement of Corrybrennan Playground. Public consultation for this scheme has been completed gathering input from the residents and particularly the children of the estates as to the composition and function of the playground. The event was very well attended by both parents and children. Issues such as lack of public lighting, type and composition of equipment were discussed. A topographical survey of the playpark is being completed. This will assist with the development of a design.

St. Patricks Day Parades

The villages of Clones, Newbliss and Ballybay hosted St. Patrick Day Parades and the Municipal District were delighted to be able to provide financial assistance and guidance in the preparation of event management plans for each parade.



Water Ways Ireland, Marina Clones

Water Ways Ireland attended the March Municipal District meeting to inform the Elected Members of progress of works to Clones Marina. The project is currently in Phase 2 and funding is secured to complete this phase from Shared Island Fund, Department of Rural Development and Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. Phase 3 of the project will involve the renewal of planning and also vesting necessary lands in Northern Ireland. The expected completion of the project is 2027/2028.



Municipal Districts

Ballybay & Clones



Launch of the new 'Story trail' in Barry McGuigan Park

The library with the assistance of the Municipal District erected a Story Trail in Barry McGuigan Park, Clones. The trail consists of large-scale book pages leading in a trail around the park that people who walk through can stop and read with their children. The story currently on the trail by author Eoin O'Brien is Flossie McFluff – a fairy who hates Littering, an environmentally friendly story to reinforce the message of keeping our parks clean.

Cathaoirleach Cllr Hugh McElvaney attended the official launch in March.



The Municipal District together with Clones Chamber of Commerce celebrated the retirement of Eamon O'Hara as community employment supervisor for Clones Newbliss District CE Scheme. Eamon had been a CE Supervisor for the Clones Chamber of Commerce since 2014. Eamon was involved in many projects in Clones town and Newbliss village. Cathaoirleach Cllr Hugh McElvaney made a presentation to Eamon on behalf of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.

Town Twinning Visit

Ballybay Hosts Gergweis, Osterhofen from Bavaria, Germany

Ballybay Town has been twinned with Gergweis, Osterhofen, Bavaria, Germany for over 2 decades, on the weekend of April 22nd Ballybay hosted a visiting delegation of 21 people from Osterhofen. The delegation included Mayoress Liane Sedlmeier and Councillor Karl-Heinz Hierzegger who has been a frequent visitor to Ballybay over the years and was involved in the official twinning of Ballybay & Osterhofen in 2000. This visit marked the 75th visit by Cllr. Hierzegger to Ballybay.

The delegation was officially welcomed by Cathaoirleach Cllr Hugh McElvaney and Ballybay Town Team. The visitors enjoyed a guided walk of the Wetlands Ballybay and were treated to a display of food products from The Food Hub, which is a best practice food production and education facility based in Ballybay, Co. Monaghan.

The Osterhofen group attended a private function on Saturday afternoon in Pearse Bros GAA Centre hosted by Ballybay Clones Municipal District. formal presentations were made to mark the occasion of this Twinning Visit.



Monaghan

Monaghan Street Food Festival

Monaghan Street Food Festival is back for one day only on Saturday, 6th May 11am to 6pm showcasing local food and products from over 45 exhibitors and the return of the Demo Kitchen including celebrity chefs and local chefs.

This year's festival is expected to be bigger and better than ever before with kids' entertainment and buskers also expected on the day. The official launch took place at the Market house on 24th April 2023.



St Patrick's Day Parade

Monaghan Municipal District were delighted to invite the winners of our St. Patrick's Day Parade Floats/Windows to a presentation ceremony at our Municipal District Meeting on 17th April 2023. It was great to see the return of our Parade this year incorporating the theme "Pedal Power for the Future" We congratulate our winners and thank all the participants of the Parade.



Rossmore Park Giant Sculpture

Druid, the latest Drumlin Giant has been revealed in Rossmore Park.

Druid is the Irish for Starling and she is a giant Starling made up of smaller starlings, handpainted by pupils in St. Mary's Boys School, and St. Louis Girls School, Monaghan.

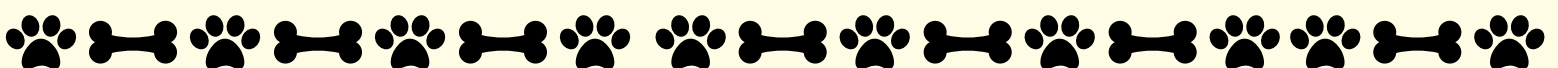
Monaghan Municipal District Councillors, Executive and Artist officially launched "Druid" on 17th April 2023.



Carrickmacross & Castleblayney

Dog Park Carrickmacross

Minister Humphreys officially opened the Dog Park in Carrickmacross which was funded by Town& Village Renewal.



Hillyway Walking and Cycle Route Carrickmacross

Minister Humphreys officially opened Hillyway Cycle Trail which was a collaborative project between, Monaghan, Cavan and Meath Co. Council.

It has delivered a new walking and cycling route between Carrickmacross and Kingscourt

Opening of “The Ridge” Castleblayney Enterprise Hub Castleblayney

Minister Humphreys officially opened “the Ridge” the Enterprise Hub in Castleblayney which will bring about economic and social benefits to Castleblayney and the North East Region.

Minister Humphreys said that facilities like the Ridge increased the potential of Castleblayney to act as a centre for business investment and was supportive of the creation of jobs in the area.



Outdoor Educational Space Point Island Lough Muckno Castleblayney

Minister Humphreys officially opened the Outdoor Education Space at Lough Muckno in Castleblayney.

The project was brought together in conjunction with the Town Regeneration Team and Monaghan county Council

