

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

**Chair:** Cllr D. Maxwell, Cathaoirleach

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

Mr. C. Flynn, D/Chief Executive; Mr. G. McMahon, Ms. O. McConnon, Ms. Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Services, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M McGarvey

**Apologies:** Ms. P. Monahan, Chief Executive; Mr. Brendan Smyth, A/Director of Services

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach extended best wishes to the Monaghan Co Minor Team as they play Derry in the All-Ireland Minor Football Championship final on Sunday next. He also wished Vinny Corey and the Monaghan Team the best of luck in the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship semi final against Dublin on 15 July 2023.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

**(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 12 June 2023**

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12 June 2023, be confirmed.*

**(ii) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 June 2023**

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 19 June 2023 be confirmed.*

**2. Correspondence**

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

- Letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Social Protection & Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding dog control legislation.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding Development Contributions.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D, regarding correspondence received from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D.
- Email from the Minister for Social Protection & Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding meeting with Minister Ryan to discuss the significant issues of N2 Schemes and the North South Interconnector.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., regarding the North Monaghan & Clones Primary Care Centre.
- Letter from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Bernard Gloster, regarding the North Monaghan & Clones Primary Care Centre.
- Resolution from Wicklow County Council regarding EU Nature Restoration legislation.

**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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding retained firefighter personnel.
- Letter from Deravoy National School to thank members for their vote of congratulations for reaching the debating final of the All-Ireland Concern Primary Debate Competition.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding correspondence received from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D.
- Email from the Office of the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., regarding visiting Monaghan.
- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding retained firefighter and rescue service personnel.

**Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon , seconded by Cllr S Treanor it was agreed that in relation to the Government's Report of the Working Group on Dog Control, and dog welfare issues in general, that this Council query the figures from the Department of Community Development and Department of Agriculture regarding proposed funding for structural improvements of local dog shelters being provided with the sum total of €500,000 being available across the State. And further, that an assessment of this Council's existing dog shelter is undertaken for the purpose of preparing an application for financial support to enable an upgrade and expansion of same.*

A discussion took place in relation to correspondence received from Minister Eamonn Ryan's office indicating the inclusion of Monaghan in the Ministers itinerary for a series of regional visits which he will be engaging in during September 2023.

*Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr N. Keelan seconded that a delegation of two members from each political grouping would meet with Minister Eamonn Ryan at the meeting in September 2023.*

*Cllr P Connolly proposed, Cllr S Treanor seconded that a delegation of three members from each political grouping would meeting with Minister Eamonn Ryan at the meeting in September 2023.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 3 for, 13 against. The Cathaoirleach declared the original motion carried.

It was agreed that Roads (National and Local), Eirgrid and Active Travel would be the items on the Agenda for discussion with the Minister during his visit.

**3. To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for enhancements to the existing civic space in Church Square (an Architectural Conservation Area), Monaghan Town (23/8001)**

Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner, outlined the Part VIII report circulated for the enhancements to the existing civic space in Church Square (an Architectural Conservation Area), Monaghan Town (23/8001). He stated that it is a comprehensive scheme incorporating the removal of

existing bollards, seating and trees, removal and relocation of beehive sculpture, replacement of existing flagstone ground surface with natural stone paving, relocation of existing taxi rank from church square to north road and extension of square to incorporate this additional space, narrowing of the road carriageway, removal of right turning lane and associated drainage works, modification of the existing pedestrian crossing, provision of planting, lighting, seating and other ancillary site works.

He advised that 3 submissions were received during the public consultation period. Ms Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer, advised that the scheme will be delivered on a phased basis.

*On the proposal Cllr R Aughey seconded by Cllr P Connolly, it was agreed that the Council approve the enhancements to the existing civic space in Church Square (an Architectural Conservation Area), Monaghan Town in accordance as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

**4. To consider Section 183 Notices relating to the sale of Plot A & B, Lands at Killycard, Mile Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan**

Members considered the Section 183 Notices circulated relating to the sale of Lands (Plot A and Plot B) at Killycard, Mile Road, Co. Monaghan.

*On the proposal Cllr A Campbell seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that the Council approve the sale of Lands (Plot A and Plot B), Lands at Killycard, Mile Road, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 20 June 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

**5. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 20 June 2023**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20 June 2023, which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 23 May 2023 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

**6. To receive Management Report – June 2023**

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

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

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

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

- AILG, Overview of Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance, 15 June 2023, Mullingar Park Hotel, County Westmeath

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

The were no matters for consideration under this item.

#### **9. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 12 June 2023**

There were no matters arising out of the Council meeting held on 12 June 2023.

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

- Invitation to grant preparation from the Head of Unit at CINEA (European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency), Mr. Morten Jensen, in connection with the Connecting Europe Facility.

Mr G McMahon, A/Director of Services advised members that Monaghan County Council have been notified that the application for Connecting Europe Funding (CEF) has been successful subject to the conclusion of the application process which is mainly administrative formalities. He advised that Monaghan County Council have sought specialist procurement advice on retaining Jacobs on the scheme. He advised that there has been no feedback from TII to date in relation to the request for additional funding for Ardee to Castleblaney scheme.

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

No further update on the North South Interconnector Project

*This Council notes with interest the proposed development of an interconnector between the north of Ireland & Scotland. On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr P Treanor, it was agreed that this Council writes to Eirgrid , Minister Ryan, and all Oireachtas members for this constituency highlighting this fact which may change the urgency or indeed the need for the interconnector as currently proposed and that we seek a response on this significant development.*

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

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

#### **13. Questions & Replies:**

**Cllr A. Campbell will ask:**

1. In relations to water quality in Lough Muckno and the “Muckno Road to Recovery Plan”
  - a. What is the update on this plan?

**Reply: The first phase of the project is scientific study aimed at collecting data and carrying out investigative work on the lake to help inform the development of the Integrated Catchment Management Plan and this work is progressing as planned. This involves identifying the baseline reference status of the lake by determining the historical status conditions of the lake**

using diatom and sediment dating analysis. It also involves assessing the inputting tributaries to the lake to determine the current pollutant loads entering the lake. It is expected that this part of the project will be completed in Q4 2023.

Work is progressing as expected with no major changes noted since its commencement.

- b. What is the update with the engagement with farmers on a one-to-one basis around the water quality in the Muckno Catchment area and on the tributaries feeding Muckno?

**Reply: Farm Inspections were carried out in the Gentle Owens\_20 and Annhale\_10 tributaries in Q3 2022 and follow up inspections were carried out in Q1 2023.**

Prior to carrying out the inspections in the Gentle Owens\_20 each farmer was issued with an information pack which included a letter, a map of the catchment area and some information leaflets. This awareness element was really useful. Giving the farmers information and notification of our work in the area allowed for meaningful conversations to take place during the inspection. When arriving to farms we found that a lot of farmers had read the information and were ready to ask questions about the quality of their river.

Further inspections are planned in the Gentle Owens\_10 waterbody in Q3/4 2023.

- c. What is the update on water sampling for swimmers in Lough Muckno?

**Reply: Lough Muckno was sampled at 3 locations on the 6th of June 2023, these samples were analysed for bathing water parameters. All results on this sample date were in compliance with the bathing water limits.**

Samples will be taken on a monthly basis from June to September. If sample results are not within the limits for the bacteriological parameters a notice will be erected. The planned monitoring is aimed at providing an overall assessment of water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on any specific day there may not be a problem.

It should be noted that recent warm dry weather may give rise to algal blooms and if these are recorded the public will be advised.

- d. When will the council be updating the public about swimming in Lough Muckno?

**Reply: County Monaghan does not have any designated bathing waters, but we do monitor areas that are frequently used for bathing. We take samples at 9 locations in the County during the summer months (June – September) Results of this monitoring are put up on the council's website. <https://monaghan.ie/environment/bathing-waters/> .**

The results of June 2023 monitoring are available on this webpage. Results will be uploaded to this webpage throughout the summer as soon as they become available, which is normally 3-4 days after the sample has been taken.

2. What is the update with the application for funding for the Market House in Castleblayney?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are currently awaiting the new call for Category 1 project applications under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) programme to be announced. The Council intends to submit a grant funding application for the project implementation to the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) once the new RRDF application process is officially opened and relevant submission dates are confirmed.**

3. With regard to the Residential Zoned Land Tax, what is the update for land owned and what engagement have the council had with them?

**Reply: Twenty-nine appeals were lodged by the landowners in respect of lands included on the Draft RZLT Map, and An Bord Pleanala is in the process of determining these appeals by end of August. Some landowners also made requests for lands to be dezoned or rezoned to other uses and consideration of these requests commenced in June. If a change in the existing land use zoning is in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development of the area, these requests will be progressed over the coming months by way of a variation to the County Development Plan 2019-2025.**

4. With a number of projects due to commence under Active Travel in the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross area.  
a. What is the current timeframe for these projects?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are proceeding with 8 x Active Travel schemes for the CMX-CBY area in 2023. All schemes are progressing at a different pace in line with NTA phases 1-7 and each scheme is at the following phase:**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CURRENT NTA PHASE	NTA PHASES EXPLAINED
Carrickmacross R178/ Oriel Rd AT Scheme	Dedicated cycling paths and upgraded pedestrian facilities	NTA Phase 2	<a href="#">Phase 1:</a> Scope and Purpose
Carrickmacross - Lurgans AT Scheme	Installation of a new footpath to connect housing developments to nearby town center	NTA Phase 7	<a href="#">Phase 2:</a> Options Selection
Inniskeen Village AT Scheme	Detailed design of dedicated pedestrian & cyclist facilities at the river Fane bridge crossing in Inniskeen Village	NTA Phase 2	<a href="#">Phase 3:</a> Preliminary Design
	Installation of a new Pedestrian Crossing near Inniskeen Church to connect pedestrian footpaths from town center to nearby amenities/GAA grounds	NTA Phase 6	<a href="#">Phase 4:</a> Statutory Processes
Urban Mobility/ Sustainability AT Plans (Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, Carrickmacross)	Mobility/ Sustainability Plans for 4 urban areas	NTA Phase 1	<a href="#">Phase 5:</a> Detailed Design and Procurement
			<a href="#">Phase 6:</a> Construction
			<a href="#">Phase 7:</a> Close Out and Review

Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Road AT Scheme (Ross Road)	Dedicated cycling paths and upgraded pedestrian facilities on Ross Road	NTA Phase 2	
Low-Cost Junction Tightening Scheme Location: Shercock Rd/ Mile Hill Rd Junction, Castleblayney	Design Upgrade of the junction where Shercock Road meets Mile Hill Road, Castleblayney	NTA Phase 1	
Light Segregation Cycle Schemes Location: Monaghan Road, Castleblayney	Upgrade of Ballybay Road junction and provision of segregation kerbing along the existing cycle lanes at Monaghan Road, Castleblayney	NTA Phase 5	

5. Under the “Energy Efficient Upgrades Retrofit Programme” With a number of projects recently completed under this scheme.
- How many homes in total have been upgraded?
  - What are the plans for further works with this scheme?

Reply:

- a) **The energy efficiency retrofitting programme in its current format was launched by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2021 as a ten-year programme of works to improve the energy efficiency of Council owned housing stock to a minimum B2 Building Energy Rating or cost optimum equivalent. This programme for government superseded the original Phase 1 Energy Efficiency programme which was launched in 2013. Under the Phase 1 programme all council owned housing stock received energy upgrades in the form of attic insulation, cavity wall insulation (where possible) and heating control upgrades along with insulated water cylinders.**

Monaghan County Council has year on year surpassed its allocation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Considerable work has been completed under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme resulting in 154 properties being upgraded to a minimum B2 Building Energy Rating in line with the requirements for funding. In total, over €4.3 million has been spent upgrading Council owned housing stock. These upgrades have included new windows and doors, external wall insulation (where required) and an energy-efficient heat pump. Works also include removing old inefficient solid fuel heating systems and all associated works.

- b) **The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme is a rolling multi annual programme of works. Monaghan County Council will continue to target the poorest performing housing stock dictated by Building Energy Rating and will continue to develop an ambitious programme of works for each year of the programme to avail of the funding provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The funding provided will be used strategically to ensure the works completed at each property achieve the best possible return for every euro of funding spent with technical assessments being completed on an ongoing basis. To ensure the poorest performing house stock is targeted as early as possible in future years Monaghan County Council will, if necessary, cover some of the costs that cannot be recouped from the Department. The works completed will continue to have a significant impact on energy savings and carbon reductions of the Council-owned housing stock.**

**The Energy Efficiency works will aim to improve the Building Energy Rating of each property to a minimum B2 standard or the cost optimal equivalent as set out in the funding requirements.**

The works being completed at each property will depend on technical assessment but will typically include new windows and doors, new external insulation (where required) and an energy efficient heat pump. Works will also include removing old, inefficient heating systems, upgrading flat roof insulation, closing existing chimneys and all other works necessary to achieve the requirements for funding.

**Cllr C. Carthy will ask:**

6. Can contact be made by the Executive, with the owner of Lough Feagh estate, Carrickmacross/Magheraclone, with a view to possible future public use of the grounds as a tourism product for south Monaghan?

**Reply: The Executive will reach out to the landowner in question to ascertain if there is an interest on their part in opening their grounds for the purpose of tourism.**

7. What are the current measures being implemented to bring vacant properties in our urban areas back into use by our Vacant Housing team and what projects are currently being worked on to deal with areas/streets with significant dereliction/vacancy?

**Reply: The Vacant Homes Office have identified 301 vacant homes, 68 in Monaghan MD, 157 in Ballybay - Clones MD and 76 in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD. Progress is continuing on determining ownership of vacant/derelict properties. The Housing Section continues to gather information and survey vacant homes throughout County Monaghan to provide a holistic profile on vacancies and encourage the use of vacant homes wherever possible. More resources have now been employed to the Housing Section with an additional 3 Executive Engineers Gary Toye, Gary McBride and Emmet Sherry who will be assisting the Vacant Homes Officer in completing surveys and work on vacant homes in each MD. At present, surveys are taking place in Ballybay, Clones, Castleblayney and Monaghan Town. When vacant properties are identified discussions take place with property owners to determine their plans for the vacant/derelict properties i.e., whether they plan to refurbish themselves, sell on the private market or consider selling to Council. At this point the Vacant Homes Officer identifies schemes that can assist in this such as the Buy and Renew Scheme, The Repair and Lease Scheme and the Croi Conaithe Refurbishment Grant. After all else fails and no outcome is determined/forthcoming by the property owner, the Housing Section then liaise with the Planning Section and the Town Regeneration Officer to issue Derelict Sites Notices under the Derelict sites act. This enables the council to CPO the properties for social housing needs or to sell to developers who will develop private dwellings for the public.**

8. Has there been any further progress on the delivery of purpose-built facilities/developments for Older Person specific housing in County Monaghan and what areas are being looked at to provide this type of housing?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies propose to deliver 210 new social homes in County Monaghan as part of the *Housing for All* program between 2023 and 2024. The majority of these projects will be single-storey homes which are accessible and future-proofed.**

Currently Monaghan County Council has a Housing stock of 1,759, of which 462 homes (26%) consist of bungalows, ground level apartments and OPDs that are suitable for older people.

Please see Table below detailing recent homes delivered and pipeline of homes proposed by Monaghan County Council and AHBs that are suitable for older people:



<b>Homes recently delivered suitable for Older People</b>			
Ballybay - Clones	OPDs at Eanaigh Ealta Clones by Oaklee Housing	AHB	16
Ballybay - Clones	Single-storey houses at Folly Court Ballybay	MCC	6
Monaghan	OPDs at Lui na Greine Scotstown	MCC	4
Ballybay - Clones	Ground floor apartments and apartments served by a lift under Clones Renewal Scheme	MCC	9
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Radhairc apartments	AHB	12
		TOTAL	47
<b>Homes in pipeline suitable for Older People</b>			
Ballybay - Clones	An Clós, Ballybay (Formerly Ballybay Courtyard)	MCC	4
Monaghan	Knockroe Glen, Monaghan	AHB	9
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross	AHB	6
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross	AHB	6
Monaghan	Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	AHB	6
Ballybay - Clones	4 apartments at Birch Court Ballybay	AHB	4
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Age friendly housing at The Commons, Castleblayney	AHB	16
Monaghan	Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan	AHB	4
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross	MCC	9
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan	MCC	6
		TOTAL	70

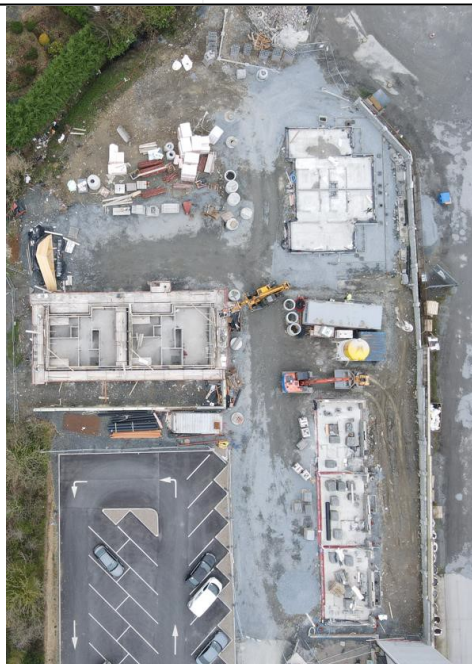


Photo of new build An Clós, Ballybay under construction





### **An Clós, Ballybay: Ongoing construction photos 2023**

**Monaghan County Council continues to seek additional funding for Social Housing at every opportunity that arises and proactively pursues opportunities for additional accessible social housing provision in areas of Housing Need throughout County Monaghan.**

9. When is it expected that new PV Recharging stations will be delivered to Co. Monaghan (2no. to be provided under NWRA) and has the council been looking at areas in the County without this facility to try and introduce one?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council is an Associate Partner in the FASTER EV Project, supported by the EU Interreg VA programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).**

**Louth County Council is acting as the lead partner for the delivery of the project in the Counties in the Republic and is currently in the process of assessing Tenders for Legal and Multidisciplinary consultants.**

**The two sites in County Monaghan identified are; Courthouse car park Monaghan town and Carrickmacross Civic Building. It is anticipated that works and chargers will commence in summer 2023 with completion in early 2024.**

10. Will the executive consider the purchase of private apartment buildings, or liaise with AHB's to consider the purchase of developments that come available on the private market (specifically those that are being sold by block, as opposed to individually)?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council's Housing Section proactively examines potential opportunities to purchase or support the purchase by Approved Housing Bodies (where appropriate) of apartments and other dwellings sold by the block / in multiples. When examining potential opportunities for purchase of dwellings in blocks / multiples, the Housing Section considers the existing demand and tenure in the area in question. In some cases, the best course of action is to support the purchase for use as social housing, in others it can be more beneficial to allow the apartments / dwellings continue in private ownership to help those in need of accommodation in the private rented sector.**

**Cllr. N. Keelan will ask:**

11. What plans if any have Monaghan County council in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to enhance road safety on the very dangerous N2 in advance of funding been secured to progress the upgrading of this important national route?

**Reply: Other than small safety interventions on the N2 to improve Bus stops, traffic calming and active travel infrastructure there are no plans over and above the proposed Major Schemes Upgrade from Ardee to Castleblayney and Clontibret to the border.**

12. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the Local Lane Improvement Scheme (LIS) in terms of number of lanes on the list, funding available etc.?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are proceeding with seven number LIS schemes for 2023. Funding of €304,736.00 has been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The first scheme is programmed to commence by the end of June 2023.**

13. Is there any indication from the department when the much-anticipated draft planning guidelines for rural housing in particular will be published? Surely this is vital information as we are reviewing our county development plan at present?

**Reply: No update has been provided by the Department in this regard.**

14. In relation to the proposed active travel projects planned for our county in the future, what is the estimated cost of these projects and what funding is currently available to advance these projects?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council's allocation for €3 million in 2023 allows for the active travel schemes to be brought through the necessary phases and processes to deliver schemes to construction across the County. The figures included below give an estimate of the cost of completing these projects:**

<b>Monaghan County Council</b>					
<b>Active Travel Investment Grants: 2023 Allocation</b>					
<b>Project Code:</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>2023 Allocation</b>	<b>Estimated Total Project Expenditure</b>	<b>NTA Phase June 2023</b>	<b>Expected NTA Phase Q4 2023</b>
MN/21/0001	Upgrade of Monaghan Town Greenway	€485,000	€1,905,557	6	7
MN/21/0002	Monaghan Town Urban Greenway along N2	€75,000	€3,000,000	2	2
MN/21/0010	Carrickmacross Castleblayney Rd Active Travel Scheme	€35,500	€1,307,180	2	4
MN/21/0013	Monaghan Town Horseshoe Bridge Active Travel Measures	€90,000	€771,287	2	4
MN/21/0014	Monaghan Town Ballyalbany Bridge Active Travel Measures	€90,000	€905,666	2	4
MN/21/0016	Monaghan Town Rooskey Lands Active Travel links	€115,000	€4,167,730	2	4
MN/21/0020	Low-Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	€50,000	€362,700	1	4
MN/21/0021	Light Segregation Cycle Schemes	€90,000	€120,771	5	6
MN/22/0001	Clones Peace Link Active Travel Scheme	€75,000	€1,044,988	5	6
MN/22/0002	Monaghan Town Local Transport Plan	€60,000	€120,000	1	2
MN/22/0003	Staff Costs AT Team	€275,000	ongoing	N/A	N/A

MN/22/0004	Lough Egish Village Active Travel Scheme	€225,000	€573,130	5	6
MN/22/0005	Clontibret Village Active Travel Scheme	€62,000	€185,000	6	7
MN/23/xxxx	SRTS St Louis GNS & St Louis Infant School - Monaghan R1	€50,000	€120,000	1	2
MN/23/xxxx	SRTS St Marys Boys NS R2	€10,000	€50,000	1	2
MN/23/xxxx	SRTS Beech Hill College Tirkeenan R2	€10,000	€50,000	1	1
MN/23/xxxx	SRTS St Tiarnach's Primary School, Clones R2	€10,000	€50,000	1	1
MN/23/xxxx	Urban Mobility/Sustainability Active Travel Plans for; Castleblayney, Ballybay, Clones, & Carrickmacross	€65,000	€90,000	1	2
MN/23/xxxx	Ulster Canal Greenway Link (Macartan Road)	€187,191	€439,296	3	4
MN/23/xxxx	Woodview to Glen Road connectivity - Monaghan Town	€12,000	€325,000	3	5
MN/23/xxxx	Monaghan Town to Coolshannagh Rdbt Active Travel Scheme	€96,309	€658,900	2	3
MN/23/xxxx	Ballybay Footpath - R162 Monaghan Road	€57,000	€145,363	6	7
MN/23/xxxx	Clones - Cannons Lane Footpath	€56,000	€93,790	6	7
MN/23/xxxx	Clones - Tirnahinch Road Footpath	€323,000	€351,505	5	7
MN/23/xxxx	Smithboro - Magherarney Footpath	€68,000	€77,561	6	7
MN/23/xxxx	Scotshouse Village Active Travel	€43,000	€43,704	6	7
MN/23/xxxx	Carrickmacross R178/Oriel Road Active Travel Scheme	€75,000	€1,373,816	2	4
MN/23/xxxx	Carrickmacross - Lurgans Active Travel Scheme	€155,000	€231,052	6	7
MN/23/xxxx	Inniskeen Village Active Travel	€45,000	€384,304	3	4
MN/23/xxxx	Monaghan Town Cootehill Road Active Travel Measures	€10,000	€30,000	1	2
<b>Total:</b>		<b>€3,000,000</b>	<b>€18,978,300</b>		

15. In welcoming the consultation on the possibility of getting an affordable housing scheme up and running in our County, what plans have the Council in the time ahead to roll-out an affordable social housing scheme in some of the south Monaghan villages such as Inniskeen, Donaghmoynne, Lisdoonan Corduff etc.?

**Reply: As noted previously, County Monaghan is an affordable place to live. The average cost in County Monaghan of a second-hand home is currently less than the cost of building a new home. In addition, there are sites and old vacant and, in some cases, derelict properties for sale in rural areas that could be brought into use under the Croí Cónaithe grants scheme.**

**From 1 May 2023, a grant of up to a maximum of €50,000 is available for the**

refurbishment of vacant properties for occupation as a principal private residence and for properties which will be made available for rent and with the tenancy registered with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), including the conversion of a property which has not been used as residential heretofore, subject to appropriate planning permission being in place.

Where the refurbishment costs are expected to exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be derelict (i.e., structurally unsound and dangerous) or if the property is already on the local authority's Derelict Sites Register, bringing the total grant available for a derelict property up to a maximum of €70,000. In the case of a top-up grant in respect of a derelict property not on the derelict sites register, an independent report prepared by an appropriately qualified professional is required to be submitted along with the application confirming that the property is derelict.

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

At present, under the National Planning Framework (NPF) 2040 Monaghan County Council is actively working on the "reversal of rural decline in the core of small towns and villages" and in particular has been working to strengthen small towns and villages by increasing social housing to meet housing needs identified which in turn, through increasing population, supports all of the local services in rural areas.

Every year Monaghan County Council purchases individual houses in rural areas to meet particularly urgent housing needs and proactively seeks opportunities to increase social housing in small towns and villages. A recent example of this was the provision of 10 new social houses at The Meadows, Smithborough and 12 social houses at Maple Grove, also in Smithborough. In addition, Monaghan County Council recently completed 32 social houses in the village of Scotstown (4 derelict houses brought into use and 28 new houses). These developments are of enormous significance to small towns and villages and the surrounding areas as they address derelict properties while providing much needed social housing, improving the sustainability of small towns and villages, and strengthening the viability of local services for the wider rural community in the areas in question.

Monaghan County Council advertises regularly for Expressions of Interest in the sale of land and/or houses from Property Owners and Developers and this process has yielded significant results in the main towns and has also benefited some villages and rural areas. Through this process Monaghan County Council is working on potential opportunities to deliver social housing in towns and villages throughout County Monaghan.

Villages & "Rural Community Settlements" (such as Corduff): Monaghan County Council has developed social housing or purchased houses for use as social housing in every village in County Monaghan (such as Inniskeen) and in most of the "Rural Community Settlements" in County Monaghan (Rural Community Settlements are listed in Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025).

Monaghan County Council has identified potential opportunities for small housing developments in many of the small villages in County Monaghan where a housing need exists. Where feasible and in line with the objectives of Monaghan County

Development Plan 2019-2025; Monaghan County Council intends to develop housing in villages that have services and facilities such as churches, schools, community centers, small shops, local bus services, water supply and sewage treatment plants.

Monaghan County Council is discussing and actively pursuing other opportunities for the development of social housing in villages throughout County Monaghan.

*“Dispersed Rural Communities” (such as Donaghmoyne and Lisdoonan): With regard to “Dispersed Rural Communities” which might include Donaghmoyne and Lisdoonan; the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 states “Within the rural area there are dispersed rural communities which have small scale clustering around one or more focal points which may include a crossroads, a shop or a church. It is considered that there is scope for some additional dwellings which may consolidate existing focal points and utilise existing services in the area subject to normal planning considerations. It is anticipated that the majority of development taking place will be individual dwellings. Where a multi-unit residential development (more than 2 houses) is proposed in Tier 6 settlements the onus will be on the developer to justify the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 demand for housing proposed. Any development shall be centered on the focal point of the settlement and shall be subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services”.*

In addition, the following further extracts from the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 containing specific objectives of the plan should be noted:

Further extracts from Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

#### 2.3.9 Tier 4 – Village Network

Village Network Objective	
SHO 4	To promote and facilitate development that is commensurate with the nature and extent of the existing villages and support their role as local service centres.

#### 2.3.10 Tier 5 – Rural Community Settlements

Rural Community Settlement Objective	
SHO 5	To support and encourage the development of Tier 5 settlements to ensure that local services are sustained in the rural community settlements.

#### 2.3.11 Tier 6 – Dispersed Rural Communities.

Dispersed Rural Communities Objective	
SHO 6	To support the viability of dispersed rural communities and seek to encourage the growth of Tier 6 settlements generally in the form of single dwellings.

Under Housing for All Monaghan County Council will continue to seek every opportunity to increase housing provision in all areas of housing need; to reverse rural decline, increase the sustainability of small towns and villages and strengthen the viability of local services for the wider rural community.

#### 14. Notices of Motion

**Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr C Bennett seconded:**

1. That Monaghan County Council supports the Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) in their appeal to the Department of Children to address the significant financial hardship experienced by foster families throughout Ireland due to the care they provide for children in their homes. Foster families play a vital role in our society, providing a safe and nurturing environment for vulnerable children who are unable to live with their birth families. It is imperative that we acknowledge and support the invaluable contribution made by foster families and address the financial challenges they face.

That this council recognises that the current level of financial support provided to foster families is insufficient to meet the increasing costs associated with caring for foster children. In order to alleviate the financial strain and ensure the continued provision of high-quality care, we call on the Minister for Children and the government to urgently engage with the Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) and other stakeholders to implement the following measures:

1. Increase Foster Care Allowance
2. Equalise the After Care Allowance
3. Introduce Mileage Allowance
4. Implement a Setting Up Allowance
5. End the Discrimination regarding the Back-to-School Allowance
6. Foster Carer Pension Eligibility

This Council believes that the implementation of these urgent measures will not only alleviate the financial hardship experienced by foster families but also enhance the overall well-being and outcomes for foster children across Ireland.

Therefore, this Council calls on all elected representatives to support this motion and request the immediate attention and action of the Minister for Children and the government to address the financial challenges faced by foster families.

#### 15. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Marie Kelly on the death of her mother Rosetta Kelly, Smithboro

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

- Scarlett Herron - Women's National League U17 player of the month.

The meeting concluded.

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

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

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