

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan, County Monaghan on Monday 04 September at 10.00am

Chair: Cllr D. Maxwell, Cathaoirleach

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

Cllr S Gilliland attended the meeting via TEAMS

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

At the outset the members extended a vote of sympathy to all involved in the recent crash tragedy in Clones. They also paid tribute to the emergency services, in particular the retained firefighters in Clones area. The Chief Executive, on behalf of the Executive and staff extended her sympathies and concurred with the members support of the retained firefighters.

Urgent Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received three notices of urgent business as follows:

1. On behalf of the Sinn Féin Members

That Monaghan County Council writes to Norma Foley TD, the Minister for Education and to Siobhan Griffin, Regional Manager of the School Transport Scheme, requesting immediate action be taken to resolve the ongoing problems in relation to qualifying students and other students in need of transport not been able to access a school transport service.

That Monaghan County Council writes to Norma Foley TD, Minister for Education and to Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications & Transport requesting the long-awaited review of the school transport scheme be published as soon as possible and that included in this review will be a recommendation that as far as practical every student in need of transport will be able to access transport to the school/college of their choice.

2. On behalf of Cllr D Maxwell

That this Council write to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice to ask them to meet with Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to ask him to postpone the introduction of the new Gardai rosters. This is until the Gardai Training College in Templemore is up to Quota in training and delivery of new Gardai recruits to be able to staff properly the new 5th units as they are known. Rural Ireland cannot see existing Gardai units wound down or disbanded to allow these new rosters to come into force without fully trained Gardai on the ground to properly staff these new units. If these new rosters come into force before this happens, rural stations will be shut by stealth to allow existing gardai man these new units.

3. On behalf of Sinn Féin Members

That this Council call on the Government to reverse the recent increases on excise duty on fuel, namely diesel and petrol, because of the huge burden the general public have had to endure with the massive increase in energy costs over the past two years. These increases have the potential to have a significant impact on fuel retailers in the border region.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed to enter 'into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.

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

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 03 July 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 03 July 2023, be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

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

- Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding the Croí Cónaithe Scheme.
- Email from the Minister of State for Planning and Local Government, Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, T.D., regarding funding.
- Email from the Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim Monaghan, Sligo, Mr. Dermot Monaghan, regarding North Monaghan and Clones Primary Care Centre.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohue, T.D., regarding retained Fire and Rescue service personnel.
- Email from the Private Secretary to Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., regarding the Mother and Baby Redress Scheme.
- Letter from the Office of the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, T.D., regarding Maternity/Family Supports for Elected Members.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding dog control.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue, T.D., regarding dog control.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Mr. Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., regarding the Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA).
- Email of appreciation from the County Secretary, CLG Mhuieacháin, Mr. Micheál O'Cearbhaill, in relation to the homecoming event for the Monaghan Minor team following the All-Ireland Final on 09 July 2023.

- Resolution from South Dublin County Council regarding the need for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Resolution from Cork County Council regarding the waiting times for driving tests.
- Resolution from Cork County Council regarding Lyme disease.
- Resolution from Waterford City and County Council regarding Active Travel funding.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett, seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that further to correspondence received from the office of Kieran O'Donnell, Minister of State for Planning & Local Government that this Council rewrite to Minister O'Donnell and request a report on funding allocated to Monaghan County Council by year from 1999 to 2023.

On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett, seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that further to correspondence received from Mr Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Health Care, that this Council rewrite to the Minister for Health and to Dermot Monaghan and ask for a breakdown of Doctors and Services that will be provided at the new Primary Health Service in Monaghan. These supports are urgent.

On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett, seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that this Council write to Minister Roderic O'Gorman and ask that the funding scheme for residents of Mother and Baby Homes is open immediately and that it is made available to all past residents of Mother and Baby homes.

On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett, seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that this Council supports the Cork County Council motion calling on the RSA and Department of Transport to use every means possible to reduce the totally unacceptable waiting times for driving tests and seek confirmation that a driver's insurance is viable without the NCT test complete due also to long waiting lists.

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr S Treanor it was agreed that this Council, on behalf of business and domestic customers of electricity, calls on the Commissioner for Regulation of Utilities, as the body with responsibility for economic regulation of electricity and energy, in view of the fact that:

(a) ESB, as the main supplier of electricity to the market and whose profits continue to soar – 2019 €550m; 2020 €616m; 2021 €679m; 2022 €847m

(b) wholesale energy prices continue to fall – May 2022 to May 2023 wholesale energy prices fell by 26% - yet prices have not come down despite these reductions.

to ensure that the reduction in wholesale energy prices is passed on to consumers.

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that this Council writes to the Department of Agriculture and also Department of Rural Affairs in follow up to the publication of Working Group of Dog Control seeking the immediate allocation of funding to support the recruitment of an additional dog warden for County Monaghan.

3. To consider the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Tirkeenan, Monaghan,

Members considered the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Tirkeenan, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey, seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the Sale of Lands at Tirkeenan, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the

terms of the notice dated 27 May 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

4. To consider the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Feebaghbane, Scotstown

Members considered the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Feebaghbane, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the Council approve the Sale of Lands at Feebaghbane, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 09 June 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

5. To consider the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Church Heath, Castleblayney

Members considered the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Church Heath, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan, seconded by Cllr A Campbell it was agreed that the Council approve the Sale of Lands at Church Heath, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 09 June 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

6. To consider the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Onomy, Dundalk Road, Castleblayney

Members considered the Section 183 Notice relating to the Sale of Lands at Onomy, Dundalk Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan.

Cllrs Carthy, S Conlon, O’Hanlon, Campbell, Maxwell declared a possible conflict of interest and withdrew from this discussion.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr P Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the Sale of Lands at Onomy, Dundalk Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 11 August 2023 and attached site location map under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

7. To consider RZLT Variation of the County Development Plan

The members considered the report which had been circulated.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2011 (as amended) and the Ethics Framework, Cllr N Keelan declared a conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was being dealt with.

Mr T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner updated members on RZLT Variation of the County Development Plan. He outlined the background to the Residential Zoned Land Tax and

advised that submissions on inclusion of lands on the map were received up to 01 January 2023. 90 submissions were received in relation to the RZLT draft map consultation and that within these 90 submissions there were also requests for change of zoning in respect of 31 plots of land. Mr Gourley stated that twenty-three change of zonings requests were being progressed through the proposed variation and provided an overview of them. He stated that due to the nature of the remaining eight requests for change of zoning it had been determined that it would only be appropriate to address them through the ongoing preparation of the County Development Plan 2025-2031. He outlined the proposed variation timescales and advised that as the RZLT Final map must be published by 01 December 2023 the variation process should be completed in November to allow for amendment of the Final Map.

He advised that he is seeking the members approval to proceed with the ~~report~~ proposed variation to public consultation.

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O'Hanlon seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the report on the proposed variation proceed to public consultation phase.

8. To approve proceeding to public consultation on proposed Draft Bye Laws for Monaghan Library Service

The members considered the Draft Bye Laws document which had been circulated.

Ms D McQuaid, A/Co Librarian joined the meeting to provide members with an update on the library protests which commenced in January at several branches across the country. She advised that no physical protests have taken place in Monaghan libraries to date.

Ms McQuaid stated that it is proposed to introduce Byelaws for libraries. The proposed Byelaws are basically the rules and regulations for safety of staff and the public and safety of the library buildings and collections.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed to proceed to public consultation on the Draft Bye Laws for Monaghan Library Service.

9. To consider report on Local Property Tax Adjustment Factor and Budget 2024

The members considered the report which had been circulated.

Ms. O McConnon, A/Head of Finance, explained that a local authority may, as a reserved function, resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of + / - 15%. Any decision by a local authority to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax must be taken by 15th October 2023. In determining the rate of LPT a local authority must take account of its financial position and have regard to a number of factors

- The local authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which LPT is to apply.
- The financial position of the local authority.
- Feedback from any consultation held.
- The financial effect of any variation to the rate of LPT.

Ms. McConnon stated that the Council had sought submissions from the public on 29th June 2023 in an advertisement in the Northern Standard and on a posting on the Council's Website. The closing date for submissions was 28th July 2023. There were two submissions

from the public.

Cllr P Connolly proposed, Cllr PJ O'Hanlon seconded that the Council retain the current rate of 15% LPT on the base rate for 2024.

Cllr P Treanor proposed, Cllr C Carthy seconded that the Council remove the 15% increase and leave the rate of increase in the LPT at zero %

The Cathaoirleach put Cllr Connolly's proposal to the meeting. A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for 5 against. As Cllr Treanor's proposal was a direct negative the Cathaoirleach declared Cllr Connolly's proposal carried.

10. To approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10m

Ms. O. McConnon, A/Head of Finance informed the members that it was necessary to have the approval of the Council to Overdraft Accommodation in the amount of €10m for the year 2024.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr S Coyle, it was agreed that the Council approve Overdraft Accommodation in the sum of €10 million for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

11. To consider delegation to PEI for Treanor Clan event in June 2024

On the proposal of Cllr S Coyle seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that the following members be offered the opportunity to attend the Treanor Clan event in June 2024:

- *Cllr P Treanor*
- *Cllr D Maxwell*
- *Cllr S Treanor*

A member of the Executive will also accompany the delegation.

12. To consider the Draft Housing Needs and Demands Assessment

Ms Olga McConnon introduced Mr Jamie McGrath and Mr Cian O'Halloran from KPMG Consultants who joined the meeting to provide an update to members on the Draft Housing Needs and Demands Assessment which had been circulated. The National Planning Framework requires all local authorities to carry out a HNDA for their area in order to correlate and accurately align future housing requirements. The HNDA is intended to primarily inform housing policies, housing strategies and associated land use zoning policies as well as assisting in determining where new policy areas or investment programs are to be developed. During the course of the presentation, KPMG outlined the report structure, market drivers, stock and supply, Housing Need and Demand Assessment and Specialist Provisions.

Mr McGrath and Mr O'Halloran responded to members queries.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr B McKenna it was agreed that this Council again write to the Dept of Housing & Local Government seeking the revised Rural Housing Guidelines which will have a major impact when we discuss the core strategy and zoning

aspects of the review of the County Development Plan

13. To receive an update on Monaghan County Council's Climate Action Plan

Mr. M. Coyle, Climate Action Co-Ordinator provided members with an update on the timelines, meetings and key milestones for the adoption of Monaghan's Climate Action Plan. He outlined the pre-draft public consultation and advised that 107 survey responses and 10 email submissions had been received. He advised that the Draft Climate Action Plan would be presented to members for discussion and agreement in advance of the next public consultation period commencing second week in October.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan seconded by Cllr H McElvaney it was agreed that an 'in-committee' meeting would be held directly following the October Co Co meeting on 02 October 2023. M. Coyle will circulate proposed draft climate plan actions in advance of this meeting.

14. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group Meeting on 24 August 2023

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 24 August 2023, which had been circulated. The Cathaoirleach clarified the reasons for the 'deferred' Muckno item.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr D Maxwell it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 24 August 2023 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

15. To receive Management Report – July and August 2023

The members noted the Management Report for the months of July and August which had been circulated with the agenda.

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

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

The members noted the Report from Cllr, S. Treanor in relation to attendance at the following Conference/Training event:

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

17. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Cathaoirleach formally announced the appointment of Mr Robert Burns as new Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council. He stated that Mr Burns will take up the position on Monday, 25 September and will attend his first meeting of the Co Co on 02 October 2023.

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Ms Patricia Monahan for all her hard work, dedication and professionalism as Chief Executive in leading the Co Council over the last 18 months and he wished her well going forward as she returned to her Director of Services role.

18. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held on 03 July 2023

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

19. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Scheme

- Email from Mr. Matt Carthy, T.D., regarding correspondence he had received from the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., regarding the N2 Road Schemes.

In relation to the Ardee to Castleblayney Scheme, Mr G McMahon, A/Director of Services advised members that the TII do not have the powers to increase the funding allocation. Works on the scheme have been suspended. TII wrote to the Department seeking additional funding for the scheme but to date, have received no response.

20. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

- Letter from the Chief Innovation and Planning Officer, Mr. Liam Ryan, Eirgrid, regarding the proposed interconnector between Northern Ireland and Scotland.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr P Treanor it was agreed that Monaghan County Council continues to support the development of the north south Interconnector but only if it is developed using the undergrounding technology currently available & that we impress upon Minister Eamon Ryan, when we meet him, the need to bring forward a plan to progress the interconnector using the undergrounding methodology available as the only acceptable method that the communities in Co Monaghan and other affected counties will accept.

21. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update at this time

22. Questions & Replies:

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council please provide a breakdown of Community funding provided through various grants to all areas in County Monaghan.

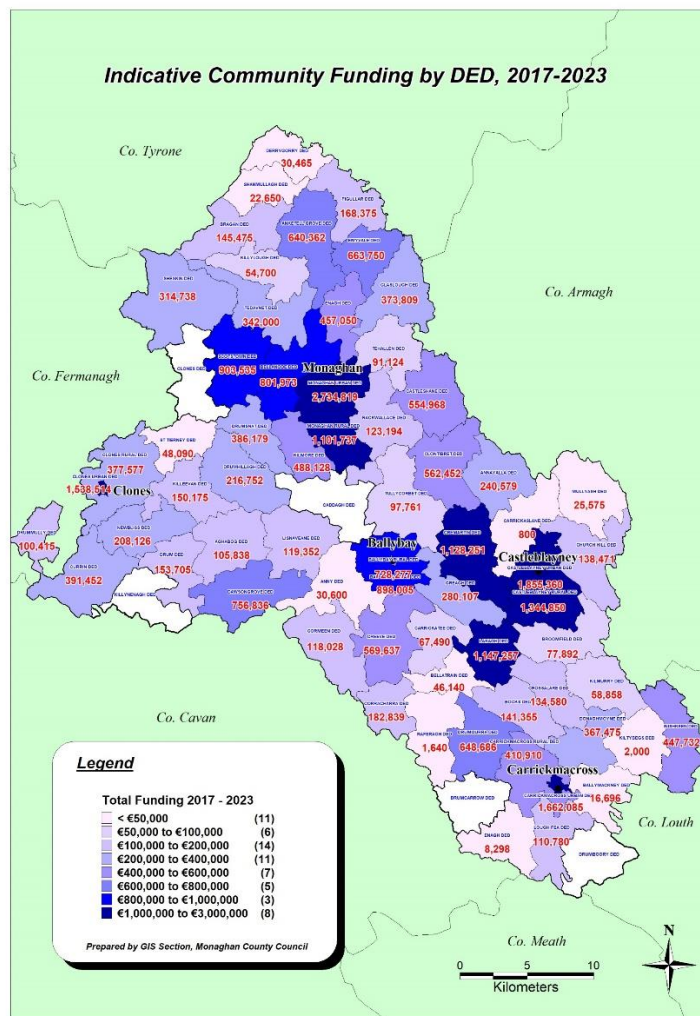
Reply:

Grant programmes 2017 - 2023	
Border Enterprise Development Fund	Historic Structures Fund
Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Structures & Risk Fund	LEADER
CLAR	Local Agenda 21 Fund
CLAR 3A	Mens Sheds Support Fund
Communities Facilities Fund	Monaghan PEACE IV Partnership

Community & Environment Fund	Outdoor Recreation Fund
Community & Voluntary Energy Support Scheme	Protected Buildings Fund
Community Activities Fund	RAPID
Community Centre Investment Fund	remote working Fund
Community Dev Fund 2023	Rural Regeneration & Development Fund
Community Education Fund	Shared Islands
Community Enhancement Scheme	Social Enterprise
Community Heritage Grant	Social Enterprise Fund
Community Monuments Fund	Sports Capital Prog
Community Recognition Fund	Sports Club Grant 2021 Strand 1
Community Support Fund	Sports Club Grant 2021 Strand 2
Connected Hubs Fund	Sports Club Grant 2021 Strand 3
Covid 19 Stability Fund	Sports Club Grants 2019/20 Strand 1
COVID Emergency Fund	Sports Club Grants 2022 Strand 1
Covid19 Grant 2020	Sports Club Grants 2022 Strand 2
Disability Participation & Awareness Grant Scheme 2022	Sports Club Grants 2022 Strand 3
Dormant Accounts for Social Enterprises	Tidy Towns 60th anniversary bursary
Environment Fund	Tidy Towns bursary
Environment Fund 2023	Town & Village
Festivals & Events Grant Scheme 2022	Town Centre First Plans
Festivals & Events Grant Scheme 2023	Youth Club Equipment Scheme

DED	Funding	DED	Funding
Aghabog	€105,838.00	Drum	€153,705.00
Anketell Grove	€623,439.00	Drumgurra	€511,474.00
Annayalla	€167,356.00	Drumhillagh	€212,849.00
Anny	€30,600.00	Drummully	€100,415.00
Ballybay Rural	€846,865.00	Drumsnat	€386,179.00
Ballybay Urban	€728,277.00	Emyvale	€562,919.00
Bellanode	€660,948.00	Enagh	€151,148.00
Bellatrain	€46,140.00	Figullar	€123,110.00
Bocks	€24,595.00	Glaslough	€355,089.00
Bragan	€145,475.00	Greagh	€56,676.00
Broomfield	€77,892.00	Inishkeen	€449,732.00
Carrickaslane	€800.00	Killanny	€16,696.00
Carrickatee	€67,490.00	Killeevan	€150,175.00
Carrickmacross Urban	€1,524,053.00	Killylough	€54,700.00
Carrickmacross Rural	€395,645.00	Kilmore	€476,220.00
Castleblayney	€31,110.00	Laragh	€1,026,229.00
Castleblayney Rural	€1,229,445.00	Latnamard	€1,000.00
Castleblayney Urban	€1,777,385.00	Lisnaveane	€24,587.00
Castleshane	€241,280.00	Loughfea	€110,780.00
Church Hill	€313,688.00	Monaghan County	€46,228.00
Clones	€1,000.00	Monaghan Urban	€2,697,724.00
Clones Urban	€1,471,038.65	Monaghan Rural	€1,101,437.00

Clones Rural	€377,577.00	Mullyash	€25,575.00
Clontibret	€294,692.00	Newbliss	€208,126.00
Cormeen	€86,755.00	Rackwallace	€105,224.00
Corracharra	€182,839.00	Raferagh	€1,640.00
Creeve	€407,812.00	Scotstown	€903,535.00
Cremartin	€580,202.00	Shanmullagh	€25,150.00
Crossalare	€134,580.00	Sheskin	€312,238.00
Currin	€391,453.00	St Tierney	€48,090.00
Dawsonsgrove	€756,836.00	Tedavnet	€154,541.00
Derrygorry	€30,465.00	Tehallan	€91,124.00
Donaghmoynne	€315,933.00	Tullycorbet	€90,223.00
Total Funding: €24,804,042			



- Can Monaghan County Council please give me a report on which areas have received Village Masterplans/development plans to date and which Villages are yet to receive this vital support. Is there a plan to ensure all villages are given this great opportunity as this is essential for community funding awareness.

Plans are in place for Ballybay, Clones, Newbliss/Killeevan, Scotshouse, Ballinode & Lough Egish. A Draft plan has also been produced for Emyvale. Work is now commencing on, Drum, Donaghmoynne, Rockcorry & Smithboro.

Other plans

Glaslough have various plans in place.

Errigal Truagh have a plan in place which was completed by the community.

Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan

Oram Community Development Plan 2018-2028

3. Can Monaghan County Council please give me with a report on mortgage loans provided/declined etc. Can you please include the amounts lent and the repayment interest rates etc., so that the public can be made aware of how attractive this route for a mortgage can be.

Reply: The Local Authority Home Loan Scheme (LAHL) was launched and became effective on 4th January 2022. Since then, Monaghan County Council have received 54 applications of which:

- 33 were declined or were invalid applications.
- 18 were approved in principle in the total amount of €2,101,430.
 - of which 10 have been successfully drawn down in the amount of €910k,
 - 3 of the 18 have expired or been withdrawn by the applicant in the total amount of €378,500.
 - 5 remain in progress/ to be drawdown in due course in the total amount of €812,930.
- A further 3 applications are pending processing.

Loan amounts varied from €40k to €225k at a current Fixed rate of 3.35% /25 Years and 3.45% / 30 years (subject to change). Details of the application process, documentation required and other general information on the LAHL scheme can be found at www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie

4. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with the current number of applicants waiting on Council housing. Can this list please include HAP / RAS recipients as these are also awaiting on Council housing.

Reply: There are currently 1183 applications on the Social Housing Waiting List – including 469 HAP / 46 RAS / 109 Awaiting Transfer from LA accommodation.

5. Can Monaghan County Council please give me a progress report on how they are ensuring that the Register of Electors is up to date. Are Council staff doing a detailed analysis of the register to ensure all houses in County Monaghan are updated and that they have the correct information?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is ensuring that the Register of Electors is up to date by continuously processing applications (both paper and online). We are also currently undertaking a comprehensive data cleansing exercise. To enhance the quality of data on the Register before its migration onto the national registration system in 2025, the Department has provided additional funding. This funding will support a local campaign scheduled for September, following the success of the national campaign held in June. More information about the local campaign can be found in this month's management report. It is important to highlight that the Electoral Reform Act 2022 has shifted the responsibility of maintaining an updated register from the registration authority onto the electors themselves. No one can be added to the Register or update their details without completing a form or applying online. Therefore, our main focus is to raise public awareness about this shift, and we also encourage elected representatives to promote it, thus increasing electoral engagement.

Cllr C. Carthy will ask:

6. Since the centralisation of the Small Claims procedure, away from Monaghan County Council, has the number of settled/successful claims for compensation increased or decreased? If there has been a significant reduction, does the council plan to request an IPB rebate on our insurance premiums?

Reply: From 2021 MCC assigned the administration of 'Damage to Vehicles/Pothole claims' to IPB insurance. Since the introduction of the new service IPB have seen comparable numbers in terms of notifications and settlement rates apart from 2023 where there was increased activity nationwide due to adverse weather at the end of 2022. The aim of the initiative was to improve efficiencies for the Council as opposed to reducing the number of claims made by the public and judging by the number that is now administered by IPB instead of the Council, this objective is being delivered.

Notified Year	Notified Count	% Settled
2019	47	66%
2020	52	54%
2021	49	53%
2022	48	50%
2023 YTD	69	65%

7. What is the current expected completion date for the Clois na Droimmaine estate, Magheross, Carrickmacross?

Reply: Tuath are liaising with the developer and have informed Monaghan County Council that the proposed delivery for the next 6 properties will be in late November 2023 and 6 more properties are to be delivered in 2024. Tuath is pushing the developer for the completion of the remaining houses. Due to recent construction cost inflation the developer is having difficulty moving forward with the completion of the unfinished derelict apartment block and has not provided a completion date for it.

8. Has there been any indication, as yet, from the Department of Housing & Local Government, that Monaghan County Council's Affordable Housing Scheme Proposal will be facilitated and, if so, when will measures be implemented?

Reply: To date no application has been made for an affordable purchase scheme by Monaghan County Council. Housing Section is exploring turnkey opportunities with Developers as well as developing plans for a Council led scheme in Latlorcan.

9. How many homeless declarations were made to Monaghan County Council in the first half of 2023, and can the Council clarify what measures were implemented to deal with these cases? Does the council need to review its homelessness policy and provide for additional accommodation?

Reply: From 1st January 2023 to 29th June 2023, Monaghan County Council received 109 enquiries either directly from individuals themselves or from others on their behalf, reporting homelessness. Individuals who contacted Monaghan County Council directly received a Homeless assessment and was either provided with support and guidance or was supported with Homeless Emergency Accommodation. Other measures of support provided would be offered via a Tenancy Support Service or with Housing First Services, as

the need requires.

Monaghan County Council respond to Homelessness in line with current legislation Housing Act 1988 Section 2:

“a person shall be regarded by a housing authority as being homeless for the purpose of this act if;

- A. there is no accommodation available which, in the opinion of the authority, he/she together with any other person who would normally reside with him/her or who might reasonably be expected to reside with him/her can reasonably occupy or remain in occupation of*
- B. He/she is living in a hospital, county home, night shelter or other institution, and is so living because he has no accommodation of any kind referred to in paragraph a and he/she is, in the opinion of the Authority, unable to provide accommodation from his own resources”.*

There is a Regional Action Plan 2021-2023, for Counties Cavan, Louth and Monaghan this will be reviewed, and a new plan developed for 2024-2026.

10. How many social housing applications have been added to Monaghan County Council’s Housing List since the start of 2023 following the increase in income limits (with MD breakdown), and how does that figure compare to the same period last year?

Reply: 177 New applications have been approved since 01/01/2023.

CMX/CBY 75

MONAGHAN 77

CLONES/BALLYBAY 25

As IHouse system is a live system it is not possible to accurately compare these figures with those of the same period in 2022 as some applications may have been progressed to Tenant Status or others may have been Withdrawn. However, there are currently 106 applications from that period on the Waiting List.

Cllr S. Conlon will ask:

11. Further to my query of last February, I seek an update on what number of ‘Taking in Charge’ applications have Monaghan County Council submitted to Uisce Eireann for assessment that remain unanswered, resulting in lengthy delays in providing final sign off for this Council to complete the long overdue Taking in Charge of multiple housing developments throughout County Monaghan, and to include a response regarding the replacement of inadequate waste water pipes at Cois Cnoic, Pound Hill, Monaghan that present an environmental hazard?

Reply: See combined response to Q12 below

a) Provide the list of housing development locations that Uisce Éireann are currently assessing.

b) What date each of the Taking in Charge applications were finalised by the Council and forwarded to Uisce Eireann for approval.

c) Is this Council in dialogue with Uisce Eireann seeking explanation for the delays in processing the TIC applications?

Reply: As of September 2023, the Planning Authority have 22 estates referred to Irish Water in accordance with a 2015 Memorandum of Understanding agreed between Local Authorities and Irish Water.

Detailed below is a list of all active taking in charge applications, including their position as regards Uisce Eireann.

Estate	Date Referred to Uisce Eireann	Response received from Uisce Eireann <i>UE = Uisce Eireann</i> <i>PA = Planning Authority</i>
Meadow View, Ballybay.	November 2019.	Land transfer required.
Telayden Heights (initial phase), Monaghan.	August 2022.	No UE comments received.
Ferndale Heights, Emyvale.	October 2022.	Latest UE comments received October 2022, & responded to by PA in November 2022.
Millbrook, Milltown Monaghan.	March 2021.	Land transfer required.
Lios a Ghoirtin, Clones.	August 2022.	SRP agreed in principle in August 2023.
An Crannog, Glen Road, Monaghan.	July 2020.	Latest UE comments received July 2020, and responded to by PA in March 2021.
The Alders, Ballybay.	November 2019.	Works pursuant to Site Resolution Plan (SRP) nearing completion.
Conabury Hill, Castleblayney.	August 2022.	No UE comments received. Upgrading works carried out to this estate by Local Authority including new palisade fencing erected around Pumping Station.
Glaslough Village, Monaghan.	September 2022.	No UE comments received. Pumping Station upgrade works completed by Local Authority in 2022.
Ardveagh, Ballybay	July 2022.	Land transfer required. Planning Authority liaising with landowner on this at present.
Mullaghglass, Monaghan.	November 2021.	Land transfer required.
Scotshouse Close, Scotshouse.	March 2021.	Land transfer required. Housing Section have provided letter of commitment in this regard.
Knocknamaddy, Ballybay.	July 2022.	Land transfer required.
Lough na Glack, Carrickmacross.	July 2022.	No UE comments received.
Killycard (Radhairc an Bhri), Castleblayney.	August 2022.	No UE comments received.
Killycard Manor, Castleblayney.	September 2022.	No UE comments received.
Eanaigh Ealta, Millbrook, Clones.	September 2022.	No UE comments received.
Sruthan Claddagh, Ballybay.	September 2022.	Land transfer required. Marker posts & plates required – water services procuring these works.
Crann Nua, Carrickmacross.	September 2022.	Marker posts & plates required – water services procuring these works.
Dartry Court, Rockcorry.	October 2022.	Marker posts & plates required – water services procuring these works.
Cois Locha, Doohamlet.	October 2022.	Land transfer required. Marker posts & plates required – water services procuring these works.
Carrowbarra Island, Smithborough.	September 2020.	In legal negotiations to pursue bond.

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The Planning Authority remains in ongoing dialogue with Uisce Eireann on taking in charge matters. A new Uisce Eireann contact has been appointed to deal with taking in charge matters in Monaghan and a meeting was recently held with them in August 2023.

It has not been possible to conclude the taking in charge of Cois Cnoic, due to the fact that a portion of the wastewater infrastructure is located on third party land. Water Services are exploring and discussing possible solutions to the routing of the Cois Cnoc gravity foul line with relevant third parties. This pipeline is being monitored for any signs of deterioration to enable early action to be taken to prevent any possible discharge to the surrounding environment.

- 12. What progress has occurred in relation to initiating long overdue remedial works at Knockroe Glen, Clones Road that will provide a pathway to the Council 'Taking in Charge'?**
Reply: A taking in charge application has not yet been received and Knockroe Glen remains in private ownership. Nonetheless the Planning Authority has been corresponding with the landowner about works required to meet taking in charge standards. If outstanding issues are not resolved, then the Planning Authority has the option of pursuing the matter through enforcement action.

- 13. What progress is occurring with Council and industry stakeholders such as Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland and Gas Networks Ireland, in relation to the Variation to the current County Development Plan adopted at the September 2020 meeting relating to Regional Policy Objective 8.7 designed to Encourage and support innovative partnerships extending the gas network in the region, including the potential for gas to grid injection facilities along with anaerobic digestion facilities?**
Reply: A summary report on the work carried out by Council staff in this area is included in the Chief Executive's Report for this meeting. Further detail will be presented at the Climate Change and Environment SPC meeting on 11th September.

- 14. In planning for the opening of the Peace Campus later this year, will pedestrian crossings be installed on Plantation Road and on the North Road for the purpose of improving pedestrian safety at these busy locations?**
Reply: In accordance with planning permission, the pedestrian crossing at Glaslough Street/North Road junction will be reinstated and on Plantation Road, a new mini roundabout and pedestrian access will be constructed.

Cllr A. Campbell will ask:

- 15. What is the update with the plans to develop the area for housing in Castleblayney where the old Fire Station was?**
A Stage 1 application has been submitted by Monaghan County Council to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in August 2023 requesting approval for the appointment of consultants and for the project to proceed. Subject to the Department approval letter, which is expected shortly, Monaghan County Council hopes to be able to meet with the competition winning architect in September 2023 to commence the full design process.

- 16. What is the update on the planning for the works on Ballynacarry Bridge?**
Reply: It is envisaged that a Part 8 Planning Application will be submitted in September, in

tandem with a planning submission to Newry and Mourne District Council for the NI Section of the project. The Environmental Impact Assessment and Design Reports are nearing completion and all pre planning on-site surveys are complete.

17. With regard to the new Green Energy Efficiency Grant which was announced recently.
- a. What will this grant cover?

Reply: The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green Business Report, GreenStart Report or a SEAI Audit

The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses.

The grant is intended for small enterprises (employing between 1 and 50) who are not currently clients of Enterprise Ireland/Údarás na Gaeltachta/IDA. This scheme prioritises the grant aid of energy efficiency expenditure associated with the operation of an enterprise. The following are eligible costs:

- **Meters (e.g., electricity, gas, diesel, oil, water, steam & loggers) and installation & commissioning costs**
- **Smart energy controls e.g., heating, cooling, lighting, automatic on/off systems, parasitic load controls**
- **Upgrade lighting to LED (only as part of a package of eligible cost measures)**
- **Replacement/upgrade with more energy efficient system, e.g. Heat Pumps for manufacturing heating processes (including air, water, and ground source)**
- **Heat recovery**
- **Small wind turbine & hydro generator subject to feasibility assessment**
- **Equipment (>10 years) replacement/upgrade such as refrigeration unit, electric steam boiler, electric oven, industrial dishwasher, engineering equipment**
- **System components upgrades such as variable speed drives, pumps, fans, condensers, extraction systems, cold room doors.**

- b. How is this grant being promoted to businesses?

Reply: The grant has been promoted via all LEO social media channels, ezines and on the LEO website. LEO staff also advise clients at all training events and 1 – 1 advisory calls. The LEO has developed a ‘Go Green’ series to further raise awareness of climate action and the grant will be promoted at all these events.

- c. What is the timeframe of this grant?

Reply: The Energy Efficiency Grant is a pilot funded from the Exchequer, therefore there is no set amount of funding available under the scheme, nor do we have a timeline at this stage.

What is the maximum grant?

Reply: The grant aid will be 50% of eligible costs from a minimum grant aid of €1,000 up to a maximum grant of €5,000 per application. There is a limit of 1 grant approval per enterprise.

18. What is the update regarding serviced sites with the necessary infrastructure such as electricity, water and wastewater, to be made available in towns and villages to people who want to build their own home by Monaghan County Council?

Reply: In September 2019, Monaghan County Council advertised six serviced sites for sale at Latlorcan in Monaghan town. Initially only four of the six serviced sites were sold and the two remaining serviced sites had to be advertised again for sale in January 2023. Two purchasers came forward for the two remaining sites and their sale was approved at the June 2023 council meeting. As all of the original six serviced sites available at Latlorcan have now been sold consideration is being given to the provision of additional serviced sites at Latlorcan and in other locations.

At present Monaghan County Council has a limited amount of suitable land for the provision of serviced sites in other areas of County Monaghan. Monaghan County Council advertises regularly on etenders and in the Northern Standard for expressions of interest from property owners who are interested in selling property to Monaghan County Council. In 2023 only one submission was received so far and the land proposed was unsuitable. Monaghan County Council recently purchased land that might be suitable for two serviced sites in Scotshouse village and is considering similar opportunities in other locations. Additional serviced sites will be made available subject to availability of suitable land and subject to demand and funding.

Cllr A. McCooey will ask:

19. Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on what measures are in place banning restricted dogs from local authority estates, or any plans to implement such measures.

Reply: Restricted breeds are those on a list specified in the Control of Dogs Regulations, 1998. The list consists of 10 breeds of mainly large, guard-dog types of dog such as German Shepherds and Rottweilers, but also includes the American Pitbull, English and Staffordshire Bull Terriers. These breeds are restricted in that they are not permitted to be in a public place unless they are securely muzzled and being led on a strong lead no more than 2 meters in length by a person over the age of 16 years who is capable of controlling the dog. These restrictions also apply to Bandogs, an old term referring to large dogs that were kept on a chain during the day and let loose at night (e.g. as security around a house), and every strain or cross or type of any breed of dog on the list. There are no measures in place to ban such dogs from local authority estates or any other public places in Monaghan and no plans to implement such measures. The UK has a ban in place on 4 specific breeds of dog for over 30 years. This ban has proved extremely difficult to implement and does not appear to have had any positive impact on the number and severity of dog-related attacks in the UK during that time.

Cllr N. Keelan will ask:

20. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the taken in charge by Monaghan County Council of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff?

Reply: Sliabh Dubh is served by a standalone developer provided wastewater treatment system. In the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding agreed between local authorities and Uisce Eireann, Uisce Eireann stated that it would not take in charge estates with DPI such as this.

When taking in charge an estate, the Local Authority is required take in charge the whole of an estate and cannot decide to omit certain elements (such as wastewater treatment systems). In the case of the taking in charge of Sliabh Dubh, the Local Authority would consequently be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the wastewater treatment system, which is defective, if the taking in charge process was concluded.

21. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of emergency accommodation in our County for women and children in particular that are victims of domestic abuse?

Reply: Housing Section has one 2 bed house and one 2 bed apartment available for families seeking emergency accommodation.

22. In welcoming the additional funding for the local lane improvement scheme (LIS) approximately how many lanes remain on the current list, how many lanes can we expect to complete this year 2023 , when can we expect the scheme open up for new applications?

Reply: Aside from the 2023 LIS programme there remains 35 lanes on the list. It is anticipated that 30 lanes will be completed in 2023 as part of the updated 2023 LIS programme, provided the 23 applicants invited under the additional funding accept the letters of offer and can complete any necessary drainage/groundworks.

On completion of the 2023 lanes a review of the remaining list will begin with the possibility of the scheme being reopened in 2024 dependent on the level of Department of Transport Funding.

23. In relation to the (Croi Cónaithe) vacant home grant, how many applications have been received to date , how many have been approved, how many are currently under assessment , how many have been refused, what is the breakdown per MD area ?

Reply:

30 th August 2023	Number of Applications	Approval In Principle	Additional Information Requested	Under Consideration	Ineligible
Totals	96	44	36	9	7
Breakdown per MD					
Monaghan MD	29	16	9	2	2
Carrickmacross/ Castleblayney MD	34	13	16	1	4
Clones/ Ballybay MD	33	15	11	6	1

24. Given the ongoing issues in relation to water quality in our County, how many septic tank inspections have been carried out since the introduction of a grant aid scheme in 2013, what was the outcome of these inspections, how many grants were paid out to facilitate the upgrading of wastewater systems that have failed inspection?

Reply: Since 2013 Monaghan County Council staff have completed 283 number of inspections on domestic wastewater systems. Out of these, 104 number have been issued advisory notices with 28 number applying and receiving the Grant.

14. Notices of Motion

Cllr Coyle proposed , Cllr O’Hanlon seconded:

1. That Monaghan County Council request the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue TD and the Government to provide more financial assistance to all farmers and landowners affected by ash-die-back. This increased and improved assistance package is of critical importance for the health and safety of all road users, pedestrians, animals etc. as these dead ash trees pose a significant threat at present. It is estimated that the current disease will kill 90% of Irelands ash trees and will wipe out affected hedges as a result. The removal of these trees/hedges is extremely hazardous especially near roadsides, communications and electricity poles and requires professional assistance which places a huge financial burden on the affected farmer/ landowner that is “responsible” for these trees.

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

CLlr Carthy proposed , CLlr Bennett seconded:

2. That Monaghan County Council calls on Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD (Minister for Youth) and Minister of State for Mental Health, Mary Butler TD, as well as the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, to properly invest in the health and wellbeing of Young People and communities of Cavan and Monaghan by:
The introduction of JIGSAW services/Hubs in both counties, as soon as possible:
 - which will provide free support to young people from aged 12-25 years old
 - to focus on Early intervention support (key to reducing the chance of lifelong ill health)
 - To help tackle the high suicide rate in the constituency (on average, twice the suicide rate by population)
 - To try to reduce the continued rise in dependency of medication, where possible, which has seen a huge increase in antidepressants prescribed in recent years (fourth largest increase in the country)

We note that:

- Following recently published CAMHS report it is evident that young people and their families are being failed by the current system.
- Recommendations from the same report show the need for increased investment and emphasis on early intervention supports across Ireland.
- By investing in our young people’s wellbeing at the earliest possible point of care we can start making real, impactful, change.
- Young people and their families need more support in our constituencies
- The new HSE Early Intervention service introduced in late 2022 for this constituency, already has a 48-week waiting period

We call on the same Ministers, particularly the Minister for Health, to establish a proper Critical Incident Plan for Co. Monaghan which will oversee community stakeholders and allocate responsibilities to service providers (HSE, NEPS etc) to put into action immediately following a major incident/tragedy. We also believe a Youth Mental Health Interagency Task Group should be established with an independent chairperson (expert in the field from outside of the area to be fully impartial).

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

Cllr C. Bennett proposed, Cllr A McCooley seconded:

3. That Monaghan County Council support the reintroduction of the 9% Vat rate for food related businesses and are calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the 9% vat rate to the end of 2024.
4. That the members of Monaghan County Council support the reintroduction of the 9% Vat rate for food related businesses and call on the Minister for Finance to extend the 9% vat rate to the end of 2024.

Following a short discussion on the motions, the Cathaoirleach put them to the meeting and they were agreed unanimously.

24. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Julieann O'Reilly, Assistant Staff Officer, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District on the death of her mother, Nancy Moen.
- Nicholas Boylan, General Operative, Ballybay-Clones MD on the death of his mother, Maureen Boylan.
- Katie Mullen and Leanne Lennon, Clerical Officers on the death of their uncle Kieran Mullen, Cootehill
- The McArdle & Kerley family on the death of Mary McArdle, aunt of Adrian Kerley, Executive Engineer
- Bishop Larry Duffy on the death of Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus of Clogher, Liam McDaid and to his extended family.

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

- Inniskeen Grattans Hurling on wining the Senior Hurling Championship
- Gaeil Triucha Hurling team on winning the Junior Championship
- Inniskeen Hurling club on winning the Senior Hurling Championship
- Michael Flood, Emyvale Cycling Club on his 1st place victory on the Donegal 555km Ultra

On the proposal of Cllr C Carthy, seconded by Cllr D Maxwell, it was agreed that a Civic Reception would be afforded to

- Carrickmacross Emmets Women's Rounders Team – Junior All Ireland Champions
- Carrickmacross Emmets Mixed Team – Intermediate All Ireland Champions
- Carrickmacross Emmets Men's Team – Senior All Ireland Champions

25. 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
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AILG	Irish Language Training Webinar	ONLINE	Friday 8 th September 2023 at 10am	Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Cathy Bennett Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Pat Treanor
AILG	AILG Autumn Seminar 2023	Silgo Park Hotel, Pearse Rd, Cornageeha, Co. Sligo	13 th & 14 th September 2023	Cllr Richard Truell Cllr Seamus Treanor Cllr Noel Keelan Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr Seamus Coyle Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr David Maxwell
AILG	Integrating Energy Supply and Planning	ONLINE	22 nd September 2023	Cllr Seamus Coyle
AILG	Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) <i>(Eastern & Midland/ Northern & Western</i>	Sligo Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo	Saturday 22 nd July 2023	Cllr Sean Conlon

Urgent Business

Cllr N Keelan proposed, Cllr C Bennett seconded that Monaghan County Council writes to Norma Foley TD, the Minister for Education and to Siobhan Griffin, Regional Manager of the School Transport Scheme, requesting immediate action be taken to resolve the ongoing problems in relation to qualifying students and other students in need of transport not been able to access a school transport service.

That Monaghan County Council writes to Norma Foley TD, Minister for Education and to Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Transport requesting the long-awaited review of the school transport scheme be published as soon as possible and that included in this review will be a recommendation that as far as practical every student in need of transport will be able to access transport to the school/college of their choice.

Following a short discussion on the motions, the Cathaoirleach put them to the meeting and they were agreed unanimously.

Cllr D Maxwell proposed, Cllr PJ O'Hanlon seconded that this Council write to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice to ask them to meet with Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to ask him to postpone the introduction of the new Gardai rosters. This is until the Gardai Training College in Templemore is up to Quota in training and delivery of new Gardai recruits to be able to staff properly the new 5th units as they are known. Rural Ireland cannot

see existing Gardai units wound down or disbanded to allow these new rosters to come into force without fully trained Gardai on the ground to properly staff these new units. If these new rosters come into force before this happens, rural stations will be shut by stealth to allow existing gardai man these new units.

Following a short discussion on the motions, the Cathaoirleach put them to the meeting and they were agreed unanimously.

Cllr B McKenna proposed, Cllr C Bennett seconded that this Council call on the Government to reverse the recent increases on excise duty on fuel, namely diesel and petrol, because of the huge burden the general public have had to endure with the massive increase in energy costs over the past two years. These increases have the potential to have a significant impact on fuel retailers in the border region.

Following a short discussion on the motions, the Cathaoirleach put them to the meeting and they were agreed unanimously.

The meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____