

ANNUAL REPORT



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL
2022

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Comhairle Contae
Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County
Council

Contents

Foreword	2
District Map / Mission Statement	4
Elected Representatives	5
Finance	6
Housing & Building	7
Health and Safety Unit	12
Water Services	14
Environmental Protection	20
Fire & Civil Protection	27
Community Development	34
The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones	44
The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney	51
The Municipal District of Monaghan	54
Local Enterprise Office.....	59
Corporate Services.....	63
Capital Projects.....	66
Library Services.....	71
County Heritage Office	78
Arts Office.....	84
Tourism Section	87
Information Systems & Innovation.....	93
Roads & Transportation	96
Planning	103
Monaghan County Museum.....	107
Human Resources.....	112
Corporate Procurement	116
Strategic Policy Committees.....	118
Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees	120
Conferences/Training Attended by Members in 2022.....	123
Appendix I Members Expenses.....	124
Appendix II Financial Statement 2022	125

Foreword

We are pleased to present Monaghan County Council's Annual Report for 2022, which outlines the vast scope of activities, services, and supports undertaken by Monaghan County Council in support of the communities we serve. During 2022 the Council continued to deliver significant efficiencies and innovation, while focusing on its leadership role to drive local, community and economic development, in line with the Corporate Plan 2019-2024, to ensure that Monaghan remains an attractive place to live, work, do business and visit.

Monaghan County Council is at the heart of public service delivery in the county and takes a leadership role at national level in areas such as rural development and tourism. The Council, working with its communities, large and small, will continue to be innovative and responsive to the changing needs and expectations of the people of Monaghan during 2023.

Throughout 2022, the Council continued to progress a number of successful projects and strategies, such as:

Monaghan Peace Campus • Dublin Street North Regeneration • Proposals for the proposed new Civic Office Headquarters • Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase I – Gate Lodge 2 Library & Public Realm • Monaghan County Council's Innovation Strategy • MyCoCo - a secure online portal for the delivery of a wide range of local authority services • Upgrade of Monaghan Town Greenway • N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme • Ulster Canal Greenway • Bridge Rehabilitation Programme • Biodiversity projects • Projects on energy efficiency within Monaghan County Council • Housing For All • Upgrade of social housing stock • Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme • ePlanning • Monaghan Community Alerts • Community Plans • Official Opening of Kavanagh Centre & Poetry Jukebox

As part of the broader local authority commitment to climate change as well as its educational role in encouraging the public to undertake lifestyle changes to reduce their carbon footprint, the Housing Section have, in conjunction with the Climate Action Steering Committee, developed a

booklet outlining simple measures that can be used in the home to reduce energy spend and usage. The document will be made available on the Council's website and launched on other social media in 2023.

2022 was another successful year for the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Monaghan, despite economic challenges such as Brexit, the number, and more importantly the quality, of projects, applying for support was very encouraging. In 2022, approximately €400,000 was approved in grant aid with a potential to create an additional 45 jobs. LEO continues to be the first port of call to anyone thinking of starting a business. In 2022 we had circa 300 enquiries from individuals starting their own business and/or seeking advice and information on other government business supports and services.

In 2022, the world was rocked by the advent of the war in Ukraine. We acknowledge the outstanding work of Civil Defence volunteers who played a pivotal role in welcoming Ukrainian refugees to our county. We also recognise and commend the community of Knockatallon for the compassion they demonstrated in taking in Ukrainian refugees, newly arrived in Ireland, while they awaited housing allocation.

We are grateful to our elected members who, throughout 2022, continued to work with the Council executive to make financial provision for various services and projects in the county in a competitive and challenging operating environment. Key to achieving a range of infrastructural improvements and service provisions was the ongoing collaboration between the elected members, council executive, Oireachtas members, government departments and other stakeholders and partners which continued to contribute productively to progress on a number of fronts.

We would also like to commend the Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group and the LCDC and to acknowledge all the work that is carried out at Municipal District Level and by the various other hardworking committees.

We would like to commend and thank the Management and staff of Monaghan County Council for their continued hard work and contribution to the delivery of a high-quality service to the public in 2022; their work with communities and Elected Members underpins all of the progressive actions the Council can be proud of over the last year.

We are grateful to Councillor Aidan Campbell, outgoing Cathaoirleach, for his commitment and cooperation in the delivery of the Council's high-level goals in 2021/2022. We are confident that the work of the Council and the progress achieved will enhance the quality of life for the people of Monaghan.

Above all else, we want to thank you, the people of County Monaghan; it is your sense of community that has seen us emerge from the pandemic, stronger and more able to cope with such events in the future. Thank you to all the community groups who showed such leadership during this time.

Over the past 3 years we have shown our collective capacity to adapt, innovate and maintain services in the face of uncertainty and adversity. Our Corporate Plan commits us to continuing our work with all partners to strive to meet Monaghan's existing, changing and future needs. As we look back at the achievements of 2022 and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, that collective capacity as well as our continued commitment, will serve to deliver our shared vision for Monaghan.

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the death of our colleague and friend, Peter Murphy, General Operative, who passed away in May 2022. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter's family.

Finally, we wish to pay tribute to our recently retired Chief Executive, Eamonn O'Sullivan, for his leadership, support and guidance since joining Monaghan County Council and for the dedicated service he gave to the people of Monaghan and we wish Eamonn a long and healthy retirement.

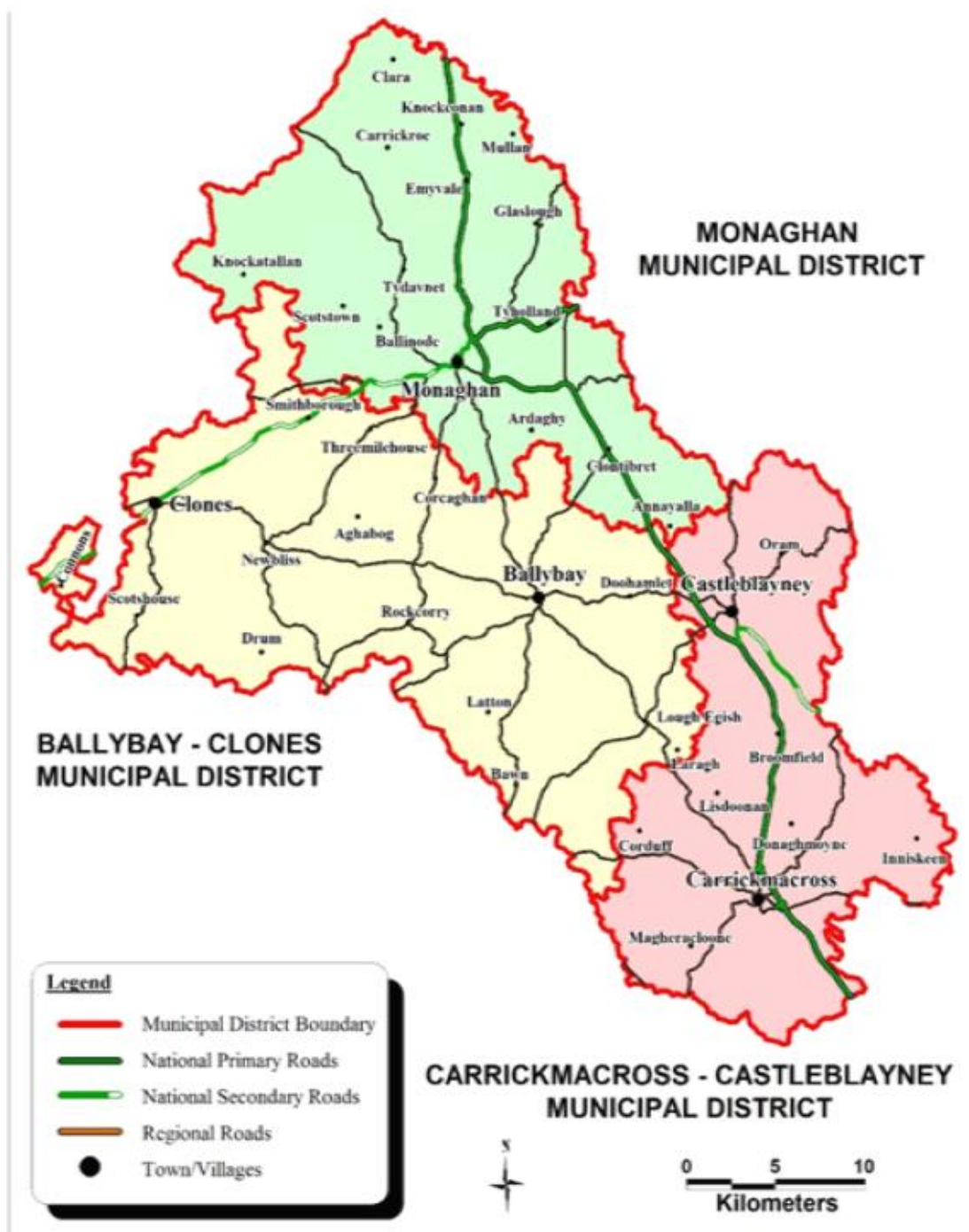


Seán Conlon
Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council



Patricia Monahan
Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council

District Map / Mission Statement



Mission Statement

*Monaghan County Council provides
High Quality, Sustainable Public Services to enhance the
Economic, Environmental and Cultural Wellbeing
of our People and County.*

Elected Representatives

The following are the Elected Representatives for the County of Monaghan:

BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Seamus
COYLE (FF)



Cllr Pat
TREANOR (SF)



Cllr Sean
GILLILAND (FG)



Cllr Hugh
MCELVANEY (IND)



Cllr Richard
TRUELL (FG)

MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Sean
CONLON (SF)



Cllr Cathy
BENNETT (SF)



Cllr Brian
MCKENNA (SF)



Cllr Raymond
AUGHEY (FF)



Cllr David
MAXWELL (FG)



Cllr Seamus
TREANOR (IND)



Cllr Paudge
CONNOLLY (IND)

CARRICKMACROSS-CASTLEBLAYNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Aidan
CAMPBELL (FG)



Cllr Peter
CONLON (FG)



Cllr Aoife
MC COOEY (FF)



Cllr PJ
O'HANLON (FF)



Cllr Noel
KEELAN (SF)



Cllr Colm
CATHY (SF)

Finance

Reconciliation of Statement of Financial Position (SoFP) and review of Statement of Comprehensive Income (SoCI)

The Finance section carry out regular reconciliations and reviews of balances on the SoFP, thus adhering to best practice recommendations. This ensures that debts are collected as quickly as possible, funding for capital projects is identified and transactions are monitored and reviewed on a timely basis, loans are reconciled to statements and fixed assets are reconciled to other available registers such as iHouse and the Property Asset Register. In addition to this, Finance carry out a quarterly analysis of actual versus budgeted revenue expenditure and income to ensure that all expenditure and income are accurately posted and are recognised in the correct period.

Cumulative surplus

The Council achieved a cumulative surplus in 2021 (€130,409) for the first time since 2005. The Council hope to retain a surplus going forward. An annual surplus is achieved through accurate budget preparation, cost reduction awareness and careful monitoring of actual spend versus budget. The highest level of cumulative deficit was €3.3m in 2013.

Treasury Management

In order to maximise interest receivable on excess funds, Finance staff monitor the bank balance and transfer excess funds to HFA who pay 1.25% on investments up to three months and 1.5% on investments over three months.

Rates Collection

Monaghan County Council's Rates collection excelled again in 2022. The final collection rate is estimated at 95%. The Rates collection for 2021 was the highest of all 31 local authorities at 95%. Monaghan County Council's high rate of collection is due to early and accurate billing, experienced staff, multiple payment options for customers and use of specialist legal firms.

Budget preparation

During Q3/Q4 2022, the Finance section prepared the 2023 annual Revenue budget. This provides for €80m of income and expenditure. Rates income is budgeted at €14.9m (ARV 0.2374) and LPT funding at €11.7m which includes 15% increase on the base rate. Rising energy costs prevalent at the time of budget preparation increased budgeted energy costs. Due to funding pressures facing the local government sector particularly in relation to these rising energy costs, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is providing supplementary support of €515,245 to Monaghan County Council in 2023.

Housing & Building

Housing Capital Building Programme

A total of 151 social houses were provided in 2022 through a mix of new build and acquisitions. New build projects were the main focus of the capital expenditure programme in 2022 and Monaghan County Council completed 35 houses at Ard an Radhairc in Carrickmacross, 26 houses at Luí na Gréine in Scotstown, 2 houses Church Street, Ballybay, 30 houses at Coill Darach, Castleblayney and 20 houses in Clones as part of Clones Renewal Scheme.

A further 25 new built social houses were provided in conjunction with Tuath Housing Association and North & East Housing Association.

Eight homes were provided in 2022 for the redevelopment of units at Gortakeegan Halting site. Three houses were acquired on the open market and two via Part V by Monaghan County Council. 45 social houses owned by Monaghan County Council were re-let in 2022.



New Monaghan County Council owned houses at Luí na Gréine in Scotstown



New Monaghan County Council owned houses for Clones Renewal Scheme



New Monaghan County Council houses at Coill Darach in Castleblayney



New Monaghan County Council houses at Ard an Radhairc in Carrickmacross

Approved Housing Bodies

As previously mentioned, in 2022, Approved Housing Bodies delivered 25 social homes through a mix of new build and acquisitions. Through the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF), 25 homes in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD area have been delivered.



New AHB homes at Lakeview Apartments in Carrickmacross

Through the Mortgage to Rent scheme a further eight properties are now being managed by Home for Life (not included in overall delivery figures).

Casual Vacancies / Voids

Monaghan County Council carried out renovation works on 45 Casual Vacancies in 2022 at a cost of €718,639. The houses were prepared for reletting at an average cost of €15,969.77 in an average time of approximately 16.22 weeks. Typical works include a new kitchen, flooring, electrics, painting, new heating system, bathroom upgrades and fencing. One of the properties was a protected structure that required significant & specialist works which due to these factors increased the average reletting time by 1.5 weeks. Monaghan County Council does not have any long-term vacant houses (Voids).

Housing Maintenance:

In 2022, a budget allocation of €1,119,979 provided for response & planned general maintenance of the Council's housing stock. The Housing Section received and logged in excess of 1,850 repair requests in 2022. The key areas of housing maintenance for occupied dwellings include:

1. **Response Maintenance** which involves responding to tenant emergencies and reported repair requests. Housing Section continues to engage with tenants to provide appropriate information in relation to these responsibilities.

2. **Planned Maintenance** involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works. In 2022 targeted planned maintenance works were focused on external works including wastewater treatment systems, boundary replacements, window and door replacement and roof replacement.

Renewal Schemes

Clones

The ongoing work at the derelict sites in Clones as part of the Clones Renewal Scheme (24 units) continued in 2022 with all remaining units delivered in an exceptionally challenging environment for a scheme of this nature.



Clones Renewal Scheme

Ballybay

Monaghan County Council received final funding approval, with permission to commence works on site to address an unfinished housing development in An Clós, Ballybay, town centre, where four derelict properties exist along with a vacant derelict site. These works are progressing well and will be completed in Q3 2023.



*New build An Clós,
Ballybay under construction*

Traveller Accommodation

Monaghan County Council are delivering our Traveller accommodation programme through the provision of Social Housing, Approved Housing Bodies and HAP assistance. Furthermore, the final phase of the redevelopment of Gortakeegan Halting Site was completed in March 2022. The 14 houses available comprised of eight one-bedroom houses and six 2-bedroom houses all of which are now occupied.

There are 112 households of Traveller ethnicity living in local authority dwellings, 14 living in traveller specific accommodation and 16 living in

Private Rented accommodation with social housing supports.



Gortakeegan

County Council Tenancies

The Tenant Liaison Officer, in 2022, was mainly involved in dealing with Breaches of Tenancy. The number of cases opened in 2022 is outlined below.

There were 57 cases which breached the Tenancy Agreement (non-rent related). They were categorised under the following headings:

- Category A - Drug Activity: 2
- Category B - Non-Drug Related Antisocial Behaviour Activity (e.g. property damage or actions hostile to a person): 9

Property damage & Actions hostile to the person

- Category C - (Other- breaches of tenancy): 46

In respect of these matters the investigations of the cases resulted in the following

- 1st warning, Tenant Notifications issued: 3
- Statutory Warnings served (Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2014.): 6
- Abandonment Notices served: 2
- Dwellings taken back into MCC possession following the service of statutory tenancy Warnings/Notices: 4
- Applications to Court for re-possession: 1

The Tenant Liaison Officer visited 236 individual household from April 2022 to end of year.

In 2022 Monaghan County Council had 151 new

tenancies commenced plus an additional 28 persons from the Council's housing list were offered tenancies with an AHB.

Please see below tables for 2022 Allocations.

Allocations by Municipal District ,Monaghan County Council Properties - 2022	
Clones/Ballybay	37
Monaghan	63
Carrickmacross/Castleblaney	54
TOTAL	154

Allocations by Property Type, Monaghan County Council Properties - 2022	
1 Bedroom	23
2 Bedroom	55
3 Bedroom	66
4 Bedroom	10
5+ Bedroom	0
TOTAL	154

Homeless Services

Monaghan County Council is responsible for the assessment of people who present to their offices for social housing support and who state that they are homeless. In 2022 there were 124 households reporting homelessness. Of those who presented, 20 were assessed as homeless. In respect of all persons presenting as homeless support was provided. This was either through directly providing emergency accommodation or local authority accommodation or private rented accommodation supports or indirect assistance which can include advice/mediation or liaison with relatives/landlords.

Housing Assistance Payment

HAP continues to play an important role as a form of social housing support for those with a long-term housing need. 101 tenancies commenced in 2022 and there were a total of 496 active HAP supported tenancies as at 31st December 2022. The monthly landlord rent cost is

€281,489.49. HAP Shared Services Centre based in Limerick City and County Council have the responsibility for all financial transactions, collection of rent from tenants and landlord payment at month end.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a support to people who have a need for long term housing. The total number of tenancies in receipt of RAS support was 188 at 31st December 2022: 67 households in private rented accommodation and 121 households in AHB properties. The monthly landlord rent cost for all RAS tenancies is €73,834.94.

Housing Grants

It was yet another busy year for housing grants. In 2022 an initial allocation of €1.043 million was increased to €2.3 million due to the continued high up take of housing grants in the County. Housing Section approved 233 housing grant applications, paying out on 234 applications and recouping in full on 245 applications.

Monaghan County Council continues to be at the top of the Departments 'drawdown table' for 2022, a testament to the great work being undertaken by all involved in promoting and delivering the various schemes.

Climate Change

Monaghan County Council is committed to reducing the negative effects of Climate Change on its social housing stock. All social housing projects are being designed to either mitigate against or adapt to the impacts of climate change.

An internal desktop Flood Risk Identification Report was carried out on all Social Housing Stock in 2022. In 2023, following on from this report, Monaghan County Council will carry out further Flood Risk Assessments on properties that have been identified as potentially being at risk of flooding in a one-thousand-year storm event. The potential necessity and feasibility of

flood mitigation or adaptation measures will be considered.

In 2022 Housing Section Planned Maintenance Programme included two Climate Action projects. The first project involved the removal of seriously diseased and dangerous ash trees and the installation of a native hedgerow in their place in Cavanreagh, Scotshouse. The second project involved the pledging of open space at Folly Court Ballybay for Pollinators.

Energy Efficiency Works

The Social Housing Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme continued to accelerate in 2022 and Monaghan County Council delivered upgrade works to 72 homes in 2022 at a cost of €2,166,070.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funded 97% of these costs (€2,109,265).

The works included new windows and doors, internal or external wall insulation (if required) and heat pump installation. Works also include removing old, inefficient heating systems, upgrading flat roof insulation, closing existing chimneys and all other works necessary to achieve a minimum B2 Building Energy Rating (BER).

As the Energy Efficiency Retro-fit Programme is funded under "Housing for All" it is anticipated that in 2023 the funding allocation for this programme will increase. Monaghan County Council aims to maximise the number of properties being completed each year subject to funding.

The programme of works for 2023 will aim to improve the energy performance of the poorer performing (F and G-rated) social housing stock in the county.



Energy Efficiency works before and after



Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG)

The role of the HDSG

- Overseeing the local implementation of the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities, including the housing of people with disabilities transitioning from institutional care.

- Developing, monitoring and reviewing of local interagency protocols, as appropriate.
- Developing strategic and specific plans to meet the housing needs and related supports for people with disabilities.
- Name and address any identified barriers within the system to:
 - 1) people with disabilities sourcing appropriate housing
 - 2) to people with disabilities in taking up an offer of housing
- Working with all agencies in the provision of services to people with disabilities including employment, education and training.
- Acting as a forum for the exchange of information.

Allocations Report	LA	AHB	2022
Total Allocations	151	37	188
Allocations for Disabled People	9	8	17
Physical	5	0	5
Sensory	1	1	2
Mental Health	1	0	1
Intellectual	2	7	9

Health and Safety Unit

Operational Plan

The Health and Safety Unit (HSU) set out the work targets to be achieved in the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) 2022. The HSU documented its programme of work in the HSU Operational Plan 2022 to deliver the requirements of the ASDP. The HSU reviewed the Operational Plan on a weekly basis to ensure achievement of the plan. This programme of work was successfully achieved and the requirements of the ASDP 2022 met.

The following is a summary of the main elements of work conducted by the HSU in 2022:

- HSU Annual Service Delivery plan developed on time and implemented.
- HSU Operational Plan developed on time and delivered.
- HSU Corporate Plan Progress Report issued on time.
- HSU Corporate Risk Register reviewed and updated quarterly.
- Corporate Safety Statement reviewed six monthly and as required throughout 2022.
- HSU Monthly Reports issued on time.
- HSU carried out our duties following fatal accident in May 2023.
- A detailed review of the Health and Safety (H&S) Registers HSM01 to HSM12 conducted.
- H&S Generic Procedures HSSP21 to HSSP43 reviewed and updated.
- HSSP58 Working in the Sun (new procedure) developed and issued.
- DRAFT HSSP29 Events Management Procedure developed.
- Civil Defence documents added to the Online Health and Safety Manual.
- Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) Update online training delivered to all employees.
- VDU Audit conducted in May 2022 and report issued.
- Covid Induction Training delivered to employees in March 2022.

- Additional HSMS Training delivered to MD employees in March 2022.
- 5 x LASOG Meetings attended by Head of H&S
- National H&S Conference attended by HSU.
- 29 x Safety Briefings developed and delivered to all employees (2 x monthly and 5 for H&S Week).
- Quarterly defibrillator testing, maintenance and cleaning carried out. Testing changed to bi-monthly in Q4 due to maintenance requirements.
- New Defibrillators placed in Dartrey Forest and Rossmore Park.
- Quarterly consultation with each member of the Safety Committee and the COVID-19 Employee Representatives.
- A number of events delivered for Workers' Memorial Day in April.
- Daily events delivered for Health and Safety Week in November 2022.
- December Safety Link newsletter developed and issued with very positive feedback from employees.

Inspection Programme

The 2022 Inspection Programme was successfully completed. The following table outlines the inspections completed by the HSU:

Target Number of Inspections	Actual Achieved	% Achieved
271	297	110%
Inspection Conducted	Number Conducted	
HHS Spot Checks	91	
Road Works	134	
Yards	2	
Water	6	
Housing	33	
Corporate/Capital	7	
Environment	4	
Other	20	
Total	297	

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The following table outlines Hazard and Risk Assessments completed by the HSU in 2022:

Assessment Type	Number Conducted
Water Services	27
Buildings/Workstation	07
Yards/Landfill	10
Playgrounds	3
Job (on location)	1
Total	48

Water Services

During 2022, Irish Water was rebranded as Uisce Éireann. They are responsible for the operation and maintenance of public water and wastewater services, including:

- Management of national water and wastewater assets.
- Maintenance of the water and wastewater system.
- Investment and planning.
- Managing capital projects; and
- Customer care and billing.

Every year, since 2014, a Service Plan has been agreed between Uisce Éireann and Monaghan County Council. This committed both parties to deliver specific objectives and compliance standards against a budget for payroll, goods, and services.

The Annual Service Plan has ensured service continuity to the customer, value for money and that water services complied with environmental and health standards.

Under the Rural Water programme Monaghan County Council is the Water Services Authority in relation to the supervision of Group Water Schemes and small private water supplies under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014.

Monaghan County Council administer payment of grants and subsidies towards the running costs of Group Water Schemes and grants for private water supplies - Well Grants - and Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems.

The Water Services section also assists the council's planning department in transferring non-public water and Wastewater infrastructure within private developments to Uisce Éireann through the Taking in Charge process.

Future Delivery of Services

There were significant developments in relation to the Uisce Éireann /Irish Water

transformation program in 2022 following the publication of the Water Sector Transformation policy paper, Irish Water - Towards a National, Publicly Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility.

The paper outlined a process within the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), which will assist the parties to devise a mutually agreed operational framework to replace the existing service level agreements.

This engagement led to a Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services – which addresses staff concerns relating to the future delivery of water services.

The migration of public services from Monaghan County Council to the direct managerial control of Uisce Éireann will commence in 2023 and be completed by 2026.

The Councils responsibility regarding overseeing the Rural Water Program will be unaffected by this transition of public services.

Capital Investment Programme

National Water Resources Plan

Uisce Éireann commenced a three-month public consultation on the draft Regional Water Resource Plan – Northwest (RWRP-NW) in November.

The plan sets out options for providing a more secure, reliable, and sustainable water supply for 732,700 customers in the Northwest region over the next 25 years. The plan includes counties Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Sligo and parts of Clare, Longford, Louth, Meath and Roscommon. Eight islands off the coast of Ireland are also included in the region.



New Wastewater Treatment Plant Castleblaney

Uisce Éireann National Water Resources Plan will be the first resources plan for the entire public water supply in Ireland. The National Plan will identify the needs across existing supplies and the challenges and opportunities that will be faced over the coming years including legislation, climate change, the environment, growth, and economic development.

The National Plan will allow Uisce Éireann to understand the actions and activities required to transform its water supplies and provide a safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable water supply for current and future customers. The National Plan will also provide a transparent roadmap on how Irish Water will plan for its water assets to align with national policy.

For further information visit [Draft Regional Water Resources Plan – North West | Strategic Plans | Uisce Éireann \(formerly Irish Water\)](#)

Uisce Éireann's Capital Investment Programme delivers improvements in drinking water quality, leakage, wastewater compliance, business efficiencies and customer service.

Several major infrastructural projects completed construction recently in particular Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant and upgrade works to Castleblaney Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The following tables details projects currently ongoing in Monaghan.

Future Capital Works

Contract	Description of Works	Estimated Value
Leakage Reduction programme	Mains Rehabilitation Works - Cortolvin and Park Rd, Killyconnigan 1.5 KM - Castleblaney Town Centre 220m - Newbliss / Clones Road replacement 2,8Km cast iron water main.	
Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	Upgrade to intake works and installation of outfall pipe.	€10 M
Monaghan Drainage Area Plan	sewer network that is fit for purpose is essential to support business and social development in Monaghan	€5M
Small Towns & Villages Growth Program	- Glaslough WWTP - Newbliss WWTP - Clontibret WWTP - Oram WWTP - Knockatallon WWTP	€1,289,000

Leakage Reduction programme

Uisce Éireann approved the following schemes to go forward for design and construction in 2022.

Newbliss Mains Rehabilitation:

This mains rehabilitation scheme was to replace 2.80km of old 4-inch Cast Iron watermain with 125mm High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The new pipework was commissioned and put into service in 2022.



Water Mains replacement Newbliss (1)

Ballybay Road, Newbliss

This mains rehabilitation scheme involved the replacement of 2.35km of old Cast Iron watermain with new improved plastic pipes along the Ballybay Road from the outskirts of Newbliss village. The new pipework was commissioned and put into service at the end of Quarter 2, 2022.



Water Mains replacement Newbliss (2)

With both sections now completed, all the cast iron watermains will have been successfully removed from the network which will benefit customers in Newbliss. The new and improved plastic pipes will strengthen and reinforce the water network. Customers will see an improvement to water supply in the area as well as fewer disruptions to water supply.

Castleblayney Main Street

This scheme completes the removal of the asbestos pipes from the town centre watermains. The project was commissioned and put into service at the end of Quarter 4, 2022.

With the new watermain installed, customers will see an improvement to water supply and less disruption.



Water Mains replacement Castleblayney

Tullyhirm, Armagh Road, Monaghan

This scheme will go to design stage and construction next year, 2023. The project will remove the old 150mm diameter problematic asbestos watermain from immediately east of ulster canal road bridge after the Coolshannagh roundabout for 270m.

Carrickmacross Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Construction of a new 3.3 km final effluent pipeline extending from the Wastewater treatment plant to the Longfield River. These works also involve upgrade to elements of the existing wastewater treatment plant – including new final effluent and inlet pumping stations and a new access road off Oriel Road.

The works will increase plant capacity to 16,000 PE and bring the plant into compliance with the ELV. These upgrade works will improve operational performance and compliance with statutory legislation.

EPS have been appointed as the main contractor under a design and build contract and commenced in July 2022.



Construction Work Carrickmacross WWTP

Drainage Area Plan – Monaghan Town

Uisce Éireann is continuing its work to safeguard wastewater services in Monaghan town by undertaking surveys of the existing sewer network in partnership with Monaghan County Council.

The Drainage Area Plan process is overseen by ARUP Consultants and involved CCTV surveys and installation of rainfall, flow, depth and conductivity monitors in the sewers and manholes as part of stages 1 & 2.

The data collected presents a clearer picture as to what defects and capacity issues exist in the sewer network and where future upgrades should be prioritised.

Consultants met with Roads and Water Services staff as part of stage 3 of the process.

Stage 4 Draft report is being prepared by consultants on behalf of Uisce Éireann. Several alternative solutions have been identified and high-level costings associated with same. Report to be finalised in coming months.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Works – IWSS Programme

Uisce Éireann Asset Delivery have identified a number of Wastewater Treatment Plants presenting with asset deficiencies.

These are being addressed as part of the Inlet Works Storm Sludge Management (IWSS) and National Certificate of Authorisation (NCAP) Programme.

Under Uisce Éireann Inlet Works Sludge and

Storm Programme works have commenced at Ballybay WWTP.

DBO contractor appointed in 2022, and contractor started works at the beginning of 2023



Ballybay WWTP under IWSS Programme

Planned works for Clones WWTP are at design stage.

Wastewater Pumping Station National Programme

The 98 Avenue Pumping Station in Clones was selected for review under the Wastewater Pumping Station National Program – Design Team appointed.

Solar Photovoltaic Phase 2 Programme

This project will involve installation of PV panels at Monaghan WWTP – the project is awaiting confirmation of funding.

INTERREG – Peace Plus Shared Waters Enhancement & Loughs Legacy (SWELL) project

Uisce Éireann has been awarded funding under the SWELL Project. The EU-funded Shared Waters Enhancement & Loughs Legacy (SWELL) project aims to improve the quality of water in the Lough Erne catchment through the upgrade of wastewater assets on both sides of the border.

Ballybay WWTP and Clones WWTP are being earmarked for upgrade through this programme.

Both schemes are being progressed with a view to submitting a bid in Q1 of 2023.

National Telemetry Programme

Kilkitt Water Treatment Plant which supplies the Lough Egish Regional Water Supply Scheme has been selected by Irish Water to Pilot the rollout of its centralised national telemetry system. To date all telemetry systems are locally based and predate the establishment of Irish Water. The new system will ensure continuity and security for a modern water supply and wastewater system against the growing level of cyber security risk.

Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme is primarily intended to provide capacity in Irish Water Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) to cater for growth in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan.

Monaghan County Council has been allocated €1.238m funding under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

Monaghan County Council identified five settlements that have the least headroom in terms of capacity per Population Equivalent treatment and compliance with current discharge standards.

Oram Wastewater Treatment Plant had been identified for funding under this program. It is hoped that Newbliss and Clontibret will be considered for inclusion under tranche 2 of this national project.

Wastewater Pumping Station National Programme

98 Avenue Pumping Station Clones has been selected for review under the Wastewater Pumping Station National Program – Design Team appointed.

Rural Water Programme

The Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan is administered by Monaghan County Council.

The programme provides measures to address deficiencies in:

- Group Water Schemes
- Group Sewerage Schemes
- Private Water Supplies where no alternative group or public supply is available.
- Private Domestic Wastewater Treatment systems (DWWTs) whereby the applicant qualifies under the Housing (Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020.
- Private Water Supplies whereby the applicant qualifies under the Housing (Domestic Lead Remediation Grant) Regulations 2022.

Subsidies

Annual subsidies are administered by Monaghan County Council towards the cost of providing domestic water to group water schemes in the county. €4.83m in subsidy payments were made to twelve group water schemes in 2022 by the Local Authority.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2019-2021

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme consists of measures which reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector - from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent water contamination and ensure that drinking water is safe and meets quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

This funding cycle is now complete. Department Circulars and guidance expected in 2023 for the 2022-2025 MARWP funding cycle.

Capital grant amount of €430,096 were administered to group water schemes in 2022 in the county under the MARWP.

Well Grants

Seven well grant applications were processed in 2022 by the Local Authority and €21,448 grant aid paid to applicants towards upgrade/remedial works or the installation of treatment systems to their private water

supply.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

Under the Water Services Amendment Act 2012, Monaghan County Council undertakes inspections of private wastewater treatment systems. In 2022, under the National Inspection Plan (NIP) 32 domestic wastewater treatment system (DWWTs) inspections were undertaken by Local Authority staff resulting in 19 compliance notices and 13 advisory notices issued to households. 6 grant applications, amounting to €24,566, was paid for remedial/improvement works to DWTTS in 2022 to eligible applicants.

Grant applications relating to 2022 advisory notice requirements will continue to be submitted in 2023 by households as

improvement works are completed and inspected.

Monaghan County Council also have responsibility for sampling and testing of private group water schemes and small private supplies. The results for 2022 show that the compliance rate was 98.9% out of 3026 parameters analysed. There were 34 exceedances noted throughout the year and HSE consulted, where relevant. Samples are taken at random locations in houses and businesses throughout each water supply within the county.

Environmental Protection

The Environmental Services section in Monaghan County Council is tasked with implementing EU and National Environmental Policy and legislation to protect the environment of County Monaghan.

In the Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024, the council committed to the promotion and protection of a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable, and to progressing the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society as detailed in High Level Goals 1 and 12 respectively. The priorities and objectives for the Environmental Services section are outlined in Appendix III together with the performance standards to be met.

In summary the objectives include:

- Implement the County Monaghan Litter Management Plan 2021-2023.
- Implement the Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021
- Operate Scotch Corner Landfill in accordance with EPA Licence requirements.
- Implement the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and associated Water Framework Directive requirements.
- Progress Climate Action measures as outlined in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.

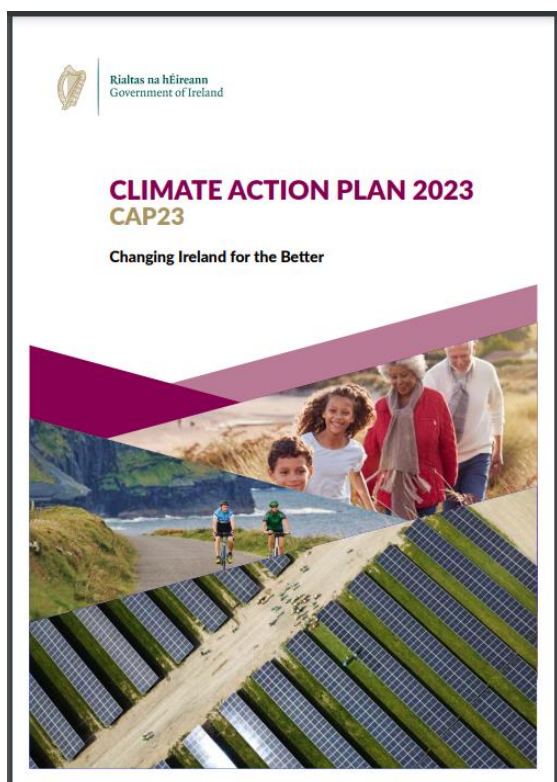
Climate Action

During 2022 Monaghan County Council continued to progress the implementation of the actions contained in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 which was adopted by Monaghan County Council in September 2019. In October, Environmental Services submitted the second implementation progress report to the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office which demonstrated that considerable progress was made in progressing the

measures and actions contained within the strategy and within the national Climate Action Plan.

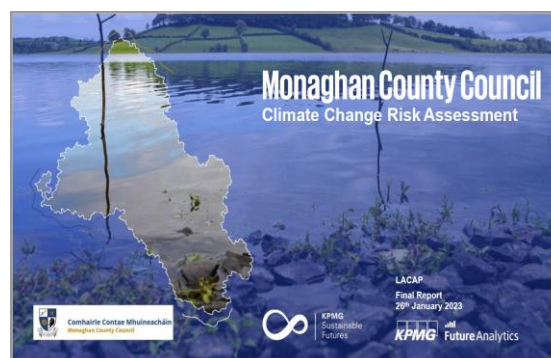
Some of the milestones achieved to date include:

- In terms of energy usage, Monaghan County Council is among the best performing local authority in the country, having already achieved a 51.6% energy improvement by the end of 2021.
- Monaghan County Council was the first Local Authority to complete the full LED retrofit of its public lighting.
- Monaghan County Council continued to partner with CARO on the roll out of Climate change training programs for staff and members.
- New Border Energy Unit formed in 2022 in partnership with Leitrim and Cavan County Councils.
- Installation of additional solar litter bins in the county with 7 new solar bins provided in 2022.
- Construction of BER A rated homes by Housing Section.
- Construction of new BER A rated site office at Scotch Corner.
- Successful applications by Municipal Districts Under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Scheme for Flood Alleviation Works.
- Funding to the value of €788K secured in 2022 for Bridge Rehabilitation for bridges damaged mainly by instream scouring from flooding rivers.
- Further to the Deep Retrofit Audit carried out in Q4 2021, a number of council buildings have been put forward to SEAI for Approval under the Pathfinder Project to carry out retrofit works.



In late 2022 the Government published the Climate Action Plan 2023. This new plan sets out a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government. Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out how Ireland can accelerate the actions that are required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development.

A key component of the 2023 Climate Action Plan is that Local Authorities are required to prepare individual Climate Action Plans which will include both mitigation and adaptation measures, which are to be updated every five years. Local Authority Development Plans must be aligned with their Climate Action Plan. Whilst work on drafting the new Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan (CAP) will commence during 2023, Monaghan County Council secured departmental funding in 2022 to carry out preliminary work including the provision of baseline emission data and a Climate Risk assessment both of which will help inform the development on the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan during 2023.



Waste Enforcement and Regulations

Waste Enforcement continued to be a challenge in 2022 with the improper management of waste continuing to be an issue both at local and national level. Again, in Co Monaghan in 2022 the dumping of diesel laundering waste was problematic with 21 instances of diesel laundering waste dumping in 2022 in the south of the county. The costs incurred in dealing with diesel wash waste in 2022 was €92,000 which was subsequently recouped from the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications.



Diesel wash Clean-up in Donaghmoyne

Again, the work plan for our waste enforcement team during 2022 was prepared in line with the National waste enforcement priorities which were communicated to all local authorities via correspondence issued by the EPA in December 2021 which set the following priorities for 2022:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity.
- Construction and demolition activity.
- End of Life Vehicle directive.
- Waste Collection at household and commercial level.
- Sites that require multi agency responses.

During 2022 there were three full time Waste Enforcement Officers in the County and in 2022 Monaghan County Council recouped €192,000 from the Department of Environment Climate and Communications for costs associated with waste enforcement activities. In addition, there was one full-time environmental patrol warden. As well as working on the national waste enforcement priorities staff were engaged on other activities such as the investigation of waste complaints, the processing of Certificate of Registration and Waste Facility Permit applications, the assessment of planning applications to ensure waste management compliance, and ensuring that waste activities taking place within County Monaghan are being carried out in compliance with waste management legislation through the appropriate certification and permitting regime.



Illegally dumped tyres

In delivering on these priorities in 2022 Monaghan County Council completed the following:

- Carried out over 1,000 inspections.
- Investigated 344 waste complaints.
- Initiated 221 enforcement actions including the issuing of 69 waste warning letters, 16 notices under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act, 23 Fixed Penalty Notices under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations, and 54 litter fines under the Litter Pollution Act.

Water and Air Quality



Environment Team WFD Lake sampling in 2022

During 2022 there were three full time environmental technicians working in water quality and air quality. In December 2021, the National Water and Air Priorities were forwarded to each local authority for 2022 through correspondence issued by the EPA. The water priorities for 2022 included:

- Pressures from agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)
- Pressures from agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks
- Discharge Licences/Misconnections
- Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring

Under the 2022 RMCEI Enforcement and inspection plan that was prepared in February in line with national priorities, Monaghan County Council's water quality team continued its programme of water quality sampling in conjunction with the EPA, carried out investigative assessment work on selected river and lake waterbodies, undertook a farm inspection program, investigated a significant number of water pollution incidents, regulated effluent discharges through licensing, and worked with the Local Authorities Waters Program (LAWPRO) with the aim of improving water quality in areas designated as priority areas for action under the River Basin Management Plan which sets out the actions that Ireland is taking with the aim of improving water quality and achieving 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. In October 2022,

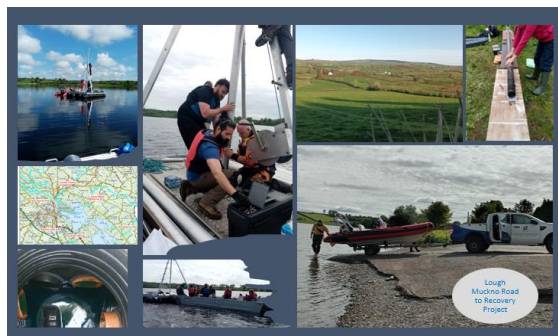
Environmental Services secured €60K funding from the Department of Environment Climate and Communications to conduct additional farm inspection work. This funding was used to fund additional resources to assist in conducting this additional inspection work.



During 2022, 967 water quality related inspections were carried out including:

- 129 Farm inspections.
- 344 samples taken as part of Water Framework Directive monitoring on rivers and lakes.
- Investigation of 110 water pollution complaints/incidents.
- 37 Discharge licence inspections
- 25 bathing water inspections.

During 2022 our water quality team further progressed the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery project. Recent EPA Water Quality Reports had highlighted Lough Muckno as one of the most polluted lakes in Ireland currently. Under this phase of the project the aim is to complete a Paleolimnological study of the lake sediment to reference trophic changes and predict lake recovery times.



Lake Coring in Muckno in May 2022

In light of the work being carried out on this project, in March, the Environmental Services unit, in response to the Public Consultation on

the draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027, formally requested the inclusion of Lough Muckno as a Proposed Area for Action in Ireland's River Basin Management Plan 2022 -2027 as a "Catchment Project Area for Action" which will be led by Monaghan County Council and supported by the Local Authority Waters Programme.

In relation to air enforcement during 2022 over 60 routine air quality inspections were carried out under the Solid Fuels Regulations, the Petroleum Vapour Regulations, the Solvent Regulations and the Decorative Paints Regulations. By the end of 2022 the following facilities were regulated under the following air regulations.

- 29 car-refinishers were authorised under the Decorative Paint Regulation.
- 4 dry-cleaning facilities and one industrial premises were authorised under the Solvent Regulations.
- 25 petrol stations were authorised under the Petroleum Vapour Regulations.

Waste Management Facilities

During 2022 Monaghan County Council continued to operate a comprehensive recycling facility infrastructure network in the county comprising of two recycling centres at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross and 26 strategically placed bring centres. The operation of the two recycling centres in the county is somewhat unique. Whilst the vast majority of local authority owned recycling centres operate at a loss, Monaghan County Council in 2022 continued to receive a significant income from the operator who runs both facilities at Carrickmacross and Scotch Corner on behalf of the council through the concession contract.

In 2022 Monaghan County Council retendered for the servicing of the bring site network with Glassco Recycling subsequently awarded the contract for an initial two-year period



Bring facility at Drummond Etra, Carrickmacross

In relation to the landfill facility at Scotch Corner further small-scale infrastructural improvements were progressed and completed on site including gas infrastructure upgrade works, surface water management works, leachate management, and additional groundwater and surface water investigations. During 2022 significant monitoring and sampling works continued to ensure compliance with our licence.

The most recent EPA site demonstrated that the Scotch Corner Facility was fully compliant under the terms of the licence with no non-compliances noted during the audit.

In 2022 works on the reconstruction of the new site office at Scotch Corner were substantially completed. The main contractor for these works was McCusker Contracts with significant input from local precast manufacturer Wright Concrete Products Ltd who constructed the modular building. This new building is a climate resilient structure which will provide for our requirements on site going forward in a sustainable manner.



New Landfill Site Office Building

Historical Landfills

During 2022 Monaghan County Council secured €100k funding from the Department of Environment Climate and Communications to progress further works under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008. Under these regulations local authorities are required to conduct an environmental assessment of closed landfills that were previously operated by local authorities during the period 1977 to 1997. Works carried out in 2022 under the departmental funding included the completion of the Environmental Risk Assessment works at the Corkeeran site in Ballybay and the preparation of planning regularisation applications for subsequent submission to An Bord Pleanála for approval under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act for the Kilycard (*Castleblayney*) and Killycronaghan (*Smithboro*) historical landfill sites.

Environmental Awareness

Monaghan County Council is committed to supporting local communities to promote, enhance and develop their local area.

Environmental Awareness projects continued to be delivered to groups and schools during 2022, some of which included:

- Supports to Tidy Towns, Resident Association's and environmental groups through the annual Environmental Services funding programme.
- Repair, Reuse Demonstration Café in conjunction with the Rediscovery Centre and Connaught Ulster Regional Office
- Interactive awareness pollinator planting and tree planting with schools and groups.
- Dog Fouling and Anti-Litter Campaigns.
- Biodiversity Action Day with summer camps and Tidy Towns and Eanna Ní Lamhna
- Supports including litter pickers, bags and skips to groups for participation in Spring and World Clean Up Day
- Interactive projects with the Horticulturist including Little Acorns, Mighty Oaks grow, Gairdín an tSuaimhneas, Natural Habitat workshops

- Fast Fashion Workshop and Swap Shop with Comhairle na Nóg
- Supports to Agricultural Shows including Castleblayney Show and Tydavnet Show
- Continuation of the roll out of the Green School's Programme throughout the county.
- Provision of Electrical Recycling Days throughout the county



Tree planting with Scotshouse school and community group



Miscellaneous awareness projects



Biodiversity Action Day with Teach na Daoine Summer camp, Eanna Ní Lamhna and Monaghan Tidy Towns



Litter picking station outside Monaghan Courthouse

Veterinary Services

Food Safety

Monaghan County Council has a contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), to provide food safety control and support services to small food business operators in the county engaged in the slaughtering, processing and wholesaling of meat and meat products, ranging from fresh meat to ready-to-eat foods containing cooked meat. A list of food businesses approved by Monaghan County Council is available on the Council's website. In accordance with EU and national legislation, the Council employs veterinary inspectors to check animals before and after slaughter, audit the structural and operational hygiene standards in premises, and operate sampling and training programmes to assist owners and

staff in attaining the required standards. The purpose of the service is to ensure the safety of the food produced by these food businesses, the welfare of the animals slaughtered and the safe and proper disposal of animal by-products. In 2022, 602 cattle and 999 sheep were slaughtered in Council-supervised abattoirs in Monaghan. 74 inspections were carried out in 19 food businesses, and 37 samples were taken and tested for residues and hygiene standards. 4 new food businesses registered with the Council, one of which was required to be approved prior to registration. Three businesses ceased operating in 2022, one of which moved its operations north of the Border.



Dog Control Service

The Council employs one full-time Dog Warden for the county. Shelter facilities for the detention and care of stray and unwanted dogs are provided on behalf of Monaghan County Council by Carrick Dog Shelter in Lisdoonan. The number of dogs admitted to the Dog Pound in 2022 was 382, more than double the

number admitted in 2021. This dramatic increase was mirrored in many local authority dog pounds across the country and appears to be related to the ending of pandemic restrictions and the increase in the cost of living, causing a collapse in the demand for dogs and an influx into Pounds of unwanted dogs. All but 3 of these dogs were either reclaimed or rehomed to members of the public or dog rescues. 2 dogs were put to sleep on suspicion that they had attacked sheep, and 1 was put to sleep as it had attacked children. The number of dogs licenced in Monaghan in 2022 was 5,961, a slight drop on the number licenced in 2021. Approximately one third of licences were bought online. The Council continued its advertising campaign to highlight the danger of straying dogs to sheep. The Council also continued its inspections of registered Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs) within the county. 1 new DBE was registered in 2022. 2 others were deregistered, leaving a current total of 4 DBEs. One person was prosecuted and fined for operating an unregistered DBE.

Horse Control Service

The Council employs the services of Hungry Horse Outside, a horse charity based in Longford, to collect stray horses in the county. Three horses were seized by the Gardai in 2022 because they presented a danger to public safety. They were subsequently reclaimed by their owner. There were a number of other complaints investigated during the year relating to both stray horses and horse welfare, but no further seizures were necessary.

Fire & Civil Protection



*Front elevation of proposed
New Ballybay Fire Station*

During 2022 Monaghan Fire and Civil Protection (MFCP) maintained the delivery of a range of services for the citizens of Monaghan. These services included Fire Safety and Building Control functions, that encompasses implementing the statutory requirements of the Building Regulations and Building Control Regulations, inspection of new and existing building stock for compliance with fire safety requirements, licensing of filling stations, inspection of licensed premises, advice and enforcement under the Fire Services Acts and the promotion of fire safety in the community. Operational services encompassing both Fire Service & Civil Defence include; responding to emergency calls and providing Community Support, assistance to other emergency services, public safety and reviewing and enhancing Major Emergency Planning in consultation with the other Principal Response Agencies.

Operations

Monaghan is served by five retained fire stations at Clones, Monaghan, Ballybay, Castleblayney and Carrickmacross, providing an operational fire and emergency response service at all times. 2022 seen a return to relative normality in terms of an easing of various response protocols implemented to restrict the contagion of Covid 19.



*MFCP in attendance at
Hazmat incident April 2022*

A breakdown of total calls in 2022 per station are as follows:

Fire Station	1 st Turn-out	2 nd Turn-out
Ballybay	29	2
Carrickmacross	72	0
Castleblayney	59	17
Clones	21	1
Monaghan	145	2

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection were mobilised to 326 incidents in 2022 a marginal increase of 3% on 2021 to first attending appliances, and a 2% reduction to 2nd appliance turnout.



Fire-fighters at house fire June 2022

In 2022 the top five incident types attended by Monaghan Fire Service were Road Traffic

Collisions, Monitoring Alarm Activations, domestic house fires, and tertiary fires (i.e. small fires/bin/skip). Road Traffic Collisions remain significantly high in recent years, while there has been a notable reduction in chimney fires in 2022.

The most notable incidents attended in 2022 involved an ammonia leak at Lough Egish Industrial Park which necessitated the evacuation of a number of business units and the deployment of Hazard Material management procedures and decontamination arrangements.



New Decontamination Unit April 2022

Training

The 2022 training programme returned to relative normality with a reduction in the extent of precautions associated with Covid 19.

Training completed included Flood First Responder, Emergency Service Driving Standard (ESDS), Hazmat and Emergency First Responder.



Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course May 2022

Workshops and training sessions were undertaken in 2022 to supplement the Wildfire Management Plan for Sliabh Beagh. Works will commence in 2023 with various interest groups and stakeholders.

The MoU with Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service for attendance at Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) in the border area has been utilised in 2022. The MoU sets out agreed geographical identifiers (townlands/roads) to secure the location of an RTA and the deployment of the nearest brigade.



Retained Fire-Fighter Pre-interview assessment April 2022.

Along with the provision of Critical Incident Stress Management, the Employee Assistance Service has been extended to Fire Personnel and provides support to extended family members.

Health & Safety

Following an Occupational Health and Safety Management System audit completed in March 2022, MFCP successfully retained ISO 45001 Accreditation. The audit outlined scope for improvement in terms of asset management and specifically the development of a system to enable the migration from hardcopy record keeping to a softcopy format. This process commenced in 2022 and will form the basis of our work programme for 2023.



Monaghan Fire Crew receiving new RAMfit equipment August 2022



New Ford Ranger crew-cab 4x4's April 2022

Fire Safety - Fire Prevention

Our Fire Prevention Section reviewed and processed all valid fire safety certificate applications received and provided advice on achieving compliance with Part B of the Building Regulations (Fire Safety). Fire safety inspections were carried out on a range of building types including licensed premises, residential care homes, preschools, flats, petrol stations and community buildings. The conversion of various building types to multi-occupancy residential buildings increased significantly in 2022 due primarily to the need to house people fleeing war in Ukraine.

Fire Safety Week focused on fire safety in the home and particularly encouraging all homes to have smoke alarms and ensuring they are tested weekly. Several intensive fire safety campaigns were held during the year, targeting elderly and vulnerable people, along with seasonal campaigns at Easter, Halloween, Christmas and Fire Safety Week. Campaigns involved the issuance of smoke alarms, while local and social media formed the focus of a very successful campaign during this time of Covid-19.

A total of 241 Fire Safety & Building Control inspections were conducted in 2022, and 141 planning referral reports completed. All notified licensing referrals for pubs, clubs, dances etc were assessed by a fire officer and recommendations issued to the Courts Service. Performance Inspections resumed however they were restricted in 2022, desktop studies were carried out for 30 pubs/clubs around the county to check on fire safety management and ensure public safety.



Winning Fire Safety Week poster 2022 by 4th Class pupil from Doohamlet NS

Community Fire Safety

A range of fire safety initiatives were delivered focusing on both schools and community groups. Smoke detectors were distributed as part of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and the key messages of Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and Fire Safety Week were promoted via local and social media platforms. The Primary Schools Programme was again delivered by a pre-recorded video, and we continued with a Fire Safety Poster competition for primary schools. Fire safety awareness information was issued to the Traveller Community.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Sean Conlon & CE Patricia Monahan launching 2022 Fire Safety Week

Emergency Management

Severe Weather

The Severe Weather Assessment Team monitored a number of potential severe weather events during the year with regular briefings from Met Eireann, most notably Storm Dudley, Eunice and Franklin during mid-February, resulting in significant rainfall and high winds.

Major Emergency Management

The Cross-Border Emergency Management Group (CBEMG) launched, in March 2022, a multi-agency protocol for cross border notification to ensure procedures are in place to enable an effective response from agencies on both side of the border. A table-top exercise held in Enniskillen tested the protocol's activation, notification and communication process to ensure all relevant partners are familiar with the protocol.

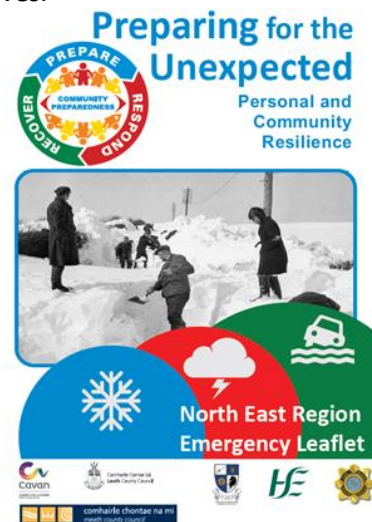
Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection developed, in conjunction with the North-East Regional Emergency Planning Group, a Community Resilience Leaflet which was published in Oct 2022. The Leaflet was distributed via all three Principal Response Agencies and captures the key features of the National 'Be Winter Ready' campaign to raise awareness about the challenges facing the vulnerable members of our community.

MEM Exercise: MFCP completed a Regional MEM exercise in November 2022 to test our response capabilities, the objectives included:

- The testing of procedures to provide an effective interagency response.
- The evaluation of communication and media processes between PRA's and other organisations at a major incident.
- Exercising interoperability of all organisations involved.

The aim of the Multi-Agency Major Emergency Management Tabletop Exercise was to validate plans, systems, procedures, and training, and to identify practical measures to enhance the capability of all stakeholders. This successful exercise involved all relevant agencies

(including cross border) working collaboratively to achieve the determined objectives.



Resilience Leaflet published Nov 2022

Building Control

Monaghan Building Control Authority received a total of 210 valid Commencement Notices in 2022, a decrease of 29% from 2021, reflecting the impact of higher construction cost and inflation. An inspection rate of 42% of new builds was achieved this year. In addition, there were 69 applications for Fire Safety Certificates and 47 Disability Access Certificate applications under Building Control legislation. In 2022 all Building Control Regulation applications were completed via the Building Control Management System (BCMS). This process has significantly reduced the paper element involved in each application and a process has now commenced to digitise all existing legacy hardcopy applications.



Building Control inspections of Peace Campus and HSE Blackwater House facility in Monaghan June 2022

Monaghan Fire & Building Control also returned to holding an Autumn workshop for local construction practitioners/agents, with over 30 attending. The topics covered included:

- National Building Control Office & Market Surveillance Office Overview
- Passive Fire Safety & Systems
- BCAR Inspection findings

The level of one-off houses 'opting out' of statutory certification has continued to remain relatively high. In opting out of the requirements for statutory certification the homeowner is making the decision to refrain from having their dwelling included on the Certificate of Compliance on Completion register.

Retention and Recruitment

The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) undertook to review the delivery and sustainability of the local authority 'Retained' Fire Services, with particular emphasis on the recruitment and retention of staff. This resulted in a report titled "Retained Fire Services in Ireland - A Review of Recruitment and Retention and the Future Sustainability of Service Delivery" published in Dec 2022.



Fire-fighters with family at the Long Service awards Nov 2022

It is recognised that significant challenges face the fire service to both retain existing fire-fighters and to recruit new members. In essence the challenge involves balancing the organisational requirement and ability to respond, with the requirement to improve working arrangements for individual retained firefighters. The implementation of the

recommendations of this review will progress in 2023.

In 2022 MFCP had 4 fire-fighters resign, the overarching reason for the resignations was due to the lack of flexibility and continuous availability commitment required.

Long Service: Fire-fighters from Castleblayney, Ballybay and Carrickmacross in 2022 were awarded their long Service medals (30 & 20yrs) from the National Director for Fire & Emergency Management for the period 2019-2020, and were:

30-Year Award:

Charles Callen F/F Castleblayney

20-year Award:

Niall Quinn: SO Ballybay

Enda McMahon: Retired DM Ballybay

Gareth Marron: SSO Carrickmacross

Colm McManus: SSO Castleblayney

Fintan Smyth: F/F Castleblayney

Gerry Ward: F/F Castleblayney

Capital Investment

There was again significant capital investment in MFCP during the year with the delivery of 2 No. 4x4 crew-cab vehicles, and the award of a new fire appliance for Carrickmacross Fire Service.

The replacement of new appliance bay doors was completed in Carrickmacross Fire Station and a similar door replacement process to commence in Clones Fire Station in early 2023.

Approval was also secured to seek tenders for the construction of a New Fire Station in Ballybay.



New Electric Bike for Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection (August 2022)

Monaghan Civil Defence

Civil Defence activities in 2022 focused on our local community, and particularly the accommodation and support for those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. Tasks, undertaken by Civil Defence volunteers, included:

- Rest Centre: Providing accommodation welfare facilities for 40 people.
- Transportation duties: Including the transfer of persons from accommodation centres to other locations.
- Medical cover at outdoor events & Irish Blood Transfusion Service.
- Helping vulnerable persons within communities by delivering food and medication and collecting their post during spate conditions.
- Delivery of essential Training & Maintenance



Civil Defence Volunteers contribution celebrated by local Ukrainian community Oct 2022

Monaghan Civil Defence HQ accommodated 40 persons during the initial stage of the war in Ukraine. During this period all primary agencies utilised Civil Defence HQ to ensure the safety and protection of all refugees. The commitment of Monaghan Civil Defence Volunteers was acknowledged by the local Ukrainian community in Oct 2022 at a celebratory event held in Teach na Daoine, Monaghan.

The Civil Defence HQ building continued, in 2022, to provide a hub for local community support deployment and to assist Principal Response Agencies during severe weather events, pandemics and other emergency response requirements.



Civil Defence Volunteers maintaining medical support at Carrickmacross Festival June 2022

Training

Monaghan Civil Defence is a volunteer-based organisation where members support the primary emergency services and the local community. Monaghan Civil Defence currently has 55 volunteers. Volunteers are multi-skilled, and the main programmes of activities undertaken are:

- Casualty First Aid
- Search & Rescue (Boating)
- Water & Flooding incidents
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Welfare and Communications
- Radiation Monitoring & Radio Communications



Civil Defence Vol's assisting NUI Galway with lake core sampling: May 2022

Courses were provided for volunteers throughout the year at Regional, local level and at Civil Defence Branch Headquarters in Roscrea and Phoenix Training Centre, Phoenix Park, Dublin.



Civil Defence Volunteers assisting 'Meals on Meals' during Storm Eunice & Franklin

Civil Defence Community Response

Civil Defence Volunteers continue to be actively supporting our community with attendance at various events and undertaking duties such as transportation, First Aid, etc. The Civil Defence Auxiliary Fire Service was reformed in 2022 to support the Fire Service during spate conditions. Civil Defence also continue to support and assist An Garda Síochána in missing person's searches, to augment search operations. Civil Defence volunteers have completed Sonar Scanning and Search and Rescue training.



Civil Defence Volunteers during Swift Water Rescue Training Sept 2022

Membership

Monaghan Civil Defence held a successful recruitment campaign in 2022.

The benefits of being a volunteer with Civil Defence include:

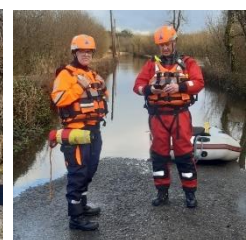
- High standard of training
- Personal development and teamwork
- Learning new skills such as Technical Rescue, Boat Training, Emergency First Responder
- Giving back to your community
- Getting involved in local and national events



Civil Defence Volunteers at the St Patrick's Day Parade in Monaghan 2022

Communication

Communication mast installed to provide analogue radio support, funded by the Dept of Defence.



Civil Defence Volunteers assisting Gardai with missing person search

Fleet Procurement

Monaghan Civil Defence secured funding and received delivery of a mini-bus, support vehicle and Whaly boat in 2022.

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)



Monaghan LCDC plays a co-ordinating role at county level helping to ensure that there is a

coherent approach to local and community development in the county managing various programmes including SICAP, LEADER, PEACE, Community Enhancement Programme and Healthy Ireland Fund.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

In 2022 the LCDC commenced work on preparing a new six year Local Economic and Community Plan for the years 2023-2027. The new plan will build on the lessons learned from the previous LECP cycle, as well as reflecting the current needs of the county.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP provides social inclusion support to disadvantaged individuals and groups throughout the county. The 2022 budget for the delivery of the SICAP Programme in Monaghan was €683,136. An additional budget of €53,080 was provided to support the Ukraine refugees who arrived in county Monaghan.

MONAGHAN LEADER Programme 2014-2020



Monaghan LEADER aims to develop sustainable rural communities throughout the county, by promoting social inclusion, economic development and stimulating Enterprise, Tourism, and Community Services.

Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) and is the decision maker in respect of project applications. The LAG met 8 times in 2022 and approved 16 projects recommended by the IEC members, with a total value of €695,873.13.

2022 was the last year of the current LEADER programme. In total €6,872,946.94 of grants were administered to 132 projects.

In 2022, the European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI) budget allocated to the County of €517,685.25 was also administered benefitting a further 8 projects.

DRCD Rural Funding Schemes

A total of €3,118,077 was allocated to Monaghan County Council in 2022 by the Department of Rural & Community Development.

CLÁR

CLÁR is a targeted investment programme that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of de-population.

The 2022 programme was delivered through two separate Measures as follows:

Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities (€660K allocation funding 15 projects).

Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport (€66K allocation funded a wheelchair accessible vehicle).

CLÁR Projects completed in 2022



Newbliss Childcare Outdoor Sensory Area



Newbliss Childcare Outdoor Sensory Area



Clones Town FC Car park facilities

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The 2022 scheme emphasised the opportunities for recreational amenities located near rivers, lakes and beaches to support recreational infrastructure that provides an inclusive approach for communities to deliver outlets that support a diverse range of users, including people with disabilities and older adults.

€1,029,961 was allocated under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2022 for 10 projects.

ORIS Projects completed in 2022



Emyvale Eco trail



Rossmore Cycle Trail



Rossmore Cycle Trail

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2022 focus was to support small to medium capital projects which enhance the environment and support active and vibrant town or village centres through facilitating remote working, upgrading shopfronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks.

€1,361,395 was allocated to Monaghan County Council under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for 8 projects.

Building Acquisition Measure (BAM)

- Purchase of St. Louis Building - €280,000

Marketing Measure

- Marketing campaign promoting Monaghan as an ideal location for remote working - €50,000
-

Main Scheme

- Ballinode Community Projects - €500,000
- Upgrade of Corrybrennan Play Park - €194,570
- Smithboro - Walking Track - €142,545

Project Development Measure

- Gallows Hill Project Development - €44,280
- Newbliss - €50,000

Town & Village Streetscape Enhancement Measure

- Clones Town - €100,000

Town & Village Projects completed in 2022



Monaghan Ulster Canal



Dog Park & Biodiversity Area, Carrickmacross

Peace IV

The Peace IV local action plan covered 3 themes, Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations, and was developed and delivered by Monaghan LCDC Peace IV Partnership Board.

During 2022 the Peace IV local action plan concluded activity in County Monaghan with the completion of a new *Multi Use Games Area at Mullaghmat*:



To complete the closure of the programme, and to celebrate the success of the activities delivered through the programme, a booklet was produced of case studies and photos from all project activity Monaghan LCDC Peace IV Closing Booklet.

PEACEPLUS

Preparations are being made for the commencement of the new PEACEPLUS programme which is due to be launched by SEUPB in 2023.

The new PEACEPLUS programme will run until 2027. A new PEACEPLUS partnership board has been formed. The new board is made up of County Councillors, state agency representatives and social partners.

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme

The Monaghan Age Friendly Programme continued to work towards creating the kinds of communities in which older people in the county live autonomous, independent and valued lives.

Monaghan County Council continued to facilitate meetings of our Older People's Councils and Age Friendly Alliances in 2022. Seamus McDermott was officially confirmed as the Age Friendly Ambassador for Monaghan at the Launch of the Croke Park Age Friendly Stadium in May.



Age Friendly Ambassador launch: Cathaoirleach Cllr. Aidan Campbell, Seamus McDermott & Catherine McGuigan

Community Awards Nights

A series of Community Awards Nights were held in November. The awards nights recognised the hugely important work which our community groups carry out annually.

Visit of Ambassador of India to Ireland

The Ambassador of India to Ireland Akhilesh Mishra and his wife Reeti paid a visit to Monaghan in November. They were welcomed by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Séan Conlon during his visit to St. Macartan's College and later to St. Louis Secondary School.



The Ambassador and his wife were warmly greeted by the staff and students at both schools, as well as by members of the Indian community in Monaghan.

They also met with the Deputy Chief Executive of the Council Patricia Monahan and Cathaoirleach Cllr. Séan Conlon in the County Offices, The Glen.

Africa Day 2022

Africa Day, designated by the African Union as an annual celebration of the continent's unity, falls on 25th May each year. Africa Day 2022 celebrations in Monaghan took place in Teach na Daoine FRC and attracted a very large attendance. The event celebrated the many positive connections between Ireland and the many diverse cultures across the continent of Africa.



Africa Day 2022 celebrations - Teach na Daoine FRC

Volunteers Acknowledgement Event

An evening which recognised and celebrated the efforts of local volunteers in Monaghan during Covid 19 took place in May in the Four Seasons Hotel. The event was organised by Monaghan County Council and was held in partnership with the Monaghan Volunteer Centre.



The event was well attended by volunteers and representatives of the groups involved in the Community Response Forum. Minister Humphreys presented commemorative badges and letters of appreciation on behalf of the Taoiseach Micheál Martin.

Monaghan Social Inclusion Week 2022

Monaghan Social Inclusion Week took place from the 14th to 20th November and the theme for 2022 was "Tolerance". The aim of the initiative was to highlight the positive work which is being carried out in the county which seeks to reduce social exclusion and poverty.

Yellow Flag Programme

Yellow Flag is a programme that supports primary and secondary schools to become more inclusive of all cultures and ethnicities, celebrates diversity and challenges racism and discrimination.



Launch of the Yellow Flag Programme at Inver College (Carrickmacross) - November.

Community Activities Fund

Funding of €265,142 was awarded by the DRCD in 2022.

102 projects received funding towards running and operating costs, as well as maintenance and improvement costs. The fund was administered by Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Community Plans

Community Plans help communities target funding in a coordinated way allowing them to avail of Clár and T&V funding etc.

During 2022, plans were launched by Minister Humphreys for Newbliss/ Killeevan and Ballinode.

Their Community Plan helped Ballinode to successfully attract €500,000 in T&V funding towards the construction of a new community centre.



Launch of Ballinode Community Plan



Launch of Newbliss Killeevan Community Plan

Monaghan Community Alerts

There were 5,000 subscribers to Monaghan Community Alerts during 2022. The service has been redesigned to bring it into the Council's 'Monaghan Alerts' service, amalgamating the two messaging services and creating a one-stop shop for public messages in Co. Monaghan.

Play & Recreation

The Council was awarded funding from the Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth to run activities to mark National Play Day in July. The funding was used to run play events in Monaghan town, in Barry McGuigan Park in Clones, in St Patrick's Accommodation Centre in Monaghan and at CTEK in Carrickmacross.



Gotcha!

Funding of €16,541 was also secured to improve the playground at O'Neill Park, Clones.



O'Neill Park Playground, Clones

Pride of Place

The All-Ireland IPB Pride of Place competition took place in September, with results announced in January 2023. Congratulations to Knockatallon who won the title in the 300-1000 population category.



Council and Knockatallon reps at IPB Pride of Place awards

Joint Policing Committee Initiatives

The Council continues to support the countywide Don't Pour Your Dreams Away anti-drinking campaign, which is targeted at Junior Cert result recipients.



Largs College students with JPC

During 2022, students from Largs College visited the JPC to request that it continue the work started in Largs around anti-racism. The JPC agreed and made an application for funding to the Dept of Justice to secure resources to roll out Largs College's award winning anti-racism campaign on a countywide basis. €57,000 has been secured to assist the students to develop their project. Funding was also secured to run a women's safety conference in partnership with Monaghan PPN.

Tidy Towns

Co. Monaghan entrants continued to show well in the National Tidy Towns competition, with all groups improving their marks on 2021. The Community Department provides support to Tidy Towns groups through the organisation of network events and activities.

Glaslough was selected to represent Ireland in the international 'Communities in Bloom' competition 2022. The judges visited over a two-day period in July and were met by Council staff and MD elected members. Participating towns are awarded a rating of up to five blooms. The awards were announced in Vancouver in October. Glaslough received five blooms.



Communities in Bloom Awards, Vancouver

Healthy Monaghan

Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund came to a close in 2022.

Work commenced on planning for Round 4 of Healthy Ireland Funding with consultations and research to inform a new Healthy Monaghan Fund Strategy 2023-2025 commencing in October 2022.

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg 2022

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg, with support from Monaghan County Council, is the main link through which the local authority engages with young people across the county. In 2022, the Steering Committee worked on the topic of The Environment and aimed to spread awareness to all young people living in the County and to change things for the better.



Monaghan Public Participation Network

Monaghan Public Participation Network, with support from Monaghan County Council, is the main link through which the local authority connects with the Community, Social Inclusion and Environment Sectors across the county. Over 600 groups were registered with the PPN by the end of 2022.

54 community representatives represented the PPN across 16 various decision-making committees, putting the community firmly at the heart of local decision making. Thirteen new PPN representatives were elected in 2022.

The PPN delivered training programmes; and public consultations throughout the year with the secretariat meeting on six occasions.



PPN Plenary Meeting in November 2022



The Monaghan Women's Assembly

In November 2022, MWA organised its first Plenary meeting, which was a fantastic networking and information sharing opportunity for all the women of County Monaghan.

The MWA successfully accessed funding from DHLG for three projects that will take place in 2023/2024, and they are also working in conjunction with the Western Midlands Northern Regional Caucus (WoMeN's Regional Caucus) to deliver three more projects which will help them in their role as public representatives.



MWA first plenary meeting, Nov 2022

Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

After two years of huge limitations faced by the impact of Covid-19, MSP was delighted to be able to return to regular activities in 2022. MSP delivered over 100 programmes and initiatives to keep our communities active during 2022.

Community-based Programmes:

- MSP relaunched the 0-3k Walk to Jog programme in February 2022.
- In Spring & Autumn, MSP returned to facilitating numerous Active Adults (50+) activities in various locations across the county.
- In Summer 2022, MSP facilitated several outdoor community-based activity programmes. These activities included Open Water Swimming, Outdoor Yoga, Outdoor Bootcamp, *Get into Golf* and *Women on Wheels* among others.
- MSP also organised *Learn to Cycle* programmes for children to teach them the basic skills of cycling.

Steps Challenge

Members of staff and elected members were invited to register for a 6-week challenge to increase their step count each day and were issued with a step counter to record their progress.

Go All Out – Inclusive Outdoors Week

This year marked the first ever *Go All Out Inclusive Outdoors Week*. The initiative was developed by CARA (Sports Inclusion Ireland) and the purpose was to increase the capacity of sports organisations and groups offering activities to people of all ages with disabilities and giving them added opportunities to increase their physical activity levels.

HER Outdoors Week 2022

'*HER Outdoors*' Week took place in August 2022 and it aims to encourage more females to get out and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors. MSP facilitated several events across the county, working with several organisations and NGB's.



'HER Outdoors' Week – August 2022

Supporting National Events/ Initiatives

Monaghan Sports Partnership supported numerous events and initiatives across 2022, including Women In Sport Week, National Bike Week, Social Inclusion Week.

Children & Young People

MSP provided several new initiatives for primary school aged children. Some initiatives included: the Marathon kids programme, Skipping workshops, Orienteering event day, Volleyball and Little Athletics 4-week programme

Playground upgrades were completed in 7 primary schools across the county with more schools planned for 2023.

MSP also provided Cycle Right training in 4 DEIS primary schools in 2022 and facilitated a weeklong Learn to Cycle programme for children in St. Patrick's Accommodation Centre in Monaghan.



Marathon Kids Programme

Inclusive Sport & Physical Activities

As part of MSP's continued work with the adult disability day services, the following programmes were delivered in 2022:

- 2 six-week Soccer Skills programmes

- Activator Poles programme in 3 separate day services
- Day Services six-week Scorebowls league
- Inclusive *Games for Life* programme attended regularly by service users from 6 separate day services.
- MSP also sourced and provided 5 disability day services with tricycles

MSP worked with several external partners in 2022 to provide opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity. Programmes facilitated in 2022 included:

- 2-day *Football for All* Camp in conjunction with the FAI and Cavan Sports Partnership
- *Football for All* programme delivered in 5 primary schools
- Inclusive Cycling delivered in 4 primary schools across the county
- Community-based Inclusive Cycling programmes delivered in Carrickmacross, Clones and Monaghan towns
- 2-day Inclusive Multi-Sport camp delivered at The Peace Link, Clones

MSP, in partnership with the HSE Mental Health Occupational Therapy (OT) Team delivered a 12-week Woodlands for Health programme in early 2022. MSP again linked in with the HSE Mental Health OT Team to deliver a *Games for Life* programme in late 2022.

Education & Training

The following training and education courses for 2022 were delivered online:

- Safeguarding in Sport
- Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport
- Sports Leadership Level 1 Training Course

2022 Sports Club Grants Funding Programme

MSP administered almost €40,000 in funding support to sports clubs under 3 strands:

- Strand 1: Participation & Non-Capital Equipment
- €27,741.03 (allocated to 29 Clubs)
- Strand 2: Volunteer Education & Training

- €6579.29 (allocated to 10 Clubs)
- Strand 3: Return to Sport/ Covid-19 Restart
€5663.81 (allocated to 8 Clubs)

Kilmore & Drumsnatt Sports Activity Hub

2022 saw the introduction of the Kilmore & Drumsnatt Sports Activity Hub funded through the 2021 Dormant Accounts fund delivering a huge number of activity programmes. In total over 800 participants engaged in hub activities in 2022.



Kilmore & Drumsnatt Sports Activity Hub

Offer a Home – Ukrainian Refugees

National and local government collaborated in a call for offers of unoccupied houses, apartments, and holiday homes for use by those fleeing war in Ukraine. Monaghan County Council has assigned staff to work on this project and a number of families from Ukraine have been placed into pledged accommodation.

A Ukrainian Community Response Forum was established by the Community Department. The forum ensures that a co-ordinated approach is adopted to providing supports to those who have recently moved into the county.

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Roads Programme 2022

In 2022, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertook a substantial programme of road infrastructural development. The Municipal District carried out drainage, bitmac overlay and surface dressing works on five local roads and three regional roads in the district to the value of €2.7 million under the restoration improvement grants scheme. There were a further 30km of roads surface dressed throughout the Municipal District. The Municipal District also undertook extensive general repairs/maintenance to the road network in the district such as gully repairs/cleaning, road patching, hedge cutting, sweeping and scavenging.

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

Low cost safety improvement projects were completed in 2022 at Cladown/Clonvilla on the R183 and also on the R188/L6320 junction at Carsan/Dartrey.



R183 Low Cost Safety Improvement Works before



R183 Low Cost Safety Improvement Works after

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Projects Clones

Ballybay-Clones Municipal District previously prepared substantial applications for the towns of Clones and Ballybay and were successful in obtaining funding for both towns.

The Clones Town project includes projects entitled Fermanagh Street Business Hub, Heritage project and St. Tiarnach's Plaza.

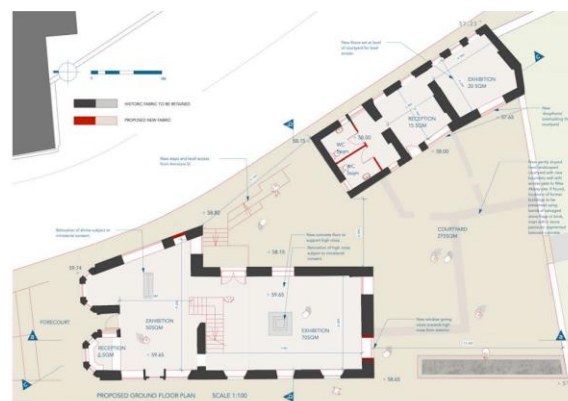
Together with match funding, there is funding of €0.5M to develop these projects to a construction ready stage. This funding includes for feasibility studies, property purchases, design process and the planning stage.

Consultants have been appointed for all 3 projects and substantial progress in advancing these projects was made in 2022.



St Tiarnach's Plaza

Ground Investigation is completed at St Tiarnach's Plaza. This has allowed for the completion of the detailed design stage. Required lands have also been secured.



Clones Heritage Project

Lowry Construction has completed works to the former Lennard Arms. These works consisted of stripping out the building and asbestos removal.

The Municipal District office submitted an application for funding under Category 1 of the Rural Regeneration Development fund for the next phase of works for the development of a visitor centre/museum – the Clones Monastic Centre.

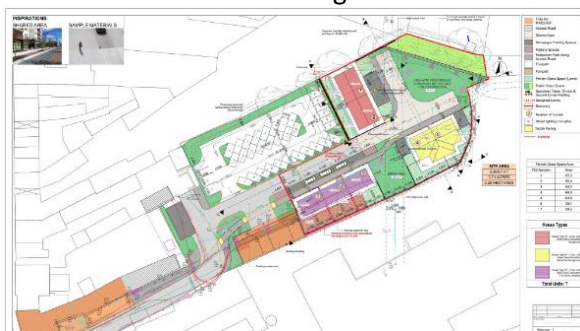


Fermanagh St Business Hub

Detailed design stage for both the Heritage and Fermanagh Street Business Hub projects has been completed. Part 8 Planning has been secured and the Municipal District has completed required land acquisitions/purchases.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Project Ballybay

After a series of meetings with housing and planning section of Monaghan County Council a Master Plan was developed for Ballybay courtyard site. It includes 36 car parking spaces and 7 residential units. Works have been completed on the car park and the 7 residential housing development is currently at construction stage, with an anticipated completion in Q2 2023. The completed development will increase off street parking in Ballybay Town along with an increase in the number of Social Housing available.



Ballybay courtyard site design



Ballybay courtyard carpark

Greenway Smithborough to Clones

Ballybay Clones Municipal District were successful in securing funding through the Carbon Tax Fund 2020 for €100,000 to further develop the proposals for the provision of a Greenway from Smithborough to Clones building on the feasibility study that was completed in mid-2019.

Clandillon Civil Consulting were appointed allowing for the completion of environmental studies, and route selection options. Extensive public consultations were undertaken prior to preferred route selection.

The consultant's work is substantially completed. Following an additional procurement process, the Council has now appointed McAdam consulting Engineers to advance the project to the next phase, i.e. preliminary and detailed design and securing all necessary statutory approvals. This work is currently ongoing and is scheduled for completion in Q2 2023. Further funding has been received in 2023 to advance further phases of the project.



Greenway public consultation

Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway

The Ballybay – Clones Municipal District, and Carrickmacross – Castleblayney Municipal District previously agreed jointly to fund a consultant to

carry out a feasibility study and constraints report for a proposed greenway along the line of the old railway between Ballybay and Castleblayney, connecting Doohamlet. Funding has been secured under the Departments Outdoor recreation infrastructure programme to advance the project to the route selection and environmental assessment stages. The procurement process for these stages is currently ongoing.



Drumfaltra Culvert Replacement

In 2021 the Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones received funding from OPW, and additional funding from the Department of Transport Climate Adaption and Resilience Fund to replace a defective culvert at Drumfaltra Ballybay to alleviate flooding of the road and properties. A Section 50 application to the EPA was successful, the works were completed in Q2 2022.



Drumfaltra

Ballybay Outdoor Recreation schemes

The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District received further funding for projects under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme in 2022 to the value of approximately €200,000. These projects were aimed at improving recreational facilities at

a number of different sites in the area. The works involve the upgrade works to the Ballybay Town Park which resulted in a safer access route to the park from the Castleblayney Road entrance, additional fencing requirements and a new beach area for Community Events to take place. There were also allocations to upgrade the Boat House to provide a storage facility for boating equipment and improve parking facilities at the Killyvaghan Lake for anglers to park in a safer manner.

Town and Village Renewal Projects

The Municipal District obtained funding under the Town and Village Renewal programme and TII to underground the overhead electrical cables at Cara Street in Clones. This project includes for the removal of cables in the vicinity of the Round Tower and the installation of new public lighting columns to the street. As part of this project, the Municipal District appointed DBFL consulting Engineers to undertake a comprehensive review of traffic movements and flows within the town. This report is currently at draft stage. Under this project 6 additional parking spaces have been provided in Fermanagh Street. These works will be completed in Q1 2023.



Cara Street Town & Village Programme

The Municipal District has obtained funding under the Town and Village Renewal programme to deliver a Streetscape enhancement project for Fermanagh Street, Clones. This project consists of providing assistance for property owners to improve the facades of their buildings. It is also proposed to provide a micro park and mural to the

Fermanagh Street carpark entrance. Following a procurement process Craftstudio Architects have been appointed to provide the required technical expertise. This project is due for completion in Q3 2023.

The Municipal District has obtained funding under the Town and Village Renewal programme to develop Village plans for Rockcorry and Drum villages. Following a procurement process, the Municipal District has appointed Sheridan Woods Architects to deliver this project. Extensive public consultation and engagement is planned. This project is due for completion in Q2 2023.

Active Travel Proposals

With funding secured both through Clár and Active Travel, traffic calming measures were put in place in Corcaghan. It included the provision of a footpath from the school to the church and flashing beacons to warn motorists of the school. To the north and south of the village the works included driver feedback signs to warn of the speed limit. A colored road surface highlights the entrance to the village and traffic islands have been placed along the road edge to slow down traffic.



Corcaghan Traffic Calming

There is a wide range of Active Travel Projects being carried out in County Monaghan. The Ballybay-Clones Municipal District is currently managing 6 projects in Clones, Ballybay, Lough Egish and Corcaghan.

The Lough Egish Junction Realignment Scheme is currently under review for approval by the NTA and has an approximate cost estimate of €1.2million. This project will not only enhance the safety at the Lough Egish Junction but improve the pedestrian facilities throughout the village.

The R162 Active Travel Project at Monaghan Road and Old Keady Road Junction, Ballybay, is currently nearing completion. The value of this project is approximately €500,000. These works involve the installation of new public lighting scheme, realignment of the existing junction and the installation of a new footpath to connect the Cuan Mhuire Facility to Ballybay Town Centre.

Tidy Towns in the Municipal District

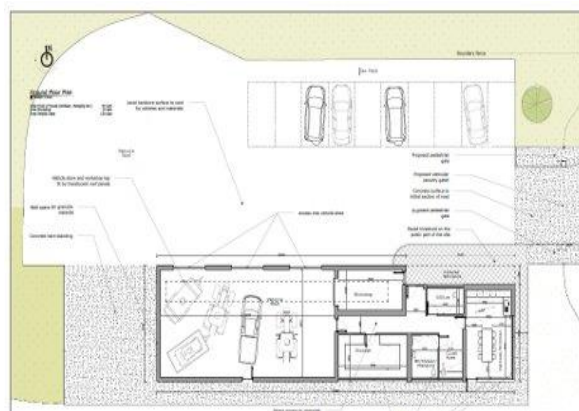
The Municipal District support our tidy towns & community groups with their Annual Spring Clean, providing litter pickers and bags. The outdoor staff co-ordinate collection of waste.



Clones Tidy Towns

Tehill MCC Outdoor Depot Clones

Preliminary design has been completed for the proposed new Municipal District Depot in Clones. This is a bespoke facility that will serve the needs of the outdoor staff. The project is funded by the Council's own resources. Part 8 planning permission was granted in Q1 2023. The project is now proceeding to detailed design stage.





Tehill depot design

O'Neill Park & Corrybrennan Park Playground

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones secured further funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to repair and upgrade the existing playground facilities at O'Neill Park Clones. This project complements the works already completed in 2021 and consists of the refurbishment of the existing play equipment and the replacement of wet pour surfacing. The estimated cost of the works was €45,000. Works were completed in Q3 2022.



O'Neill Park Playground

Funding in the amount of €220,000 was secured to design and install a new play area for children within the locality of Corrybrennan & Culbrennan. A playground design workshop, held in February 2023, with works due to commence in September 2023.



Playground Design Workshop

Ballybay Clones Municipal District AGM

The Elected Members held their AGM in June 2022. Cllr Hugh McElvaney was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Sean Gilliland Leas-Cathaoirleach. The members and the executive paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and congratulated Cllr Hugh McElvaney and Cllr Sean Gilliland on their elections.



Elected Members & Staff of Ballybay/Clones MD

Community Actions

The Municipal District provides funding to and works closely with the community & local groups to identify potential investment and improve service delivery.

Phase 2 of the Ulster Canal Restoration was officially initiated with a contract signing in Clones. The contract was signed by Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland, John McDonagh and Managing Director of Jons Civil Engineering Company Ltd, John Pentony, in the presence of Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD and Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD. The project will involve the development of a new marina, two new access bridges, repairs to an existing masonry arch bridge, and a sustainable water supply. It will also include approximately 1km of restored canal and towpath, with a looped walk and an amenity area on the route of the 180-year-old Ulster Canal in Clones. The amenity area will include car parking, bus / trailer spaces, a service block and picnic area and will be connected to the town and the existing playground. This phase of the project is expected to be completed in 2023.



Signing of Clones Marina Construction Contract

The Washington and Lee choir, from Lexington Virginia performed in the Sacred Heart Church Clones on April 20th, the event was hosted by The Canal Stores Clones with financial assistance from the Municipal District. The choir have a connection to Clones through former choir member, Luke Quigley son of Clones natives Caroline (Hanberry) & Bosco Quigley.



Washington and Lee choir

The Municipal District was delighted to be in a position to take part in the various lighting up of public building events throughout the year. These events were to raise awareness and highlight some very important issues that affect many throughout our communities.

The Municipal District demonstrated Support and solidarity for Co Monaghan's LGBTQ+ community with the raising of the Pride flag at the Ballybay Clones Municipal District Offices for Pride month.

The Municipal District continues to support social inclusion in all aspects of its work.



Municipal District office



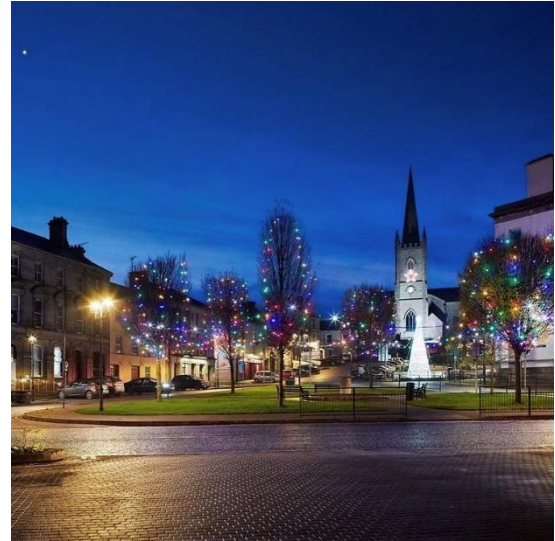
Raising of the Pride Flag

Through our work with the Health & Safety Unit and Cootehill Community Group the Municipal District were able to install a defibrillator in Dartrey Forest Park which is a lifesaving piece of equipment and is monitored by CCTV.



Dartrey Forest Park Defibrillator

The Municipal District were delighted to provide assistance to the Chambers of Commerce in Clones and Ballybay to facilitate the annual St Patricks Day parades and the provision of festive lighting for the towns over the Christmas period.



Clones Town



Ballybay Town

The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney

Road Infrastructure

In 2022, the Municipal District (MD) managed an investment of €4.68million in the Regional and Local Road network. Some 16km of the non-national road network was strengthened under the Restoration Improvement Programme and a further 24km was resealed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme. The MD also oversaw improvement works to 2 No. Local roads under the Community Involvement Scheme, whilst the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works Programme 2022 provided for a mixture of design and construction works across 4 No. schemes.

Funding received under the Lower Cost Safety Scheme enabled the implementation of safety improvement measures at 5 No. locations within the District, and monies secured under the Former National Road Rehabilitation Grant provided for 850m of resurfacing and drainage works on the LP4922, Ardee Road, Carrickmacross.

Active Travel

The MD continued to work closely with the Active Travel Unit throughout 2022. There are currently 7 No. projects on going in the District, with a combined value of circa €500,000.

Regenerating our Town and Village Centres

The MD remained actively involved in facilities investment throughout 2022. In Castleblayney Town, the construction of “The Ridge” Enterprise Hub continued apace, with works due to be completed by the end of Q1 2023. A joint initiative with Castleblayney Community Enterprise and Enterprising Monaghan, the 1,350 sqm facility will provide a 28-unit business hub.



"The Ridge" Enterprise Hub, McGrath Road, Castleblayney

In Carrickmacross, a contractor has been appointed for the Design and Build of the C:TEK II Co-working Enterprise Hub. At a total estimated cost of €3.8 million, the project shall realise the delivery of a new 1,450sqm Co-Working Enterprise Hub. The Hub will provide workspace for business start-ups, re-locating enterprises and co-workers seeking to locate in Carrickmacross Town. The development will support talent retention within the South Monaghan area, provide a regional base for former commuters, and attract new start-ups

from within the community and Northern Ireland. It is envisaged that site works shall commence in early Q2 2023.



C:TEK II Co-working Enterprise Hub, Carrickmacross

Investing in Public Spaces

Inniskeen Village Public Realm Spatial Plan:

Following extensive consultation with community partners and the wider public, the MD, in conjunction with The Paul Hogarth Company, developed a Public Realm Spatial Plan for the village of Inniskeen. The Plan provides a framework of coherent measures to re-establish the village as a place for people, through the enhancement of key urban spaces, rationalising access and car parking challenges, and the development of pedestrian and cyclist linkages within the village. The Plan has provided the platform to secure funding of €250,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for public realm, heritage and amenity enhancements to the Village Heart and St. Mary's Space areas of Inniskeen Village. It is intended to commence construction in Q2 2023.



Inniskeen Public Realm Spatial Plan

In late 2022, the MD was successful in the receipt of funding for the development of a greenspace masterplan for the Gallows hill area in Carrickmacross Town. It is intended that the Plan

shall provide a framework of measures to deliver a new, usable, high quality and accessible public green space and amenity area to the northern end of town. The Plan is scheduled for completion in early Q2 2024.

Tourism Initiatives & Outdoor Recreational Amenities

The MD continues to work collaboratively with the Tourism Officer to deliver tourism initiatives within the District. In 2022, the Team commenced the phased redevelopment of The Monaghan Way walking trail from Castleblayney to Inniskeen. It is anticipated that the overall upgrade works shall be complete by the end of May 2023.

In Castleblayney, Monaghan County Council is seeking to develop Lough Muckno and the Hope Castle demesne as a significant regional attraction. In October 2022, the Council initiated a feasibility study to help shape proposals for the site.

Elsewhere, funding received under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), enabled the completion of the following projects in 2022:

- The installation of a "Poetry Jukebox" and amenity seating at the river front in Inniskeen Village
- The provision of a Public Information digital notice board, walking trail maps and public seating in Castleblayney
- The development of a Dog walking park at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross
- Phase 1 Biodiversity and Pollinator measures at Tullynaskeagh East & Gallows' Hill
- The completion of the Lough na Glack/Ardee Road/Town Centre walking loop in Carrickmacross Town
- The development of Onomy Walk and Exercise Trail - 720m long nature-based walking trail, interspersed with items of recreational exercise equipment.
- The construction of an Outdoor Education Space at the Point, Black Island
- The enhancement of 5 No. walking routes in Carrickmacross Town and environs



Dog Walking Park @ Drummond Otra



Tullynaskeagh Linear Park



Outdoor Education Space, The Point, Black Island

The MD also secured funding under the ORIS 2022 to realise the continued development of outdoor recreational facilities during the period 2023-2024. Schemes include:

- The maintenance and upgrade of existing fishing pegs/stands along developed angling stretches at Lough Muckno including, localised vegetation clearance and pathway repairs to enhance accessibility.
- The development and upgrade of existing angling facilities at Lough Nagarnaman.
- The upgrade and development of angling and boating facilities at Rahans Lake.
- The upgrade of trails on Black Island in Lough Muckno Park.

Community Actions

Community-based CCTV Schemes - MD staff progressed the development of CCTV schemes for both main towns in the District, to the point where it is hoped that these schemes will become operational in the latter half of 2023.

Tidy Towns and Community Groups - The MD supported these groups by way of financial contributions and the provision of logistical assistance throughout the year.

After a two-year hiatus, Summer 2022 witnessed the long-awaited return of community-led festivals to the towns and villages in the Municipal District. Both the Carrickmacross Street Festival and Muckno Mania attracted huge audiences to enjoy a diverse range of activities and events.



Patrons enjoying the acrobatic displays at Muckno Mania



Crowds enjoying Carrickmacross Street Festival

Throughout 2022, the MD engaged regularly with both the Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce and Castleblayney Town Regeneration Team to foster economic growth in both towns. These groups assist in the development of local strategies and provide valuable feedback on proposed initiatives.

The Municipal District of Monaghan

Municipal District Meetings

The Municipal District hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month. At our AGM in June, Cllr. Raymond Aughey was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Cathy Bennett was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach for one year. There was a number of other subcommittee meetings to discuss roads, budgets and other issues and programs within the district. The Schedule of Municipal District Works was presented and approved at the March Meeting.

Municipal District meetings were held out in the communities of Glaslough and Ballinode in 2022 with future meetings to be held out in the community in 2023. This allowed for presentations and interactions with community members and the ongoing projects within the communities to be showcased.

Community

Rossmore Park Cycle Track

Monaghan Municipal District were delighted to welcome Minister Heather Humphreys to the official opening of the Cycle Trail at Rossmore Park, Monaghan. The sun beamed for the cutting of ceremonial ribbon and we were delighted to welcome our Elected members along with Senator Robbie Gallagher, Monaghan County Council officials, Coillte officials and members from the Emyvale Cycling Club. This trail is a welcome addition to the Rossmore Park and Monaghan Municipal District are thankful to Minister Humphreys for her support in this project.



Official opening of the Cycle Trail at Rossmore Park

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022

Monaghan Municipal District held St. Patrick's Day Parade on 17th March 2022 with a theme of **Brighter Days Together**. It was great to see the return of our Parade this year and in such colour and joyful festivities too!

We were delighted to invite the winners of our St. Patrick's Day Parade Floats/Windows to a presentation ceremony at our Municipal District meeting on 21st April. We congratulate our winners and thank all the participants of the Parade.

Oriel Way MUGA

Multi Use Games Area in Oriel Way, Monaghan Town was completed and reopened in February 2022.



Oriel Way Climbing Frame



Oriel Way Skateboard Ramps

Glaslough Communities in Bloom Competition

Monaghan Municipal District along with Glaslough Tidy Towns welcomed international judges for the

Communities In Bloom Competition to Glaslough village in June 2022. Glaslough is proud to be Ireland's entry into this international competition and delighted to be selected as one of the six finalists. The judges enjoyed the sights and delights of Glaslough village over the June weekend. On the 22nd October 2022, Glaslough Tidy Towns and Monaghan Municipal District were announced as **International Communities in Bloom Winners 2022** which is a great achievement and recognition of the trojan work the community has achieved in Glaslough.



International Communities in Bloom competition



Communities in Bloom – Glaslough



Communities in Bloom judging

Naming of the Road, Old Cross Square to Monaghan Harps

Following a request from the Monaghan Harps GAA club to the elected members of Monaghan Municipal District to name the road to the club in honour of Brendán Ógie Ó Dufaigh, who passed away in a tragic accident on the 16th July 2021. The members unanimously agreed, and the naming process was followed and completed with positive feedback from the public.

On Friday 15th July 2022, the Municipal District held the event in conjunction with the Monaghan Harps club and the Ó Dufaigh family, The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Aughey made the speech and officially named the road, Slí Ógie Uí Dhufaigh. This was followed by a speech by Jimmy Croarkin, Chairman of Monaghan Harps and the closing speech by Ógie's father, Brendán Ó Dufaigh. Much thanks to the Harps club and Brendán Ó Dufaigh for their help in the process and organising of the event. The naming event was followed by the unveiling of a plaque at the Monaghan Harps club and a book launch, all in honour of Ógie.



Active Travel Projects

The following projects have received funding in 2022 to progress the active travel projects in the Monaghan MD:

- **Monaghan Town Greenway N2**
- **Footpath Repairs Monaghan Town**
- **Footpath repairs Scotstown**
- **Ballyalbany Bridge Cycle/Pedestrian**
- **Horseshoe bridge Cycle/Pedestrian**
- **Dublin St Regeneration**
- **Monaghan Town Local Transport Plan**

Ulster Canal Park

Works to upgrade this park including widening of the path were completed in September 2022.

Promotion & Town Enhancement

Historic Towns Initiative

MCC was successful in obtaining grant funding under the **Heritage Town Initiative** which aims to re-establish residential use in our towns. This will entail external conservation works to eight buildings and internal refurbishment to two buildings for residential use in Dublin Street. This project will be scheduled over 2022-23. Grant funding of €247,952 - Municipal District has agreed to match fund this grant. €12,300 for the preparation of the initial application and €22,400 to engage Conservation Architects to agree design approach, preparation schedule of works and tender action for the external works of the 8 buildings involved.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

MCC and the Tidy Towns were successful in the grant application for the Streetscape Enhancements of Market Street and Park Street.

Total Project Cost	€166,950
Grant Aid (Max of 90% of total project costs)	€136,635
Match Funding: (Min 10% of total cost)	€30,315
(a) match-funded 20% by property owners	€27,240
(b) match-funded 10% by Monaghan Municipal District	€3,075

Glaslough Pedestrian Crossing was finalised in May 2022 and welcomed by the residents of the area.

Roads

2022 Roads Restoration Improvement Program

Drainage works commenced in the Monaghan MD in February. A total of 9.5km of Local roads and 1.6km of Regional Roads were drained and re-

surfaced in the Monaghan MD under the Road Restoration 2022 program.

2022 Surface Dressing Program

A total of 23km of Local Roads and 4.2km of Regional Roads were surfaced dressed in the Monaghan MD under the Restoration Maintenance 2022 program.

Safety Improvements Works

Low-Cost Safety Schemes Signage was completed at Edenmore School. Hedges removed to improve visibility splays at Drumlester Crossroads, and at a bend at Derrykinnigh More, and adjacent to Garron National School.

Climate Adaption and Resilience Grant

An allocation of €100,000 was received for the L1413, Plantation Rd Culvert under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience grant. This project is also to be funded by other grants plus MCC funding, total funding €500k. This scheme was detailed designed and tendered in 2022, and it is planned to go to construction in 2023.

Road Maintenance

Drainage works were completed on regional and local roads throughout the year. Two verge grass cuts were completed on National Roads which included litter and Ragwort removal in 2022 program. A program of hedge cutting works was also complete on MCC own property. A large patching, road repairs contract was completed on regional and local roads. Road marking contracts were also completed to renew line markings.

Retail Strategy for the Town / District – Town Team

Monaghan Town Voucher Report

Total Sales for 2022	€1,706,340
Total Redemptions 2022	€1,250,755

The Growth of the Monaghan Town Voucher

Year	Yearly Sales
2016	€340,000
2017	€485,720

2018	€746,200
2019	€877,440
2020	€984,620
2021	€1,191,230
2022	€1,706,340

Once again, a huge thank you to all involved in the Monaghan Town Voucher from the Corporate sales, the public, all the businesses, the re-sellers (These outlets sell the voucher voluntary with no commission) and the council staff involved in the sales, redemptions and management of the voucher.

Promotions will be ongoing to promote the continued spend of the voucher.

Greenspace

The Greenspace was in place at the Courthouse for our summer period. This space was utilised by Monaghan Town Team for free family events throughout the summer along with several local groups using this space for their own public entertainment displays.

Movie Festival

On the 23rd & 24th July, Monaghan Municipal District Office and the Town Team held screening of 6 movies over the 2 days on a large screen in the Greenspace area at the Courthouse. Despite the mixed weather, there was great attendance, and the Summer Movie Festival was a huge success.



Monaghan Street Food Festival

Monaghan Street Food Festival Committee and Monaghan Municipal District Office worked together to deliver a fabulous weekend on 1st October of local food, art, craft and entertainment for all. With attendance in excess of 3,000 people, the atmosphere around Church Square and the Diamond was electric. With many of our food exhibitors selling out by early afternoon, the festival was deemed a great success. We look forward to the next Food Festival in the town.



Dracula Festival

The Dracula Festival was a huge success and a great day out for all the family. There was a Magic Show, Kids Disco, Balloon modelling and Face Painting. There were prizes for pumpkin carving and fancy-dress costumes with competition winners pictures and videos of the day on social media.



Dracula Festival - Monaghan Town



Dracula Festival - Monaghan Town

The Big Giveaway / Mega Draw

The first draw took place at the end of August with 11 individual winning prizes. The second draw took place in December with 20 individual winning prizes. These draws encourage the spending of Monaghan Town Vouchers.

Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Our Christmas Light Switch On Event took place on Sunday 20th November drawing a huge crowd for the unveiling of our new Christmas Lights and Decorations as purchased by Monaghan Municipal District this year. The arrival of Santa and his grotto along with treats and entertainment for all was a huge success.



Christmas Light Switch On - Sunday 20th November



Monaghan Christmas Street Food Festival & Crocus Event

The Monaghan Street Food Festival branched into the Christmas theme this year, by also hosting a Christmas Street Food Festival. They welcomed local artisan food and drinks along with arts and crafts from around the county. This only added to the Crocus event which welcomed Santa to a special Grotto located at the Diamond Square. Outdoor entertainment and a petting zoo with Santa's favourite animals meant this combined event had something for all ages! This festival was a huge success and one which will continue year on year.



Local Enterprise Office

Financial Supports & Job Creation

In 2022 circa €400,000 was approved in grant aid with a potential to create an additional 45 jobs.

Training

The focus for 2022 was to provide an elevated level of relevant supports and services to encourage and foster new start-ups. LEO Monaghan continued to prioritise aiding existing businesses to expand and grow and face the increasing number of challenges, including Brexit, re-emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, sustainability and the economic impacts of the war in Ukraine.

In 2022, nearly 1000 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs participated in 77 training courses / workshops with Monaghan LEO. The above figure includes 7 Start your own business courses.

Mentoring

Under the Local Enterprise Office Mentor Programme, clients work with an experienced mentor who identifies solutions in areas of exposure within their business. The mentor programme continues to operate very successfully, with feedback from the participants extremely positive, highlighting the importance of non-financial supports to micro businesses.

The LEO's mentoring service is designed to complement the enterprise training and management development supports on offer. The panel of mentors includes experienced business advisors across a wide range of management disciplines. One to one mentoring was delivered to 130 clients in 2022.

Lean for Micro

There has been a substantial increase in the demand of the LEAN for Micro initiative, which is one of the main support tools devised to enhance

productivity and efficiencies within organisations. LEO Monaghan approved 14 micro businesses with the LEAN for Micro offering.

Trading Online Vouchers

The Trading Online Voucher offers eligible businesses 50% of eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €2500 towards the cost of building a new or updating an existing ecommerce website. In 2022 there continued to be a strong demand for this initiative and 28 vouchers were approved.

Green For Micro

As climate action and sustainability continue to be the new norm, Monaghan LEO were at the forefront of adaption planning and awareness building of Monaghan businesses to encourage the transition to low carbon entities.



A novel 'Go Green' - *climate action series* was designed to support businesses as they transition to low carbon entities. Over 90 businesses attended these events, which ranged from sector specific to narrow focused topics and all had the focus of decarbonising.



'Go Green' - climate action series

This series complemented the Local Enterprise Office Monaghan's Green For Micro support and with the aim of further increasing the capacity and peer learning amongst stakeholders.



Green For Micro initiative

In addition, 18 businesses were approved for the Green For Micro initiative enabling businesses to get a measurement of their carbon footprint and some recommendations on how to reduce same and/or to make their business more sustainable.

Student Enterprise Awards

Every September through the Local Enterprise Office Monaghan, entrepreneurial secondary school students begin their business journey to research, set-up and run their own real-world businesses as part of the Student Enterprise Programme.

The programme complements the business studies curriculum at both Junior and Senior level and is a rewarding experience for students, giving them the freedom to develop their business concepts to the fullest. Students can enter either individually or as part of a team.

More than 600 students from 10 schools across County Monaghan took part in the 2022 programme.



Jessie James Woodcrafts - Best Commercial Potential Award in the Junior Category

Jesse, worked under the guidance of his teacher, Linda Healy, Patrician High School, Carrickmacross on his enterprise 'Jessie James Woodcrafts', which specialises in hand crafted wooden planters.

Monaghan has had much success over the years. In 2022 there were 5 schools that went through to the National Finals with one student Jesse James Stewart, from the Patrician High School winning an award for the Best Commercial Potential Award in the Junior Category.

Local Enterprise Awards

The Monaghan Enterprise Awards took place as part of a very successful Local Enterprise Week programme of events.

Sean McCleary and Nikita McCrory from Streat School Ltd in Glaslough were the overall winners of the Award for 2022. Streat School went on to represent Local Enterprise Office Monaghan at the 22nd National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House in Dublin on 2nd June.

Other winners at the virtual Monaghan Enterprise Awards held online on Friday 11th March, included Juno Composites Ltd. for Innovation, Ramfit Ltd in the Export category, The Kick Company for Sustainability, Old Carrick Mill Ltd. for a Pivot award and Gillanders Town and Country for Ecommerce. Best Established Business went to Streat School Ltd and Best Start up went to Glaslough Chocolates.

Streat School Ltd. went on to win at the National



Monaghan Enterprise Awards

Enterprise Awards and they took home the “One to Watch Award”. The company manufacture and brand bespoke coffee & hot food trailers for customers. They also offer their unique industry expertise and mentoring in the form of workshops & seminars to help both start-ups and existing businesses.



National Enterprise Awards, Mansion House, Dublin

Digital Start - pilot

Small businesses need to maximise every advantage - and a digital strategy can give businesses a real edge.

Digital Start is a pilot initiative designed for County Monaghan manufacturing and international trading service clients. From optimising processes to delivering a seamless digital customer experience, the aim of this pilot is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business. Digital Start provides support to obtain a digital strategy, technical and/or advisory services for eligible businesses.



Regional Digitalisation Working Group

LEO were part of the subgroup who identified

suitable Monaghan businesses to attend an SME Engagement event that took place in the IKON Innovation Centre at Kingspan on 14th September. Over 20 Micro and EI businesses attended this event which was facilitated by Colm Finnegan.

The engagement objective was to determine the level of understanding and awareness of Digitalisation in the role of competitiveness of Micro and SME's and the outputs will enable enterprise development agencies to determine where the gaps in support are.



SME Engagement event - IKON Innovation Centre, Kingspan - 14th September

National Women's Enterprise Day

The Monaghan Women in Business Network celebrated National Women's Enterprise Day in Castle Leslie on Thursday 13th October. The event was attended by over 40 women in business.



National Women's Enterprise Day in Castle Leslie on Thursday 13th October

Deputy Chief Executive Patricia Monahan gave an inspiring opening address to an audience of enterprising women. This was followed by networking over afternoon tea and experiences were shared by keynote speaker, Caroline O'Neill of Digg Mama fame.



Deputy Chief Executive Patricia Monahan

Ms Brenda Cassidy from The Braincalm Institute, was the leading light for 2022. She shared her fascinating business development story and revealed tips and advice for those starting or growing their business.

Collaboration with Monaghan County Fund

The Budding Entrepreneur event held on June 15th was for emerging and fledgling entrepreneurs, to access and get advice from four of County Monaghan's seasoned business professionals.



Participating in this initiative were Martin McVicar from Combilift, Edel Treanor from Mullan Lighting, Seany McCleary; Streat School and Lisa Marie Clinton from Avail Support at Central Reach.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides support to Senior Management, the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members. It is also responsible for the organising and managing of monthly Council Meetings, Corporate Policy Group Meetings and Joint Policing Committee Meetings. The section is responsible for the collation of the Corporate Plan, Annual Report, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Monthly Management Report and the review of Risk Register.

Corporate Services also co-ordinates the compilation of the annual NOAC Performance Indicators for the Council and has a significant role in terms of governance, ensuring the Council is compliant with the Ethics Framework, Children First Act, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment legislation.

Register of Electors

The Electoral Reform Act 2022, the first significant programme of reform in 40 years, was signed into law by the President on 25th July 2022 and brings about much-needed major modernisation of the electoral system, making voter registration easier and more accessible while strengthening the integrity of the process.

The new Rolling Register, one continuous register that can be updated at anytime, replaces the Annual Cycle of Draft, Live and Supplement Registers.

Electors apply to the registration authority to be included or update their details at any time, using a single online application at www.checktheregister.ie, though a paper form will remain available for those who wish to use it.

Total number of electors for Register 2022-2023 was **50,587**

Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 members of the public have a legal right of access

to records held by the Local Authority. **38 requests** were received by the Council in 2022, from members of the media, Oireachtas, business reps and the general public.

Access to Information on the Environment

AIE gives legal rights to those seeking to access information on the environment from public authorities. 8 requests were received by the Council in 2022.

Protected Disclosures

There were no protected disclosures received during 2022.

Twinning

Monaghan County Council is officially twinned with the following areas –

- Geel, Belgium (the parish of Tydavnet in North Monaghan is also twinned with this area)
- Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Miramichi, Canada

Having regard to Covid 19 restrictions in place, no twinning exchanges were undertaken during the year.

Internal Audit

As part of good governance arrangements, Monaghan County Council maintains an appropriate and independent Internal Audit Unit. This assists with improvements in control systems, procedures, greater levels of accountability and confidence in the processes. It provides a level of assurance to the Council, Chief Executive, Management Team and the Audit Committee.

Meetings in 2022

After Covid-19 restrictions, 2022 saw the return of meetings to the Council Chamber in Mtek.

The following is a summary of the meetings held in 2022:

Council meetings (including AGM & Budget meeting):	13
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	13
SPC – Economic Development and Enterprise Support	02
SPC – Transport, Community Rural Development	04
SPC – Climate Action and Environment	04
SPC – Housing, Social and Cultural	03
Monaghan Municipal District	11
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District	13
Ballybay-Clones Municipal District	11
Audit Committee	05
Museum Advisory Committee	03
Local Sports Partnership	05
Speed Limits Committee	01
Heritage Forum	03
Monaghan L.I.S. Committee	01
An Coiste Logainmneacha	02
Joint Policing Committees (JPC)	04
Coiste Gaeilge	02
Traveller Accommodation Committee	03
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	08

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Monaghan County Council is committed to the protection of personal data and respects the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. It collects and processes a significant amount of personal data and Special Category personal data in various multiple formats on a daily basis in order to provide the most effective and targeted range of services to meet the needs of the citizens, communities and businesses within the County. In 2022, Monaghan County Council demonstrated commitment to respecting the individual privacy of the citizens of Monaghan. It continued to develop best practice to ensure compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR and data protection. This work included developing and

implementing the necessary policies, procedures and protocols, processing personal data in an open and transparent manner, processing data subject access requests and An Garda Síochána requests, delivering staff awareness raising and training and notification of data security breaches. The Council dealt with the following requests/incidents: -

Data Subject Access Requests	3
CCTV requests	31
Data Breach Notifications to the Data Protection Commission	0

Ethics

Section 19 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 requires each elected member to furnish to the Local Authority, not later than January 31st, a donation statement indicating whether during the preceding calendar year, the member received a donation exceeding €600. 18 completed forms were received by the closing date of 31st January 2022.

Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 obliges each member of the council and relevant staff to complete a form in respect of their declarable interests held during the prescribed period and furnish the annual declaration to the Ethics Registrar no later than the last day of February. 18 completed forms were received, from elected members, by the closing date of the last day of February 2022. 72 relevant staff were asked to complete a declaration form, all forms were received by the last day of February 2022.

At the end of 2022 there was one ongoing investigation regarding a possible contravention in respect of Part 15 (Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service) of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Coiste na Gaeilge 2022

Díríonn Coiste na Gaeilge Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin ar úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn sa Chontae chomh maith lena chinntiú go gcomhlíonann an Chomhairle a dualgais faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla. Bunaíodh an Coiste agus toghadh na Comhairleoirí seo a leanas: An Comh. Pat Treanor, An Comh. Cathy Bennett, An Comh. Richard Truell, An Comh. Raymond Aughey agus An Comh. Hugh McElvaney.

I 2022 d'fhill an Coiste ar ghníomhaíochtaí pearsanta, lena n-áirítear na nithe seo a leanas:

1. Reáchtáil an Coiste 4 chruinniú.
2. Le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge bhí an chéad imeacht pearsanta againn ar feadh níos mó ná 2 bhliain in Amharclann an Gharáiste leis an ceoltóir iontach Zöe Conway agus a cairde.
3. D'fhill Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta ar ais chomh maith le 37 mac léinn ón gContae a bhain leas astu.
4. Le linn Fhleadh Mhuineacháin tionóladh imeacht amuigh faoin aer i mBoth.
5. Thacaigh an Coiste le Muineachán le Gaeilge chun campa samhraidh Gaeilge a chuir ar fáil.
6. I 2023 tá súil againn leanúint le dea-obair an Choiste agus a chinntiú go gcloíonn an Chomhairle go hiomlán le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Coiste Gaeilge Annual Report 2022

Monaghan County Council's Coiste Gaeilge aims to promote the use of the Irish language in County Monaghan as well as insuring that the Council fulfils its obligations under the Official Languages Act. The Coiste has been established with the following Councillors elected; Cllr. Pat Treanor, Cllr. Cathy Bennett, Cllr. Richard Truell, Cllr. Raymond Aughey and Cllr. Hugh McElvaney.

In 2022 the Coiste returned to in person activities, which included the following

1. The Coiste held 4 meetings.
2. During Seachtain na Gaeilge our first in person event for over 2 years was held in the Garage Theatre with the fantastic Zöe Conway.
3. Gaeltacht Scholarships also returned with 37 students from the County availing of them.
4. During Monaghan County Fleadh an outdoor event was held in Scotstown.
5. The Coiste supported Muineachán le Gaeilge to run Campaí Sproai, which is an Irish language summer camp.
6. In 2023 we hope to continue the good work of the Coiste and ensure the Council complies fully with the Official Languages Act.

Capital Projects

The Capital Projects Unit leads the delivery of major capital projects identified in the three-year multi annual Capital Programme. The unit seeks to ensure consistency of approach in the procurement, management and delivery of projects, in line with the Public Spending Code.

The unit adopts the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) in the procurement and management of public works and services contracts. Several major capital projects have been progressed in 2022:

Monaghan PEACE Campus

The Monaghan Peace Campus will provide a new four storey mixed use community building, comprising of a Cultural Heritage Centre, Library, Youth Facility, Shared Community Multi-Functional Space with External Community Space and Underground Parking.

The Campus will act as a new Landmark building for the town, providing high-quality civic gathering spaces, landscaped areas and pedestrian routes. The site has been designed with universal access in mind to encourage a diversity of both uses and users.

The 4-storey facility is located at the old machinery yard site in Monaghan town and will mark a significant investment by the Council in the urban regeneration of the county town.

The project is at an advanced stage of construction by Felix O'Hare Limited and is scheduled for completion in 2023.



Monaghan PEACE Campus



MPC – Progress December 2022

The “Monaghan Peace Campus” Webpage is updated Quarterly to provide current information about the project and progress on site.



MPC- Works Progressing East Face

Proposed new Civic Office Headquarters

The Capital Project Unit are continuing to progress the design proposals for the proposed new Monaghan County Council Civic Office Headquarters at Rooskey, Monaghan.

In July 2022, the unit appointed an Integrated Design Team, led by Henry J Lyons Architects to deliver the project and prepare designs to progress the scheme.

The Design Team presented the Preliminary Design Report & Feasibility Study to the Project Steering Committee on the 2nd of November and then subsequently to all the Elected Members on

the 11th of November 2022. The Preliminary Design approach was agreed and approval was provided to proceed to Stage 2 Design and to prepare documentation for a Planning submission.

The Design Team are making progress developing the design with an anticipated Planning submission programmed for Quarter 2 2023.



Dublin Street Urban Regeneration Project

Dublin Street South Regeneration

A Planning Application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in August 2022. Throughout 2022, RPS Design Consultants progressed detailed design proposals for road/footpath infrastructure, utility services, street furniture, landscaping, lighting and various other elements within the regeneration scheme area.

Detailed design for all relevant scheme elements are substantially complete and are expected to be finalised following ABP's planning decision.

Avison Young (Valuation Office) continued communications and negotiations with affected property owners throughout the year. Advanced purchase of one property was secured in June 2022 and negotiations with remaining property owners are ongoing.



*Conceptual Architectural Image
– Gavan Duffy Place*

Dublin Street North Regeneration Project

The Capital Projects Unit are also continuing to progress proposals for the regeneration of the Dublin Street north area of Monaghan Town.

In November 2022, the Capital Projects Unit appointed a Design Team to deliver the project for Monaghan County Council and prepare designs to progress the scheme.

The Design Team are progressing the Preliminary Design stage which is programmed to be completed in Q2 2023 with an anticipated Planning for Approval submission to An Bord Pleanála in Q4 2023.



Dublin Street North Regeneration Masterplan



Roosky Lands Masterplan



Ongoing Library Construction



Architectural Image
– Completed Library Project

Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration

Phase I – Gate Lodge 2 Library & Public Realm

Broomfield Construction contractors progressed contract works for the Gate Lodge 2 Library Refurbishment and Public Realm facilities throughout 2022. The main elements of works completed during the year included, the construction of the new extension building, reconstruction of the roof on the existing Gate Lodge, installation of new foul water pumping station and public realm paving works at the Lough Muckno entrance.

The construction contract is scheduled for completion in Spring 2023. Following the building handover, fit out works for the library facility will be progressed and it is expected that the new library will be operational in Q2 2023.

Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase II – Castleblayney Market House & Market Square

Dhb Design Consultants progressed the development design proposals for the Castleblayney Market House & Market Square project throughout the course of 2022. During the year a number of surveys, including a topographical, traffic & parking and asbestos survey were carried out to inform the design process. The Design Consultants completed Preliminary Designs in Q2 2022, and Part 8 Planning Approval was secured in Q4 2022.

Dhb Design Consultants are expected to finalise detailed designs for the Market House refurbishment and Market Square public realm improvements in Q2 2023. Monaghan County Council intend to submit a Category 1 Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) grant application for the project to the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) once the new RRDF application process is officially opened.



*Conceptual Architectural Image
– Refurbished Market House*



*Conceptual Architectural Image
– Lower Ground Floor*

BioConnect Innovation Centre

Midland Construction Ltd commenced construction of the new research and innovation centre at Knockaconny on behalf of BioConnect CLG in January 2022. Construction works have progressed well throughout the year. Works completed include the foundations for the new building, the new steel frame and the superstructure, complete with exterior insulated wall and roof cladding. External civils and ground works were also substantially progressed in 2022. Construction works are ongoing and scheduled for completion in Q2 of 2023.



Ongoing Bioconnect Construction

Monaghan Leisure Complex

Coral Leisure Ltd manages Monaghan Leisure Complex on behalf of Monaghan County Council. Coral Leisure has operated the facility since 2006 and are one of Ireland's leading service providers.

In mid-2022, Coral Leisure Centre was awarded a grant allocation of €113,000 from the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP) which is facilitated by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media. The grant allocation will be used to carry out refurbishment works to various elements of the changing rooms and toilets in the complex. It is proposed that procurement and execution of the works will be carried out on a phased basis throughout 2023.



Coral Leisure Centre

Public Lighting

The upgrade programme for Public Lighting was completed in 2022. The Roads & Transportation Department took over the operation of Public Lighting in 2022.

Property Asset Management



The Council Property Management Software System records and tracks all land and building assets under the control of the Council. This ensures good Governance and effective management of our property portfolio and links to the Financial Assets Register (FAR).

As of December 2022, Monaghan County Council currently has 71 buildings and 2,072 parcels of land in the Property Interests Register.

Number of Assets by Types:

Asset Type	No. of Assets End of 2022
Housing	840
Roads	687
Amenity	141
Water Services	150
LA Building	71
Car Park	54
Other	45
LA Building Campus	18
Heritage	5
Land	34
Acquisition in Progress	12
Burial Grounds	1
Playgrounds	1
Landfill	4
Depot	8
Quarry	1
TOTAL	2072

Library Services

Cultural Team

Creative Ireland Programme 2022

Deirdriu McQuaid, Creative Ireland Coordinator, chairs the Creative Ireland Steering Committee, whose members include Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer; Liam Bradley, Curator, Monaghan County Museum; Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer; Dympna Condra, Tourism Officer; Darren McCreesh, Patrick Kavanagh Centre Manager; Laura Carey, Monaghan County Library; Catherine Elliott, County Librarian; Maire Cullinan, Economic and Planning; Pamela Kerr, LEO. The steering committee reports to John Murray, Head of Finance.

A total of 23 projects were supported by programme funding of €297,419.

The projects are:



Monaghan Murals – Monaghan County Museum & the Patrick Kavanagh Centre lead this project out working with other key partners within the County Council which is to develop a series of international standard large-scale

street murals throughout the towns of County Monaghan. It forms part of a wider strategy to support creativity in the community, promote pride of place and diversity of experience. The project will celebrate various aspects of local history, heritage, and culture.

Festival in a Van

Festival in a Van returned in September to bring music and joy to new and/or marginalised communities.

Wetlands Short Films Project –

in County Monaghan, there are 711 wetland sites on the Monaghan Wetland Map database. Monaghan Heritage Office created this database following many years of habitat surveying and mapping. These short films are

professionally produced, showing the Monaghan wetland-landscape.

The Nature Project -

This is an innovative new collaborative project with artist Siobhan McDonald, comprised of a series of enquiries connected with Environmental change – such as the roll of bogs in Climate Change and the impact on our health and well-being of our ecosystems and ourselves. Throughout the duration of The Nature Project, Siobhan is proposing a vast programme of activities across the partnering institutions: residencies, exhibitions, pop-up labs, workshops, and talks. The intention of this project is to raise awareness and foster creative and critical reflections about environmental challenges that our society is currently facing.

Patrick Kavanagh Legacy Programme –

This programme has three distinct project parts involving community groups, the creative community, schools and various cultural, archival and library council services. It is a series of discreet projects stimulating fresh perspectives on the life and work of Patrick Kavanagh, one of Ireland's most beloved poets, and the significance of his work in a contemporary context.

Storyteller in Residence –



Francis McCarron is our storyteller in residence for 2022 who is coordinating a new network of storytelling events across the county with the aim to set up a Yarnspinners network and bring out the storyteller in many of us.

Tradoodle Festival -

Tradoodle Festival is about children and young people, community engagement, and it is about providing opportunities for children and young people to access the traditional arts in innovative, interesting, and meaningful ways.



Elsewhere – The Opera

Elsewhere is a new opera project led by composer Michael Gallen, based on the true story of the world's first Soviet outside the USSR – in the lunatic asylum of a small Irish town – established fleetingly in 1919. The Opera is now getting ready for an international tour.

Local Arts in Education Partnership –

Several initiatives were supported in collaboration with Cavan County Council and CMETB including continued professional training, support towards purchase of a festival production van and programming for young people.



This is Art –

production and installation of all the young people's entries, on the North Rd, Monaghan town, to this RTE national competition during Covid.



A Memory of Water –

a multi-sensory art project by visual artist Orlagh Meegan-Gallagher based on her work as a seascape and waterscape artist called A Memory of Water.

Originally conceived in the first lockdowns, the project is specifically designed to work through the staff from nursing homes and day care centres to deliver a series of carefully planned activities, using Visual, Auditory, Oral and Tactile stimulus to

inspire art making.



A Memory of Water – multi-sensory art project

Bordering Realities Youth's Creative Response to Border –

Multi Agency and Disciplinary Project – aligned with Decade of Centenaries programme, this project over 2 years is working with young people through music, drama, dance, and visual art on the topic of what constitutes a border, with final performances scheduled to take place at end of 2023.

Lullaby Leaf –

This pilot research and engagement project has come about after a smaller scale engagement piece with the North-East Down Syndrome Centre. This project is to engage renowned award-winning artistic company Ceol Connected to develop a multidisciplinary sensory arts programme for children with down syndrome. Collaboration project with Cavan, Louth, and Meath County Council's.

The Manager –

New play written by Joe Hanratty and presented by Caislean Theater company, taking football to the stage. This new unique play depicts the story behind any club/sport and the involvement of community.

Song Tales sa Speir –

A new and exciting pilot initiative from Ceol Connected and a consortium of partners which aims to invigorate and build upon County Monaghan's strong ecosystem of traditional arts for children. During June, a team of musicians travelled across the county in a specially converted mobile stage!



Partners are Creative Monaghan, Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan, Íontas Theatre, Local Arts in Education Partnership, National Childcare Network and 12 schools/preschools from across the county.

Harp Day –

Music Generation are delighted to present Harp Together in celebration of Harp Day 2022 with the launch of their new energetic Harp Ensemble under the direction of Sabina McCague & Eilís Lavelle with a programme of workshops in schools and special event at Hilton Park, Clones.

Fighting Words –

We are delighted to launch Fighting Words in County Monaghan which is a national initiative which strives to inspire children, young people, and adults to explore their imaginations through writing. Working in collaboration with Creative Schools Cluster and Iontas Theatre.

Samhain Storytelling Festival –

We will host our first ever Storytelling festival in County Monaghan at end of October with a programme of workshops, sessions, and film for all ages, working with groups and communities across our borders.

Culture Night 2022



This was the 8th year for the County Council to coordinate Culture Night, an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity, and the arts. This year, it took place on Friday 23rd September with 19 unique events. Thanks to the vibrant rich cultural community in County Monaghan, we were able to present a blended programme for everyone to enjoy. The County Council received €10,000 funding from the Arts Council. Total expenditure

for 2022 is €24,000.

Decade of Centenaries

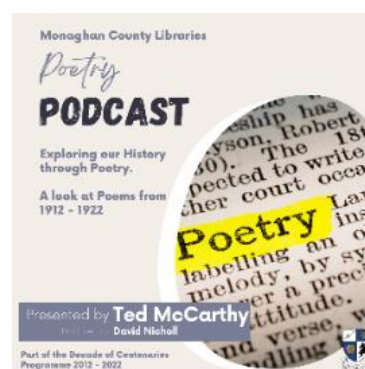
For 2022, a total of 9 projects took place across the county engaging with different audiences to learn about the historic events of 1922.

A new history writing competition through the Office of An Cathaoirleach was established. A new multi-agency, multi-disciplinary project commenced working with young people on what borders mean to them which will be depicted through music, song, dance, theatre, and visual art at end of 2023. We were successful in capital funding towards the new Museum exhibition of €200,000. Total Funding under this programme for 2022 is €320,000.



Exploring History through Poetry

Poet Ted Mc Carthy worked closely with David Nicholl from Clones branch library to look at how



history has been represented in the poetry of the time. Poems from Yeats, Kipling, Synge, Plunkett, and many more are recited and analysed in this 6-part series.

Library Services



Monaghan County Library Service worked tirelessly throughout 2022 to re-establish a full range of services for customers, as Covid 19



restrictions were finally fully lifted. Our emphasis has been to encourage customers to visit their local library once again; to browse our bookshelves, join a Book Club, use our study spaces, engage in creative writing,

attend one of our many events and reclaim the library space as their own.

Right to Read Programme

The key objective of this programme to bring together the existing knowledge and experience of skilled staff in local authority services and other agencies to deliver literacy support in the County. Right to Read complements and supports existing national literacy strategies and initiatives, including the Department of Education and Skills' National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

Library Podcasts



Monaghan County Library staff have been working within the community to produce 2 podcast series.

Star Reads podcast



Throughout the Summer months we interviewed 37 children & young people about their top 5 books as well as discussing the joys of reading. Our youngest guest was aged 3 and arrived with his Mum to talk about his favourite book 'The Gruffalo'. Our older guests were avid readers and discussed issues such as diversity and

representation in books. All episodes are available to listen to on Spotify and to date the podcasts have reached over 1,000 listeners.

School Services



Monaghan County Library staff are always offering support and advice to both Primary & Secondary

schools across the County. This may be in terms of literacy support, guidance on library development or engagement in various projects. We are currently assisting the Literacy committee in St. Louis Secondary School, Carrickmacross in their bid to increase literacy levels among students and the wider community.

Foster Care Library

Monaghan County Libraries and Tusla the Child and Family Agency were delighted to partner together to provide a library collection within the Tusla Wellbeing Centre aimed at Children and Young People in foster care, their carers and all other young people who use the facilities in the centre.

The books provided by Monaghan County Library cover a range of topics and are geared towards all age groups.



Karen McCague, Executive Librarian with Monaghan County Library Services explains *"It's important for children and young people to be able to see themselves and their life experiences reflected in stories so that they understand that they are not alone. We hope that by having this collection of books available within the Wellbeing Centre, children will have the opportunity explore the stories with a caregiver or on their own and perhaps recognise themselves, their thoughts, or their experiences."*

Whilst this collection is specifically for use by Tusla service users, all titles are also available through the public library network. For more information on this initiative please contact kmccague@monaghancoco.ie

STEAM Services

Having developed a STEM Resource library for schools, library staff have also made use of the resources to develop a Lego Literacy workshop which was rolled out in Castleblayney and Clones Library this year. Children participated in Lego themed activities which combined literacy, problem solving, group work and technology to create Stop Motion Shorts which were written and recorded by the children.

Summer Stars Summer Reading Adventure

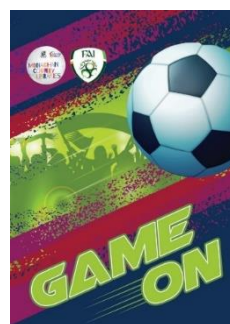


1500 children signed up to the Summer Stars reading challenge this year. That's at least 12,000 books being read during the summer holidays! The Summer Star reading challenge is an

important literacy programme which aims to keep children reading during school holidays in a bid to stop the phenomenon known as the 'Summer Slump' – a recognised drop in literacy levels. The Children are awarded certificates and gold medals to mark their achievement. Some lucky readers also won Family Passes to Tayto Park in the end of challenge raffle!



Literacy Activity Books



2022 saw two new Literacy Initiatives developed in conjunction with national sports organisations, Monaghan County Libraries joined forces with the GAA and The Football Association of Ireland to pilot sports themed activity books for schoolchildren aged 10-14 years old. The projects are aligned to the national Right to Read programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. By utilising the popularity of sport, the activity books have been developed to assist teachers in the classroom and provide an educational resource for parents and guardians at home.

Children's Book Festival @ Monaghan County Libraries



2022 saw the return of live 'in-person' CBF events running alongside a programme of webinars. Schools from across the County participated in workshops with bestselling children's authors & illustrators such as Robert Muchamore, Dan Freedman, Paddy Donnelly and Tarsila Kruse, Fiona Longmuir. 20 events took place across the month of October with hundreds of children participating.



Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2022



Our award-winning Cavan Monaghan Science Festival was back with a

bang for 2022. Events took place in schools and libraries across the 2 counties. County Monaghan hosted over 30 events across 2 weeks looking at a broad range of topics including The Biomechanics of Running, The STEM of Formula 1, The physiological & psychological effects of grief, The Science of Marvels Black Panther and much more. As COVID restrictions were lifted we were delighted to bring back the Big Family STEM Day in Monaghan Institute.

Little Library Book Bags



As part of the Little Libraries campaign, Monaghan County Libraries have distributed over 1500 book bags to preschools and children starting Primary school this year.

To compliment this programme, we have also

hosted 15 storytelling events for Pre-schools and provided training on the use of Story Sacks in early years settings.

Local History and Genealogy Service

The service continued to be very busy with enquiries throughout 2022 from around the world. Feedback on the service is extremely positive, as it provides a wealth of resources unique to County Monaghan.

Work continued on the scanning & indexing of death notices & obituaries from the local newspapers.



Additions to the Collection in 2022

Death Notices & Obituaries in The Monaghan Argus Newspapers 1960 – 1962 and 1963 – 1965.

Death Notices & Obituaries in The Monaghan Argus Newspapers 1967 – 1970

Memoirs of Monaghan Town; Includes names of residents who lived in the town for the years 1920-1950

The Northern Standard Newspaper on microfiche 2019-2021

Europe Direct Information Centre



This regional service is provided across three counties, Monaghan, Cavan, and Louth.

Europe Direct Information Centres give information, advice, assistance, and answers to questions about the EU and the rights of EU citizens, the EU's priorities, legislations, policies, programmes, and funding opportunities. In 2022 Europe Direct Clones has engaged with citizens across the region in highlighting the priorities of the EU. We were delighted to welcome Colm

Markey, MEP and Chris McManus, MEP to the centre during 2022.



A range of events were held focusing on the European Green Deal, the Digital Decade, Democracy and on promoting our European way of life.

Europe Direct Clones are happy to work with groups and attend events which help promote the work of the EU institutions or address Citizen's concerns.

Europe Direct Clones receives annual funding of €31,000 from the European Commission to support the service provided and cover the cost of annual event programming.

What services are provided at the Europe Direct Centre in Clones Library?

A selection of free EU publications and brochures covering a wide range of EU related topics.

Free public telephone where you can call the Europe Direct Citizen's Helpline with queries on any aspect of the EU that are of interest to you: 0080067891011. You can email us at eudirect@monaghancoco.ie

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

A grant of €3,000 was allocated in 2022 by Department of Rural and Community Development to Monaghan County Library to promote the Healthy Ireland Campaign through the library service network. A new three-year programme is now in place and will run until December 2025.

County Heritage Office

In 2022, the Heritage Office continued to deliver heritage services, implement and co-ordinate heritage and biodiversity policy and practice, and to liaise closely with the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage** and **The Heritage Council** regarding national policy at a local level. The section liaises with other local authorities through the **Local Authority Heritage Officer network**.

The Heritage Section is part of Monaghan County Council's Cultural Team, and during the year moved from the Directorate of Finance, Housing and Culture to the Directorate of Environment.

In 2022, there were three **staff** in the Heritage Office – Heritage Officer, Conservation Assistant, and an Assistant Staff Officer.

The **County Monaghan Heritage Forum** is a multi-stakeholder forum with representatives from civil society, elected representatives, state agencies and organizations and Monaghan County Council staff. The secretariat is provided by the Monaghan Heritage Office. Its' chairperson is Cllr. Aoife McCooey.

Sadly in 2022, the heritage forum lost one of its most expert members, the late Fearghal Duffy. Fearghal was a knowledgeable Irish scholar, writer, nature photographer and a prolific biodiversity recorder. His last public talk was during Heritage Week 2022, where he presented his research on nature in old Irish writings. It was agreed with Fearghal that a Citizen Scientist Award in his memory will be presented from time to time by the Heritage Forum.

The forum advises on the development and implementation of the County Monaghan Biodiversity and Strategic Plan. A list of members is available : <https://monaghan.ie/heritage/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2021/01/County-Monaghan-Heritage-Forum-Membership-PDF.pdf>

Funding

Funding was awarded from several sources – the Heritage Council, Creative Monaghan, DHLGC, and Interreg V.

Policy

County Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025

The County Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020-2025 sets a vision for 2025 - the role of heritage and biodiversity for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable communities, functioning ecosystems, health and wellbeing is generally accepted in the county and embedded in the activities of Monaghan County Council.



Thirteen themes are described with objectives for each, and a concise action plan to enable progress. Priority strategic themes are – Climate Change mitigation and adaptation; Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands; Hedgerows and native woodlands; The Worm Ditch/The Black Pig's Dyke; Pre-historic archaeology; Protected structures; Vernacular and traditional buildings; High Nature Value farmland; Demesnes and Estates; Cross-border heritage; Historic Graveyards, holy wells and church ruins; Indigenous knowledge and traditions; Irish and the vernacular English. The plan also contains strategic objectives, organization goals and key performance indicators.

The plan is accessible at:

<https://monaghan.ie/heritage/biodiversity-and-heritage-strategic-plan-2020-2025/>

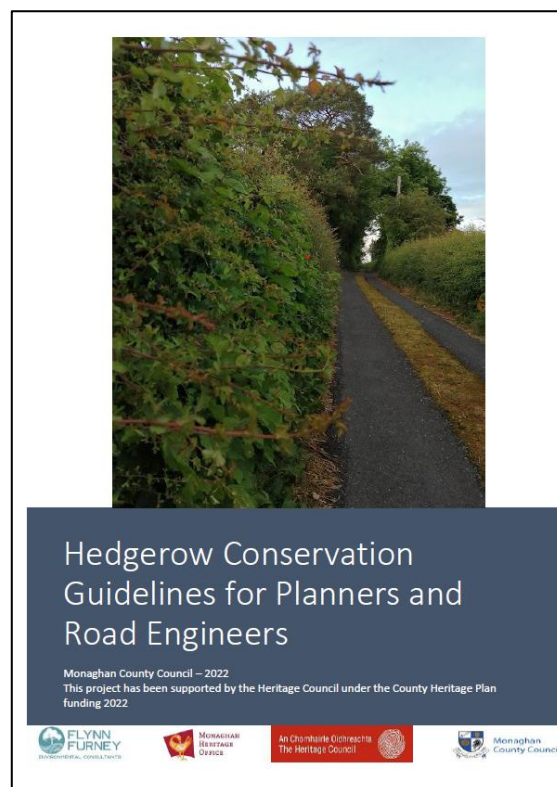
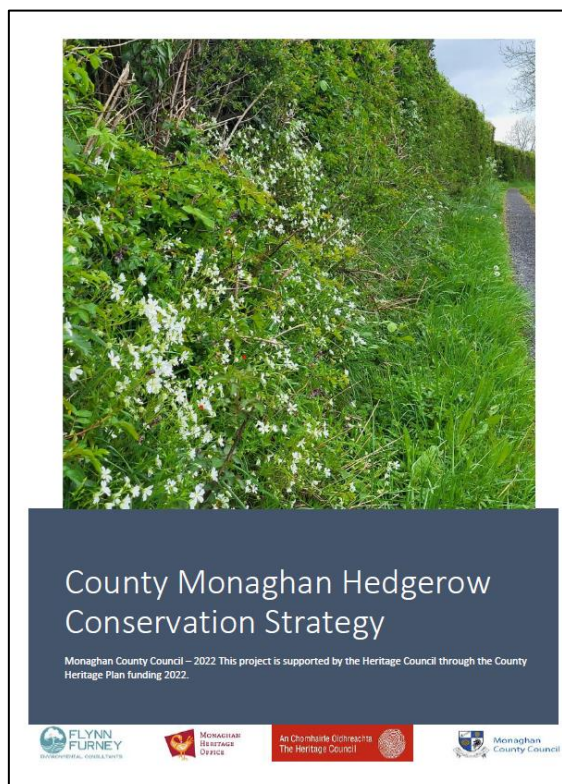
County Monaghan Hedgerow Conservation Strategy

Monaghan Hedgerow Survey – A Decade of Change 2010-2021, showed an overall decline in hedgerow extent, length, diversity in Monaghan and ash die back symptoms in 90% of the trees surveyed. These results are of concern for this important habitat and component of our ecological infrastructure across the county.

Workshops with Monaghan County Council staff were held in Spring 2022 to discuss report recommendations:

- Monaghan County Council should produce and adopt a hedgerow conservation strategy.
- Concept of a heritage hedgerow should be recognised in the county development plan and into planning infrastructure. The concept of “Heritage Hedgerows” is proposed for hedgerows which have notable historical, structural or species composition characteristics.
- Guidelines for planners and road engineers for dealing with hedges in planning applications.

Two documents were produced to be adopted in 2023 as council policy.



Monaghan Wetland Action Plan

The County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan 2020-2021 is an integrated plan for the conservation of the wetland resource in County Monaghan, through co-operation and engagement with a wide range of partners and community groups. The action plan sets a way forward to resource, protect and enhance, conserve and advocate for County Monaghan’s wetland biodiversity and heritage. The plan aims to progress the sustainable development of the resource and maximise on the biodiversity, climate change mitigation and ecosystem services that wetlands can provide.



Emy Lough wetland fringe

Extensive work has been undertaken over the past fifteen years in identifying and characterizing the ecological character of wetlands throughout County Monaghan. The outcome of this work has produced a valuable dataset containing information on 710 wetlands, of which 202 have been subject to field survey.

MWAP has objectively identified management, restoration and rehabilitation priorities for the wetland resource of the county to, amongst other things, improve biodiversity outcomes and climate mitigation/adaptation. This should guide community groups, landowners and others about the most practical and effective restoration measures.

A public engagement strategy was developed, and a Community Wetland Network was launched during Heritage Week. Funding sources are identified to ensure the wide uptake of the wetland action plan among partners and community groups, the primary beneficiaries in County Monaghan.

https://monaghan.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/5810-MonaghanWetlands-booklet_LR.pdf

The County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan (MAWP) project is a joint project initiative funded by Monaghan County Council, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the National Biodiversity Action Plan funding.

Conservation

Community Monuments Fund

This scheme from the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is administered by the Heritage Section. The fund is for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments. Two applications for funding were successful in 2022.

1. Errigal Truagh Medieval Church –

Errigal Truagh Medieval Church – conservation of western gable

Both gable walls are at risk of collapse due to dissolution of mortar, loss of some stone and water migration through wall tops. Increased

frequency of wind-driven rain, and projections for climate change that storm activity will increase puts this structure further at risk. To increase its resilience, the church needs repair and conservation works before these impacts cause partial or full collapse of walls. Full specification for repair were funded through this scheme in 2021, and conservation of one gable funded in 2022. The works were successfully completed.



Lisa Eddin and Grainne Shaffrey from the conservation team with members of the local community at the completed west gable.

2. Killeevan Abbey –

Medieval church marked in ruins on Down Survey map of 1657. 1837 commentary by Lewis, "Of the three chapels in the parish (Cill Laobhán) the oldest was colloquially called the 'The Abbey of Killeevan' "but of the original church, there only remains the western gable, with a very small lancet window, which indicates the antiquity of this building." This gable was consolidated in 2021 with funding from this scheme.

In 2022, the project improved the presentation of Killeevan Abbey, building resilience for the site by creating a baseline for ecological status, and improving access virtually on the ground. A film was made with the local school, and three interpretation panels made in conjunction with the local heritage group.

It will enable continued buy-in locally to the site and engage with senior primary school children. This will help create the next generation of custodians for the site.



Killeevan Abbey in its historical graveyard, following conservation works.



Killeevan Wee Abbey after conservation works to the gable were completed.

Collaborative Action for the Natura Network

The CANN project is an Interreg VA funded project led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, consisting of an 11-partner consortium of which Monaghan County Council leads the uplands work package.

The project aims to strengthen cross-border co-operation to facilitate the recovery of selected habitats and priority species to meet the targets of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Sliabh Beagh is a large upland site contained within the counties of Monaghan, Tyrone and Fermanagh. Monaghan County Council is responsible for delivering direct conservation actions on this site. In 2021, the completion of complex procurement exercises enabled the planning of works for many of the coming seasons. Conservation activities must be timed to avoid

nesting seasons and other sensitive times for habitats onsite.

This five-year project finished in Winter 2022, involved 11 partners and three jurisdictions – Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The aim is to produce conservation action plans and to improve the conservation status of wetland habitats and key species.

Monaghan County Council leads the upland sites work package and led the work on the cross-border site of Sliabh Beagh, where two conservation action plans were developed, one for the NI portion of the site and one for ROI. A result of the project, over 1200 hectares of Sliabh Beagh blanket bog is now moving towards improved conservation status, due to the removal of threats such as invasive species, blocking drainage channels by building peat dams, improvement of nesting opportunities for the Hen Harrier, conservation grazing and creation of a Wildfire Management Plan.



Creating a peat dam to block drain on Sliabh Beagh to restore the hydrological functions of the blanket bog.

Fire Management Plan was developed for the Sliabh Beagh region. The main aims of the plan going forward are to: Compile knowledge to allow stakeholders to gain an understanding of the fire risk in the area, encourage cross – border actions to sustainably manage the landscape and enhance

landscape resilience through sustainable management practices.

Ammonia Monitoring continues to be carried out by Monaghan County Council Heritage section on Sliabh Beagh on a monthly basis.



Fire on protected area on Sliabh Beagh. Fires are a threat to habitats, wildlife, air quality, water quality and contribute negatively to climate change.

Outreach

Heritage at the Heart Podcasts

This third series of podcasts on heritage and nature in Monaghan is presented by the Heritage Office and recorded onsite. They present interviews with local people, custodians, and heritage specialists, with lots of lively discussions and stories about the places and their value. Each podcast is accompanied with specially commissioned music by distinguished Monaghan composer Michael Gallen. Available on all usual podcast platforms. Synopsis of episodes below:

EPISODE 1 'Having an eye' on heritage and climate with Sammy Leslie.

Sammy Leslie, of Castle Leslie talks to Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer about managing a historic estate, her plans for rewilding some of the woodlands and pastures, all with a focus on climate change. Recorded in Castle Leslie, Glaslough.

EPISODE 2 Botanically yours with Alexis Fitzgerald.

Alexis Fitzgerald, botanical recorder for County Monaghan meets Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer on the shores of Lough Muckno, Castleblayney to talk about what inspires him in the natural world, and his forthcoming publication on the flora of the county.

EPISODE 3 Traditionally home with the Mulligan Family.

Kevin, Clare and their son Mide welcomed Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer to their restored vernacular farmhouse where they discuss the challenges and benefits of working and living in an old building. Accompanied by some pet dogs!

EPISODE 4 A burning issue for climate on Sliabh Beagh.

Dermot Brannigan, Chief Fire Officer and others chat with Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer on the top of windy Sliabh Beagh to talk about the bog, damage caused by fire and how by working together to produce a wildfire management plan is creating benefits for biodiversity and climate. Also features Paul Sherlock of the CANN project, and Paddy Sherry, local stakeholder.

EPISODE 5 Locally made: Weaving the weft with Liz Christy.

Liz Christy, artist and weaver shows Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer around her studio and working looms where she crafts luxurious scarves inspired by art, nature and the Monaghan landscapes. Recorded at Swallow Studios, Annyalla.

Traditional Houses in Rural County Monaghan

The typescript for the second volume of the Monaghan Heritage publication series was prepared in 2022.

Building on the county wide survey of vernacular buildings undertaken by the Heritage Office in 2015, the text, images and interviews with owners will form part of the publication which looks at the heritage of these buildings created using local materials and traditional skills. The book which will be published in 2023 examines important considerations for these assets into the future including re-use and adaptation.

Magic Under Monaghan

Wetlands Film for young people

Creative Ireland funded the production of a film to highlight the importance of peatlands for climate and biodiversity. Filmed in the early Autumn on Sliabh Beagh, the film is due for release at beginning of 2023.

The film incorporates animation and a young teacher from RTE school's hub is the presenter



Film crew on Sliabh Beagh making the Wetlands Film in September 2022.

Arts Office

The year 2022 for the Arts Sector was always going to be the year where we knew not what to expect with the sudden and slow departure of the covid 19 pandemic rules. The sector in many ways was not really ready for this jump to action as many of the arts practitioners, facilitators, performers, and Artists had gone into a subdued hibernation of creativity. As life matters started loosening the sense of relief was palpable within the creative arts community. However, there was an equal measure of anxiety within them, stemming from whether the audiences and participants, they had for so many years cultivated, would still be out there on the return of live Arts.

It was our role to assist and to inveigle the artists out again with both resources and financial assistance to start nurturing their creative talents that would lead to a spark which would excite audiences to embark on the long-anticipated journey of returning to live events again. However, since the whole country was in many ways caught up in the pandemic narrative of *will we open for good now or might this be temporary*, it took until May at least before we all realised there was no returning to lockdown measures. I must say that there had been always a sense of camaraderie amongst us all in the arts world of County Monaghan, in which Monaghan County nourished.

Monaghan County Council did endeavour to support the Arts throughout the year as it managed in 2021. In many instances the teams that led our cultural landscape through events took decisions on whether they were ready or not themselves in their roll-out of annual events until the following year of 2023.

Responding to Covid restrictions

Our Government through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media did realise that the natural uptake of events and arts participation would continue its slow burn to stability and maintained its investment

through the well tried and tested **Local Live Performance Programming Scheme**. We teamed up with the Dept and responded by delivering on the **LLPPS scheme III & IV** in assisting the arts sector and in particular the loss of skills sets needed to re-configure the arts back to a healthier state.

*“The scheme was set up to support employment opportunities for **Artists, Performers and Crew** in showcasing events across the county which would help underpin the recovery of the live performance sector. The funding was used to support employment and wellbeing in the commercial arts and culture sectors through the provision of live performances.”*

Of the 2 parts of the LLPPS III was held in May & June and the LLPPS IV held in September & October Monaghan County Council invested some **€260K** into the local Arts & Cultural sector to which we supported programmed events & Festivals in Carrickmacross, Clones, Hilton Park, Iontas Arts Centre, Patrick Kavanagh Centre, The Garage Theatre, Sliabh Beagh, Monaghan Town and other places & spaces throughout the county.

<https://monaghan.ie/arts/2022/02/24/local-live-performance-programming-scheme-phase-iii>

Over 36 days of events between the 2 the schemes supported and paid 169 Artists & Musicians, 53 Crew and paid a rental fee of 22 days to 10 different venues in the county.

Arts development objectives: 2022

Maintaining our programming and funding model to the 3 strategic goals of our framework agreement with the Arts Council 2020 -2027 was a key objective again in 2022, in the understanding that the council's commitment and delivery of the arts in the county can be more sustainable this way. These 3 key objectives were the cornerstone of our goals in

maintaining a fulfilling role for the arts in the creative society within Monaghan.

SPC Extract From Framework Agreement 2020-2027

Some of the updates in our 2022 delivery are as follows:

1. **Supporting the Artist:** Value and support the work of artists and extend the range of opportunities for artists to develop their practice.

Our recently added Value-Added Scheme 2020-2027 contributed financially to 4 Artists which at its core is a commitment to support the Professional Artists who have been awarded a bursary from bodies such as The Arts Council/Culture Ireland
<https://monaghan.ie/arts/value-added-scheme-2020-2027>

Additionally, the Artist Support Scheme 2022 awarded a total of €12K to 17 Artists, both as Emerging Talent & Established Artists.
<https://monaghan.ie/arts/2022/03/31/sceim-tacaiochta-ealaiontoir-artist-support-scheme-2022/>

We also co funded with the Arts Council and in association with arts officer association the biannual Platform 31 bursary which is awarded in competition form to an artist in mid-career wishing to engage in new and exciting work award sum €8K
<https://monaghan.ie/arts/2022/02/28/platform-31-artist-support-scheme>

The Clones Artists' Studios

is the Councils most public investment in advocating to the significance that artists make to our civic society. The artists in the studios delivered 8 artist led workshops in the Autumn and other more publicly accessible events and have been a bridge to some integral projects within Clones. A truly fantastic feature of the Council's commitments to artists, for years to come, some €20K was invested in this venture in 2022.
<https://www.facebook.com/ClonesArtStudios>

2. **Young people and the Arts:** opportunities for children and young people to create, access and participate in great art.

The Council's commitment and delivery is its most obvious in engaging directly with this goal can be seen through our significant financial commitment of €30K to the Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan - a performance music education service in Monaghan that provides opportunities for children and young people to access a range of high quality, subsidised vocal and instrumental tuition in their local area. So many of our schools and young people gain tremendous opportunities by being part of this initiative. To get an insight into the whole delivery and joy of Music Generation why not check these 3 videos out:
<https://www.facebook.com/Musicgencavmon>

- <https://youtu.be/1lw9X8OqTi4> Music on Wheels Tour Primary Schools
- <https://youtu.be/vuGM4wOzf58> Enjoy Life - Patrician High School
- <https://youtu.be/Wczb1XrQo-g> End of it all – Patrician High School

Further evidence of the Council's commitment to this core goal is the wonderful new collaboration with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) where we rolled out 4 new bursaries between Youth Groups in the county working with Artists we linked up with CMETB & again Cavan County Council with this as part of our Local Arts in education delivery [Cavan Monaghan Youth Arts Hub \(padlet.com\)](#)

Our Local Arts in Education Partnership (LAEP)

is a joint commitment of delivery to the Arts with a particular emphasis on young people and opportunities for them, that we share with Cavan County Council & CMETB.
<https://www.cmetb.ie/local-arts-in-education-partnership>

We each contribute financially to its operation which in turn assists schools in both counties to

achieve the status of being in the Creative Schools Programme under the auspices of the Arts Council. We now have 17 schools in County Monaghan who have achieved and participated in the programme.

<https://www.arts council.ie/creative-schools/>

As we also fund many other arts centre, festivals and venues in the county we ask them through our funding programmes to also follow up on the advocacy programme that we commit to in realising the potential of every child and commit to supporting young people in the Arts.

3. **Creating Capacity** Investing in the professional development of venues, festivals and organisations providing high-quality arts experiences.

Our principal support in this high level goal is our [Scéim Ealaíon Compháirtíochta/ Arts Partnership Grant Scheme 2022 - Arts \(monaghan.ie\)](https://www.arts council.ie/creative-schools/) This funding Scheme is open to Arts Organisations, Arts Groups, Arts Festivals and Arts Projects who deliver a sustainable Arts Programme in County Monaghan. Direct grant assistance to venues, arts organisations and

festivals deemed to be of strategic importance to the Arts within the County.

The restrictions placed on society by the pandemic did have a huge impact on our Arts Partners in being able to deliver many of their goals. Monaghan County Council maintained its support to these Arts organisations in their time of need in order that they would be able to start reclaiming their audiences and stimulate the arts in the county post covid. It is only with our Arts partners with whom we fulfil our **Creating Capacity** investment, who are in many ways the driving force behind much of the Arts delivery in the county.

Arts Partners scheme 2022

The Council awarded through its **Arts Partners Scheme** 2022 a total of **€66K** to the below named recipients:

Clones Film Festival
The Garage Theatre
Muckno Mania Festival
Iontas Arts Centre
Féile Patrick Byrne
Scoil Cheoil na Botha
Ballybay Community Arts

Tourism Section

The Tourism Unit within Monaghan County Council implements the Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022. The principal functions of the unit are:

- To raise customer awareness of the Monaghan area as a tourism destination
- To develop and contribute towards the development of the county's tourism product

Tourism Promotion & Visitor Servicing

Monaghan Cluster Trade Workshops

Monaghan Tourism in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland continued its series of tourism cluster workshops in June 2022, targeting key tourism, dining, accommodation, and craft businesses based in north Monaghan to develop a cluster of saleable experiences tailored to domestic and international visitors.

Monaghan Tourism Summer 2022 Campaign

Monaghan once again set its stall as a must-visit staycation destination for summer 2022, with a content-driven promotional campaign across local, national and social media to maximise visibility.

Summer of Food Series

The key pillar of the 2022 campaign was the *Summer of Food Series*. Funded by the Agri-Food Tourism initiative from the Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine, the series saw County Monaghan's food businesses and producers take centre stage over with a content driven campaign highlighting several of the county's leading food businesses and foodie experiences, with a particular emphasis on what's new, innovative and unique about each. The Summer of Food series was launched on Thursday 16th June 2022 by Minister Charlie McConalogue, who visited Monaghan Market House to officially announce funding of €23,000 for Agri-Tourism in Monaghan.

The full series is available to view via the Monaghan Tourism YouTube channel and via <https://monaghantourism.com/monaghan-summer-of-food-series/>



Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue with Summer of Food participating businesses (including Adamson's Bar, Paelling Food Truck, Monaghan Taste Club, Silver Hill Duck, Subh Fraoc Ban and Castle Leslie Estate) at the Agri-Food Tourism launch at Monaghan Market House, June 2022

Ireland AM – Broadcast from Monaghan

Following a successful and well received show in 2021, Virgin Media returned to Monaghan for a special Ireland AM live outside broadcast, presented by Tommy Bowe from Castle Leslie Estate in August 2022 and featuring highlights from Tommy's tour of Monaghan to take in some key attractions, special guest interviews with

Natalie B Coleman and Ardal O'Hanlon, and features with businesses participating in the Monaghan Tourism *Summer of Food Series*.



Monaghan Tourism Summer of Food Series

Other Promotional Initiatives

Monaghan was showcased in travel features in both print and online media including The Sunday Times, Belfast Telegraph, and MyKidsTime.com, and there were several press visits to the county from a range of influencer and travel journalists, including Catriona Doherty and Neil Leydon (RTÉ Digital).

Monaghan enjoyed coverage on US TV platforms in 2022, including a 25-minute travel feature on *Ireland; County By County*, presented by Ciara Whelan and created in conjunction with Peninsula TV, which aired across 239 stations in the US in January 2022. The full episode is available via the [Monaghan Tourism YouTube channel](#)

Monaghan is also set to feature in the next season of popular US travel show *Ireland with Michael*, hosted by Irish singer, theatrical producer and Wexford native Michael Londra, now based in the American Midwest. Filming was completed in Monaghan in June 2022, and the upcoming episode will air in January 2023.

Rossmore Cycle Trail

Under the **Outdoor Recreation Funding Scheme (ORIS) 2019**, funding of €289,355 was secured with match funding of €72,338 being provided by

Monaghan MD. The cycle trail was designed following consultation with key stakeholders such as Coillte, Emyvale Cycling Club and Cycle Ireland. The project was completed in 2022 and officially launched by Minister Humphreys on Thursday 14th April 2022.



Rossmore Cycle Trail - Official launch - April 2022



Monaghan Way Upgrade – Inniskeen to Castleblayney

Funding of €139,490 was received under ORIS 2021, with match funding of €15,499 provided by Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD for this upgrade project. Trails consultants were appointed in May to survey the route and to provide specifications for upgrade works. The anticipated completion date for the project is April 2023.

Dartrey Forest Enhancements

Another project funded under ORIS 2021 was Dartrey Forest for which €200,000 was received,

with match funding of €24,000 from Ballybay-Clones MD. The Paul Hogarth Company (Landscape Architects) were appointed to work up detailed designs to enhance the wonderful natural asset of Dartrey Forest, with a view to maximising its recreational value. This work is on-going and will be completed in 2023.

LEADER Heritage Cluster Project

Signage - A Design Team was appointed to design and install signage and interpretation panels at Rossmore Forest Park. Funding of €67,313.81 was awarded by LEADER for this element and match funding of €22,437.94 was provided by Monaghan County Council. The signage was installed in September 2022.



Conservation Management Plans - A multi-disciplinary Design Team including qualified archaeologists was appointed to draw up Conservation Management Plans for two sites in Co. Monaghan - Rossmore Forest Park and the Black Pig's Dyke at Scotshouse. Funding of €43,015.50 was awarded by LEADER for this element and match funding of €4,779.50 was provided by Monaghan County Council. The plans are available to view at www.monaghan.ie/tourism and the projects identified will be progressed as funding becomes available.



Destination Towns

Under the **Destination Towns – Fáilte Ireland** scheme, €497,962 was awarded to Monaghan County Council to deliver initiatives to assist in the enhancement of Monaghan Town as a visitor destination. The funded project for Monaghan is to deliver a multi-use events space in Church Square. Match funding of €165,987 was provided by Monaghan MD and the project is currently being progressed. It is scheduled for completion at end 2023.

Sliabh Beagh Partnership Committee

The Sliabh Beagh Partnership Committee is a cross-border initiative in conjunction with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council, with representation from elected members, community groups and the business community in each council area. The committee met on a number of occasions in 2022 and was successful in securing Shared Island funding of €145,475, with match funding of €17,500 in total from the three councils for a major tourism feasibility study for the catchment area.

Dromore River Blueway

€50K funding was secured under the ORIS Project Development measure to work up plans to develop a Blueway along the Dromore river system from Ballybay to Lisnalong. Canoeing Ireland was appointed in September 2022 to carry out a technical water survey which is a key project development requirement.

Lough Muckno Vision Report

Following on from the development of a Visioning Report for Lough Muckno Estate, Castleblayney and the surrounding area, a feasibility study of the concept proposals was progressed in 2022. A public consultation event in relation to the Stage 1 feasibility – a Strategic Planning & Environmental

Appraisal - was held on Thursday 6th October 2022. The completed Appraisal report is due in January 2023 and will determine next steps in the feasibility study process.

Monaghan Destination & Experience Development Plan (Monaghan DEDP)

A crucial output from the continual collaboration of the Tourism Unit with Fáilte Ireland was the production of the newly developed Monaghan Destination & Experience Development Plan (MDEDP), launched by Ministers Catherine Martin and Heather Humphreys in June 2022. The MDEDP is a five-year commercial destination and experience development plan to support the development of unique and compelling destination experiences focused on a number of immediate and strategic destination opportunities within the county. The full plan can be viewed at www.monaghan.ie/tourism/monaghan-destination-experience-development-plan

EZexploring Trail Maps for County Monaghan

Monaghan Tourism worked in conjunction with EZexploring and with the Municipal Districts to create a suite of new town trail maps for the county, specifically targeted at families and children. The maps provide a fun activity-based trail that encourages visitors to get out and about, solve the clues and learn more about the characteristics and heritage of each town along the way. Trail maps are available locally or for download from <https://monaghantourism.com/brochures/>

Tourist Office

The Tourist Office re-opened in the Market House, Monaghan town on Tuesday 7th June 2022, recording a steady increase on visitor numbers when compared with 2021, and an increase in international visitors, indicating a return to normal visitor trends following the pandemic. The tourist office closed for the year on Friday 2nd September 2022. Tourism enquiries continue to be handled by the Monaghan Tourism Unit during the rest of the year (September-May) and the Monaghan

Tourism website, app and social media channels (updated on a regular basis) continue to function as a key source of information for visitors and those planning a trip to the county.

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre

For its first full operational year the centre has performed above expectations especially so in the face of a challenging national economic outlook. It has seen a significant increase in groups albeit from the domestic market and the centre has also started to diversify its offering to optimise revenue potential for exhibition experiences.

Official Launch of Centre

The centre received its official launch in June, with two senior cabinet ministers present along with the CEO of Fáilte Ireland and various Monaghan County Council representatives. The Poetry Jukebox, a popular addition to the Kavanagh trail was also launched on the same day. Over 200 attended what was a lively event punctuated by street performance by Castleblayney Players and a wonderful introduction by Kavanagh stalwarts John & Tommy McArdle.



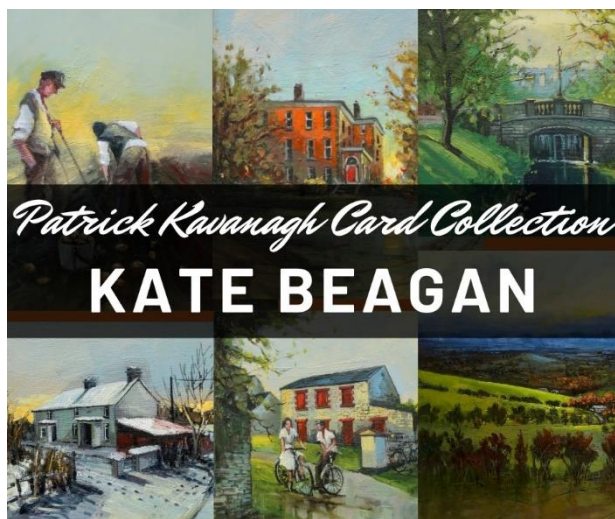
Official Launch of Patrick Kavanagh Centre – June 2022

Digital that Delivers

As a client of Fáilte Ireland the Kavanagh Centre was part of an ambitious programme to transform our digital capacity and online presence. Through this programme the centre has invested in a new website, integrated 3rd party ticketing and CRM solution, content development, social media and google analytics training to support its marketing needs, along with training in Connected distribution with 3rd party vendors like Tripadvisor.

Kate Beagan Card Collection

To celebrate the reopening of The Patrick Kavanagh Centre, acclaimed local artist Kate Beagan was commissioned to produce artwork inspired by the poet in the context of the landscape where he grew up. A series of six greeting cards were produced as part of this based on an appropriate poem by Patrick Kavanagh.



Poet at Rosie's Corner

Commissioned and produced mural of Patrick Kavanagh in Carrickmacross, which has quickly gained iconic status supporting the council's wider tourism goals for the South Monaghan region.



Kavanagh Poetry Award & Weekend Event

The 51st edition of the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award took place in September along with a Keynote Kavanagh Address (delivered by author

John Connell) as part of a reduced Patrick Kavanagh Festival Weekend. This was the first proper running of the event since 2019 and over 100 attended what was a very well received event.

Taking Flight Radio Series

A series of radio essays celebrating the work and continued influence of the poet Patrick Kavanagh. Four essays were commissioned with artists such as composer Michael Gallen and folk singer Lisa O'Neill among the contributors. These will be broadcast in 2023. Support was also provided for a radio documentary celebrating Raglan Road which will be broadcast in December.

Creative Ireland

commissioned traditional arts producers Ceol Connected to create a new theatrical work inspired by Kavanagh's timeless poem A Christmas Childhood. A co-production with National Concert Hall and Draocht Arts, the development of the work started during the summer with a series of workshops in St. Daigs Inniskeen NS. This work will inform the production which will have its premier in 2023.

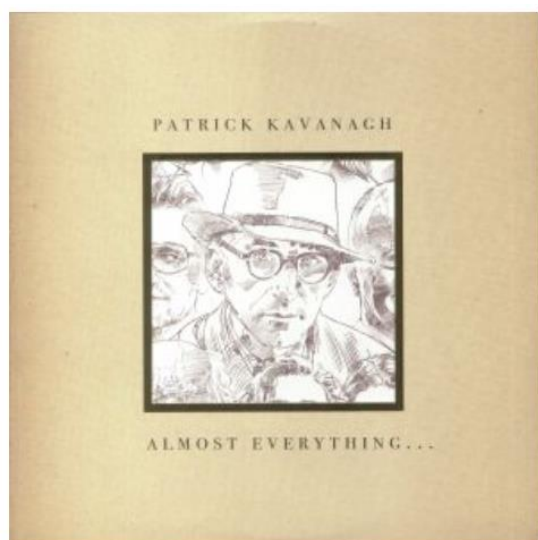
Creativity in Schools

supported creativity associate Declan Gorman who facilitated a series of workshops with 12-14 yr olds in Inver College. The workshops essentially explored the student's sense of creative self, legitimacy of the artist and their own cultural heritage and culminated in a group visit and creative exercise to the Kavanagh Centre and Trail. The workshops included a visual artist, theatre practitioner and poet supporting the widest possible experience of creativity in the group. This is a model we may well pursue with other interested schools.

'Almost Everything' Release

Almost Everything is a re-issue of famous Kavanagh recordings originally produced by Claddagh Records in the 1960s, including new additional recordings of his poetry by prominent Irish celebrities and personalities including Bono, President Michael D Higgins, Liam Neeson, and Imelda May. This release has already exceeded expectation and is selling well, bringing a great deal of publicity to Kavanagh domestically and

internationally. Visit <https://patrickkavanaghcentre.com/product/almost-everything-cd/> for further details.



Prague Presentation

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre was invited to deliver a presentation about the story of the centre's development in the context of developing literary

and cultural assets as a tourism product. This event, which took place on 24th October in Prague, was organised at the behest of Department of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Cliona Manahan and was delivered to an audience of academics, diplomats, Tourism Ireland representatives and other tourism industry stakeholders.

High Quality Events Presented

These included:

- Various Comhaltas events throughout the year
- Kavanagh Centre Launch
- Kavanagh Weekend event featuring John Connell and music from Sean Walsh
- Monaghan Folk Festival (22nd October 2022)

Information Systems & Innovation

The Information Systems & Innovation section leads innovation and digital transformation in Monaghan County Council and provides modern and secure ICT infrastructure, systems, and solutions to enable efficient service delivery. The section is also responsible for facilitating the National Broadband Plan.

The strategy, Connecting Government 2030: A Digital and ICT Strategy for Ireland's Public Service, was unveiled by Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath and Minister of State for eGovernment Ossian Smyth in March 2022.



The Government is seeking to develop a “trusted, user-driven, intuitive, inclusive and efficient world-leading digital government service”, with 90 per cent of applicable services to be consumed online by 2030. It also aims to have 80 per cent of eligible citizens using the online MyGovID service by 2030. Towards meeting these objectives Monaghan County Council established and is leading a collaboration between Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Laois, Clare, Sligo, Mayo, Carlow, Kerry and Meath County Councils, Galway City Council, the Department of Housing and Local Government and the Local Government Management Agency to develop MyCoCo.ie, a secure online portal where businesses and individuals will be able to access local authority services digitally.

COVID-19 accelerated the global demand for, and the transition to online digital services, and led to increased expectations by the workforce for remote working opportunities. Monaghan County Council introduced blended working in October

2022 the roll-out of which entailed close collaboration across a number of departments including HR, Corporate Services and I.S.

Security, Networks and Infrastructure

The I.S. Section is responsible for ensuring availability and security of ICT systems and services, on-premises and in the Cloud, and for managing the network infrastructure in over 37 Council offices and buildings throughout the county including County Offices, MTek1 and MTek2 buildings, the Planning Office, Municipal District Offices, Fire Stations, Libraries, Museum, and Water Treatment Plants.

In 2022, the new Landfill building was completed, and we are overseeing the installation of IT and telephony services into the building. Projects for the new library building in Castleblayney and the Peace Campus Monaghan are ongoing and have also been receiving considerable attention.



Cyber-security is a major priority for Monaghan County Council and much of the work carried out by the I.S. Section in 2022 related to strengthening the security posture of the organisation. The anti-virus system was replaced with a more cost-effective solution which provides additional security features including endpoint detection and response, and vulnerability scanning. Independent pen testing was carried out and any vulnerabilities identified remediated. A new digital Compliance Management System was implemented to deploy policies, online training, and phishing simulations. Security of library public services was enhanced with the installation of new VPNs at all branches. Monaghan County Council also engaged security

consultancy services in 2022 to assist with the development of an Incident response policy for the organisation and to facilitate a simulated cyber-security incident via tabletop exercise.

Broadband Services

The Broadband Officer continued to support the rollout of The National Broadband Plan throughout the county and the delivery of fibre to community BCPs and to schools. The first Deployment Area in Co. Monaghan was completed under the National Broadband Plan, covering the rural areas surrounding Monaghan town. Build work commenced for approximately 65% of premises to be connected under the NBP by the end of 2022.

Deployment Area (DA)	No. Premises in DA / County Monaghan	Current Status
Monaghan	4352	Ready for Order
Dundalk	2608 / 53	Ready for Order
Clones	1638 / 1190	Build in Progress
Emyvale	1259 / 1259	Build in Progress
Carrickmacross	3011 / 2867	Survey Complete
Cootehill	3582 / 1539	Survey Complete
Castleblaney	3651 / 3651	Survey Pending
Bailieborough	2966 / 24	Survey Pending
Kingscourt	2315 / 419	Survey Pending

Engagement is continuing with all communities, Broadband Connection Point owners and business leaders in relation to the delivery of broadband and connectivity services. The Broadband Officer continues to assist business organisations, and individuals with broadband needs, and to advise on the correct approach to acquiring appropriate broadband solutions. He has continued to prioritise work with BCP owners and enterprises on the development and promotion of digital hubs and hot desk spaces.

In May 2022, Monaghan County Council hosted its first Telecommunications Action Group meeting (TAG), featuring broadband officers from across Ireland. This event took place in Carrickmacross and was opened by Minister Heather Humphreys.



Telecommunications Action Group event – Carrickmacross

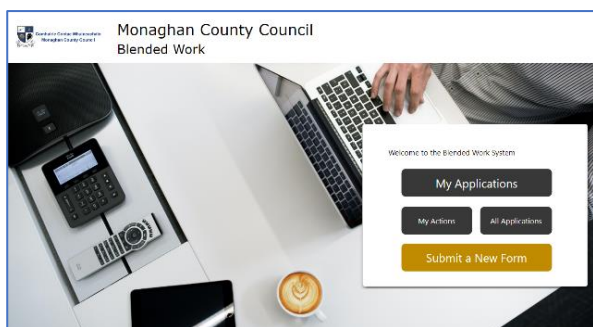
A meeting of the Shared Island Forum also took place in Drumhowan BCP in May through the Department of An Taoiseach's Shared Island unit, welcoming visitors from North and South including government ministers, MLAs and members of the European parliament.

In 2022, SIRO announced that they would be entering the broadband market in Co. Monaghan. Siro is a collaboration between Vodafone and ESB which delivers their broadband network along ESB power lines. This is a welcome development which will greatly improve the broadband speeds available to users in these areas and improve competition within the county. In the latter part of 2022, SIRO commenced the build work in the Carrickmacross urban area and will commence work in Monaghan town early in 2023.

In the latter part of 2022, Openeir/EirEvo also commenced work on their IFN network in County Monaghan which will facilitate the delivery of full fibre to the premises solutions for residents and businesses within the Monaghan area in the near future.

Business Applications and Innovation

The I.S. Section works with other sections in the Council to help achieve further efficiencies and deliver on the Council's paperless office agenda. In 2022 we assisted with the implementation and roll-out of new digital solutions including a new Blended Working Application, Spydus Library Management System, and ProWork Road Application. We also assisted with the development and implementation of a new Room Booking System, and with the development of a new digital Performance Management and Development System (ePMDS) and a new digital system for recording Annual Ethics Declarations for Councillors and relevant Staff, both of which will go live in 2023.



Online forms for grants and fund applications were developed including the Community Fund Scheme 2022 and the Community Activities Fund Round 2. In addition, an online form for submitting broadband enquiries was developed.

As well as introducing new systems, we also carried out applications upgrades to some of the Council's key business systems including the Councils Financial Management System, the Register of Electors System, the Housing Management System, the Property Asset Register and the Museum Collection Management System.

In 2021 Monaghan County Council developed its first innovation strategy and set up a cross-departmental innovation team to coordinate delivery of the objectives contained therein. The team continued with this work throughout 2022 undertaking innovation training, participating in workshops, and developing skills to help bring innovative thinking to address challenges and opportunities.

MyCoCo

In 2022, having completed a successful proof of concept, Monaghan County Council proceeded to procure the provision of a cloud hosted public services platform for the delivery of local authority services on behalf of the local government sector. Monaghan is leading a collaboration with 11 other local authorities to deliver online services to business users and citizens through this new secure portal known as [MyCoCo.ie](https://mycoco.ie). Monaghan was the first local authority to go live with MyCoCo with online solicitor services. A new MyCoCo payments app has been developed and is due to go live in March 2023.

Monaghan County Council also led the development of an innovative MyCoCo Councillor App. Councillor Raymond Aughey piloted the mobile App throughout 2022 and it will be rolled out to additional Councillors in Monaghan and in other local authorities in 2023.



A number of other services are also being developed in MyCoCo including the Housing for All housing loan application, and a range of permit and licence application processes.

I.S. Service Desk

The technical support team continued to deliver a high-quality technical support service to over 400 staff and elected members whether working in the Council Offices or from home.

In 2022 the technical support team provided support for over a thousand devices comprising laptops, desktops, tablets, smart phones, lone working devices, and loggers.

The number of issues logged in 2022 was 4417. While the total number of calls in 2022 returned to pre-pandemic figures, the introduction of new applications, security requirements and blended working increased the complexity of the support calls, which is reflected in the reduction of calls resolved within 24 hours.

Call Statistics	2022	2021	2020
Total Calls Logged	4,417	5,892	4,760
Avg. Calls per Month	368	491	397
Avg. Calls per Day	18	23	19
Resolved within 24 hrs	49%	57%	55%

I.S. Service Desk Statistics

Roads & Transportation

Non-National Roads

Non-National roads account for 95% of the network and are funded from grants from the Department of Transport and the Council's own resources. In 2022 Monaghan County Council received an allocation of €16.22m from Department of Transport for Non-National Roads and provided almost €4.4 million from its own resources which included technical and administrative costs.

The Department of Transport Allocations for 2022 are outlined in the table below:

Department of Transport Allocation 2022	
Scheme	Allocation
Restoration Improvement	€7,269,000
Restoration Maintenance	€1,121,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€881,000
Discretionary Grant	€2,070,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	€788,500
Safety Improvement Works	€262,000
Specific Improvement	€1,150,000
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€100,000
Speed Limits (Housing Area Signage)	€13,770
Speed Limits (Rural Speed Limit Signage)	€15,600
Training Grant	€53,000
Former National Roads	€250,000
Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works	€418,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€432,850
PSCI: Survey Support	€18,000
Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot	€500,000
Drainage Works	€524,880
Total Allocation	€15,868,00

Restoration Improvement Grant

In 2022 the Department of Transport provided an allocation of €7,269,000 under the Restoration Improvement Grant to Monaghan County Council for the rehabilitation of Regional and Local Roads

identified as having a PSCI rating of between 1 and 4. 42.4km of road were upgraded in 2022, 31.2km Local & 11.2KM Regional.

Restoration Maintenance

The Department of Transport allocated grants totalling €2,002,500 in 2022 for the resealing and restoration of skid resistance on the non-national road network. 83.5km of roads were upgraded in 2022, 71.5km Local & 12.0km Regional.

Discretionary Grant

A grant allocation of €2,070,500 was received in 2022 from the Department of Transport under the Discretionary Grant. The funding is predominately used by the Municipal Districts to carry out maintenance works such as minor pavement improvement works, drainage renewal, footpath restoration, pothole repairs, gulley cleaning, hedge and verge trimming and the renewal of road signs and markings on Regional and Local Roads.

Specific Improvement Grant

R181 Drummillard to Crossduff: €150,000

The Department of Transport allocated €150,000 in 2022 to advance the detailed design and CPO process for this scheme.

Brackley Bridge



The Department of Transport provided a funding allocation of €1,000,000 in 2022 to complete the Brackley Bridge project. This project was substantially complete in 2022. The works included the replacement of a collapsed bridge that traversed underneath the L-4210 road, upgrade and widening works on the L-4210 road

over a length of 300m, improvements to the L-4201/R180 junction with the resurfacing of 425m of the R180 and the installation of a vehicle restraint system.

Bridge Rehabilitation

In 2022, an allocation of €788,500 was received from the Department of Transport for the rehabilitation of 14 bridges. This allocation was the 4th highest out of the 28 Local Authorities who received a funding allocation under the Bridge Rehabilitation Grant.

Safety Improvement Works

An allocation of €262,000 was received in 2022 for the delivery of twelve low-cost safety improvement Schemes.

Training Grant

In 2022 the Regional and Local Road Grants included €53,000 for non-national road training for Local Authority engineering and administration staff.

Local Improvement Schemes

Funding allocations totalling €932,009 were received from the Department of Rural and Community Development under two rounds in May and July 2022. 5 lanes were completed in Round 1 with a further 9 lanes completed in round 2.

Community Improvement Scheme

An allocation of €432,850 was received from the Department of Transport in 2022, which, together with community contributions, enabled the resurfacing of 4 roads.

Pilot Schemes in 2022

The RAP Trial was undertaken on 2km of the R180 in Lough Egish in July 2022. Continuous monitoring and testing are being undertaken on a monthly basis for the next year to ascertain how the road/material is performing. The trial generated a lot of interest on a national level with various roads authority representatives from different local authorities arriving on site to observe the trial. The scheme was presented at the National TII conference in September 2022.



Reclaimed Asphalt Quarry Processing in Glenmore Quarry, Carrickroe

Climate Change Adaptation Funding

An allocation of €418,000 was received in 2022 for the delivery of six climate adaptation and resilience works schemes.

National Roads

N54 Tullybryan

Monaghan County Council Roads Department are working in partnership with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to upgrade a 3.1km section of the N54, which will enhance Road Safety and east/west connectivity. The proposed scheme will deliver improvements to the visibility and cross section of the route and aims to provide significant improvements to the long-term accident rates and reduction in fatalities. A Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire lands was published in June 2022. The Total Scheme Budget for this project is €17.3 million.

N53 Ballynacarry Bridge

The Ballynacarry Bridge is located on the border with Northern Ireland on the N53 National Secondary Road and A37 in County Armagh. The main objective of the new bridge project is to address safety issues, by improving alignment and incorporating road widening into the design. A consultant was appointed in April 2022 to progress the project through the various phases of the TII Project Management Guidelines. Various on-site surveys were completed in 2022 with data collected used to inform the route selection process. The project will progress into Phase 4- Statutory Processes in 2023, subject to TII approval.

Safety Schemes (National Roads)

Following a serious collision in June 2022, Monaghan County Council collaborated with Donegal National Road Design Office to develop a Safety scheme along the National Road, N2 on the northern approach to Emyvale Village. Various options were developed and assessed to ensure that the primary objective of reducing the speeds of south bound vehicles approaching the village is achieved. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Road Safety section were consulted throughout Q4 2022 for comment on the Feasibility and Options Report for the scheme, with feedback resulting in some amendments to the design.

In addition, Feasibility and Options Reports were prepared in 2022 and subsequently submitted to TII for approval for the following locations-

- N2, Cluain Ard junction at St Macartan's College.
- N12, Skinnaggin junction.

As part of the TII Road Safety Improvement Programme 2022, 1.05km of timber post & rail fencing was replaced with timber post & tensioned mesh at various locations along the National Road network at a cost of €60,000.

National Road N2 Cycle Paths

An allocation of €345,000 was provided by TII in 2022 to fund the design of four cycle path schemes on the N2. Locations are as follows

- Ballyalbany Junction to Coolshannagh Roundabout (0.8km).
- Emyvale Village (0.25km).
- Corlat Roundabout to the Collegiate College (0.65km).
- Upgrade of Hard verge to Cycle Path N2 Ballyalbany to Tydavnet Junction (5.2km).

These schemes progressed through Phases 1, 2 & 3 of the TII Project Management Guidelines in 2022. Detailed Design and Environmental Evaluation progressed and discussions with potentially affected landowners with regards to land acquisition were initiated.

Pavement Renewals on National Routes

In 2022, two major Pavement Rehabilitation Projects progressed with a combined budget of €3.4 million. The N2 Tullyvin to Lislanly Pavement

Rehabilitation scheme (Castleblaney Bypass South) involved pavement strengthening and Vehicle Restraint System replacement for 5.80km. The N2 Monaghan Town (adjacent to Kingspan) scheme involved the resurfacing of 300 metres of carriageway.



N2 Tullyvin to Lislanly Pavement Rehabilitation scheme

National Route Maintenance & Defects Works

Targeted road resurfacing and repairs were carried out to distressed sections on the National Road network at locations including N54 Edenaforan, Smithborough and Legnakelly. Additional maintenance works including isolated drainage improvements and hedge/verge maintenance were implemented throughout the network. Other works included pedestrian lights replacement at Church Square, Monaghan Town and acoustic fencing replacement along the N2, south of Carrickmacross.

N2 Ardee to Castleblaney Road Scheme

Monaghan County Council is working in partnership with Louth County Council and in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Westmeath National Roads Office (WNRO) to develop the N2 Ardee to Castleblaney Road Scheme, which proposes to upgrade 32km of the N2 to dual carriageway standard. Jacobs Engineering Ireland (Jacobs) is the Consulting Engineer for the scheme.

In 2022 the project team continued to develop Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation – in which Jacobs developed the road alignment design, identifying the land take required, and undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment.

By Summer 2022, a wide range of surveys and investigations were substantially complete, and the N2 Project Team had prepared an initial design for the proposed road. Approximately 300 landowners were directly affected, and the project team held meetings with these landowners over a 5-week period in Carrickmacross, online in September and October 2022. The initial design was then published on the project website www.N2monaghanlouth.ie to allow the wider community to view details of the proposed road, including sideroad diversions and access arrangements. Feedback or submissions in relation to the initial design could be made directly to the project team for consideration. The N2 Project Team is to consider this feedback before a design is finalised in 2023 and the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) documentation and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) are prepared.

N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme

The project entered Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) in February 2021, however as no funding was received in 2022 the project was suspended in early 2022 and the Phase 3 design process could not be progressed.

Opportunities to source other funding to progress the project through the 'Shared Island Initiative' were explored, but the available funding did not support a project of this scale. Monaghan County Council then commenced a funding application through the EU's 'Connecting Europe Facility,' with the closing application date for applications in January 2023. An indicative date for decisions on the funding is June 2023.



Active Travel Unit

Monaghan County Council secured an allocation of €2,500,605 from the Active Travel Investment Grants for 2022. This allocation was for 46 schemes in total across various project codes. This targeted funding will make walking and cycling in our towns and villages safe and sustainable. The range of projects to be delivered include upgrades along our existing Greenway, footpath/cycleway provision, streetlighting, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges and safe to school infrastructure as well as the development of a Local Transport Plan.

An Active Travel Unit has been established within the Transportation Section, consisting of 4 staff tasked with the roll out and delivery of the various schemes under this funding.

Upgrade of Monaghan Town Greenway

One of the largest projects which received funding was for the upgrade of 4.5k of the Monaghan Town Greenway. This upgrade included drainage, lighting, fencing, resurfacing and road lining from the Coolshannagh Roundabout to the Threemilehouse Road. By the end of 2022 80% of the works were complete with seating and signage outstanding. As part of Greenway Upgrade, we enhanced the appearances of the entrances to the greenway by planting trees, shrubs and grasses. This also contributes positively to our Climate Action Plan, we planted, 38 Betula Pendula Trees (Silver Birch), 750 Shrubs/Plants and 700 Various Grasses.



Upgrade of Monaghan Town Greenway

Walking & Cycling Strategy

Several actions in the Walking & Cycling Strategy are completed or at various stages of progression. A Walking & Cycling Interdepartmental Committee has been established with senior staff from various relevant sections leading and delivering on various actions.

A Walking & Cycling Forum consisting of external stakeholders with an interest in walking and cycling matters was also formed. This forum will continue to meet quarterly and input into ongoing policy and the practical development of sustainable transport solutions in walking and cycling in Co Monaghan.

New Walkway for Castleblayney

The new walkway is located between Coill Darach & Knocktornagh Housing Developments. The installation of a new footpath, upgrade of existing path and new streetlighting will enhance the permeability of this part of the town by opening a direct pedestrian/cycling route from the rear of these estates to facilitate movement between the estates, allowing a shortcut to the nearby community amenities/town centre.



New Walkway for Castleblayney

EU Mobility Week

To mark European Week of Sport and EU Mobility Week, the Active Travel Unit and Sports Partnership in partnership with the Wellness Committee planned some lunch time staff events from 26th – 30th September. These lunch n learn events were a tremendous success. Staff from Planning, the Glen and MTEK offices participated in walking and cycling sessions.

Bike Week 2022

Bike week was another huge success in 2022. 14 different events which included E-bike and family

guided cycles, bike skills workshops for children, a secondary school's cycle along the greenway to Rossmore Park, mountain biking for teenagers, council staff E-bike competition and a number of online webinars took place. Over 200 participants were at in person events and over 380 attended online webinars. Bike accessory packs also were distributed through the libraries and available for collection.



Staff E-Bike Scheme

Due to the popularity of our staff e-bike scheme which was launched in September 2021 in 5 locations in the County we have recently added to the fleet. 2 additional bikes have been purchased and are located at Monaghan Fire Station and Monaghan machinery yard. The e-bikes will prove extremely useful for staff who have a variety of duties to carry out in the urban area and also an environmentally friendly method of travel. To date staff have been using the bikes for leisure purposes on their lunch break or attending meetings locally.

Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 2

Monaghan County Council, along with project partners, Waterways Ireland, Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and the East Border Region continued to progress the Ulster Canal Greenway Phase 2 project.

The Border to Middletown section in Northern Ireland successfully secured planning permission in May. Detailed design and tender documentation for this section are due to be completed in Q1 2023.

Despite a protracted period of negotiations, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Council failed to reach agreement with some landowners to acquire the necessary lands to construct the Greenway in Northern Ireland. As a result, the SEUPB confirmed they would no longer fund the project as the project outputs could not be delivered within the timeframe of the INTERREG VA programme. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council are actively seeking alternative funding to deliver the section of Greenway in their jurisdiction.

Site investigation works were completed on the Monaghan – Middletown section and this information was utilised to inform the detailed design. The detailed design for the Monaghan – Border section is complete and the tender documentation for the construction stage of this section is due to be completed in Q1 2023.

A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was published in Q3 for the necessary lands to construct the Monaghan to Border section. Three objections were received during the submission period. An Bord Pleanála have indicated a timeframe of Q3 2023 for an oral hearing, should it be necessary to close out the CPO.

Given the departure of the SEUPB from the project, Monaghan County Council commenced discussions with possible alternative funders for the Monaghan to Border section. To date, discussions have been positive with Transport Infrastructure Ireland. A decision on the matter is expected in Q1 2023.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland are now the Approving Authority for the Smithborough – Monaghan section. Draft Part VIII planning documentation for this section has been prepared and agreed with the Approving Authority subject to certain conditions. It is expected to lodge the Part VIII planning application with Monaghan County Council in Q1 2023.

Road Safety

Action 94 of the government's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 titled 'Our Journey Towards Vision Zero' tasks each Local Authority with establishing a Road Safety Working Together Group to co-ordinate a multi-agency road safety policy and its implementation at a local level. The

holistic Safe System approach has identified seven priority intervention areas namely:

- Safe roads and roadsides.
- Safe speeds.
- Safe vehicles.
- Safe road use.
- Post-crash response.
- Safe and healthy modes of travel.
- Safe work-related road use.

The Road Safety Action Plan for Co Monaghan was developed in 2022 and will be implemented over three phases, the first of which will run until the end of 2024. Phase 2 and Phase 3 will cover the periods 2025-2027 and 2028-2030 respectively. The Co Monaghan Action Plan aims to deliver at a local level the national road safety strategy objective of reducing deaths by 15% and serious injuries by 10% by 2024. Provisional figures for 2022, released by the Road Safety Authority have shown a rise in the number of fatal accidents in County Monaghan. Five fatal accidents occurred during the year, resulting in the loss of six lives. This compares to 2021 provisional figures where five people lost their lives in five fatal accidents.

County Monaghan schools continued to perform well at the Road Safety Authority's national 'Seatbelt Sheriff' competition. Second class students from Annalitten NS, Castleblayney, came out on top in the 'Hi-Glo Silver' category for their "Glow Before You Go!" poster. The annual Road Safety Shows for Transition Year students were again put on hold but are scheduled to resume in March 2023 when approximately 700 pupils will once again attend events in the Lontas Theatre in Castleblayney and the Garage Theatre in Monaghan.

This year also saw a welcome return of the RSA's Check It Fits child car seat testing service to the county with two visits to Monaghan Town and one each to Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.

Flocking Arts, a young film makers initiative based in County Monaghan, were winners at the Road Safety Authority's annual Leading Lights in Road Safety Awards for 2022. Their short film which is targeted at young people examines the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence of drugs. Filmed in County Monaghan the project was funded by the Co Monaghan Drugs and

Alcohol forum with assistance of students from Beech Hill College and featured interviews with members of the emergency services who deal with the aftermath of collisions involving intoxicants.



Leading Lights in Road Safety Awards 2022

Planning

Development Plan

The Monaghan County Development Plan for the period 2019-2025 provides an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Monaghan. It is consistent with both national and regional spatial planning policies and objectives. Spatial planning, through the development plan objectives and policies, endeavours to achieve balance between the common good and the interests of individuals.

Two variations to the County Development Plan were adopted by the elected members in April 2022. Variation No.3 incorporated Objective MPO 15 to, *'Ensure that all development proposals within the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan area have regard to the regeneration strategy and development objectives of the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan'*. Variation No.4 incorporated Objective MPO 16 to, *'Ensure that all development proposals within the Roosky Lands Master Plan area have regard to the master plan strategy and development objectives of the Roosky Lands Master Plan.'*

Residential Zoned Land Tax Mapping

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced in the Budget 2022 under the provisions of the Finance Act 2021. The purpose of the proposed measure is to activate existing planning permissions and zonings where housing is permitted and where the land is connected to, or has access to services (road infrastructure, footpaths, public lighting, surface water, wastewater & water supply), but remains undeveloped. The legislation clearly sets out that land in scope for the tax will be zoned for residential development or a mixture of uses including residential.

Although the RZLT will be administered by Revenue Commissioners, all local authorities are required to undertake mapping to identify the lands in scope for the tax in their respective functional areas. The RZLT mapping is required to

be carried out on an annual basis.

The applicable date for lands zoned and serviced to be liable for the tax was 1st January 2022 with the final date for inclusion of lands on the Draft Map being 1st October 2022. Local authorities were required to undertake mapping to identify the lands in scope for the tax in their respective functional areas and publish these maps by 1st November 2022. Interested parties (landowners and members of the public) were able to make comments on the published maps by 1st January 2023 indicating errors or omissions or detailing why the lands should or should not be in scope for RZLT.

A total of 80 submissions relating to 92 land parcels were received. A final determination on lands in scope and notification of landowners is required by 1 April 2023.

Housing Need & Demand Assessment

Every local authority is now required to carry out a Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) to enable it to:

- develop long-term strategic views of housing need across all tenures,
- provide a robust evidence base to support decisions about new housing supply, wider investment and housing related services that inform an overall national housing profile,
- inform policies about the proportion of social and affordable housing required,
- provide evidence to inform policies related to the provision of specialist housing and housing related services.

KPMG consultants were engaged by the Planning Section to carry out the HNDA and a draft report was prepared by the consultants in 2022 for review by the Planning and Housing Sections.

Housing Provision Review

KPMG consultants were also engaged by the Planning Section to carry out a Housing Provision Review, which is an analysis of existing housing

provision in County Monaghan and a review of progress on the delivery of housing units on zoned residential land in the County Development Plan 2019-2025.

Following an extensive consultation process with stakeholders such as landowners, planning agents, estate agents, solicitors and financial institutions a draft report was prepared by KPMG consultants for review by the Planning Section.

Development Management

The Planning Authority received 542 planning applications, 20 extension of durations of planning permission, and 30 exempt development applications during 2022. Although the number of applications received in 2022 was lower than that received in previous years, it is noted that there was an exceptional 18% increase in applications received in 2021 over that received in 2020. Although the influx of applications in 2021 seems to have resulted in less applications being received in 2022, the average number of 691 applications received over the two years of 2021 and 2022, is still an increase on the numbers received both in 2019 and 2020.

Planning Applications Received in 2022	
Full Permission	457
Outline Planning	11
Retention	74
Permission Consequent	0
Extension of Durations	20
Exempt Development Applications	30
Total Applications Received	592

Whilst the majority of applications received were for single dwellings, home extensions and agricultural development, a number of significant and complex applications, (most of which were accompanied by Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and Natural Impact Statements) were submitted in 2022. Applications of note submitted in 2022 included:

- Permission for the excavation of the former underground mine by open cast mining methods for the purposes of gypsum extraction incorporating community sports complex at Drumgoosat, Magheracloone
- Permission for a significant extension to Silverhill Foods Ltd at Emyvale

- Permission for a significant extension to Abbot Ireland Ltd at Cootehill
- Permission for a new school at Killycard, Castleblayney
- Permission for a new community centre at Magheracloone

Planning Applications Statistics in 2022	
Invalid	48
Granted	451
Refused	55
Withdrawn	26

17 decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanala in 2022, which represents 3% of the applications received in 2022.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 (Commencement) Order 2021 (SI 714 of 2021) brought section 23(4) of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 into operation on 17 December 2021. This legislation requires the Planning Authority to deal with any compliance submission in respect of a condition(s) attached to a planning permission which requires the written agreement of the Planning Authority within a time limit of eight weeks. The 146 compliance submissions received by the Planning Authority in 2022 placed additional pressures in terms of issuing responses within a statutory time limit.

There was also a 30% increase in the number of planning searches received from solicitors in 2022 compared to 2021.

Planning Registers

A detailed review of the Planning Registers was carried out in 2022. This significant body of work has ensured all registers which are required to be maintained by the Planning Authority in accordance with Section 7 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) are easily accessible and maintained going forward in accordance with the planning authority's statutory obligations.

E-planning

Training for the Planning Section in advance of the roll out of E-planning commenced in September

2022. Meetings were held between key personnel from the LGMA Working Group, and the Planning, IT & Finance Sections to discuss systems and requirements needed prior to going live. Testing of the new portal with Laserfiche was also undertaken in advance of E-planning going live in Quarter 1 of 2023. Training for internal consultants and agents on the new system will be held in advance of the roll out.

Taking in Charge

30 estates were progressed through various stages of the taking in charge assessment process in 2022. A number of estates underwent a technical assessment in 2022 to enable them to be progressed to taking in charge in 2023. A significant number of applications are currently with Uisce Eireann for agreement and it is hoped that these can be substantially progressed in 2023. At least two developments require Site Resolution Plans to be agreed with Uisce Eireann.

The Planning Section also continued to pursue security bonds on a small number of developments throughout the County. The Planning Section will continue to progress the Taking in Charge of residential developments in 2023.

Planning Enforcement

When the Planning Authority becomes aware of a breach of planning permission or unauthorised development, discussions with offender(s) are often sufficient to ensure remedy. However, where issues are not addressed by the offender then formal enforcement action is taken. Continued development activity throughout the County in recent years has resulted in an approximate 10-20% increase in case numbers. Enforcement statistics for 2022 are set out below.

2022 Enforcement Statistics	
New cases opened	110
Cases closed as dismissed, trivial, minor or statute barred from action	54
Cases closed through negotiations	3
Cases closed due to enforcement proceedings	34
Ongoing enforcement cases	318

The number of planning enforcement complaints received during 2022 is broadly on a par with 2021, although a higher level of enforcement notices were issued than in the previous year. The planning authority has moved up two places to now rank 9th nationally in terms of percentage of cases closed on foot of formal enforcement proceedings. Overall, the total number of cases open has reduced from 2021 following a review of historical and long-standing cases.

Development Contributions

Early invoicing and enforcement action in the recovery of unpaid development contributions has resulted in receipts amounting to €1,208,999 in 2022.

Derelict Sites

Work continued in 2022 on addressing dereliction in the County with seven sites added to the Derelict Sites Register. No sites were removed from the Derelict Sites Register during the year. There were thirty-one sites on the Derelict Sites Register at 31st December 2022.

Regeneration

Ongoing support was provided in project identification, project development, preparation and submission of applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

A total of €247,952 was secured under the Historic Towns Initiative, funded by the Heritage Council for the project, 'Re-establishing residential use in historic Dublin Street, Monaghan'. In 2022 work was carried out to provide external enhancements to eight buildings and internal refurbishment of two buildings to facilitate residential use.

The Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan and the Rooskey Lands Masterplan were adopted by the elected members in April 2022 by way of Variations 3 and 4 to the Monaghan County Development Plan. These plans provide a framework for the future comprehensive development of these town centre areas.

Built Heritage

Monaghan County Council's Planning Section administer two annual heritage grant schemes annually, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme encourages the investment of private capital in small scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons. County Monaghan received an overall allocation of €96,000 in 2022.

In 2022 nine projects were awarded funding under the BHIS, with eight availing of same as follows:

- Coach Yard Stables, Anderson's Pub, Drum
- Freame Mount Demense, Dartrey, Cootehill
- Creighton Hotel, Clones
- Teach Iosef, St Louis School, Monaghan
- Newbliss Gate Lodge, Killycushil, Monaghan
- The Squealing Pig, Monaghan
- Monaghan Methodist Church, Monaghan
- Former Railway Station, Glaslough



Conservation repairs to windows at Freame Mount House, Dartrey

The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund is on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. It aims to enable conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support. Total funding under the HSF for 2022 was €147,970 and three projects

received funding as follows:

- Holy Trinity Church, Dartrey, Rockcorry
- St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan
- Rossmore Mausoleum, Monaghan



Rossmore Mausoleum, Monaghan Town

Section 57 Declarations

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) works which would normally be considered exempted development under Section 4(1)h of the Act may not be exempt in respect of a Protected Structure or a Proposed Protected Structure.

Section 57 of the Act allows for the owner or occupier of a Protected Structure or a Proposed Protected Structure to make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a declaration as to the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure, thereby clarifying which works would be considered exempted development and those which would require planning permission. Monaghan County Council issued five Section 57 Declarations in 2022.

Monaghan County Museum



Monaghan Murals: Rossmore Castle Returns to Monaghan!

The *Monaghan Murals* project launched in 2021 when a mural in Castleblayney, featured in an earlier newsletter, was unveiled in the town. This mural was inspired by the photography of Castleblayney native Dr JJ Clarke. Fast forward a year and three more murals are enlivening towns across Co. Monaghan. The fourth and latest of these was unveiled in Monaghan town this October and in the dull and dreary winter weather no one could fail to have their day brightened by this new work of art.



Pictured in front of the new mural of Rossmore Castle, L - R are: Liam Bradley, Curator Monaghan County Museum; Emer Brennan, Monaghan Tidy Towns; Frank McEneaney, Owner and Manager Westenra Hotel; Omin, Mural Artist; Cllr. Sean Conlon, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council; John Murray, Director of Housing and Finance, Monaghan County Council; Deirdre McQuaid, Senior Executive Librarian, Monaghan County Library; Cllr Paudge Connolly, Monaghan County Council

This latest addition to the *Monaghan Murals* project features Rossmore Castle and is

fittingly located on the back wall of The Westenra Hotel, named after the Westenra family who were incumbents of the Rossmore title, and the residents of the original Rossmore Castle that was situated just outside the town. Rossmore Castle was built in 1827 by the second Baron Rossmore. It was enlarged in 1858 and over time further small changes resulted in a building of some three towers and 117 windows! Following World War II, the stately Rossmore Castle was beset with a serious case of dry rot and eventually became lost to the county when it was demolished in the 1970s. Now the former glory of the castle has been recaptured in this mural by the artist Omin, allowing Monaghan's younger generations to once more marvel at its architectural splendour.

National Museum of Ireland Inspection of Loans

Monaghan County Museum plays a vital role in preserving the archaeological heritage of the country and under Section 68 (2) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 is legally entitled to retain archaeological objects on behalf of the State. The curators of designated museums have the authority to act on behalf of the Director of the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) to ensure that discovered objects are investigated, reported and preserved as State property.



Lisdrumturk Cauldron, on loan to the museum from the NMI

To reach a wider audience and increase public access to its collections, the NMI lends objects from its collections to designated museums. Monaghan County Museum has several objects on display that are on loan from the NMI including the late bronze-age Lisdrumturk Cauldron, bronze swords, weapons and a Viking sword.

Monaghan County Museum must meet strict guidelines to ensure all objects are kept in environments suitable to their material and maintain tight security controls for the objects on loan. The Collections Care team in the museum are responsible for monitoring and recording the environmental conditions for these objects and for facilitating regular inspections of the items by the NMI during the loan period.

Recently, the museum welcomed Isabella Mulhall, Assistant Keeper of Antiquities and Dr Paul Mullarkey, Conservator from the NMI as they undertook their most recent site inspection.



Dr Paul Mullarkey, Conservator Department, NMI inspecting temperature and relative humidity levels in display case housing the loaned item.



Isabella Mulhall - Assistant Keeper - Irish Antiquities Division NMI makes a visual recording of the condition of loaned item to compare with previous records to ensure items are displayed in a stable environment to prevent deterioration.

As a result of their visit, the NMI were satisfied that the physical and environmental standards at the museum were being monitored and maintained correctly and were happy to extend the loan of these objects for a further three years.

Peace Campus Preparations Filming 'Place'

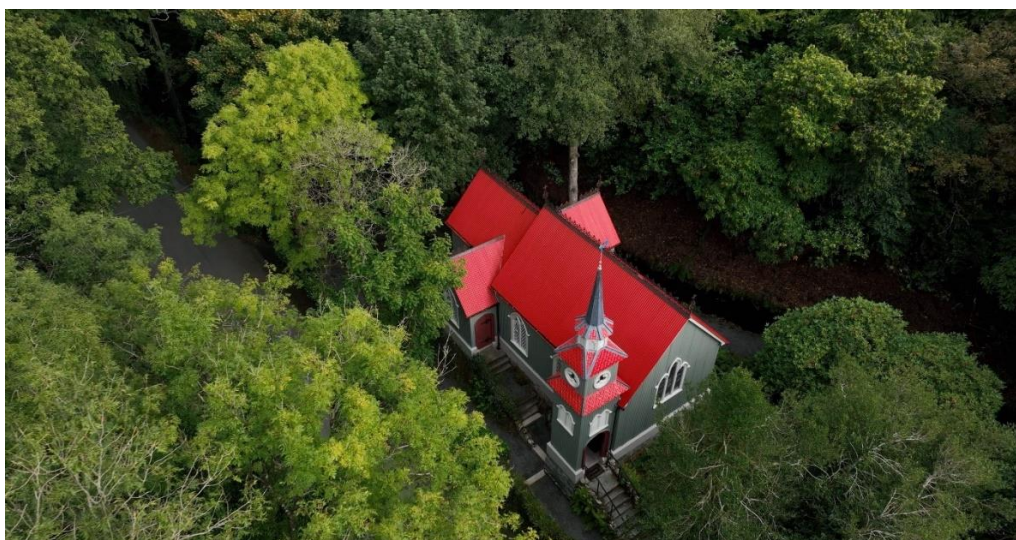
As the preparations for next year's move to the museum's new home in the Peace Campus advance, we would like to share some amazing stills of our beautiful county from our new film 'Place'. This film explores the borderland areas of Co. Monaghan and will feature as part of the new exhibition 'Bordering Realities' which will open when we relocate in 2023. This project is funded by Creative Ireland through Creative Monaghan.



This stunning shot is from the summit of Slieve Beagh, Co. Fermanagh looking south over the border into Co. Monaghan.



This stunning shot overlooks Lough Muckno, Castleblayney and east towards Co. Louth



Overhead view of St Peter's Tin Church at Laragh, Co. Monaghan



Monaghan town above the Dawson Monument with the crane at the construction site of the Peace Campus visible in the distance



Sunlight through the Penal Cross on Bragan, Co. Monaghan

Museum Events

The museum has been busy with the patter of feet as several successful events have been run over the last few months. It has been heartening to have our building busy with activities as the threat of the pandemic recedes. However, taking what was learned from lockdown, online events also continue offering improved accessibility options and a wider audience. Here are some highlights.

Archaeology Summer Camp 2022

Such was the success of previous camps and to avoid disappointment in gaining a place, it was decided to run two camps over successive weeks in conjunction with the School of Irish Archaeology. Great fun was had by all, and reports circulate that the future of the archaeology profession seems in good hands!



Budding archaeologist enjoying the summer camp in July.

Culture Night 2022



This year the museum celebrated Culture Night with Peter Crann from WeDrum Ireland who explored drums from around the world. By the end of this fast-moving and humorous workshop participants were able to play an exciting piece of Afro-Brazilian music, complete with dramatic fun breaks and beats.



Culture Night: The museum hosted drumming workshops for schools, and the public, enjoyed by all ages!

Halloween 2022

For Halloween, Monaghan's Horrible Histories treated us to Annie June Callaghan's spooktacular online narration of some folk and fairy tales of the Cauliflower Changeling Fairy, Brigit Cleary, and how she spent several days in a fairy ring dancing. We also heard about Biddy Early's famous but curious fortune telling blue bottle.



This online performance of otherworldly tales was presented live on Halloween for all to enjoy.

Children also enjoyed a Halloween themed drawing skills workshop in the museum, where some great pumpkins were produced!



Pumpkin designs at a drawing skills workshop

Winter Workshop Series 2022

During the month of November, the museum hosted a series of art workshops:

Drawing Skills Workshop

This workshop was run over three-days. It offered participants a chance to improve their art skills and to take their drawing skills to a whole new level by learning how to use the principles of art, line, shape, tone, colour and texture.



Some wonderful works of art produced in the Drawing Workshop

Bird Boxes Workshop

Later in the month budding crafters learned how to assemble their own bird box. These were decorated with unique designs using markers and paint.



Some snazzy finished bird boxes ready for their new residents!

Crafters at work



Collaged Pen Pot Workshop

Under the guidance of Tracey Owen-Griffiths from Flossy Fluke participants created their own collaged pot for pens or brushes in bright Japanese papers. Ideal for personal use or a gift for someone special!



Some of the amazing, finished pen pots

Human Resources

Recruitment

The Human Resource Management Section held 34 competitions in 2022 and processed 720 applications. 506 interviews were conducted, 34 competitions were completed and panels were put in place. 107 candidates were appointed or promoted throughout 2022.

Headcount

The staff complement for Monaghan County Council at 31st December 2022 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial	4	4
Clerical/Administrative	185	173.56
Professional/Technical	94	92.9
Outdoor	126	119.31
Total Core Staff	409	389.77
Contract Posts	9	7.57
Temporary/Seasonal	9	9
Retained Firefighters	49	N/A
Non DoEC&LG	6	3.86
Total Other Posts	73	20.43

Retirements during 2022:

Name	Grade	Section
Susan Savage	Clerical Officer	Planning Section
Eugene Treanor	General Operative	MD of Monaghan
John McKenna	Foreman (Craft)	Housing Section
Jerome Savage	Senior Staff Officer	Motor Tax
Bernie McElvaney	Senior Staff Officer	MD of Monaghan
Stephen Hall	Caretaker	Housing Section
Philomena McClave	Library Assistant	Monaghan Branch Library
Eileen Cadden	Clerical Officer	Planning Section
John Reavey	Retained Fire Fighter	Clones Fire Service

Liam Hickey	Light Equipment Operator	MD of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney
Paul Clifford	Director of Services	Management Team
John McEntegart	Head of LEO	Local Enterprise Office
Geraldine Killen	Internal Audit	Internal Audit
Mary McCaffrey	Canteen Manager	Canteen
Pauline Reynolds	Part-time Cleaner	County Offices
Gerard McCooley	General Operative	MD of Monaghan
Michael Daly	General Operative	MD of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney
Michael Joe Boylan R.I.P.	General Operative	MD of Monaghan
Michael Flynn	General Operative	MD of Ballybay-Clones
Fiona McCarron	Assistant Staff Officer	Human Resource Management Section
Mary Murray	Assistant Staff Officer	MD of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney
Peter O'Reilly	Traffic Warden	MD of Monaghan
Eamonn O'Sullivan	Chief Executive	Management Team
Martin McDonald	Part-time Firefighter	Monaghan Fire Service

Peter Murphy RIP

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the death of our colleague and friend, Peter Murphy, General Operative who passed away in May 2022. Peter was not just our co-worker, but our good friend as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter's family,

his wife Deirdre, son Tadhg and daughter Roisin.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Blended Working

Blended Working came into effect in Monaghan County Council on the 7th November 2022. As part of the Council's implementation of a blended working approach to the delivery of services, the Blended Working Policy and Procedure, aligned with the Sectoral Blended Working Framework was developed.

Monaghan County Council is committed to a blended working policy that maximises the opportunities for a blended working approach with attendance at the Council's onsite location where required to allow for face-to-face interaction and collaboration with colleagues and service users. Blended working also supports effective teamwork, sustains good working relationships and maintains a sense of belonging. In this context, Monaghan County Council implements Blended Working while maintaining commitment to the delivery of the highest standard of public services directly to citizens and local communities.

There is a minimum office attendance of 3 days per week for full-time employees.

Training & Development

The Human Resources Department engages with line managers and staff in promoting their personal and career development thus enabling them to reach their potential and contribute fully to the achievement of the Councils strategic and business objectives.

A comprehensive training programme for staff was delivered in 2022 with the main focus being on Health & Safety Training, Statutory Training, Public Sector Duty and Climate Action Training.

In 2022, the training department organised a total of 215 training courses and delivered a cumulative total of 1723 training days. A new Metacompliance online training tool was introduced for standard, self-directed training in the areas of cybersecurity, data protection and

policy and procedures.

Training Courses Held from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Training Courses/Workshops	215
Conferences	21
No of Training Days	1723

Health and Safety Training

Monaghan County Council are committed to promoting a positive safety culture and embedding good safety practices. The following training courses were delivered to employees together with a number of internal safety briefings to ensure staff adhered to Health & Safety practices in their everyday activities. COVID-19 Briefings were also delivered to all staff:

Health & Safety Courses delivered in 2022:

Basic Road Reinstatement
Advanced Road Reinstatement
Bridge Inspection
IOSH Refresher
Safe Pass
Pesticide PA1 & PA6
Surface Water Construction
Abrasive Wheels
Forklift
LUGS Refresher
CSCS Site Dumper
PSCI
First Aid/CPR Defib Training
IOSH Safety Health & Env for construction site managers
Temporary Traffic Management
Ride on Mower
Lawnmower/Strimmer
CSCS Sign Lighting & Guarding
CSCS Health & Safety @ Roadworks
Vehicle Walkaround
Driver CPC Module 3
Front Loading Shovel
Manual Handling
Chainsaw Refresher Training
Winter Services Operators

Training for New Staff

Induction Training was delivered to 62 new employees who joined Monaghan County Council

in 2022.

Climate Action Programme Training

The Climate Action Training Programme was rolled out to staff and councillors in Monaghan County Council as outlined below. The programme comprised of a suite of courses each tailored and designed to specific target groupings within the Local Authority:

- **Building Capacity for Climate Action Teams**
- **Climate Action - Empowering Change Training**
- **Climate Action Championing Leadership**
- **LA Climate Action Awareness online**
- **LGDA Climate Change & Active Travel Conference**

Learning and Development

The Training Department continued to build on its learning and development programme in 2022 with particular focus on providing staff with the necessary competencies required for their role. Monaghan County Council provided financial assistance to 32 staff members to undertake Third level/Professional development courses.

Third Level/Learning & Development

Third Level Education	16
Certificate/Diploma/Degree in Local Government Studies	12
Certificate in Roads Programme	4

Health & Wellbeing

Monaghan County Council offered a range of work/life balance schemes to assist staff in achieving a work-life balance, these included Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Carer's Leave, Exam leave, Blended Working, Force Majeure leave, Bereavement Leave and the Cycle to Work Scheme.

The Health & Wellbeing committee also organised a number of Wellbeing events in 2022:

- **Couch to 5K**
- **Active Week – Lunch time walk – with the provision a healthy lunch**
- **E Bike – Lunch & Learn**

- **Health & Nutrition in the workplace**
- **Blended Working**
- **Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021**

Gender Pay Gap 2022

Monaghan County Council published its Gender Pay Gap Report for 2022 on the 19th December 2022. The Gender Pay Gap Information Act, 2021 requires organisations with over 250 employees to report on their Gender Pay Gap. 2022 was the first year that organisations were required to report on their Gender Pay Gap. Organisations were asked to select a 'snapshot' date in the month of June. The reporting period is the 12 month period immediately preceding and including the snapshot date. For local authorities, the snap-shot-date was the 30 June 2022. The information must be published on the employer's website or in some other way that is accessible to all its employees and to the public.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

All persons employed by the employer on the snapshot date, including employees not rostered to work on that date and employees on leave. The mean and median figures must also be given separately for parttime and temporary employees.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE GENDER PAY GAP?

The Gender Pay Gap calculates the percentage difference between the average earnings of males and females irrespective of their role. The Gender Pay Gap is not the same as equal pay. Employment Equality legislation provides for equal pay for like work. All male and female employees in the local government sector are paid equally for work that is the same or similar or for work of equal value, therefore this report does not examine equal pay. Rates of pay within the sector are agreed through national wage agreements negotiated regularly between employers and staff representatives. Most employees are paid according to an incremental salary scale and the salary ranges for various roles are available on the local government jobs website at

www.localgovernmentjobs.ie

Please see a copy of Monaghan County Council's Gender Pay Gap Report 2022 on Monaghan County Council's website or click here: <https://monaghan.ie/humanresources/publications/>

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service was held on Thursday 3rd November 2022 in St. Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan for the deceased staff members of Monaghan County Council and in particular remembering our dear colleagues and friends who sadly passed away over the last few years. It gave the Members of the Council and the staff an opportunity to come together to celebrate the

lives of the deceased and to share the loss with their families.

The Service was celebrated by Canon Paddy McGinn, Adm and Rev. Alan McQuade. Bríd Donnelly, Lucy, Charlie and Bobby O' Brien provided the music and the choir was made up of staff from Monaghan County Council.

All those who attended were invited for refreshments following the Service.

Corporate Procurement

Overview

Despite the challenges resulting from inflation pressures and the vacancy in the Procurement Officer role, the Council's procurement activity for 2022 remained consistent with 2021 figures. The Council took a policy decision in 2018 that all procurement competitions above the national threshold would be conducted electronically, and this helped ensure that our procurement activities could proceed smoothly during this turbulent time.

In 2022, The Council published 140 Requests for Tenders using eTenders (91) and www.supplygov.ie (49) platforms. Nineteen of the competitions advertised on eTenders competitions were for values in excess of the EU procurement thresholds (i.e. €5,382,000 for works or €215,000 for goods or services).

The Council's staff conducted 91 quote competitions through the etenders platform using the quick quotes option. This is a substantial increase from last year where 56 competitions were conducted. Of these competitions, 44 were for the procurement of services, 8 for supplies and 39 for works. Conducting quote competitions through this platform ensures transparency for all our purchases regardless of value.

Procurement Procedures

The Council's Procurement Procedures Rev 5. were updated on the SharePoint portal in May 2022, taking account of the updated EU thresholds for procurement and structural change of procurement personnel within the sections. The procedures ensure that procurement is conducted in line with the requirements of Public Sector reform, the Office of Government Procurement, EU Directives and National Guidelines. A step-by-step guide to the Procurement procedures is now available on the Council's Sharepoint, for use by all staff.

Procurement Team

The Procurement Officer role was vacated in early July 2021 and efforts are continuing to recruit a new Procurement Officer and possibly a centralised unit consisting of three staff members. In the interim period the Assistant Procurement Administrator continues to guide and support all procurement operations to help ensure that goods, services and works are procured in compliance with all relevant legislation and guidelines, while managing risk and achieving value for money. Through ongoing learnings from the management and ownership of procurement competitions, the Procurement Leads and Admin Leads in each department have developed significant expertise in procurement practices.

Public Spending Code

The Council issued a Quality Assurance Report to NOAC in May 2022, to confirm compliance with the Public Spending Code (PSC). The report included an inventory of all projects/programmes costing greater than €0.5m, distinguishing between capital and current expenditure and categorised by expenditure being considered, expenditure being incurred, and expenditure recently ended. The PSC also requires the Council to publish procurements with a value of more than €10m and to submit self-assessment checklist.

Model Publication Scheme

The Council is obligated to report quarterly on public contracts (tenders) awarded, for the Model Publication Scheme, which is part of the Freedom of Information regime. The publication relates to all public works contracts with a value over €25k. All Sections have assisted in the compilation of contracts awarded for 2022 and this information has now been published on the Council's website and can be found on the following link:- <https://monaghan.ie/corporateservices/procurement/>

Office of Government Procurement (OGP)

The Council has signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), which sets out the principles governing the procurement relationship between the two parties. The arrangement recognises that the Council and the OGP are engaged in a partnership focussed on delivering efficient and suitable procurement services and value for money, ultimately to assist the local authority in meeting service delivery needs.

The Council continues to avail of OGP frameworks for all procurement processes, where possible.

Covid 19 PPE

The requirements for Covid 19 PPE diminished significantly throughout 2022, as remote working became established early in the year. The Assistant Procurement Administrator collated all the Council's PPE requirements, across all sections, to ensure that adequate PPE was ordered to meet all needs. The Procurement Unit co-ordinated the distribution of the PPE to the various sections as requested.

Strategic Policy Committees

The role of Strategic Policy Committees is to formulate policy proposals, evaluate and report on policy implementation for consideration; provide policy centred committees which can harness the experience of external bodies in the formulation of policy. The Committees are not designed to deal with routine operational matters in relation to the delivery of services.

The SPCs which consists of elected members of Monaghan County Council and others who are nominated by / or representative of the sectors relevant to the work of the particular SPC. Monaghan County Council has 4 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):

SPC 1 - Housing, Cultural and Social

SPC 2 – Community & Transport

SPC 3 – Planning & Economic Development

SPC 4 - Environment and Transport

Report of Strategic Policy Committee Activities during 2022

Housing, Cultural and Social SPC

(3 meetings held 2022)

The following policies were approved at meetings of the SPC during 2022:

- Draft Sensory Space, Clones Library Policy and Procedure

The SPC committee received Presentations on:

- Schedule of Events May/June – Arts Office
- Housing for All - Housing
- Capital Projects Update – Under Community Monuments Funds and Under Historic Structures Fund - Heritage
- Capital Projects Update – Housing
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme - Housing

- Croí Conaithe (Towns Fund) – Housing
- 2022 Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) – Housing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme and Housing Grants – Housing
- Culture Night Events – Arts
- Bordering Realities – Museum
- Local Arts in Education Partnership with CMETB & Cavan County Council – Arts Office
- Creative Ireland – Library

Community & Transport SPC

(4 meetings held in 2022)

The SPC received presentations on:

- (NIFTI) National Investment Framework for Transportation in Ireland
- Peace Plus update
- Reclaimed Asphalt
- National Cycle Network
- Shared Island Fund
- Community Funding
- Ireland's new sustainable Mobility Policy and how it will affect road layouts
- TII's recently published Rural Cycleway Design (Offline & Greenway) manual
- Active Trave
- National Cycle Network
- Road Safety Plan 2022-30
- EPA Waste Guidance on Asphalt Plainings
- Green Procurement

Planning & Economic Development SPC

(2 meetings held in 2022)

The first meeting of the SPC took place on 7th June 2022 online and updates were provided on the following topics:

Housing Need Analysis Assessment – Toirleach Gourley

Progress on the taskforce for the poultry sector – Nuala Woods

LECP – Paul Clifford

Economic Development Projects – Paul Clifford

The Second Meeting of the SPC took place on 19th October 2022:

An update was provided by Dympna Condra regarding Failte Ireland's Regional Strategy document for Ireland's Ancient East which was nearing completion; the draft strategy was currently out for public consultation and Monaghan Destination and Development Plan has already been developed and it was launched in June by Ministers Humphreys.

A presentation by Toirleach Gourley was provided to the Committee regarding the Residential Zoned Land Tax, outlining the objective of the tax is to activate zoned and serviced residential development land and land zoned for mixed use, including residential, for development to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations.

Climate Action & Environmental Services SPC

(4 meetings held in 2022)

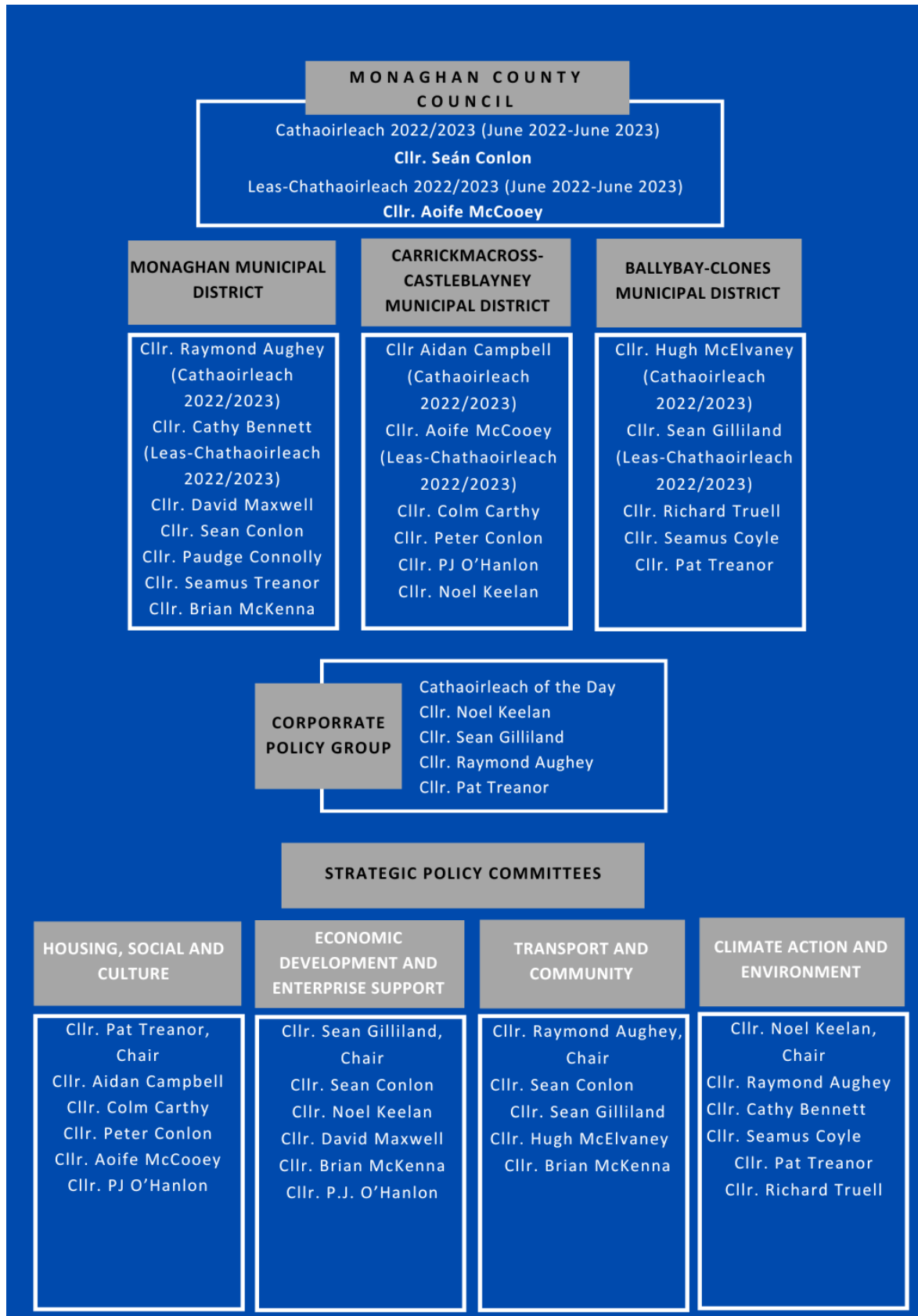
Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the first meeting of the year was held online. The following 3 meetings were held in person. Over the course of the year, members received presentations on the CANN and the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Projects and the progression of National Enforcement Priorities through the RMCEI planning process.

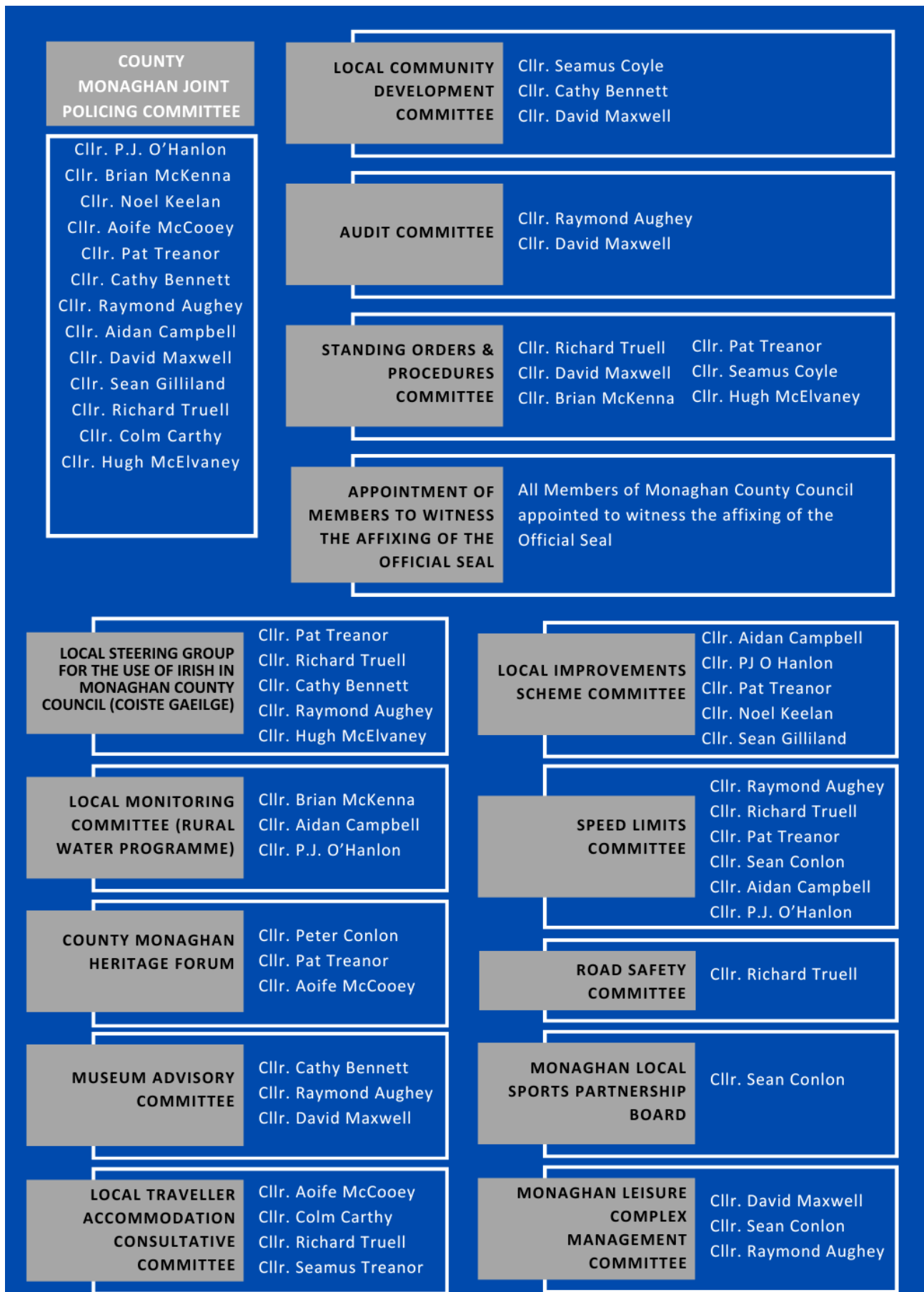
In September, a review was carried out on the role and purpose of the SPC, with members and the Executive committed to dealing with as many topics as possible within the remit of the SPC.

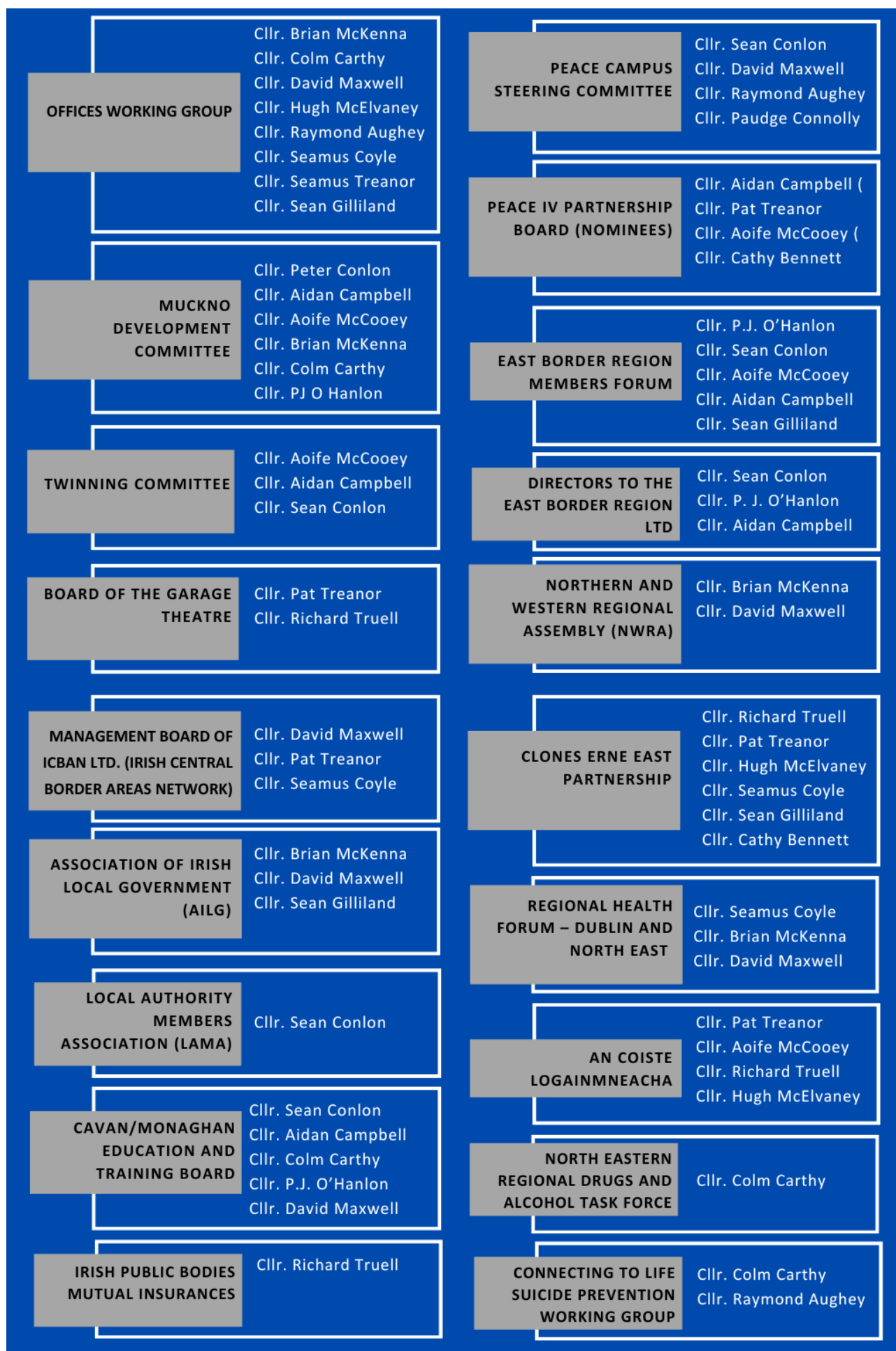
Members were also advised on the continuing principal activities in which the Council has been engaged in the year 2022 relating to the issue of Climate Change.

Other presentations to members included those on the ongoing issue of Diesel Laundering, Information on Tourism, Climate and Environmental activities along with County Monaghan Sustainable Energy Community's - Energy Master Plan.

Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees







Conferences/Training Attended by Members in 2022

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Number of members Attended
Celtic Conferences	Housing for all	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	21 st , 22 nd and 23 rd January 2022	2
AILG	Elected Member's Personal Safety and Risk Assessment	The Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath	17 th February 2022	4
AILG	Elected Member's Personal Safety and Risk Assessment	The Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Co. Cork	19 th February 2022	2
AILG	2022 AILG Annual Conference	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal	23 rd & 24 th March 2022	8
LAMA	Spring Training Seminar	Hotel Kilkenny, College Rd, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny	11 th & 12 th April 2022	7
AILG	Finalising your development plan – key steps and requirements from the Development Plan Guidelines	Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	16 th June 2022	4
AILG	Finalising your development plan – key steps and requirements from the Development Plan Guidelines	Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny	18 th June 2022	2
AILG	Elected Members Training	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan	14 th May 2022	6
AILG	Government Legislation Policy Programme 2022- A Briefing for Elected Members	Allingham Arms Hotel – Bundoran, Co. Donegal	23 rd July 2022	3
AILG	Celebrating Local Government	Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath	14 th & 15 th September 2022	6
Celtic Conferences	Irish State Retirement Pensions & Benefits	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co Cork	7 th , 8 th & 9 th October 2022	1
AILG	Disability and Access	Radisson Hotel, Sligo, Co. Sligo	27 th October 2022	2
AILG	Disability and Access	Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry	22 nd October 2022	2
AILG	Data Protection – What Councillors Need to Know'.	Newgrange Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath	26 th November 2022	1
LAMA	Autumn Training Seminar	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan	9 th & 10 th November 2022	5

Appendix I Members Expenses

Payments to Elected Members from 1st January – 31st December 2022

Name of Councillor	Representation l Payment / Salary (Subject to PAYE etc.)	Annual Allowance	Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach / Cathaoirleach of MD Allowance (Subject to PAYE etc.)	SPC Chair Allowance	Travel & Subsistence (Training, Conferences, Crossborder and Other Meetings)	Foreign Travel (Twinning etc., Cost of Flights and Expenses)	Other	TOTAL PAID
Cllr. Aidan Campbell	€ 27,122.17	€ 7,790.96	€ 12,316.63		€ 0.00			€ 47,229.76
Cllr. Aoife McCooley	€ 27,122.17	€ 6,915.60	€ 2,110.98		€ 0.00		€ 1,500.00	€ 37,648.75
Cllr. Brian McKenna	€ 27,122.17	€ 5,487.88			€ 1,714.49			€ 34,324.54
Cllr. Cathy Bennett	€ 27,122.17	€ 6,826.52			€ 0.00			€ 33,948.69
Cllr. Colm Carthy	€ 27,122.17	€ 6,690.48			€ 818.70			€ 34,631.35
Cllr. David Maxwell	€ 27,122.17	€ 6,126.48	€ 2,850.00		€ 2,911.80			€ 39,010.45
Cllr. Hugh McElvaney	€ 27,122.17	€ 3,126.51	€ 4,972.24		€ 0.00			€ 35,220.92
Cllr. Mary Kerr Conlon	€ 12,426.21	€ 2,407.74			€ 0.00			€ 14,833.95
Cllr. Noel Keelan	€ 27,122.17	€ 7,827.92		€ 6,000.00	€ 1,720.72			€ 42,670.81
Cllr. Pat Treanor	€ 27,122.17	€ 6,722.28		€ 6,000.00	€ 492.61			€ 40,337.06
Cllr. Paudge Connolly	€ 27,122.17	€ 5,126.52			€ 2,843.95			€ 35,092.64
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon	€ 27,122.17	€ 6,827.84	€ 2,850.00		€ 0.00			€ 36,800.01
Cllr. Raymond Aughey	€ 27,122.17	€ 4,376.52	€ 3,150.00	€ 6,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 1,994.04		€ 42,642.73
Cllr. Richard Truell	€ 27,122.17	€ 6,264.42	€ 2,850.00		€ 3,035.79			€ 39,272.38
Cllr. Seamus Coyle	€ 27,122.17	€ 5,277.97			€ 2,087.40			€ 34,487.54
Cllr. Seamus Treanor	€ 27,122.17	€ 5,852.76			€ 0.00			€ 32,974.93
Cllr. Sean Conlon	€ 27,122.17	€ 7,326.52	€ 10,555.51		€ 1,577.95	€ 1,994.04		€ 48,576.19
Cllr. Sean Gilliland	€ 27,122.17	€ 7,961.23		€ 6,000.00	€ 0.00	€ 564.91		€ 41,648.31
Cllr. Peter Conlon	€ 8,960.34	€ 1,541.24			€ 0.00			€ 10,501.58
Totals	€ 482,463.44	€ 110,477.39	€ 41,655.36	€ 24,000.00	€ 17,203.41	€ 4,552.99	€ 1,500.00	€ 681,852.59

Appendix II Financial Statement 2022

Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The activities of the Council, on both Capital and Revenue, in 2022 accounted for a turnover of c. €128 million.

The Capital Account expenditure of €52,181,187 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County. The major areas of activity were Housing and Roads.

Capital Account

Activity by Programme Group	2022 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Net cost
Housing & Building	27,285,027	28,013,060	728,033
Roads Transportation & Safety	9,551,746	10,091,263	539,517
Water Services	646,823	494,409	(152,414)
Development Management	6,667,897	5,283,432	(1,384,465)
Environmental Services	737,740	405,620	(332,120)
Recreation & Amenity	5,980,593	1,440,200	(4,540,393)
Miscellaneous Services	1,311,361	641,246	(670,115)
Total Expenditure / Income	52,181,187	46,369,230	(5,811,957)
		2021	2022
Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1		6,269,745	11,201,204
Expenditure		(28,955,799)	(52,181,187)
Income		31,012,693	46,369,230
Transfers to Revenue		(1,070,309)	(999,350)
Net Transfers from Revenue Account		3,944,875	3,322,217
Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31		11,201,204	7,712,114

Revenue Account

Activity by Division	2022 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Net cost
Housing & Building	9,940,573	10,723,127	782,554
Roads Transportation & Safety	26,521,866	19,976,877	(6,544,989)
Water Services	9,660,416	9,569,420	(90,996)
Development Management	12,757,635	7,142,826	(5,614,809)
Environmental Services	7,018,893	1,401,551	(5,617,342)
Recreation & Amenity	5,675,805	595,231	(5,080,574)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	537,100	346,615	(190,485)
Miscellaneous Services	7,158,909	5,888,376	(1,270,533)
Total Expenditure / Income	79,271,197	55,644,023	(23,627,174)
Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund			(23,627,174)
			€
Rates			14,103,725
Local Property Tax			11,819,136
Pension Related Deduction			
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year			2,295,687
Transfer to Reserves			(2,559,238)
Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)			(263,551)
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January			130,402
Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December			(133,148)

Revenue Account				
Income and Expenditure Account		2022		2021
Income				
State Grants and Subsidies	39,005,273	47.82%	40,413,128	50.0%
Contributions from other LAs	258,578	0.32%	322,182	0.4%
Goods and Services	16,380,173	20.08%	14,171,294	17.5%
Local Property Tax	11,819,136	14.49%	11,817,331	14.6%
Rates	14,103,725	17.29%	14,184,663	17.5%
Total Income	81,566,885	100.0%	80,908,598	100.0%
Expenditure				
Payroll Expenses	29,172,817	36.8%	27,740,243	36.6%
Operational Expenses	40,297,466	50.83%	39,962,566	52.7%
Administration Expenses	3,081,537	3.89%	2,735,672	3.6%
Establishment Expenses	1,443,658	1.82%	1,258,027	1.7%
Financial Expenses	4,490,428	5.66%	3,563,863	4.7%
Miscellaneous	785,291	0.99%	541,346	0.7%
Total Expenditure	79,271,197	100.0%	75,801,719	100.0%
Surplus for Year before Transfers	2,295,687		5,106,882	
Transfers to Reserves	(2,559,238)		(3,111,293)	
Overall (Deficit)/Surplus for Year	(263,551)		1,995,589	
General Reserve at 1st January	130,402		(1,865,180)	
General Reserve at 31st December	(133,148)		130,409	

Appendix III Progress Report for 2022 on Corporate Plan 2020-2024

CORPORATE PLAN HIGH LEVEL GOALS

This Corporate Plan - underpinned by our Core Values - proposes twelve High Level Goals which will deliver our Mission and ensure the improvement of Council services and infrastructure over the period of the Plan 2020 - 2024. For each High-Level Goal, we have identified a number of supporting strategic objectives for which actions and activities are identified by relevant Departments in their Annual Service Delivery Plans

1 TO ENSURE A CLEAN, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	Support biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of water, waste, and all other environmental resources
2 TO SUPPORT LOCAL DEMOCRACY	Support the Elected Members, Corporate Policy Group, Strategic Policy Committee, Joint Policing Committee, Public Participation Network and all other committees in their leadership and representative role in response to the needs of the Community
3 TO DELIVER QUALITY & INCLUSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICES	Improve Accessible Services, improve communications and engagement with the public to drive efficiency and effectiveness for our customers.
4 TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY	Support the Business Community to stimulate growth, encourage start-ups and maximise job creation. Improve prosperity through cross border partnerships i.e. ICBAN and EBR. Deliver on the economic objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan.
5 TO ENHANCE CULTURE AND CREATIVITY	Strengthen the capacity of the culture and creative sectors within County Monaghan.
6 TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES	Develop, Support and Enhance the quality of life of sustainable, inclusive communities in County Monaghan as envisaged in the Local Economic and Community Plan.
7 TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE SERVICES	Progress key infrastructure projects.
8 TO DELIVER HOUSING AND HOUSING SUPPORTS	Increase the supply of social housing, improve existing housing stock and develop quality amenities to enhance Monaghan as a place to live.

9 TO IMPLEMENT ROBUST BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	Develop and implement sound financial, management and governance systems to enable organisational and operational efficiency
10 TO DEVELOP OUR PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION.	Ensure Monaghan County Council, is an employer of choice, builds our workforce for the future, supports and values managers as people developers.
11 TO ENSURE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH ADVANCING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY.	Accelerate the digital delivery of improved and accessible services by promoting a culture of innovation.
12 TO TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON & CLIMATE RESILIENT SOCIETY	Working in partnership with other key stakeholders to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation actions identified in the Climate Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Climate Action Charter.

Housing	
In the Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to seeking to ensure that every household will have access to secure, good quality housing suited to their needs at an affordable price in a sustainable community. The Council's priorities and objectives in this area are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
To identify the categories of Social Housing need of all communities in County Monaghan and prioritise their needs in capital expenditure programmes.	149 new houses added to stock in 2022 through Housing for All Plan. SSHA completed.
To deliver good quality accessible social housing through planned programmes for construction, acquisition, leasing, maintenance, and refurbishment.	149 new houses added to stock in 2022 through Housing for All Plan
To optimise the use of housing land banks and increase land bank reserves.	Plans developed for serviced sited in Latlorcan. New property purchased
To ensure casual vacancies are re let in a timely fashion.	Relets refurbished in timely manner and in line with tender prices received . Very low vacancy rate
To optimise the use of housing stock while at the same time achieving value for money.	Relets refurbished in timely manner and in line with tender prices received
To provide for the housing needs of Vulnerable Groups.	17 allocations made to people with disabilities
To meet the needs as set out in the Traveller Accommodation Plan.	Gortakgeegan Traveller accomadation completed and full occupancy
To meet the needs of Homeless in County Monaghan.	Where necesssary provide emergency accomodation to homeless persons
To co-ordinate a programme of work to bring Derelict / Vacant properties back into use.	Continue work of vacant homes officer in Croí Conaithe, buy and renew and repair and lease
To ensure Private House grants for people with a disability and older people in our communities to meet the priority needs in County Monaghan.	Distributed €2 million in funding
To promote a high standard of private rented dwellings.	350 inspections completed

Transportation	
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to developing and managing County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefits of our citizens. The Roads Service is key to delivering these benefits. The specific priorities and objectives for the Roads Service are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
To maintain & improve the structural quality of the road network.	National Schemes delivered as per budget allocation. Delivered Road Rehabilitation Schemes along the National Road network. 6.10km of National Road Strengthening implemented at a total cost of €3.4m.
	Delivered Regional and Local Road Restoration Improvement. 42.4Km of Road Improvement -31.2km Local and 11.2km Regional
	Implemented funding for Specific Improvement Grants on Regional roads. 83.5kms of Road - 71.5km Local and 12km Regional
	Schemes delivered as per budget allocations: 14 LIS lanes completed, 6 CIS schemes.
	13 bridges were upgraded as part of MCC Bridge Rehabilitation Programme.
To plan, develop and progress strategic infrastructural routes.	N2 Ardee to Castleblayney - Environmental surveys were undertaken, and work progressed on Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation phase, with an interim design published in Q4 2022. Landowner meetings were held over a 5 week period in September and October 2022 as part of the design development. N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme - No allocation was received to progress the project in 2022, and as a result the project was suspended.
	N54 Tullybryan Minor Improvement Scheme - Progressed this project through Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) of the TII Projects Management Guidelines. A Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire lands was published in June 2022. MCC progressed discussions with affected landowners regarding accommodation works.
	N53 Ballynacarry Bridge Project. Various on-site surveys were completed in 2022, with data collected used to inform the route selection process, whereby a preferred route will be determined.
	<u>N2 Active Travel Scheme</u> - These 4 sections of Active Travel schemes progressed through Phases 1, 2 & 3 of the TII Project Management Guidelines in 2022. Detailed Design and Environmental Evaluation progressed and discussions with potentially affected landowners with regards to land acquisition were initiated.
	<u>Monaghan to Armagh Border Greenway Project</u> - Site investigation works were completed. The detailed design for the Monaghan – Border section was completed in 2022. A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was published in 2022 Q3 for the necessary lands to construct the Monaghan – Border section.
	<u>Monaghan to Smithborough Greenway Project</u> - Design completed in 2022 and Part 8 Planning docs prepared.
	<u>Clones to Smithborough Greenway Project</u> - Preferred Route was chosen and consultant appointed to progress project through Design & Environmental Evaluation.
	Completed Preliminary Design of the R181 Drumillard and progressing the detailed design, CPO and phasing of works.
	Brackley Bridge Upgrade works are substantially completed

To provide an appropriate and adequate road maintenance service.	100% PSCI surveyed of the Regional and Local Road network was completed in 2022
	Winter Maintenance 70 Callouts in 2022 Plant, stocks and staffing levels and training in place Maintain appropriate resources to provide a core road maintenance service The SWAT team met 3 times in 2022
Ensure effective administration & governance of Roads Programmes.	The following number of applications were responded to: Roads & Services Abutting: 238, Abnormal Loads: 89, Road closures: 41, Customer Service Queries: 212
	All monies recouped in a timely manner from funding Departments: DOTS, TII & Dept of Community & Rural Affairs in line with eligibility of expenditure.
Enhance the safety of the road network.	Delivered Safety Improvement Schemes on National road network. Emyvale Village HD 17 Road Safety Project-Various options were developed and assessed in 2022, to ensure that the primary objective of reducing the speeds of south bound vehicles approaching the village is achieved.
	Feasibility and Options Reports were prepared in 2022 and subsequently submitted to TII for approval for the following locations- • N2, Cluain Ard junction at St Macartan's College. • N12, Skinnagin junction.
	12 Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes throughout the county on the local and regional road network.
	Noise monitoring undertaken as required.
	Implemented Fencing Retrofit programme. 1.05KM of fencing installed at locations on National Roads.

Water Services	
<p>Monaghan County Council is committed to the development and management of County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote the economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. A key element in the delivery of the strategic objective is fulfilling our obligations under the Irish Water / Monaghan County Council Service Level Agreement and managing the implementation of the Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan. These priorities and objectives are summarised below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
To fulfil obligations under the Service Level Agreement and Annual Service Plan with Irish Water.	<p>Performance achieved on each of the Uisce Éireann KPI's within agreed Annual Service Plan.</p> <p>Q1 96%</p> <p>Q2 98.6%</p> <p>Q3 89.2%</p> <p>Q4 89.2%</p>
Execute duties as the Water Authority for Group Water Schemes and small private water supplies under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014.	<p>98.9% Compliance Private GWS and Small Private Supplies with Drinking Water Regulations.</p> <p>100% registered schemes monitored.</p>
Implementation of The County Monaghan Rural Water Programme	<p>Capital grant amount of €430,096 was administered to group water schemes in 2022 in the county under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022 - 2025</p>

Planning	
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting and protecting a clean safe environment which is viable and sustainable. A further corporate objective is to develop and manage County Monaghan's built and natural assets in partnership with other agencies to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. The Council's priorities and objectives for the Planning Service in these areas, together with the performance standards to be met, for 2021 are outlined below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
To provide an effective, equitable and consistent planning service.	The Planning Section continued to provide the level of service and access to information required to deliver an effective, equitable and consistent planning service through the carrying out of pre-planning consultation, designated public telephone mornings, etc. Work commenced in 2022 with respect to the roll out of E-Planning which will give service users convenient access to planning applications and provide a further opportunity for people to engage effectively with the planning process.
Operate a Development Management System in compliance with legislative and policy requirements.	The Planning Section continued to operate an effective and efficient development management system in accordance with legislative and policy requirements. A total of 580 planning applications were determined in 2022 along with exempt development, compliance and licence determinations.
Operate an enforcement system in line with legislative and policy requirements.	The Planning Section continued to fulfil its statutory duties in respect of enforcement in line with legislative and policy requirements. The planning authority is now ranked 9th nationally in terms of percentage of cases closed on foot of formal enforcement proceedings. Overall, the total number of cases open has reduced from 2021 in light of an ongoing review of historical and long standing cases.
Implement development contribution scheme within legislative and policy requirements.	Where applicable, appropriate development contributions were applied to planning application permissions in accordance with the adopted Development Contributions Scheme. In 2022 recovery of unpaid development contributions amounted to €1,208,999.
To ensure a planning policy framework for balanced and sustainable development in the urban and rural areas.	The Planning Section continued to formulate planning policy which is balanced and sustainable, and to progress same to adoption by the elected members within the legislative timeframes and policy requirements. Variations 3 and 4 of the Monaghan County Development Plan were adopted in 2022.
Develop a planning policy framework within legislative and policy requirements.	A draft Housing Need and Demand Assessment was prepared in 2022 in accordance with national policy requirements and to assist in the development of the Housing Strategy for the forthcoming new County Development Plan. A draft Housing Provision Review report was also prepared in 2022 to assist in the preparation of the forthcoming new County Development Plan.

Manage and protect the built heritage within the County.	<p>The Planning Section continued to apply legislative provisions and policy requirements in respect of the management and protection of built heritage through development management, enforcement and forward planning functions. Five Section 57 Declarations were issued in 2022.</p> <p>The Planning Section continued to administer the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF). Eleven properties were awarded funding under these schemes in 2022.</p>
Resolve remaining unfinished housing developments in the county and take in charge developments as required.	<p>The Planning Section continued to seek resolution of unfinished housing developments in collaboration with other sections of the Council and Irish Water/Uisce Eireann. The Planning Section also continued to pursue security bonds on a small number of developments. A number of estates underwent a technical assessment in 2022 to enable them to be progressed to taking in charge.</p>
Reduce the level of dereliction.	<p>Work on addressing dereliction continued in 2022 with seven sites added to Derelict Sites Register. Thirty one sites were on the Derelict Sites Register at 31st December 2022.</p> <p>The process of mapping lands/properties for the purpose of the Residential Zoned Land Tax was carried out in 2022 and will assist in reducing the level of dereliction and vacant properties in the five towns and ten Tier 4 villages by incentivising their reuse through taxation.</p>

Economic Development & Tourism

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to providing support to the business community to stimulate growth, encourage start-ups, maximise job creation and improve competitiveness. The Council's priorities and objectives in this area are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Monaghan County Council committed to delivering on its tourism strategy in partnership with stakeholders. The Council also has a leading role in supporting the local community sector in developing local initiatives. The following priorities/objectives and performance standards are relevant to these commitments. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Develop a strategy to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups, and develop existing businesses, including those sectors with significant export potential	Implement Local Economic Enterprise plan 2021 - 2024. Implement Actions in the Regional Enterprise Plan 2024
Promote economic sustainability and development in County Monaghan by progressing the County as a location for investment and employment creation through: Development of a strategy to attract public and private investment Devise a strategy to improve the quality and diversity of employment in the County	Development of the Bioconnect facility and implementation of the project. Work collaborately with Enterprising Monaghan on the development of office space in the County. Participate as member of the North East Regional Skills Forum to develop strategy and actions to improve skills and employability.
To develop a sustainable tourism industry in the county which will lead to an increase in visitor numbers and visitor revenue.	Continued the work outlined in the Tourism Strategy Document 2017 – 2022 which included delivery of key tourism development and promotional projects

Environment	
<p>In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. In this regard, the Council's priorities and objectives for the Environment division are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
<p>To implement legislation and policy with regard to water quality for both surface and groundwaters in the County.</p> <p>Working toward achieving an improvement in Water quality status in all waterbodies in the County.</p>	<p>2022 RMCEI annual Inspection and enforcement plan prepared submitted to the EPA. Plan implemented in line with the national water enforcement priorities.</p> <p>Work progressing under Phase 1 of the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project.</p>
<p>To implement legislation and policy with regards to waste management.</p>	<p>2022 RMCEI annual Inspection and enforcement plan prepared submitted to the EPA. Plan implemented in line with the national waste enforcement priorities.</p> <p>Projects successfully delivered via the €100k allocation received via the national Anti-Dumping Initiative fund.</p>
<p>To provide and maintain recycling infrastructure in towns and villages in the County.</p>	<p>Procurement competition completed in 2022 and new contract in place for the servicing and maintenance of the bring site network in the county for the collection of glass and aluminium cans.</p> <p>The two recycling centres at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross both continue to operate under existing concession contract to Monaghan County Council with the council in the unique situation of receiving a significant income for the operation of same.</p>
<p>To seek EPA authorisation for historic landfills previously operated by Monaghan County Council.</p>	<p>Further infrastructural improvement works carried out on site to improve landfill gas management, leachate management, and surface water management.</p> <p>Works substantially completed on rebuilding of landfill site office.</p> <p>Funding secured from DECC in 2022 to progress further Environmental Risk assessment works at Killycard, Killycronaghan, and Corkeeran Historical landfills.</p>
<p>To develop innovative environmental awareness projects for targeted audiences.</p>	<p>Continued to work and develop environmental awareness projects with new and existing groups including Comhairle na nOg, Tidy Towns, estates and Green Schools.</p> <p>Projects delivered included Fast Fashion, new litter picking station, litter and dog fouling initiatives, workshops</p> <p>Continued to develop cross departmental delivery of projects including MD's, Community Development, Tourism and Active Travel Unit</p> <p>Strengthen and support voluntary groups in delivery of environmental themed projects through the financing of same</p> <p>Continued to maximise participation in Spring Clean and Autumn Clean - offering supports such as litter pickers, bags and skips, where requested, to voluntary groups throughout the year</p>

To implement the objectives of County Monaghan Litter Management Plan.	Objectives of LMP continued to be implemented including delivery of awareness and enforcement projects. Objectives delivered include advertising campaigns, promotion and participation in Green Schools Programmes Continuation with issuing and collection of fines Continuation with the level of enforcement for illegal dumping at black spots and at bottle banks Continual improvement with IBAL report with Monaghan now ranked 8th place out of 40 in towns
To improve air quality through the implementation of air quality legislation.	2022 RMCEI annual Inspection and enforcement plan prepared submitted to the EPA. Plan implemented in line with the national air enforcement priorities.
Work with EPA in roll out of the national Ambient Air Monitoring Program.	In 2022 Environmental Services maintained the AAMP air monitors in collaboration with the EPA.
To protect public health by ensuring food safety compliance in food businesses under Monaghan County Council supervision.	Annual inspection plan for 19 food businesses completed. 1 new food business approved; 3 new food businesses registered. 602 cattle and 999 sheep inspected before and after slaughter. 37 samples taken for residues in raw meat, meat hygiene, production hygiene and water potability.
To ensure public safety from uncontrolled animals and to protect health and welfare of animals in establishments under supervision of Monaghan County Council.	Inspection of all cattle and sheep, and a proportion of turkeys, slaughtered in establishments. 382 dogs admitted to Council Dog Pound; 58 reclaimed, 321 rehomed, 3 euthanased; 5,961 dog licences issued in Monaghan; Investigation of dog related complaints, including 8 attacks on people, 6 attacks on sheep, and 6 attacks on pets and other animals. 5 horse complaints. 3 horses were seized and subsequently reclaimed by their owner. 12 inspections on registered and previously registered Dog Breeding Establishments.

Community Development

In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County. Monaghan County Council is committed to leading the promotion and support of Social Inclusion and access to services through the review, development and implementation of its strategies. The Council's priorities and objectives in the area of Community Development are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Monaghan County Council committed to lead the promotion and support of social inclusion through the review, development and implementation of strategies, policies and practice that promote, equality, protect human rights and eliminate discrimination for all services users and staff of the organisation in line with National Government Policy. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Support and facilitate the work of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in partnership with Statutory and Non-Statutory Agencies	<p>A full review of the LECP 2016 - 2021 was carried out and the fundings from the review will inform the new LECP.</p> <p>9 LAG meetings were held to ensure that the LEADER Programme was delivered in accordance with the operating guidelines. LEADER Programme delivered - claims submitted in a timely manner, budgets allocated in accordance with the operating guidelines and the Local Regular meetings of the SICAP Sub-committee were held to ensure that the SICAP Annual Plan 2022 was being delivered in accordance with the targets set out in the 2022 Plan. All targets were met.</p> <p>Community Enhancement Programme advertised, assessed and projects delivered in accordance with the guidelines of the scheme. Funding fully drawn down and reported on within the set timeframe.</p> <p>The Ukrainian Refugee Response was established and met regularly. The Offer a Home Scheme was implemented and delivered in accordance with departmental guidelines.</p>
To achieve Peace programme/s objectives	<p>All actions under the PEACE IV Action Plan completed.</p> <p>Reporting to SEUPB completed and funding drawn down.</p> <p>Initiated work on the preparation of the PEACE PLUS Local Action Plan.</p> <p>PEACEPLUS Steering Committee established and initial meeting held.</p>
To promote equality and inclusion for all service users by developing cross departmental actions and policies.	<p>Public Sector Working Group reactivated.</p> <p>Public Sector Duty actions reviewed and actions implemented.</p> <p>Comprehensive review undertake of Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy.</p> <p>Progress made on the implementation of the reviewed strategy.</p> <p>LECP Equality Subgroup held regular meetings and carried out actions based on local need.</p> <p>Successful Social Inclusion week held.</p>
Support the Public Participation Network (PPN) in realising its role and function.	<p>Progress made on the implementation of actions contained within the PPN Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025.</p>
Work to strengthen local community groups by supporting the Local Community Sector in developing local initiatives.	<p>Implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Enhancement Programme Community Activities Fund CLAR Town and Village Renewal Scheme Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme Communities supported to develop community plans 2 Plans successfully delivered in 2022.

Enhance the quality of life of our communities through greater participation in sport.	2022 actions delivered in line with the Monaghan Sports Partnership Strategic Plan and taking into account challenges such as COVID.
Contribute positively to the health and wellbeing of our communities.	Healthy Monaghan Steering Committee held regular meetings to develop the Healthy Monaghan Strategy 2023 - 2025. Widespread consultation was undertaken to develop the Healthy Monaghan Strategy 2023 - 2025. Healthy Monaghan Strategy submitted to Pobal for approval.
Positively Contribute to migrant integration.	Actions contained within the Migrant Integration Strategy 2020 - 2023 implemented.
Enhance participation of young people within society.	Action Plan implemented in line with NOAC Y1: Participation in Comhairle na nOg Programme.

Climate Change	
<p>In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council aims to progress the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. Whilst the Environmental Services section has developed the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 it will be the responsibility of all the units within Monaghan County Council to ensure progression of the strategy and to progress the measures and action as outlined in the Climate Action Charter and in the National Climate Action Plan – To Tackle Climate Breakdown. In this regard, the Council's priorities and objectives in the area of Climate Action are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
To build resilience to the impacts of climate change across all council functions and services through the implementation of the Monaghan County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.	In 2022 Monaghan County Council submitted its second progress report to the Eastern and midlands Climate Action Regional Office detailing the progress made to date on the progression on the actions contained within the strategy. Progress report indicated that work had progressed on 90% of the 61 actions contained in the strategy
To progress Climate Change Mitigation through further reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Deliver on the actions and commitments in the Local Authority Climate Action Charter	<p>Most recent data published by SEAI indicates that Monaghan County Council had achieved an energy reduction of 48.6% by the end of 2021 which was significantly higher than the national target. Figures for 2022 yet to be released.</p> <p>Border Energy Unit set up in 2022 in partnership with Cavan and Leitrim County Councils.</p> <p>Annual progress report submitted to the Climate Action Regional Office.</p>
Build appropriate staff confidences and capacities to lead and drive the Climate Change agenda.	<p>Additional Climate training rolled out to staff.</p> <p>New Energy Officer appointed.</p> <p>Departmental sanction received to recruit a Climate Action coordinator, a Climate Action Officer, and a Climate Community Officer.</p> <p>Annual CARO progress report completed</p>
Lead and support local communities, businesses and industry in delivering initiatives to tackle Climate Change.	<p>Businesses availed of the Green Micro Support program managed by LEO. The LEO delivered a 'Go Green' Climate action series to 90 businesses to raise awareness and help them transition to lower carbon entities. The LEO also delivered the Green for Micro Programme to 18 businesses.</p> <p>Departmental sanction received to recruit Climate Action Community Officer with recruitment competition initiated.</p>

Fire & Emergency Services	
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promote and protect a clean environment which is viable and sustainable. The Council's priorities and objectives for the Fire Service, Civil Defence & Building Control under this remit are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Provide and develop an inclusive, effective & efficient prevention, protection and response fire & rescue service, locally identified risks, responsive to the needs of our community and in a manner that reflects the diversity of our communities.	<p>Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection (MFCP) continued to deliver an inclusive, effective and efficient response to all emergency calls in 2022. MFCP delivered on all Fire Safety inspection commitments and processed and issued all Fire Safety Certificates applications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and Implementation of Fire & Emergency Operations Plan 2018-2022. 2. Implementation of recommendations outlined in Fire Service Capacity Review. Development of Good practice note for a 'Risk Based Inspections Programme' progressed 3. Progress development of new fire station in Ballybay. Planning Permission secured and tender process commenced for new Fire Station in Ballybay 4. Fleet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure & secure delivery of new Class B Fire Appliance and funding application for new Fire Appliance. • Procurement of 2 No. 4X4 Vehicles
To provide a healthy and safe working environment.	<p>Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection (MFCP) retained ISO 45001 accreditation status in 2022. MFCP commenced the implementation of an asset management system for both Fire Service and Civil Defence.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain IOS 450001 accreditation. 2. Building Control Regulations: Operate public consultation and information service. Provide timely support, assistance and processes applications within statutory time frames. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Building Control Inspection Plan. • Construction Products Regulations Policy implementation. 3. Fire Safety: Implement recommendations of Task force on Fire Safety in Ireland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare, adopt & implement Community Fire Safety Policy - Community Fire Safety Plan implemented. • Implement Fire Safety Inspection Policy - annual inspection plan completed with 110 inspections. • Process Dangerous Substance Licences & Vapour Recovery requirements. All pre-consultation meetings completed. • 17 No. RMCEI inspections completed.
Provide accessible community support.	<p>MFCP delivered on it's community Fire Safety Plan and supported community events with medical assistance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civil Defence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support persons fleeing conflict in Ukraine - CD HQ utilised as rest centre for persons fleeing Ukraine. • Implementation of Civil Defence 2030 Strategy and MCC development plan - All Community Response and public safety duties requests completed. • Training Plan delivered. 2. Implemented Road Safety Action plan targets. 3. Implemented Community Fire Safety Programme.

<p>Develop response to Major Emergencies.</p>	<p>MFCP continued to review and support MCC's Major Emergency Plans, and delivery of Major Emergency Management inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate training and exercises.</p> <p>Major Emergency Management (MEM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC MEM plan updated. • Completion of MEM Regional work plan • Regional exercise completed
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Library Services

The Library, Museum, Heritage, and Arts services of Monaghan County Council play a key role in the Council's commitment to promote economic, social and cultural benefit of our citizens. The main priorities and objectives for these services are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.

Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Implement Monaghan County Library Development Plan 2019 – 2022.	<p>Covid 19 restrictions removed and full access to library branch services restored.</p> <p>Capital Projects: Both Castleblayney and Monaghan Branch projects have taken longer than envisaged but have progressed well in 2022. Both are due for completion in 2023.📅</p> <p>Open Library Launch in Clones delayed until Q2 2023</p> <p>Decade of Centenaries programme for 2022 completed</p> <p>Healthy Ireland at Your Library and Work Matters Programmes completed</p> <p>Sensory Services Programme launched, including Sensory Room in Clones Branch</p> <p>Dormant account funding programme 2022 completed</p> <p>Culture Night programme for the county completed</p> <p>New electric delivery vehicle purchased</p> <p>New 5-year contract for Europe Direct Information Centre Service signed</p> <p>In-person Local History and Genealogy service re-instated</p>
Implement annual Right to Read Action Plan.	<p>All elements of the Initiative were successfully delivered.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council was awarded Right to Read Champion for 2021.</p> <p>Right to Reading Outreach Programme completed:</p> <p>One Book, One County programme delivered to primary schools across the county</p> <p>Library Podcast Series completed</p> <p>Support services to Primary and Secondary Schools provided</p> <p>Foster Care Library Services developed in partnership with Tusla</p> <p>Literacy Activity Books published in partnership with the FAI</p> <p>Little Library Book Bags: 1,500 bags provided to preschools and children starting primary school</p> <p>STEAM services provided and Annual Science Festival delivered</p> <p>Annual Children's Book Festival delivered</p>

<p>Implement Monaghan Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022.</p>	<p>With the 5-year period for the Culture and Creative Strategy drawing to a close at the end of 2022, work began on the new strategy, for publication in Q1 of 2023. The Strategy has been a huge success, drawing increased funding year on year.</p> <p>A diverse programme was delivered throughout 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frances McCarron appointed as Storyteller in Residence • Samhain Storytelling Festival • Monaghan Murals Project • Tradoodle Festival of Arts for children • 'Bordering Realities' multi agency and disciplinary youth project • Song Tales sa Speir, pilot from Ceol Connected • Harp Day, Music Generation • Wetlands Film Project • 'Fighting Words' writing project • 'The Nature Project' with artist Siobhan McDonald • The Manager, new play by Joe Hanratty • Patrick Kavanagh Legacy Programme • Elsewhere – The Opera • Cruinniu na nÓg • 'This is Art' installation on the North Road • A Memory of Water: multi-sensory art project with nursing homes and day care centres • 'Lullaby Leaf' project with North-East Down Syndrome centre • Local Arts in Education Partnership
<p>Appoint a County Archivist.</p>	<p>No progress made</p>

Support Services	
The delivery of the front-line services to the public is underpinned and supported by the services provided internally by the Corporate, Health & Safety, Finance, Human Resources and Information Systems departments of the Council. A summary of the priorities, strategies and performance standards of each of these support sections is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.	
Corporate Services	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
To ensure democratic accountability and effective governance.	11 Co Co meetings held. Statutory Budget meeting held. Annual Meeting held.
Provide robust business management, risk management, audit and corporate governance structures and systems in compliance with statutory obligations.	(Donations) 18 completed forms were received by closing date of 31 January 2022. (Annual Declaration - Ethics) 18 completed forms were received by the closing date of the last day of February 2022. 72 relevant staff were asked to complete a declaration form, all forms were received by the last day of February 2021. 5 Internal Audit committee meetings held. 8 Internal Audit reports issued. All Internal Audit Recommendations followed with the exception of one which has now been closed. All statutory reports issued Annual Report adopted by April 2022. Annual Service Delivery Plan adopted by 31 March 2022. Monthly Management Report submitted to Council. NOAC returns submitted by specified date. NOAC report reviewed and analysed. Risk Registers Reviewed.
Manage the Annual Register of Electors. Organise Local Elections and Election Count.	Implementation of Part 3 of the Electoral Reform Act 2022
To ensure compliance with legislative and statutory obligations in service delivery.	Continued to develop new policies and procedures to achieve compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR. Continued to develop best practice to ensure compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR and data protection, including developing and implementing the necessary policies, procedures, and protocols. Delievered awareness raising and training to all staff and to ensure compliance with GDPR and data protection. Processed personal data in an open, fair, and transparent manner for the specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes for which it was collected. Compliance with the requirements of the Official Languages Act. Scéim na Gaeilge actions for 2022 implemented.

Deliver quality inclusive services to our customers that reflects the diversity of our communities	Communications Department established. Raise public awareness via social media platforms and website.
Enable the public to gain access to records held by the Council to the greatest extent possible consistent with the right to privacy and the public interest.	Ensure compliance of rights of individuals under GDPR and Data Protection. Responses to information requests, complaints and protected disclosures issued in line with statutory requirements.38 FOI requests received. 8 AIE requests received. 2 Ombudsmans complaints received. 2 Office of Information Commissioner requests received.

Arts Office	
<p>Monaghan County Council through their Arts Section aims to champion, develop and invest in artistic expression to enrich peoples' lives. The Council works to nurture and create the conditions in which great art can happen, while at the same time ensuring that as many people as possible can engage with the arts and discover what art can do for them. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Implementation of the Co Arts Development Plan	<p>Maintain Clones Artists' Studio with artists led programmes & other studio spaces.</p> <p>Value Added scheme: financial support to Artists successful in achieving Bursaries</p> <p>Delivered Artist support scheme</p> <p>Advocate for Artists in any scheme or policy being led by MCC</p> <p>Maintain funding level and support to our Music Generation programme.</p> <p>Support and maintain our Local Arts in Education Partnership</p> <p>Continue our partnership models and bursary initiatives between NYCI /Youth groups and artists</p> <p>Make the Creative Schools Scheme a key advocated programme of interest by MCC</p>

Heritage	
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to promoting and protecting a clean, safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. The Council's Heritage Office plays a key role in this area and in the local implementation of the National Heritage Plan and National Biodiversity Plan. The Heritage section's priorities and objectives are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Implement Monaghan Heritage and Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2020-2025	Conservation, research and awareness, capacity building actions taken to deliver on thematic areas of Climate Change; Hedgerows and Native Woodlands; Vernacular and traditional Buildings; Historic Graveyards, Holy Wells and Church ruins and Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands.
Implement the Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022	Completed film project to draw attention to peatlands and climate change connections.
Pollinator Plan Guidelines for Local Authorities	MCC continued as active AIPP partner. Changes to verge management, and planting regimes continued. Programme of schools education works, and a media campaign encouraging retention of wild areas in gardens.
Collaborative action for the Natura Network Interreg V project	Five-year project was completed in 2022 - conservation action plans developed for north and south, conservation activities onsite completed; 1000Ha of protected habitats moving towards improved conservation status.

Capital Projects	
<p>In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council is committed to promoting and protecting a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable. The Council seeks to develop and manage County Monaghan's built assets to best utilise and promote economic, social and cultural benefits. The Council seeks to develop Capital Projects in line with the strategic objectives of the Council and to provide high quality facilities for all users. The Council seeks to bring a high level of consistency of approach to the procurement, management and delivery of projects across the organisation in line with the Public Spending Code and the improved procurement structures embedded into the organisation. The specific priorities and objectives for the Corporate Assets Section are outlined below, together with the performance standards to be met. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Asset management of Public Lighting & continued optimisation of energy efficiency.	<p>Public Lighting inventory maintained</p> <p>Effective Asset Management of Public Lighting infrastructure and ensure effective delivery of Public Lighting maintenance contract.</p> <p>All PL upgraded to energy efficient LED lights to maximise energy efficiency.</p> <p>Public Lighting upgrade completed</p>
Delivery of Capital Programme. Application of Monaghan County Council Accessible procurement strategy to all capital projects.	<p>Annual three year Capital Programme prepared</p> <p>Delivered & progress capital projects as various construction stages</p> <p>Project Governance policies in place for Capital Projects.</p> <p>Coordinate and assisted in delivery of Capital Building Projects across organisation</p> <p>Identify sustainable uses for Council owned derelict properties and progress towards redevelopment</p> <p>Worked with Corporate Procurement Team in delivering Capital Projects</p>
Coordinate the management of the Council's property portfolio & ensure modern facilities for the delivery of services.	<p>Detailed I.T. based Property Portfolio maintained and updated.</p> <p>Worked closely with National Asset Management Group</p> <p>Continued to implement the recommendations of the L.G. A.S. VFM report No. 30</p> <p>Updated Policy for the acquisition and disposal of Property Assets to ensure effective governance of the purchase, sale, lease & transfer of all properties by Council adopted</p> <p>Maintained up to date Property Asset Management system</p> <p>Optimise the use of all active properties.</p> <p>Ensure office facilities in place for the effective delivery of Council Services</p> <p>Coordinate maintenance and management of Council Building Portfolio</p> <p>Worked with Corporate Procurement Team & OGP in procuring goods, services and works</p> <p>Overseen the management and operation of Monaghan Leisure Centre.</p>

Museum	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Implement Peace Campus Programme Plan.	Exhibition Interpretation plan produced. Successfully procured all contractors required for exhibition fitout. Funding received from the Heritage Council, Department of Culture and Creative ireland towards cost of fit out.
Implement the Monaghan Culture & Creativity Strategy Monaghan 2018-2022.	4 Murals completed throughout county Monaghan as part of the Monaghan Murals project. Plans are in pace for another 2 in 2023 in conjunction with the Peace Campus project.

Finance	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Compliance with Statutory Regulations.	All submissions are completed on time. One audit adjustment for AFS 2021. AFS 2022 currently being prepared. Have achieved a cumulative surplus for AFS 2021 for first time in 17 years. Surplus is expected for AFS 2022
Operate efficiently to support all Council functions/ Members of the public/ Local businesses.	Revenue collections are continuously monitored and collection rates are maintained or improved year on year. MCC Rates collection for 2022 is expected to be in line or higher than 2021. Rates collection of 95% in 2021 was highest nationally.
Monitor and strive to continuously improve Financial Management.	Financial reports are prepared and issued regularly, monitoring budget versus actual spend. Large capital project budgets are reviewed quarterly and funding requirements are considered.
Demonstrate effective Asset Management.	FAR vs. ihouse vs. Rental charges reconciliations completed quarterly. FAR is completed at year end.
Continuously review and improve Financial Administration function.	Regular capital balance reviews and reconciliations conducted. All payroll and suppliers are paid promptly and accurately. Debtors are reviewed and followed up on a regular basis.

Human Resources	
<p>In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council committed to ensuring that there is an appropriately resourced, skilled and motivated workforce to meet the priorities and objectives of the organisation. The HR section has the lead role in delivering on the Council's commitments in this area. The 2021 service delivery plan for HR is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.</p>	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
<p>Plan and deliver our Organisation's Workforce requirements.</p>	<p>Develop a Workforce that is equipped with the skills and competencies to meet the challenges of our evolving environment.</p> <p>Implement Our People Strategy 2020-2024</p> <p>Carry out continuous Workforce Planning for the organisation. Ensure compliance with legal and statutory obligations including GDPR. Haddington Road Hours Reversal was rolled out on the 1st July 2022, the solution to reverse the 37 hrs to 35 hrs working hours was implemented to all indoor employee appointments with no disruption. Blended Working Policy and Procedure, aligned with the Sectoral Blended Working Framework and adopted by Management. Blended Working came into effect in Monaghan County Council on the 7th November 2022.</p> <p>Phase 2 People Management successfully rolled out end of February 2022. Phase 3 (Core Time) rollout expected in late 2023. Phased upgrades will allow for improved optimisation of system. A build to share Blended Working App developed with input from several IT departments in other local authorities. HR and IS worked together to successfully roll out the process Monaghan County Council went "live" with the app on 7th November 2022, which allowed staff who were interested in participating in the Blended Working scheme to submit an application to their Line Manager & Director of Service for approval. October 2022 Makodata developed Gender Pay Gap Dashboards that provided the information needed to meet the requirements of the Gender Pay Gap Act.</p> <p>Ensure ease of access through technology</p> <p>Laserfiche online PDP forms fully automated for calendar year 2022. E-PMDS app in development to digitize the PMDS process expected to be rolled out Q1 2023.</p> <p>Laserfiche online PDP forms fully automated for calendar year 2022. E-PMDS app in development to digitize the PMDS process expected to be rolled out Q1 2023.</p> <p>Laserfiche & E-PMDS</p> <p>Makodata 'Data Analytics' – Gender Pay Gap</p>

Be an employer of Choice.	<p>Monaghan County Council provided financial assistance to 32 Staff who applied for Third Level/Further Education training .</p> <p>Provide a range of Family Friendly schemes to promote work-life balance and flexibility so that parents and carers can reconcile between work and their private life more easily.</p> <p>Attract and recruit people with the appropriate knowledge, skills and behaviours.</p> <p>Promote career opportunities and the potential for development and progressing offered by MCC.</p> <p>Promote recruitment campaigns.</p> <p>Continue to build strategic alliances with other organisations to position MCC as a key employer of choice.</p>
Create culture of continuous learning and development.	<p>Monaghan County Council delivered 215 various training courses in 2022 and in addition staff attended 21 Conferences.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council provided financial assistance and approved Third Level/Further Education training to 32 staff.</p> <p>The process of developing a Training app was initiated which will form part of the ePMDS App.</p> <p>Induction Training was delivered to 62 new employees who joined Monaghan County Council in 2022.</p> <p>Two graduate engineers were also recruited on Graduate Programme in 2022</p>
Empower and enable our managers and supervisors.	<p>PMDS was rolled out through laserfiche and the completion of the PDP process was streamlined to ensure optimal line manager/employee engagement.</p> <p>The process of developing a Mentoring Programme for all staff was initiated in 2022.</p> <p>A new Metacompliance online training tool was introduced for standard, self-directed training in the areas of cybersecurity, data protection and policy and procedures.</p> <p>Newly appointed managers continue to be supported by Human Resources and Senior Managers</p>
Promote positive employee relations and engagement.	<p>Communicate and consult effectively with employees on key organisation activities and plans</p> <p>Recognise individuals, team and organisation achievements</p> <p>Ensure that Performance Management is in operation throughout the organisation to facilitate formal arrangement for Line Managers to meet with staff and agree objectives.</p>

	<p>Maintain Collaborative employee relations with unions and staff representatives, respecting IR mechanisms. Provide information and consulting on relevant issues.</p> <p>Promotion of the Employee Assistance Service and Wellbeing App Garda vetting for relevant staff ongoing.</p> <p>Regular meetings held with Health & Wellbeing committee to organise various events throughout 2022.</p> <p>Dignity at Work/Disability Awareness Training and Diversity and inclusion Training delivered to staff and Councillors in 2022.</p> <p>Working to resolve issues up to and including attendance at the WRC or Labour Court</p>
Create a fair, supportive and healthy working environment.	<p>Promote and support a culture of dignity, respect and equality</p> <p>Raise awareness of equality and diversity, equal treatment for all</p>

Health & Safety Unit	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
<p>Manage and implement the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees and others that could be affected by Monaghan County Council's operations by being compliant with legislation, codes of practice and best practice.</p>	<p>A suitable Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) is in place.</p> <p>HSU procedures and forms were reviewed and updated as applicable.</p> <p>The Corporate Safety Statement was updated twice in 2022.</p> <p>The HSU Operational Plan was developed and delivered.</p> <p>All Monthly Reports were issued on time.</p> <p>New procedure HSSP58 Working in the Sun (UVR Exposure) was developed and issued.</p> <p>Support, assistance, advice, information and training was provided to employees .</p> <p>The requirements of the HSU Operational Plan 2022 were achieved.</p>

ICT	
In its Corporate Plan, Monaghan County Council has committed to delivering an efficient, effective and accessible service through advancing information systems and technology and promoting a culture of innovation. The Information Systems and Innovation department has the lead role in delivering on the Council's commitments in this area. The 2021 service delivery plan for this department is set out below. Objectives will be delivered in compliance with Monaghan County Council's adopted governance processes & procedures.	
Supporting Strategy	Progress in 2022
Provide a modern, secure, green and accessible ICT infrastructure to enable efficient and reliable service delivery.	<p>Continued managing ICT infrastructure including server infrastructure, backup and recovery systems, WAN and LAN devices, telecommunications systems, and endpoints including PCs, laptops, mobile phones. Lone working devices and loggers.</p> <p>Carried out actions required by IPB to qualify for Cyber Extortion / Ransomware cover</p> <p>Continued to implement CIS cyber-security controls</p> <p>Maintained disaster recovery solution for critical services and carried out quarterly tests.</p> <p>Replaced Anti-virus software and rolled out to servers and endpoints.</p> <p>Implemented Compliance Management System and rolled out policies, eLearning and simulated phishing exercises.</p> <p>Carried out independent internal and external pen test and remediated high and medium risk vulnerabilities</p> <p>Carried out a cyber incident table top exercise with senior management team.</p>
Lead innovation, and develop and support initiatives through collaboration at local, regional, national and EU level.	<p>Submitted applications for funding to DPER OPS Innovation Fund 2022.</p> <p>Innovation team continued to develop innovation skills through training, participation in workshops and application of innovation tools to address challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Continued roll-out of innovation Management System.</p> <p>Participated in LGMA and DPER Innovation Network events.</p> <p>Developed build-to-share employee performance management system and ethics register solution.</p> <p>Continued to lead MyCoCo local authority collaboration. Procured the cloud hosted platform and development services on behalf of the local government system and acted as lead authority for the development and pilot of Solicitor services and Councillor App.</p>
Upgrade and Implement new and emerging software and systems where appropriate, including AI and Robotics, while keeping in mind accessibility, security, privacy and information management requirements.	<p>Continued the roll-out of Laserfiche and implemented online forms for grant and fund applications, broadband enquiries and playpark inspections.</p> <p>Implemented new systems including a new Blended Working Application, Spydus Library Management System, ProWork Road Application and a Room Booking System.</p> <p>Carried out application upgrades for the following systems: - Agresso Financial Management System, Ascendas Customer Payments Portal, LGMA iReg and iHouse Systems.</p>
Implement and maintain high quality GIS systems and open data technologies.	<p>Continued to provide support for a range of GIS systems and tools.</p> <p>Assisted the Planning section comply with the Residential Zoned Land Tax obligations.</p>

Provide broadband, wi-fi facilities and online services to staff, libraries and the community.	<p>Continued to support delivery of the National Broadband Plan.</p> <p>Continued to support and maintain the broadband connection points and Wifi4EU public Wifi network.</p> <p>Continued to support library facilities including open library.</p> <p>Maintained corporate and public Wi-Fi networks.</p>
Implement and promote remote working technologies including mobile devices and apps, virtual teams, conferencing facilities.	<p>Completed the roll-out of docked laptop solution for all staff.</p> <p>Continued to facilitate and support home/blended working solutions.</p> <p>Continued to develop and implement Mobile Apps.</p> <p>Implemented video conferencing systems in meeting rooms.</p> <p>Continue to manage the Council's IT assets/inventory including Laptops, tablets, mobile phones, lone working devices, loggers and sim cards.</p>
Provide high quality technical support to all our customers.	<p>Continued to provide high quality technical support to staff, management and councillors.</p> <p>Managed support calls and service requests via service desk system.</p>