



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Monaghan County Council

Live, Work, Visit

Monaghan



Autumn/Winter  
Newsletter  
2023





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Monaghan County Council



Monaghan County Council

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

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**For any queries, please contact us on [register@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:register@monaghancoco.ie) or 047 30551**

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Rialtas na hÉireann  
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Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin  
Monaghan County Council

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- Career progression



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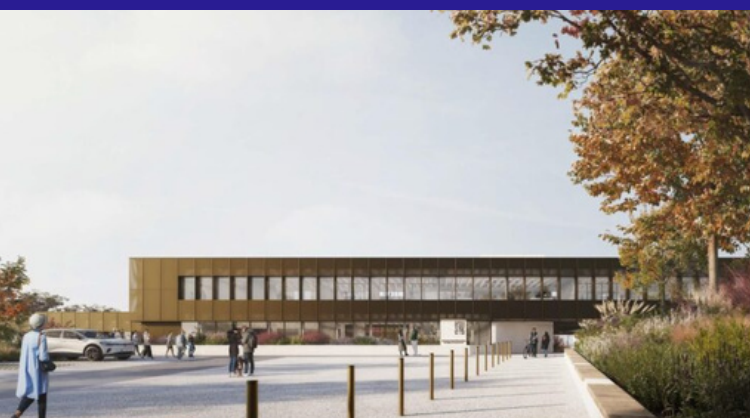
# Monaghan County Council lodge planning for an exciting new Civic Headquarters at Rooskey Monaghan

## Proposed new Civic Office Headquarters

Monaghan County Council recently submitted a Part VIII Planning Application for new Civic Offices located at the Rooskey Lands in Monaghan Town. The purpose of the development is to consolidate and improve Monaghan County Council's civic facilities, office accommodation and improve our customer service offering. The project will ultimately lead to service efficiency improvements by lowering operational costs; by eliminating current office rental arrangements and reducing the Local Authority's energy demand.

The new office accommodation will have a gross floor area of 5,601m<sup>2</sup>, distributed over three tiered floors, incorporating an entrance foyer, office spaces, meeting rooms, a staff canteen, council chamber, customer service desks, welfare facilities and internal landscaped courtyards. The planning application also provides for a new Rooskey Lands access road, improved pedestrian and cycle links, a car park and all associated site development works. The proposed Civic Offices marks the first phase of an ambitious economic development and regeneration strategy for the Rooskey Lands and Dublin Street areas. The project is aligned with the provisions of the Rooskey Master Plan and the approved Variations of the County Monaghan Development Plan.

The Masterplan and approved Variations seek to regenerate an area in urban decline, generate employment and contribute to the creation of a new urban quarter, whilst integrating successfully with the established built-up area of the town and providing a consolidated home for Local Authority service provision. The project will also act as a catalyst for the regeneration of Dublin Street and its back lands, making Monaghan a better place to work, live and visit.







Campas Síochána  
Mhuineacháin

Monaghan  
Peace Campus



**This project is supported by the EU's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu).**

**The financial support provided through the PEACE IV Programme is €9,541,081 with approval of an additional €3,761,372.70 in July 2022.**

The new landmark Monaghan Peace Campus will bring together high-quality civic gathering spaces, outdoor stage area, landscaped areas, and pedestrian routes. The Peace Campus building will offer a range of facilities all under one roof, such as the Town Library, County Museum, Community and Youth facilities.

The hoarding has been removed revealing more of the building and works have started to install the new footpath and paved areas around the building. Construction is nearing completion to the interior of the building which will allow fit out to commence in early 2024 and opening to the public in the first half of 2024.







Campas Síochána  
Mhuineacháin

Monaghan  
Peace Campus







# OFFICIAL OPENING OF CASTLEBLAYNEY LIBRARY



A truly historic, poignant and emotional day when [@monaghancountylibrary](https://www.monaghancountylibrary.ie) officially opened their new library on Friday 10th November 2023 at Gatelodge 2 in Castleblayney, which is located at the entrance to one of our most beautiful amenities in County Monaghan - Lough Muckno.

The library staff look forward to delivering an enhanced service which will include more programming for all ages and increased opening hours in 2024.







# Monaghan County Council Active Travel Unit



## Monaghan Town Greenway Mural

Art students in Coláiste Oiriall assisted the Active Travel Unit in Monaghan County Council in developing a fabulous mural for the underpass bridge on the Monaghan Town Greenway, near the Maurice Graham entrance.

Ablly assisted by their art teacher, Faela Mhic Dhomhnaill, the students worked together in producing a fantastic design, celebrating fauna, flora and wildlife. They were invited along to the greenway recently to meet with Lucy Tormey, the artist who brought their vision to life!

Many thanks to the school, students, Lucy and Martin in Maurice Grahams who very kindly supported the project.







# HOUSING FOR ALL



Under HOUSING FOR ALL (2022-2026) Monaghan County Council has specific targets for provision of Social Housing.

To ensure delivery, Monaghan County Council uses all available Housing funding schemes to maximise our efficiency in the delivery of social housing. This is in part due to the small land bank that can be developed.

**Social Housing is delivered via following methods;**

- Direct New Build (On MCC Land)
- Part Vs & House Acquisitions
- Turnkey Construction
- Approved Housing Bodies
- These properties are all finished to a high standard with Building Energy Ratings (BER) of A2 or higher.

In 2022 Housing Capital Projects totaled €36 million.

## HOUSING FOR ALL ~ DELIVERED, PROJECTED & TARGETS 2022-2026



Monaghan County Council Projected Housing Capital Budget 2022-2026 is €150million



Monaghan County Council's Housing For All Target 2022 – 2026 in green bubbles (TARGET TOTAL 361)  
 The projected figures above in the blue bubbles are based on Monaghan County Council's proposed Housing Delivery Action Plan and are subject to funding (PROJECTED TOTAL 649)  
 Casual Vacancies or Voids have not been included in above figures



## Ongoing Housing Capital Projects



30 Houses at Knockcarrick, Annyalla being provided by Geda Construction, proposed completion Q2 & Q4 2024

Overall Budget €8,807,000





# HOUSING FOR ALL



## Housing Capital Projects



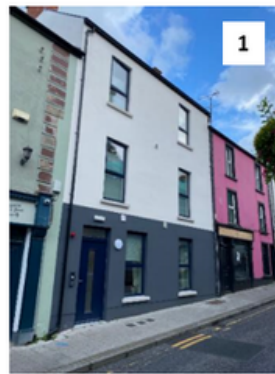
30 Houses at Coill an Rí, Cmx being provided by Park Edge Contracting Ltd, proposed completion Q2 & Q4 2024  
Overall budget €9,980,000.

### CLONES RENEWAL SCHEME

Monaghan County Council received Funding Approval in 2019 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Rebuilding Ireland programme to demolish 11 properties on Fermanagh Street and Analore Street, Clones and construct 22 new apartments and 2 new Townhouses in their place.

The all-in project budget is circa €6million and was completed in December 2022.

The scheme has been a focus of attention nationally winning Excellence in Planning Award at the Property Industry Excellence Awards 2019.



Site 1: Davey's Butchers  
Site 2: Boyle Sports  
Site 3: An Bonnan Bui & The Flower Shop & 63 Fermanagh St  
Site 4: 82 & 83 Fermanagh Street  
Site 5: 2a & 3 Analore Street  
Site 6: The Abbey Gatehouse



### Luí Na Greíne, Scotstown



Monaghan County Council's Housing Section along with Wynne, Gormley and Gilsenan Architects, Lead Designer and E.R. and Lowry Construction Ltd, Main Contractor are reviving this derelict/unfinished housing estate in the heart of Scotstown.

The total project budget is just below €7million and includes the completion of 4 derelict unfinished houses and the construction of a further 28 new houses, all built to the highest standard with a Building Energy Rating of A3 and above.

The project is being handed over in five phases and was completed in December 2022.





# HOUSING FOR ALL



## Housing Capital Projects



The project consists of the provision of 41 houses at Ard an Radhairc, Carrickmacross by Woodfort Group.

The development comprises of the 4 two-Bedroom Mid terraced Houses, 37 three-Bedroom Semi-Detached/Terraced Houses including open space, landscaping, new access roads, drainage, street lighting and siteworks.

Works commenced in November 2020, with phased handover of 6 houses in 2021 and remaining 35 properties completed in November 2022.

## Reletting Works

In 2022, Monaghan County Council had the lowest vacancy rate and reletting times are among the best in the Country.

Vacancy rate of 1.14% (national average is 3.03%) whilst the average re-letting time was 16.2 weeks, the third lowest in the Country (the lowest was Wexford at 11.5 weeks and the average was 35.2 weeks).

In 2023, Monaghan County Council have Department funding approval for 37 properties (€407,000 and expect to complete circa 50 properties in 2023, similar to 2022).



## Energy Efficiency

From 2016-2021 Monaghan County Council completed phase 1 works of energy upgrades to approximately 1650 local authority houses.

Between 2021-2022, 108 deep retrofit works have been completed.

For 2023, Monaghan County Council has received an allocation of 68 properties. It is likely that Monaghan County Council will complete and recoup in the region of 73 properties at a cost of over €2 Million.

Works on the next tender have commenced with over 100 properties issued to our newly appointed Obligated Party Energia.



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

MCC - Deep retro fit 92 social houses in the County to an Energy Rating of B2.





# HOUSING FOR ALL



## Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage visits Housing Developments in County Monaghan



Staff from Housing Section, Monaghan County Council along with their architectural consultants, Craft Studio presented plans to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of Ireland, Darragh O'Brien T.D. for the development of 50 social house and an affordable housing scheme on lands in Latlorcan, Monaghan. The scheme is currently at design phase and works are expected to commence in 2024.



### An Clos, Ballybay (7 Houses)



### Castleblayney – Coill Darach (30 Houses)



Minister Darragh O'Brien visited County Monaghan and complimented The Council's Elected Members and staff on their Housing Delivery Action Plan which is providing much needed quality Social Housing in the County.



# PLANNING



## Applications/Submission/Part VIII Applications

Approximately 54% of Planning Applications received this year have been submitted online. Submissions can now be made online via the government portal to any live planning application whether it is an online application or a hard copy application.

Part VIII's are also uploaded onto the Local Government Portal

What is a Part 8? Most developments by a local authority itself are subject to a public consultation process as set out in the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (As amended). This procedure is commonly referred to as a 'Part for public consultation. Submissions to Part VIII's are free of charge.

The Local Government Online Planning portal was designed to streamline the application for planning permission across all Local Authorities in Ireland. The online portal is easy-to-use and moves the process into an environmentally friendly one that is also user friendly. You can register your own account, submit documents online with your application, and submit further documentation at a later stage if necessary. You can view previously submitted applications on your dashboard, as well as the status of applications quickly and easily. Planning permission in Ireland is moving towards a paperless and environmentally friendly domain where applicants have 24/7 access to their planning applications.

For more information on how to use the Portal, please log into the following:

<https://planning.localgov.ie/en/what-online-planning>

## Built Heritage Projects 2023

In 2023 Monaghan County Council again managed the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF). This involves administering funding from the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the repair and conservation of protected structures.

In total 11 projects across the County received a total of €96,000 funding from the Department for the repair and conservation of protected structures under the BHIS in 2023. In addition, 4 projects were allocated a combined total of €275,600 under the HSF in 2023. One of these projects, St Macartan's Cathedral, will be funded over a two-year period. In addition, one of the HSF projects has been deferred to 2024.

The Planning Section will continue to administer both built heritage funding schemes in 2024.

## Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Thirty one appeals were submitted to An Bord Pleanála following the determinations made by the Planning Section in respect of the RZLT submissions received. To date 28 of these appeals have been decided with ten determinations having been confirmed and 21 determinations being set aside. The majority of the determinations set aside related to the inclusion of lands zoned Strategic Residential Reserve on the Draft RZLT Map.

<https://monaghan.ie/planning/rzlt/>







## Example of Built Heritage Projects 2023

BHIS 2023 – Stone Wall at Glaslough Railway Station



**Wall at Glaslough Railway Station before works**



**Wall at Glaslough Railway Station after works completed**



# PLANNING



## Example of Built Heritage Projects 2023



Shanco Church before & after to vegetation removal



Biocide cleaning



Before and after repairs to brickwork





## 1.0 Carrickmacross Town Centre First Plan

Following the appointment of a Town Regeneration Officer in August 2023 and the award of funding from the Department of Rural & Community Development, Monaghan County Council has commissioned a Town Centre First Plan for Carrickmacross.

“The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community”.



Following the appointment of consultants, The Paul Hogarth Company, the Council formed a local Town Team to lead in the development of the plan. This team comprises representatives of groups across Carrickmacross, including the Chamber of Commerce and Tidy Towns. The first Town Team workshop was held on 23rd September 2023 where introductions were made and the methodology and programme discussed and agreed. An initial SWOT Analysis was also completed collaboratively.





# REGENERATION UNIT 2023



A public engagement process was initiated from 3rd October to 29th October 2023. This comprised a short survey for completion both on-line and on paper and also an in-person event held on 5th October 2023. By its closing date, a total of 503 responses were received, indicating a strong level of interest from members of the public. Topics raised included positivity about the town's heritage and sense of community, but also concern around traffic and car parking, perceived antisocial behaviour and provisions for young people.







The consultancy team has also engaged with Elected Members of the Municipal District, representatives of Monaghan County Council departments and on 23rd October 2023, the team visited 3 schools in the town. This was an opportunity to discuss the plan with pupils and staff, to listen to their opinions regarding the town centre and to encourage them to complete the survey.

Following a review of the various submissions received, the Town Team in partnership with the Council has prepared a draft Town Centre First Plan for Carrickmacross. A further consultation process for the draft plan was launched on 30th November 2023.



Welcoming the launch, Cllr Aoife McCooey, Cathaoirleach Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District said “I am delighted to see this Draft Plan being launched today and would like to congratulate the Town Team for all their hard work to date. It is clear to me that together with the consultants, they have listened very carefully to the people of Carrickmacross and drawing upon their considerable knowledge of the town, have identified a series of compelling draft projects.”

The chair of the Town Team is local businessman Jim Hand. In launching the Draft Plan, Jim explained “We are now eager to hear again from everyone in Carrickmacross. We are inviting people to take a look at the draft plan and projects, to let us know what they think and to share their further ideas. It is very important that this plan reflects the priorities of local people, so please take this opportunity to help us get it right for the town”.

Once complete in 2024, the Town Centre First Plan be used to inform funding applications for project delivery by a range of parties, from the public, community and private sectors. It will also be used to guide future policy and decision making in relation to the town centre.

Plans are available to view:

-Online at [www.monaghan.ie/town-centre-first-plan-for-carrickmacross](https://www.monaghan.ie/town-centre-first-plan-for-carrickmacross)

-At Carrickmacross Civic Offices

Consultation Responses via the survey can be made between

-Thursday 30 November 2023, and

-Thursday 4 January 2024

Drop in consultation event will be held at the following times and locations:

-4pm – 8pm, Wednesday 6 December 2023, Carrickmacross Civic Offices

-11am – 2pm, Thursday 14 December 2024, Market Square Shopping Centre

**For further information please contact**

**Kevin McNally**

**Town Regeneration Officer,**

**1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.**

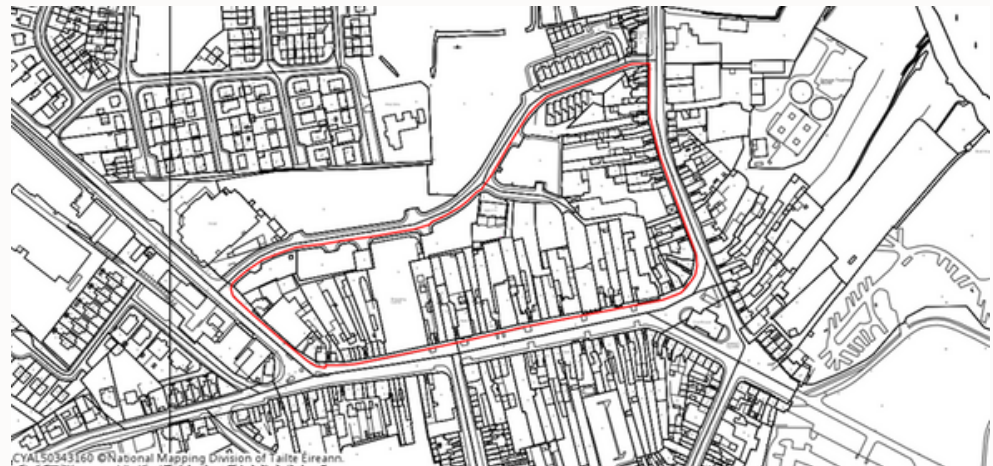
**Email: [TRO@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:TRO@monaghancoco.ie)**





## 2.0 Regeneration Plan for town centre lands in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

Monaghan County Council has commenced the process to appoint an architect/urban design led consultant team to prepare a regeneration plan, incorporating approximately 4.5 hectares of town centre zoned lands, an area which radiates from the Market House west along Main Street and north along Muckno Street with McGrath Road to the northwest and Monaghan Road to the west, area outlined in red in Map 1 below.



**It is envisaged that this plan will be available for review in Q2 2024.**

## 3.0 Proposed Strategy to deal with Vacancy and Dereliction in County Monaghan

Following engagement with a range of stakeholders both internal and external to the Council, the Regeneration unit is developing a strategy to address the County's dereliction and vacancy issue. The proposed strategy consists of working with relevant landowners, seeking in the first instance to address the issue using current available Governmental supports and if not successful, utilising the Council's powers as contained in the 1990 Derelict Sites Act (as amended) to address this issue. This strategy and associated policy are currently being developed for consideration.



## 4.0 Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Call 3

The Unit is progressing the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Call 3 for Monaghan Town, and actively engaging with property owners, where possible, to address the long-term vacancy and dereliction of 17 properties that have been approved by the Department Housing Local Government and Heritage with financial resources to allow if necessary to acquire these properties, compulsorily or by agreement, and to place them on the open market for sale to buyers that will bring the properties back into active use. This funding is committed to 2030.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



## Opening of Site Office at Scotch Corner

Works on the new site office at the Scotch Corner landfill facility have recently been completed. The novel modular building was designed by Craft Studio Architecture, a local Monaghan town based architectural practice, whilst the building itself was manufactured by BuildWright at their facility in Swann's Cross. The main contractor for the project was McCusker Contracts from Co Tyrone.

Modular construction is a fast and innovative method of construction, and this new site office is the first modular construction project undertaken by Monaghan County Council. The new office is very energy efficient and highly insulated and is designed to achieve an A Energy rating. Heating is provided through an energy efficient air to water system and power is also supplied by PV panels on site which were installed in October 2018.

The new office also incorporates hot desk facilities for use by staff of Monaghan County Council as required.



## Anti-Dumping Initiative Projects

Environmental Services has recently successfully concluded a series of environmental projects that were funded under a €110k allocation secured under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) from the Department of Environment Climate and Communications. (DECC).

Included among the projects delivered in 2023 were the following.

(a) Free Hazardous waste collection day at Scotch Corner.

Under this project members of the public could dispose of household hazardous waste free of charge by bringing it to Scotch Corner landfill. Waste collected free of charge on the day included paints, waste oils, batteries, unused medicines, aerosols, pesticides. In total approx. 17,000kgs of household hazardous waste was collected on the day.



Photo 4: Hazardous waste being dropped off during free collection day.



Photo 5: Hazardous waste collected on site during Haz Waste Collection Day





# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



## Anti-Dumping Initiative Projects

### Subsidised Bulky Waste Collection month.

During the month of August ADI funding was used to run a Subsidised Bulk goods collection month at Monaghan County Council's two Civic Amenity sites at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross. Under this project, members of the public could bring unwanted bulky items to the centres for recycling. An interesting statistic to note is that during this project approximately 840 old mattresses were accepted at the two Civic Amenity sites.



Photo 6: Bulky Goods collection advert



Photo 7: Mattresses collected during project.



Photo 8: PEL Solar Bin



Photo 9: Future Streets Solar Bin

### Further Roll-out of solar powered Compacting Litter bins.

ADI Funding was used by Environmental Services to purchase eight additional solar powered compacting litter bins. Following a procurement competition, the solar powered units were purchased from two suppliers, namely, PEL and Future Streets. The units were subsequently installed at appropriate locations identified by the three Municipal District offices.

## EPA assessment shows Monaghan County Council among best performers nationally in the area of Environmental Enforcement

Each year the EPA, under the Local Authority Performance Framework, assesses the environmental performance of each Local authority against specific Environmental Enforcement priorities in the waste, water, and noise/air thematic areas. The current Environmental enforcement priority areas are detailed in the following table.

National Environmental Priorities
<b>Water - Improving Water Status in all waterbodies</b>
Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards)- slurry/soiled water collection and storage
Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading
Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks
Discharge Licences / Misconnections
Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring
<b>Air - Protecting public health and to improve and maintain air quality</b>
Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use
Solid Fuel Inspections
Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities
Air & Noise Control (including Planning)
Ongoing Air & Noise Enforcement Work
<b>Waste - Improving waste management and protecting our environment</b>
Tackling Illegal Waste Activities and Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern
Construction and Demolition Waste
End-of-Life Vehicles and Metals
Household and Commercial Waste
Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities

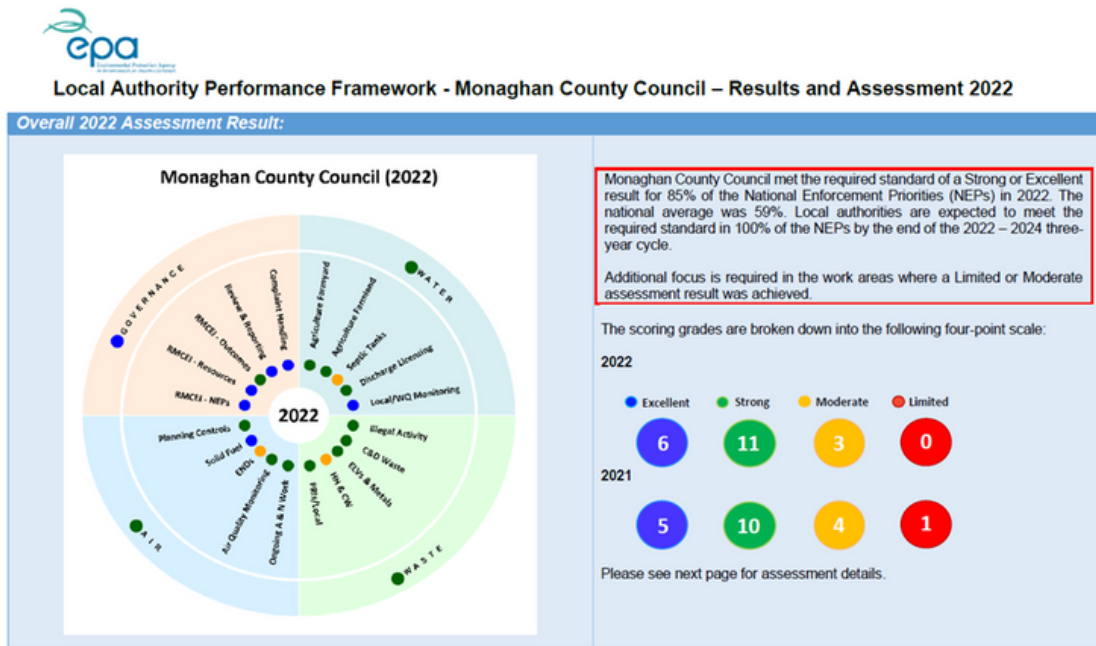




# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



In November 2023 the EPA released the Environmental Enforcement Performance Report for 2022 which demonstrated that Monaghan County Council was among the best performing Local Authorities in the Country. Each February, Environmental Services submit an annual RMCEI inspection plan to the EPA which details the proposed environmental enforcement and inspection work for the year ahead. In addition, RMCEI returns for the year gone by are also submitted to the EPA and both the RMCEI plan and RMCEI returns form the basis of the annual EPA assessment. The recently published EPA assessment indicated that Monaghan County Council achieved an 85% score whilst the national average was 59%. Only Kildare and Meath County Council scored higher than Monaghan County Council in the national assessment report.



## Closed landfill Assessment work

During 2023 Environmental Services continued to make good progress in relation to the the authorisation of Closed landfill sites in the County. Closed landfills are defined as landfills sites that were operated by local authorities during the period from 1977 to 1997. Under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 all such landfills require EPA authorisation, and the vast majority will require significant remediation works to ensure that these sites pose minimal risk to the Environment. In Co. Monaghan there are 5 landfills that are classified as "Closed Landfills" these being.

- **Killycronaghan Closed Landfill, Smithboro.**
- **Killycard Closed Landfill, Castleblayney.**
- **Corkeeran Closed Landfill, Ballybay.**
- **Scotch Corner Closed Landfill, Annyalla.**
- **Tiragarvan Closed Landfill, Carrickmacross.**

In October, site investigation works were completed at the Tiragarvan historical landfill site located on the Shercock road out of Carrickmacross. These works included the installation of additional monitoring borewells on site and the excavation of a series of trial pits to help determine the nature and scale of the waste presently on site. It is expected that this will conclude all the site investigation works at our closed landfills in the County. Upon completion of these site investigation works It is hoped that a formal application to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation will be lodged in early 2024 for Tiragarvan. During October Monaghan County Council also formally lodged an application for a Certificate of Authorisation for the Corkeeran Historical landfill site located outside Ballybay. In September a planning approval application to An Bord Pleanala was lodged for the Killycronaghan site which is located close to Smithboro. Environmental Services also propose to lodge a planning approval application shortly to the Board for the Killycard which is located outside of Castleblayney.



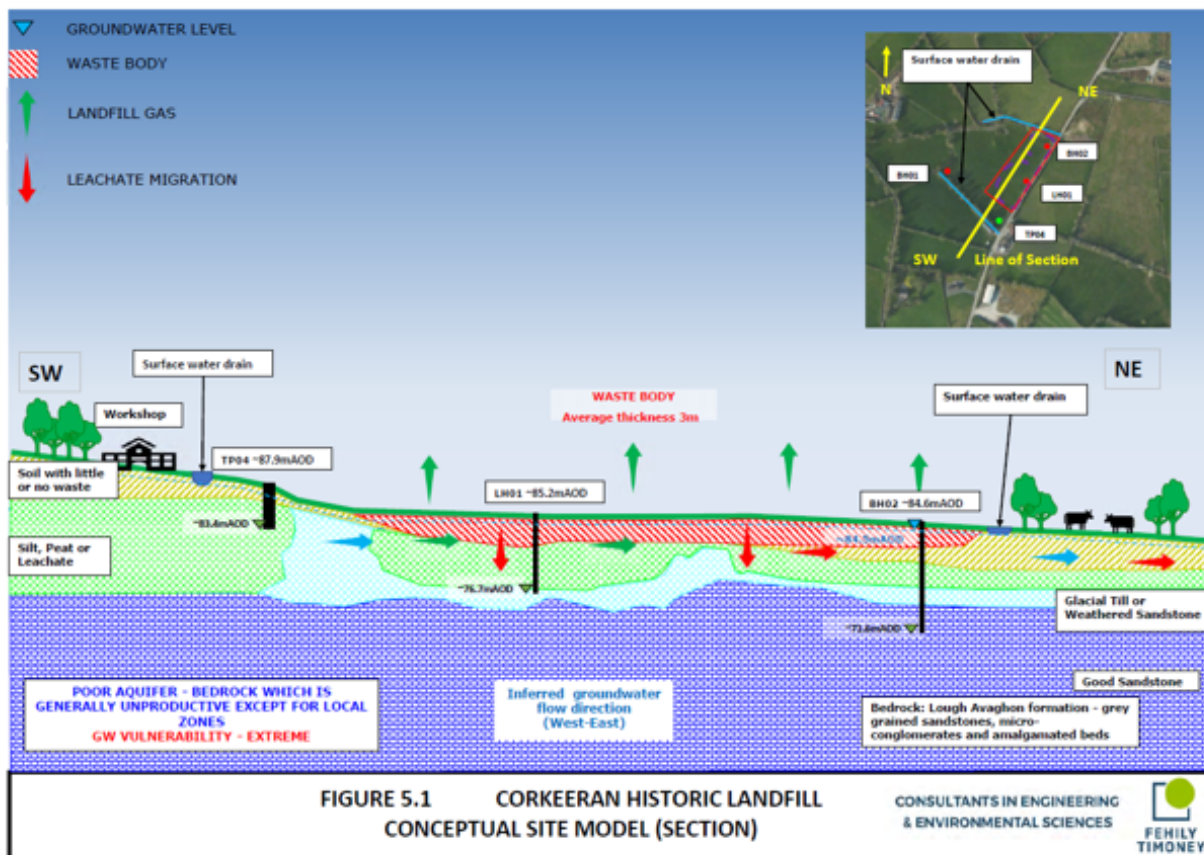


# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



The following table summarises the current authorisation status of our five closed landfill sites in the County.

Site	Current Authorisation Status
1. Killycronaghan	An Bord Pleanála planning application lodged in September 2023. Awaiting Board's decision
2. Killycard	Draft ABP application prepared. To be formally submitted to ABP in Q4 2023
3. Scotch Corner	Certificate of Authorisation application lodged with EPA in Jan 2020. EPA yet to issue determination.
4. Corkeeran	Certificate of Authorisation application lodged with EPA in October 2023
5. Tirgarvan	Site investigation works completed in October 2023. Certificate of Authorisation application to be lodged with EPA in early 2024







# MONAGHAN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE



A large crowd attended Monaghan's first ever Biodiversity Conference held in the Hillgrove Hotel on 18th November. Stakeholder groups were very well represented and enjoyed presentations on a wide range of biodiversity topics from bats, swifts and sustainable farming, to rewilding and wetlands. Organised by Biodiversity Officer, Dr. Patricia McCreesh, the event was opened by Chief Executive Robert Burns who outlined the scale of the biodiversity crisis and spoke about the importance of community engagement in responding to climate and biodiversity issues in the county.



For more information or to book your free place contact [biodiversity@monaghancoco.ie](mailto:biodiversity@monaghancoco.ie)







# CLIMATE ACTION



## Public consultation phase of proposed Climate Action Plan (2024-2029)



The Draft Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan (2024-29) was published on the 19th of October for public consultation. The proposed plan was informed by the extensive pre-draft consultation stage held over the summer and aims to secure a sustainable future for the people of Monaghan and to create a low carbon and more climate resilient County.



**Climate Action consultation clinic at Monaghan Library**

During the 6-week statutory consultation period which closed on the 4th December the Council actively sought the views of the public to help shape and enable effective climate action at a local and community level. A dedicated Climate Action Consultation web page was developed for the public to view the plan and make a submission. A consultation survey was developed as a more streamlined option for people to have their say on the proposed plan. The plan was also made available in hard copy at each of the main libraries in the county. Stakeholder engagement and outreach activities included the following:

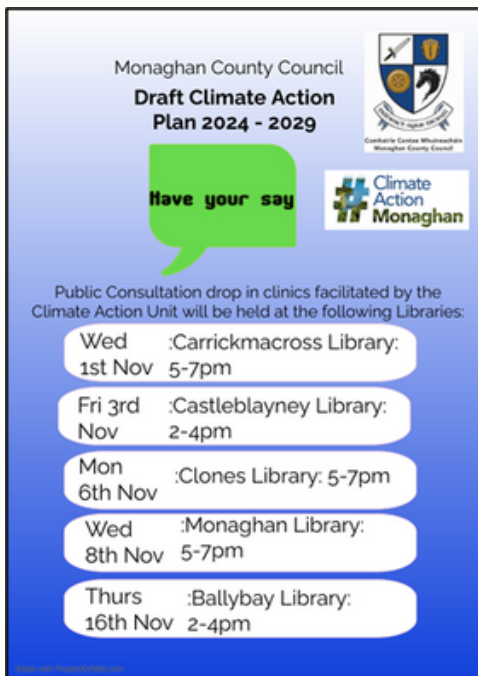




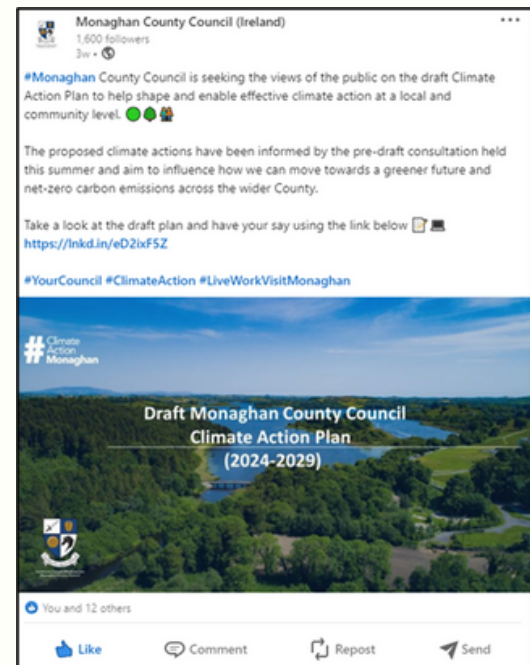
# CLIMATE ACTION



- Statutory Notice, press release and advertisement placed in Northern Standard to encourage people to have their say on Monaghan's draft Climate Action Plan:
- Formal notice given to all Elected Members and Climate & Environment SPC members on publication of the draft Climate Action Plan, where to see the plan and how to make a submission.
- Extensive posts on the Council's social media channels to raise awareness and invite the views of the public.
- Presentation & discussion on the Draft Plan and consultation process delivered to the November Climate & Environment SPC
- Comhairle na nÓg, National Youth Council of Ireland and all Secondary Schools in the county were invited to make a submission to ensure that young people had an opportunity to feed into the plan making process.
- Members of the public were encouraged to attend Public Consultation Drop-In Clinics which were held in Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones, Monaghan and Ballybay Libraries. These two-hour sessions were hosted by the Climate Action Unit to provide guidance on the draft plan and on the consultation process.



Flyer to advertise consultation clinics.



Social Media Post to invite the public to have their say.

## Next Steps:

The Chief Executive report on the consultation process is now being prepared and the report and draft Climate Action Plan (amended as appropriate) will be brought forward to the January meetings of the Climate & Environment SPC and CPG respectively. The proposed Climate Action Plan will formally be proposed for adoption by elected members at the February full council meeting.

# CORPORATE SERVICES

## CIVIC RECEPTION

Monaghan County Council hosted a Civic Reception to honour the remarkable achievement of the Carrickmacross Rounders teams in capturing three All-Ireland titles in 2023. The event was held in the Carrickmacross Civic Offices where commemorative plaques were presented by Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Maxwell to the captains of the Senior Men's, Mixed and Ladies teams.



## REGISTER OF ELECTORS UPDATE

Monaghan County Council's recent local awareness campaign, which included leaflet distribution to every household in the county, billboards, radio advertisements, social media campaigns, temporary road signage and community engagement has successfully concluded with impressive engagement with [checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie) which has been noted and commended by the Department. Monaghan County Council will have achieved a 4% increase in electoral records completed, including PPSN, for our electorate when all applications received to date have been processed. This surpasses the national average of 3.5% according to the latest communication from DHLGH.

The national awareness campaign has also contributed to the overall increase in awareness. In addition to campaign efforts, Monaghan County Council has been actively engaging with our communities. Corporate Services staff recently participated in Social Inclusion Week and attended a community meeting of migrant group, Failte Isteach Monaghan, where the registration and voting process was explained and attendees were encouraged to register and to exercise their right to vote.

Monaghan County Council field workers are currently visiting secondary schools within the county to register and pre-register all students aged 16-18. They also delivered a presentation on voting participation and urged the students to take this message to their families, emphasising the importance of registering, updating or confirming details on [checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie). The response and engagement received from this initiative has been very positive.

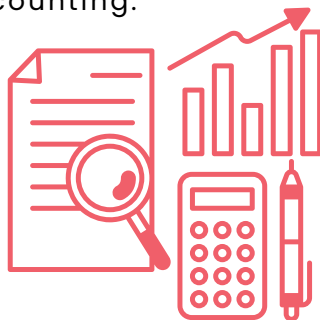
Monaghan County Council will run another local awareness campaign in January 2024. We strongly encourage everyone to ensure that you are correctly fully registered (including PPSN, date of birth and Eircode) before the upcoming Local and European Elections. The easiest way to register, update or complete your details is to go on [www.checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie)





## Accounting Technicians

The Council welcomed two new staff members who commenced their Accounting Technician Programme in 2023 which is a two-year work-based education training programme. Both Accounting Technicians will study with MIFET College in Monaghan whilst gaining significant experience working with Monaghan County Council to obtain their QQI Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Accounting.



## Engineers Ireland 3 year CPD re-accreditation

Following a CPD accreditation audit on 28th September 2023, Monaghan County Council has been awarded Engineers Ireland "CPD Accredited Employer" status for a further, maximum three year period CPD re-accreditation which runs until October 2026.

As an Engineers Ireland CPD Accredited Employer, Monaghan County Council is part of an exclusive network of organisations that have demonstrated commitment to the professional development of the staff. This is not only important for attracting top talent among graduates but also for retaining key talent at more advanced levels.





# CREATIVE MONAGHAN - LIBRARY



Creative Monaghan has supported more than 20 projects across the County in recent months, with many still ongoing. We are delighted to have collaborated with colleagues in other sections, within Monaghan County Council, to support several innovative and creative projects. These include, Monaghan Heritage Office, the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Monaghan County Museum, Monaghan Municipal District, Monaghan Local Enterprise Office and Monaghan County Libraries. Below are two examples of projects that are currently ongoing:

## Eco Photography Workshops

In October, we partnered with Monaghan Integrated Development, Recovery College and Monaghan Traveller Movement to initiate and fund a series of eco - photography workshops for young people from the Traveller community. Led by local visual artist, John Nutley, participants have been learning how to take photographs using the beautiful surroundings of Lough Muckno and Rossmore Park. They will also learn how to edit and mount their photographs which will then be exhibited at the Creative Monaghan showcase event in December.



Caption: Photography workshop participants at Lough Muckno, Castleblayney

## Step Into My Parlour Show

Over a period of 3 months, Creative Monaghan has brought the Step Into My Parlour Show to seven care settings in the county. This dementia friendly show created by professional performer Michelle Burke, is a collection of songs interspersed with stories, memories and tales performed in a parlour setting. Step Into My Parlour creates a non-institutional, 'Parlour' environment, in which people can articulate their own memories and stories and make it their own. Michelle says, "The project demonstrates to carers and staff, how the arts can be used in a creative way in working with older people and the wider community. It is our hope that this programme may serve to trigger memories and further reminiscences from participants, contributing to a greater sense of well-being for not only participants, but for those within their wider community of loved ones and caring staff".



## County Monaghan Celebrates Culture Night 2023, One Night for All!

On Friday, 22nd September, venues and cultural spaces across Monaghan hosted an array of free events, as the 18th edition of Culture Night was celebrated across the island. The public were invited to come along and experience the incredible heritage, arts, and culture on offer in the county, with events taking place in Inniskeen, Laragh, Ballybay, Clones, Monaghan Town, Castleblayney, Knockatallon, Donaghmoyne, Shantonagh, Doohamlet and on online.

Art workshops, céilí events, music workshops, storytelling, drive in movies, heritage events, animation displays, performance, sensory events, Irish language events, intercultural activities, and exhibitions featured in the extensive programme ensuring that there was truly something for everyone to partake in.

Deirdriu McQuaid of Monaghan County Council says 'We wish to acknowledge and thank our cultural and creative community for collaborating with us to put together a fantastic Culture Night programme. Culture Night would not be possible without you! We also want to thank everyone who came along on the night and encourage you to keep supporting Monaghan's cultural and creative sector throughout the year. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!'

**CULTURE NIGHT**  
**FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER**

EVENTS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT COUNTY MONAGHAN

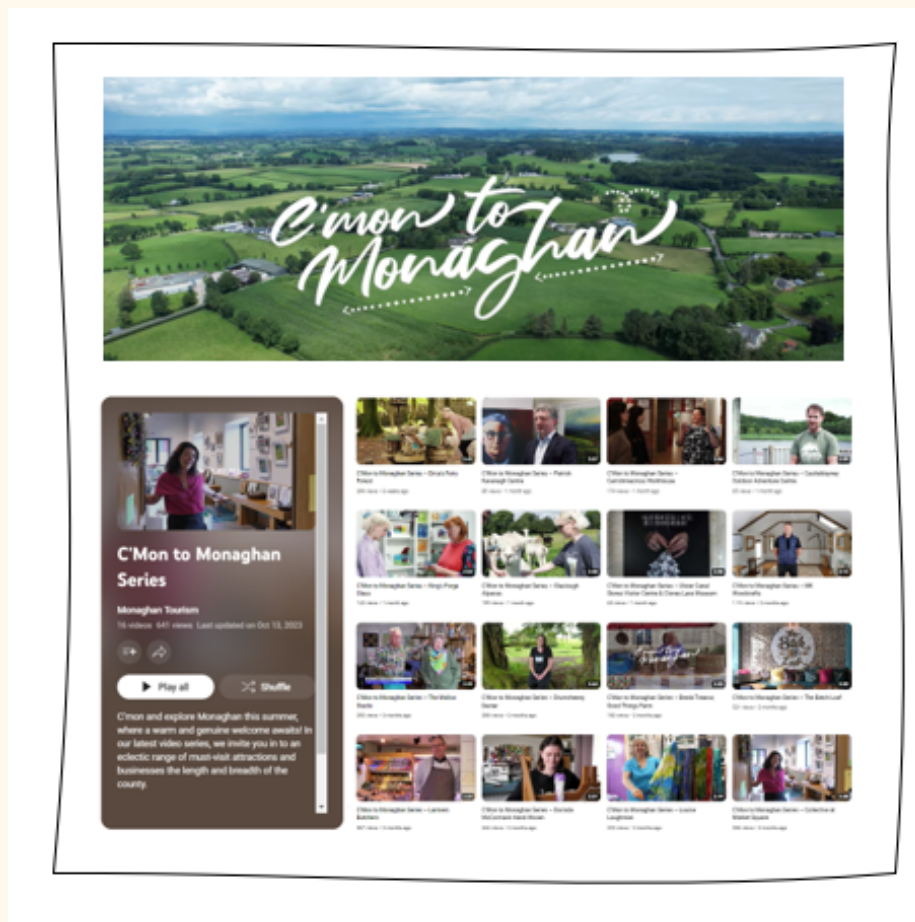
<p><b>DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT!</b></p> <p>CLONES FILM FESTIVAL ST. TIARNACH'S GAA CAR PARK</p> <p>19:00PM - 22:00PM</p>	<p><b>ART TRAIL FOR CULTURE NIGHT</b></p> <p>ROISIN DUFFY STUDIO MONAGHAN</p> <p>16:00PM - 21:00PM</p>
<p><b>DRAWING POLLINATORS AND WILDFLOWERS - A STEP BY STEP WORKSHOP</b></p> <p>ZOOM EVENT - WORKSHOP 1: 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. WORKSHOP 2: 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.</p> <p>BOOKING EMAIL ADDRESS: CULTURENIGHT@MONAGHANCOCO.IE</p>	<p><b>SHARING TRAD WITH EVELYN MCCAUL, AWARD WINNING HARPIST</b></p> <p>MONAGHAN - SELECTED NURSING HOMES</p> <p>18:00PM - 21:00PM BOOKING REQUIRED</p>



# more to Monaghan

## Monaghan Tourism Promo Campaign 2023 - 'C'Mon to Monaghan' Series

The keystone for this year's Monaghan Tourism promotional campaign was the 'C'Mon to Monaghan' Series. Funded jointly by the Agri-Food Tourism initiative from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, and Fáilte Ireland, the series was promoted via local radio and social media and featured an eclectic range of must-visit attractions and businesses the length and breadth of the county. From fabulous food and crafts, to engaging outdoor pursuits and visitor attractions, the visitor is invited to 'C'Mon in!' and discover the best of county Monaghan for themselves. The full series is available to view via the Monaghan Tourism YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/monaghantourism>



## Monaghan Tourism Workshops and Networking Events

The Monaghan Tourism Unit, in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, organised a number of workshops and networking opportunities within the county.

in recent months; including a Monaghan Tourism Cluster Workshop aimed at stimulating collaboration and partnership amongst local tourism providers in providing new saleable experiences for visitors to county Monaghan, and two Sustainable Community Tourism workshops in Glaslough to assist the development of a long-term vision for sustainable, community-focused, tourism development in the area in line with the Fáilte Ireland Monaghan Destination Experience Development Plan.



# more to Monaghan

## Updated suite of Explore Co Monaghan Brochures

The promotional suite of brochures for the county were all updated and redesigned with a fresh new appearance. The suite includes the following:

- Explore Monaghan A5 brochure
- Explore Monaghan Fold-out Map with listings
- Explore Monaghan Folder

The brochures are available to pick up from library branches and visitor attractions across the county, as well as for download directly from the Monaghan Tourism website.



## Tracks & Trails filming along The Monaghan Way

Monaghan Tourism in conjunction with Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD and the Patrick Kavanagh Centre were delighted to host the team from Tracks & Trails, the popular RTÉ TV and online series showcasing the most beautiful hikes, walks and cycles on newly developed and lesser travelled routes on the island of Ireland. With filming completed along the route in August 2023, the Monaghan Way will feature as part of the upcoming series due to be aired on RTÉ 1 in March 2024.

## Kavanagh Poetry Award & Weekend Festival

The latest edition of the Kavanagh Weekend & Poetry Award took place this September and was a three-day, multi-venue, multi-disciplinary festival. It was hugely successful and received national coverage. The programme was of a high artistic standard and highlights included the village procession of light, Lisa O'Neill, Blindboy Podcast, and a screening of Pat McCabe's - Holy Hour, Requiem for Brendan Behan. There was also strong throughput in the village with accommodation sold out and thriving traditional music sessions each evening.





# COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE



## Monaghan Alerts service extended to include Garda alerts

The new Garda messaging service which was added to Monaghan Alerts in spring 2023 has now surpassed the 1,000 subscriber mark. Subscribers are a mix of existing users of the Council service who have signed up to receive Garda alerts, as well as newcomers who are joining the service for the first time.

Subscribers may now opt to receive alerts to their smartphone via the 'Monaghan Alerts' app, which can be downloaded from either Google Play or the iStore. When using the app for the first time, the user should 'sign in' rather than 'register' when prompted, then sign in to the account they created when they first joined up to the service. The username will always be their mobile phone no., and if the user has forgotten their password, they can use the link provided to have a temporary password emailed to them.

### The service provides alerts on the following:

- Garda alerts
- Weather alerts
- Road alerts
- Water alerts
- General Council alerts

You can opt in/ out of receiving one or more of these categories of alerts by changing the settings in your account. The service is free to all.

You can sign up to the service, or log in to change the settings on your account at: <http://alerts.monaghancoco.ie>

## Beech Hill College Intergenerational Project with local Nursing Homes

Transition Year students at Beech Hill College were delighted to attend the recent National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2023 which took place on Thursday 30th November at the Clayton Whites Hotel in Wexford. There was great excitement when their Intergenerational Project won a Judges Special Recognition Award, which was the last award on the night.

The judges stated their belief that the project is one of the most innovative projects which Monaghan Older People's Council have initiated in recent times. The project was initiated by Seamus McDermott, Monaghan Age Friendly Ambassador, and Barry Eaton, Monaghan Age Friendly Programme Manager, who have received great support from the staff and pupils of Beech Hill, as well as the Northern Standard newspaper. The Transition Year students were recently provided with an Apple MacBook by the County Monaghan fund who were impressed by the benefits of the intergenerational aspect of the project.

The project was set up to explore the potential of broadcasting news into a number of the nursing homes in Monaghan. It aims to address the isolation and exclusion experienced by many residents, particularly those that do not have family members living locally. The project not only benefits the residents as the Transition Year students will learn new skills and increase their self-confidence as they gain more experience in broadcasting. The students are very aware of the isolation that many of the residents experienced during the Covid pandemic. They have expressed the hope to visit the residents of the Nursing Homes as the project progresses.

The project is being led by teacher Niall McKeogh, Young Social Innovator Guide for Beech Hill College. A number of Transition Year students are involved including Caireann McCooey, Keeva Farmer, Emma McMahan, Zoe Gallagher, Kajus Jarmala and Kalem Woods.





# COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

## Monaghan PPN

Monaghan PPN held their highly attended **PPN Plenary Meeting** in the Hillgrove on Tuesday 5th December. The Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council Robert Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and this was followed by a short introduction by Packie Kelly, Chair of the PPN Secretariat.

Carmel Murphy, Monaghan PPN Resource Worker gave a presentation on the work carried out by the PPN in 2023 and plans for 2024

Jamie Nolan from the Council's Climate Action Team gave a presentation on the Community Climate Action Fund which is due to open for applications shortly.

Billy Flynn gave a presentation on the Peace Link, Clones, which is an iconic state of the art sporting facility on the edge of Clones in Monaghan.

Jill Kennon gave a presentation on Carrickmacross Toy Library which is a wonderful initiative which encourages families to borrow rather than buy

Christina Weldon gave a presentation on Latton O'Rahilly GAA about their Healthy Club Journey

Elina Kovale gave a presentation on CLANN CREDO, a company who provide Community Loan Finance to community groups, family resource centres, sports clubs, charities and social enterprises.



Monaghan Women's Assembly Plenary meeting was held on Thursday 30th November in the Four Seasons Hotel, women from a diverse range of groups and areas attended what was a facilitating, exciting and engaging meeting. The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Cathy Bennett, with Cllr Aoife Mc Cooley in attendance, Cathy welcomed all to the meeting and encouraged all women present to become involved in local politics.

Speakers included Carmel Murphy, PPN Resource Worker speaking about the PPN, Mary McGarvey, Corporate Services speaking about the SPC, CPG, and other structures in the council, Jacinta Carragher, social media influencer about how social media can be used to promote yourself.

Ursula McKenna from the WCI Monaghan also presented certificates to all the women who had successfully completed the recent Women In Leadership Programme.



Monaghan PPN hosted a very well attended Women's Safety Conference in the Hillgrove Hotel on Thursday 23rd November, to tie in with the global 16 days of activism against gender based violence. This event was funded by the Department of Justice under the Community Safety Innovation Fund and included speakers from Safe Ireland/Tearmann Domestic Violence, The Garda Crime Prevention and Support Services, all speaking with a particular emphasis on women's safety. This was followed by a presentation from the Council Horticulturist on designing and creating safe open spaces for women and girls

This event was followed by a Public Joint Policing Committee Meeting in the afternoon and all issues and practical ideas raised from the morning's conference were brought to the JPC Meeting for consideration.





# MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



## Her Outdoors Week

HER Outdoors Week was back in 2023 and took place from August 14th to 20th. HER Outdoors Week aims to celebrate and encourage more females to get out and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors while bringing visibility to the opportunities for females to get involved in outdoor physical activity.

To celebrate HER Outdoors in 2023, Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated their biggest ever outdoor activity programme. Across the month of August, Monaghan Sports Partnership facilitated 27 different activities and events which seen a total of 359 women and girls taking part. Activities included Tennis, Golf, Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, Outdoor Yoga, Lawn Bowls, Volleyball, Walking and much more.



## European Week of Sport

Monaghan Sports Partnership launched several programmes across the county to celebrate European Week of Sport 2023, a campaign where everybody is encouraged to be as active as possible and promote the benefits of sport and physical activity. Initiatives launched by Monaghan Sports Partnership on EU Week of Sport 2023 included:

Women's Social Soccer, Beginners Pickleball, Table Tennis Taster Sessions, Come & Try Activator Poles, Swimmin' Women, Children's Learn to Cycle and Children's Inclusive Cycling. In total 146 children and adults participated in community-based activities commencing on European Week of Sport 2023.



## Sports Inclusion Programme

MSP's Sports Inclusion Programme was in full flow in the Autumn months with numerous different sports and physical activity programmes across the county for children and adults with disabilities. As well as the ever-popular Inclusive Cycling programmes, MSP was delighted to partner up with several key partners to deliver activities for children. Activities included the Football for All school's-based programme and the 2-day Football for All Camp in conjunction with Cavan Sports Partnership and the FAI.

MSP was delighted to partner with the GAA to facilitate two GAA for All evenings at Monaghan GAA HQ. MSP also linked up with Monaghan Rugby Club to deliver two Inclusive Rugby Taster Days to children with a disability. MSP worked with several partners to deliver numerous activities for disability day services including Pilates, Soccer Skills, Inclusive Dance, Inclusive Fishing, Inclusive Tennis and Inclusive Circuits as well as a Soccer Blitz. A total of over 150 participants engaged in MSP's Sports Inclusion Programme in Autumn/Winter 2023.

# MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



## Positive Ageing Week

To celebrate Positive Ageing Week at the beginning of October, MSP facilitated an Active Adults Active Fest across the County. The Active-Fest was an opportunity for adults over the age of 50 to try several activities including Chair Aerobics, Line Dancing, Score Bowls, Boccia, Kurling, Indoor Bowls, and Chair Yoga. The Active-Fest was free and was funded through the Age & Opportunity Fund. Across the week over 80 participants took part in activities in Carrickmacross, Monaghan, Clones & Castleblayney.



## Active Adults Programme

MSP's Autumn/Winter Active Adults programme seen the return of activities such as Aqua Aerobics and Men's Exercise in Water in partnership with Coral Leisure which seen between 90 and 100 participants take part regularly over the 6-week programme duration. As part of the Active Adults Programme, MSP supported 11 different active adults' community-based groups in various locations across the county to facilitate activities for their groups. Activities included Line Dancing, Yoga, Social Dancing, Chair Aerobics, Jiving and more.



## Kilmore & Drumsnatt Sports Activity Hub

The KAD Sports Activity Hub was as busy as ever in Autumn 2023 with two separate 6-week block of activities being facilitated either side of Halloween. The programme schedule included activities for pre-school children up to older adults and everybody in between. The activity blocks seen the inclusion of popular activities such as Sports Hall Athletics and Pilates and the introduction of new activities such as Gaelic for Lads & Dads. Over 200 participants took part in Autumn/Winter activities at the KAD Sports Activity Hub.

## Ballybay & Surrounding Areas Community Sports Hub

Autumn/Winter seen community groups in Doohamlet and Tullycorbet facilitate a large volume of activities, which were supported by MSP through the Ballybay & Surrounding Areas Community Sports Hub fund. Activities included Yoga, Pilates, Line Dancing, Chair Aerobics, Men's & Women's Fitness classes and many more. In total, over 200 participants of all ages took part in Autumn/Winter activities as part of the Ballybay & Surrounding Areas Community Sports Hub.





# MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



## School's Based Activities

Monaghan Sports Partnership's school's programme recommenced in early Autumn with the commencement of the new school year. MSP was delighted to bring back some popular programmes to primary schools such as Volleyball, Little Athletics, Skipping, Cycling and others. MSP was also delighted to bring exciting new initiatives such as Golf Workshops and Tennis Workshops to primary schools. In total, over 1500 children took part in primary school activities in Autumn/Winter 2023.



## HerMoves

Her Moves is a physical activity campaign targeting teenage girls where girls can enjoy activities of their choice in a no-judgement zone, and in their own unique way. After undertaking consultations with teenage girls, MSP facilitated a Ping Pong Art Programme at Monaghan Collegiate School in partnership with Table Tennis Ireland and a Gym Moves programme in conjunction with four gym providers across the county. Across both programmes 68 teenage girls participated, and MSP is planning further HerMoves programmes at the beginning of 2024.



## Training & Education

MSP facilitated several training and education courses in 2023 which were aimed at upskilling sports coaches, parents, volunteers, teachers, SNA's and teenagers and children with an interest in sports leadership. The following table is a full list of training & education courses delivered by Monaghan Sports Partnership in 2023.

Name of Course	No. of Courses held in 2023	No. of Participants
Safeguarding 1	8 Courses	80
Safeguarding 2	2 Courses	20
Safeguarding 3	2 Courses	16
Sports First Aid Training	2 Courses	24
Community Walk Leader Training	1 Course	8
Disability Inclusion Training	1 Course	10
Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport	2 Courses	42
Orienteering Teacher Training	1 Course	11
Gymstart Teacher Training	1 Course	10
Table Tennis Youth Leadership	1 Course	15
Sports Leaders Youth Leadership	3 Courses	96
Playmaker Future Leaders	12 Courses	282
Kayaking Skills Level 2	2 Courses	60
Coaching Children Workshop Series	1 Course	26
Autism In Sport	1 Course	11

# Municipal Districts

## Ballybay & Clones

### Town & Village

### Vision Plans Drum & Rockcorry



Town & Village 2022 funding in Ballybay Clones Municipal District has enabled the development of vision plans for the villages of Drum and Rockcorry, with funding of €25,000 for each project. Consultants Sheridan Woods Architects & Urban Planners undertook public consultation which received a positive response. The vision plans identify key priorities for the villages to 2030 and beyond. The vision plans were officially launched by Minister Heather Humphreys on November 16th in Rockcorry and November 20th in Drum.



Drum vision Plan Launch November 20th, Minister Heather Humphreys, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland, Elected Members & Staff



Rockcorry Vision Plan Launch November 16th, Minister Heather Humphreys, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland, Elected Members & Staff



# Municipal Districts Ballybay & Clones Street Scap Clones



Two Street Scap Schemes have been rolled out in Clones, The Diamond Clones and Fermanagh Street. Craftstudio Consultants developed a plan for project delivery in keeping with the Heritage of the town.

The Diamond Clones received funding in the sum of €100,000 and Fermanagh Street received funding in the sum of €232,000, providing grant assistance to property owners to paint and improve the facades of their buildings, works are now completed.

Fermanagh Streetscape Enhancement Scheme funding approval included the development of a Micro Park and Green space on Fermanagh Street which will enhance the overall appeal of the town as a place to live, work and visit. The park will include seating for rest locations for pedestrians, and landscaping and planting to offer green space and biodiversity. It will also deal with another derelict site that is near some of the Clones Renewal Scheme sites. Works have commenced and will be completed in early January of 2024.



Fermanagh Street Micro Park

## The Farmers Yard Clones

€75,000 was secured through Town & Village for the redevelopment of the Farmers Yard Clones. Works will be commenced in early January of 2024.

# Municipal Districts

## Ballybay & Clones



### **Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme – Ballybay Lido**

The Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme provided funding in the region of €150,000 to provide a beach/lido area along the shore of Lough Major in Ballybay Town Park. These works have enhanced the popular Ballybay Town Park, provided an amenity that is accessible to all outdoor and water-based enthusiasts and provide a safer walking loop by provision of footpaths along the access road into the park. The works have been greatly welcomed by the residents of Ballybay Town. It has provided an area where members of the public can meet and provide an amenity for sun bather, surfers, and water-based clubs in the area to practice with the new launch area provided. Minister Heather Humphreys officially opened Ballybay Lido on June 8th, 2023.



**Official opening, Minister Heather Humphreys, Elected Members and Monaghan County Council Staff**

### **Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme 2023 Ballybay Library**

Monaghan County Council has successfully acquired the Market House in Ballybay. Engineering staff in the MD are examining tenders received for the appointment of multi-disciplinary design team. It is hoped to be able to appoint a multi-disciplinary design team in the coming weeks.



**Market House Ballybay**



# Municipal Districts

## Ballybay & Clones

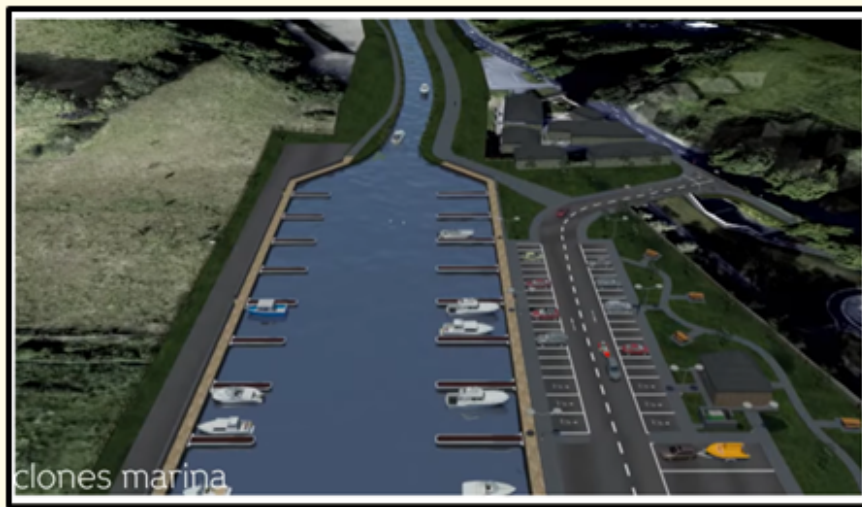


### **Ulster Canal Restoration**

the Ulster Canal Restoration project will see the restoration of the canal section by Waterways Ireland from Lough Erne in Co Fermanagh to Clones in Co Monaghan. This is a stretch of approx. 13.5 kilometres.

The project is currently in Phase 2 which focuses on the restoration of the canal between Clones and Clonfad in County Monaghan, including a canal basin marina and amenity area in Clones. funding of €24million is secured to complete this phase from Shared Island Fund, Department of Rural Development and Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

Monaghan County Council in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland is undertaking public consultation to gather input from local residents, community groups, businesses and wider organisations in the preparation of a Vision Plan to present a collective vision for the future of Clones Marina, in the heart of County Monaghan. The expected project completion date is 2027/2028.



Marina Site Visit, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Hugh McElvaney, Elected Members & Staff



# Monaghan

## *The Giant's Festival*

The Giant's Festival took place on Saturday the 9th of September from 12pm and proved very popular. 3 Movies were shown, storytelling from Paul Bond about the history of the Giant's and a walking tour of the "Living Giants" of Rossmore with Billy Flynn. Thanks to Monaghan Municipal District staff, the Monaghan Men's Shed, Civil Defence and Town Team representatives for taking part in the organisation and set up of the event.



## *Rossmore Park Giant Sculpture*

The Latest Giant of Rossmore Park has just been completed and Monaghan MD are proud to introduce Big Ross.

Monaghan Municipal District will continue to invest in and maintain the recreation areas of Rossmore Park, working with the Town Team and various council sections to implement the Giant Trail which include the Giants, Queen Banba, Spike, the Cauldron of Plenty, The Morrigan, Roddy, The Druid and Big Ross and maintain these giants. Through the Library Section, Creative Ireland funding has been secured for three new Giants to be installed in the coming months.





# Monaghan

## *Halloween Bats Festival*

Halloween Bats Festival took place on Sunday 29th October. The event included magic shows, giant characters, kids disco and facepainting. We closed the event with a spectacular Fireworks display which lit up the skies of Monaghan Town to the delight of all present. This fantastic event was only possible due to the support of Monaghan Municipal District Council.



## EVENTS IN MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### **Monaghan Christmas Street Food Festival**

Monaghan Christmas Street Food Festival took place on Saturday 2nd December.

The Christmas Street Food Festival was another success this year with all stalls sold out early and a wide variety of food, crafts and family entertainment available on the day.

### **Monaghan Business Awards Launch**

The Monaghan Business Awards were launched on Tuesday 12th September in the Market House by Minister Heather Humphrey's TD, elected MD members, Monaghan LEO, the Monaghan Town Team and the Business Community category award sponsors and the event took place on Thursday 23rd November 2023 in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. The event was a great night for all in attendance.

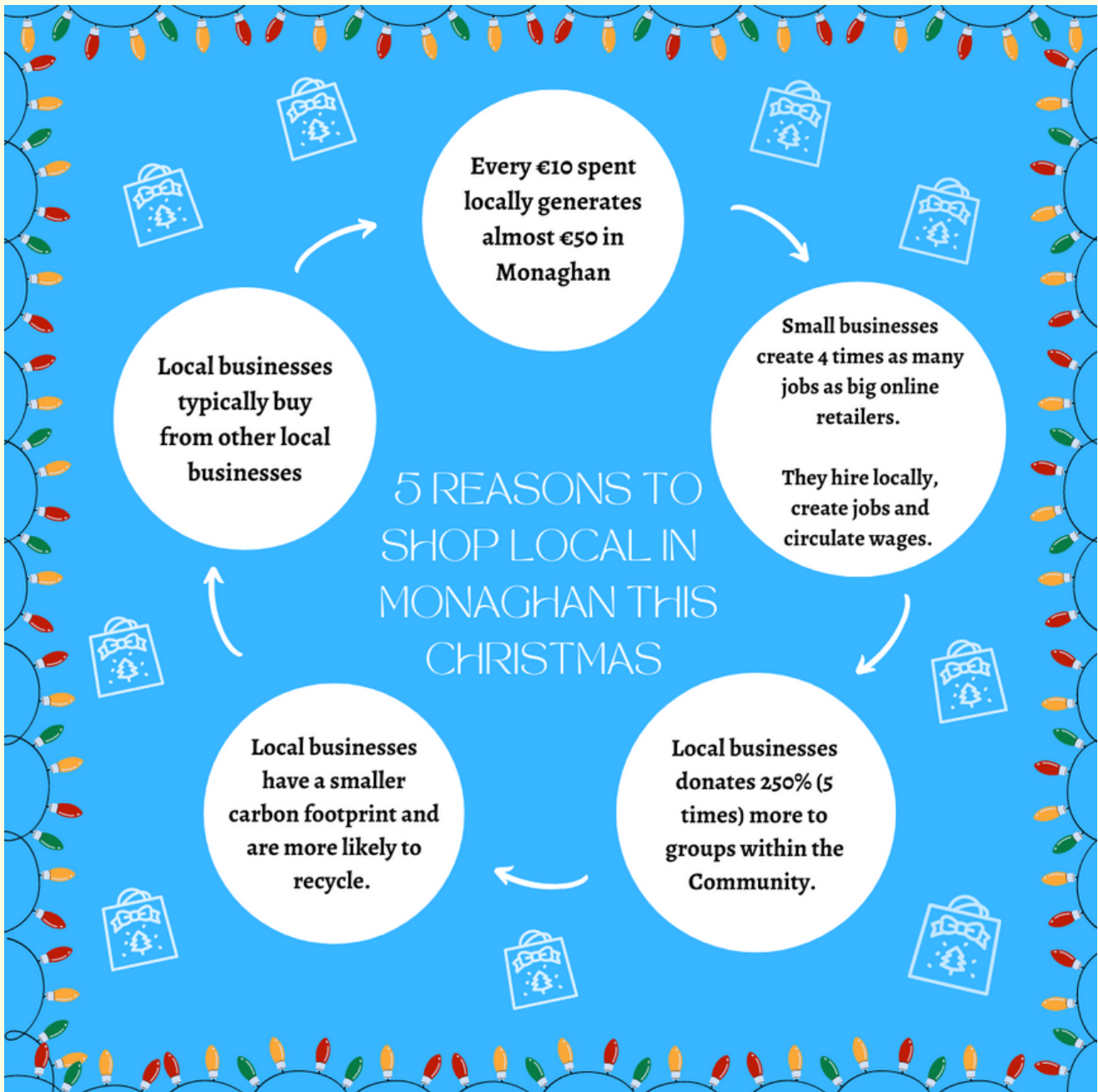


## Monaghan Town Voucher

Monaghan

Sales for the Monaghan Town Voucher has grown year on year. This has helped to retain and reduce economic leakage whilst supporting over 200 businesses within Monaghan Municipal District.

The MD office expects to exceed previous year's sales again in 2023 with many businesses purchasing their vouchers early this year ahead of the Christmas rush!





## Carrickmacross

In Castleblayney Town, "The Ridge" Enterprise Hub officially opened in June and is now fully occupied. A joint initiative with Castleblayney Community Enterprise and Enterprising Monaghan, the 1,350 sqm provides 28-unit business units.



**"The Ridge" Enterprise Hub, McGrath Road, Castleblayney**

In Carrickmacross, construction of the new C:TEK II Co-working Enterprise Hub continued apace, with works due to be substantially completed in early Q3 2024. 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 shall 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.



**Construction of the new C: Tek II Co-working Enterprise Hub, Carrickmacross**



## Carrickmacross

The MD, in partnership with Farney Community Development Group (FCDG), plan to restore in full the Carrickmacross Workhouse site. MD staff are currently progressing the engagement of a multi-disciplinary design team to complete detailed plans and costings for the restoration and re-development of the rear derelict buildings, together with an extended new-build multi-purpose Community Hub.



**The Workhouse, Carrickmacross**



**Rear Derelict Buildings**

### **Lough Muckno Christmas Market**

The Executive, in partnership with the Muckno Mania Festival Committee, continued to build on the strong tradition of community-led events in the Municipal District. Taking advantage of the almost purpose-built Hope Castle avenue, Sunday the 3rd of December 2023 saw the realisation of the inaugural Lough Muckno Christmas Market. A dedicated working group, comprising members of Muckno Mania Committee and Municipal District staff worked tirelessly throughout October and November to deliver a truly magical and community-inspired event. Special mention to Ms. Sarah Moore and Mr. Jim Gartlan on the Municipal District side. Both were instrumental in event planning and lacked no shortage of decorative skills or enthusiasm when it came to Santa's grotto. Indeed, Jim donned the red suit for the afternoon!

