

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan, County Monaghan, on Monday 04 March 2024 at 11.30 a.m.

Chair: Cllr D. Maxwell, Cathaoirleach

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

Apologies: Cllr Seamus Coyle, Ms C O'Hare, DOS

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, Mr. C. Flynn, Ms. P. Monahan, Directors of Services, Mr. G. McMahon, Ms. O. McConnon, A/Directors of Services, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M McGarvey

Urgent Business

On the proposal of Cllr S Conlon, seconded by Cllr P Conlon it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to receive a delegation from the Irish Farmers Association.

Speakers from the IFA asked that Monaghan Co Co would do its utmost to highlight the issues raised and seek a fundamental reset of how farm policy is devised and implemented both at the EU and in Ireland.

The Speakers asked that Monaghan Co Council support the following motion:

'Monaghan County Council resolves to write to the President of the EU Commission, the Taoiseach and the Minister for Agriculture advising them that the Council has passed the following resolution.

Monaghan County Council supports the IFA 'enough is enough' campaign.

The Council recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-sector makes to the Irish and local economy.

The Council acknowledges the income challenge on Irish farmers arising from the significant increases in the cost of doing business, regulatory costs and cuts in Basic Income support for farmers.

The Council calls on the Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA). The Council calls on the European Union and the Irish Government to provide additional stand-alone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to support farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measures.'

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received a second notice of urgent business as follows:

'That focused on the key principles of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, Monaghan County Council agree to proceed with the development of Lough Muckno and its environs. In so doing, Monaghan County Council agree to the engagement of consultants to progress the proposed 10-year Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs.'

On the proposal of Cllr A Campbell, seconded by Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, it was agreed to enter 'into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.

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

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings held on 12 February 2024.

On the proposal of Cllr N Keelan seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 12 February 2024 be confirmed.

2. Correspondence

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

- Acknowledgement Letter from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D., regarding supporting Clare County Council Motion to take immediate action in introducing Primary medical certs to all individuals with physical disabilities.
 - Email from Private Secretary to Minister of State for Transport Jack Chambers, T.D., regarding additional funding need to expedite driver testing services and NCT car testing services.
 - Acknowledgement Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Michael McGrath T.D., regarding Climate enhancement measures.
 - Acknowledgement Email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Michael McGrath T.D., regarding the increase of funding allocation to the active travel projects.
 - Email from Uisce Eireann regarding a request for confirmation that effluent discharge into watercourses from wastewater treatment plants.
 - Email from Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D., regarding special fund be set up in relation to the salting of roads.
 - Email from Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D., regarding additional funding need to expedite driver testing services and NCT car testing services.
 - Email from Ms. Pauline Tully, T.D., regarding additional funding need to expedite driver testing services and NCT car testing services.
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- Resolution from Cork County Council regarding VAT rate for pubs should be reduced down from 23% to 17%.
 - Resolution from Cork County Council regarding hospitality VAT rate be reverted to 9%.

2.1 The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued was also circulated:

- 2024 Grant Allocation to Local Authorities for National Roads, Active Travel and Greenways from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- 2024 Regional and Local Road grant allocations from Department of Transport.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr C Carthy, seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that this Council support the Cork Co Co motion calling on the Minister for Finance, An Taoiseach and An

Tánaiste to ask that the VAT rate for pubs should be reduced down from 23% to 17%.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna, seconded by Cllr C Bennett it was agreed that this Council support the Cork Co Co motion calling on the Minister for Finance, An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste to ask that the hospitality VAT rate be reverted to 9% and that the collection programme be fair and sensible.

On the proposal of Cllr C Bennett, seconded by Cllr N Keelan it was agreed that this Council call on the Government of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Green Party to provide the additional funding of 5.9 million needed to achieve proper road maintenance in Co Monaghan as referred to in the NOAC Report.

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr A McCooey it was agreed that this Council call on the Minister for Finance, Michael McGrath to liaise with Minister Eamonn Ryan and Minister Jack Chambers in relation to additional funding for the 'hot tarring' to fill the potholes in Co Monaghan.

3. To consider Part VIII approval for PT8MN63 Ballyalbany Bridge - Construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the east side of the existing Ballyalbany Bridge

Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner outlined the Part VIII proposal circulated with the agenda. He advised that the proposed development is the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the East side of the existing Ballyalbany bridge, which is a protected structure. The new bridge will directly abut the existing bridge. The new bridge will be adjoined to the existing bridge but will be supported independently via new piled abutments and new wingwalls.

Mr Hughes recommended that the members proceed with the proposal. Mr Hughes and Mr K West responded to members questions.

On the proposal of Cllr R Aughey seconded by Cllr C Bennett, it was agreed that the Council approve the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the east side of the existing Ballyalbany Bridge as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report of 12 February 2024 prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Cllr S Conlon abstained on this proposal.

4. To consider Part VIII approval for PT8MN 64 Horseshoe Bridge - Construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the west side of the existing Horseshoe Bridge

Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner outlined the Part VIII proposal circulated with the agenda. He advised that the proposed development is for the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the west side of the existing Horseshoe Bridge. The new bridge will directly abut the existing bridge. The new bridge will be joined to the existing bridge but will be supported independently via new piled abutments and new wingwalls.

Mr Hughes recommended that the members proceed with the proposal. Mr Hughes and Mr K West responded to members questions.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna seconded by Cllr R Aughe, it was agreed that the Council approve the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge on the west side of the existing Horseshoe Bridge as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report of 12 February 2024 prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Cllr S Conlon abstained on this proposal.

5. To consider Part VIII approval for PT8MN67 Glenmore Quarry - Refurbishment works are proposed at Glenmore Quarry, Carrickroe, Co. Monaghan.

Mr A Hughes, Senior Planner outlined the Part VIII proposal circulated with the agenda. He advised that the proposed development is to upgrade facilities at the existing council facility at Glenmore, Carrickroe to afford for the reception, storage and transfer of inert bituminous material. The proposed development includes the provision of a hard standing area, weighbridge and welfare facility.

Mr Hughes recommended that the members proceed with the proposal. Mr Hughes and Mr K West responded to members questions.

On the proposal of Cllr B McKenna seconded by Cllr R Aughey, it was agreed that the Council approve the proposed refurbishment works at Glenmore Quarry, Carrickroe, Co. Monaghan as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report of 12 February 2024 prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

6. To receive Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on Pre-Draft Public consultation process of Monaghan Co Development Plan 2025-2031 at March Co Co Meeting

Mr T Gourley, Senior Executive Planner advised members that the review of the current County Development plan and the preparation of a new County Development plan for the period 2025-2031 formally commenced last year. He stated that an eight-week Pre-Draft Consultation process was held to gather opinions on the content of the Draft Development Plan. A Strategic Options and Issues Paper was on public display which set out the key discussion topics of Climate Change, Environment & Heritage, Infrastructure & Services, Settlement Strategy, Housing Strategy, Community Services / Facilities, Economic Activity, and Environmental Assessment & Monitoring.

The consultation process attracted sixty-six submissions from a wide range of public bodies, other organisations and individuals. In accordance with Section 11(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, this report provides for the elected members a summary of the issues raised in the sixty-six written submissions received, the Chief Executive's opinion on the issues raised and his recommendations on the policies to be included in the draft development plan.

Mr Gourley stated that workshops will be arranged with each grouping over the next few weeks to assist members in reviewing the report and to discuss the matters arising within it.

Mr Gourley responded to members' queries. The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Gourley for his presentation.

7. To consider the Draft Policy and Procedure for Derelict Sites.

Mr K McNally, Town Regeneration Officer provide members with a presentation on the Draft Policy and Procedure for Derelict Sites. He stated that the policy set out the methods which the Council would use going forward to reduce the level of derelict properties in the county in conjunction with relevant Government policies such as the Town Centre First policy and the Housing for all Strategy. During the course of his presentation, Mr McNally referred to issues leading to property dereliction and vacancy; schemes/initiatives to deal with vacancy and dereliction; progress to date in dealing with dereliction and next steps.

On the proposal Cllr S Gilliland seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the Draft Policy and Procedure for Derelict Sites as circulated, be approved.

8. To consider the Arts Partners Grant Scheme

In accordance with the Ethics Framework, Cllr Bennett declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the meeting room whilst the matter was being dealt with.

The members considered the report from the Arts Officer recommending the allocation of grants under the Arts Partnership Grant 2024. The Arts Officer responded to members' queries.

On the proposal of Cllr A McCooey, seconded by Cllr N Keelan, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Arts Partnership Grant 2024:

	Arts Partners Grant Recommended Applicants	Amount Awarded
1	The Garage Theatre	€ 19,000
2	Castleblayney Drama Festival	€ 3,000
3	N/East Musical & Dramatic Society	€ 3,000
4	Íontas Theatre	€ 22,000
5	Féile Patrick Byrne	€ 6,500
6	Féile Oriel	€ 2,500
7	Clones Film Festival	€ 11,000
8	Muckno Mania	€ 3,000
	TOTAL	€ 70,000

9. To consider the Artist Support Scheme

The members considered the report from the Arts Officer recommending the allocation of grants under the Artist Support Scheme 2024. The Arts Officer responded to members queries.

On the proposal Cllr A McCooey seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of the following grants under the Artist Support Scheme 2024:

Emerging Talent - €600 each* 1st time recipient

	Applicants	Art Form
1	Zara Doody *	Visual Artist/Multimedia
2	Matthew McMahon *	Theatre Practitioner/ Actor
3	Simon Hennessey *	Comedy
4	Dervla McElvaney *	Visual Artist/Textiles/Mixed Media
5	Courtney Mulligan *	Film/Special Effects/Makeup
		Total € 3,000

Established Artists* 1st time recipient

	Applicants	Art Form
1	Seán McElwain	Traditional Arts/Music
2	Kate Beagan *	Visual Artist/Painter
3	JJ Duffy *	Visual Artist/Mixed Media
4	Michelle Kettle	Visual Artist/Painter
5	Joanne Behan	Visual Artist/Sculpture
6	Denise McCabe	Visual Art/Contemporary Drawing
7	Siobhan McDonald	Visual Artist
8	Fiona Longmuir	Author/Childrens Novels
9	Rory Pierce *	Music/Performer & Composer
10	Eileen Ferguson	Visual Artist/Painting/Sculpture
11	Neal Greig	Visual Artist/Drawing & Painting
12	Gráinne Hunt	Music/Singer/Songwriter
		Total € 12,000

10. To consider the Traffic Calming Policy 2024

Mr K West, A/Senior Engineer outlined the Draft Traffic Calming Policy 2024 circulated to members. He stated that the **objectives** of the policy are to:

- Provide guidance and a standardised procedure for implementing traffic calming measures within County Monaghan
- Improve Road Safety
- Reduce and control vehicular speed
- Improve driver awareness of vulnerable road users
- Enhance the environment
- Reduce noise, disturbances and anxiety in our towns and villages

The aims of the **policy** are to:

- Incorporate traffic-calming measures at the planning and design stage of all new schemes.
- Introduction of an appraisal system for traffic calming on existing public roads.
- Introduction of a prioritising scheme selection system.
- Set up a shared centralised database between the Three MDs and the Roads Section to:
 - I. hold all requests for traffic calming measures from the public and elected members,
 - II. act as a knowledge share database.

Mr West outlined the phases of the Traffic Calming Implementation process from initiation through to formal consultation, funding approval and implementation. Mr West responded to members' queries.

Cllr R. Aughey proposed, Cllr C Bennett seconded that the Traffic Calming Policy 2024 as circulated, be approved. A vote by show of hands resulted in 14 for, 1 abstention. The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

11. Diospoireacht as Gaeilge / Tuarascail Bhliantuil - Coiste na Gaeilge

Cllr P Treanor introduced the presentation by highlighting that the Coiste spent almost €12,000 in 2023. He advised that the All-Ireland Ceili Band would visit the Garage Theatre on Sunday next to start Seachtain na Gaeilge. Cllr Treanor thanked Nial Ó Conchúir for his work and thanked the other members of the Coiste Gaeilge for their work during the year and outlined details of the activities listed in the report.

An tUasal Nial Ó Conchúir, Oifigeach Gaeilge outlined the work of the Coiste Gaeilge during 2023 and thanked them for their help and support. He stated that the Coiste aims to promote the use of the Irish language in Co Monaghan as well as insuring that the Council fulfils its obligations under the Official Languages Act.

He highlighted the Coiste's activities during 2024:

1. The Coiste held 4 meetings.
2. The Coiste organised a concert for Nollaig na mBan.
3. Two community groups availed of Seachtain na Gaeilge funding.
4. 37 scholarships were awarded to students to attend the Gaeltacht.
5. The Coiste funded Ulster Comhaltas to host Omós na nUltach, composed by Scotstown native, Michael Rooney, in the Garage Theatre.
6. Funding was given to Monaghan County Comhaltas to promote the use of Irish language at the Co. Monaghan Fleadh.
7. The Coiste supported Muineachán le Gaeilge to run Campaí Sproai, which is an Irish language summer camp.
8. The Council worked towards compliance with Section 10(a) of the act.

He concluded by stating that in 2024 the Coiste hope to continue their good work and ensure the Council complies fully with the Official Languages Act.

12. To consider the Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2024

Ms. M. McGarvey, A/Senior Executive Officer, outlined the main elements of the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) for 2024, which had been circulated with the agenda for the

meeting. She stated that the plan, which had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and in conjunction with the Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024, identifies the services that the Council intends to provide to the public in the year ahead. She further stated that the Plan, which reflected the provisions of Budget 2024, sets out the objectives and priorities for each department; the strategies for achieving those objectives and the priorities and performance standards intended to be met. She acknowledged the contribution of all staff and Directors in the preparation of the plan.

On the proposal Cllr H McElvaney seconded by Cllr S Conlon it was agreed that the Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2024 as circulated, be approved.

13. To note Annual Report of the Joint Policing Committee for 2023

The Annual Report of Co Monaghan JPC which details the work of the Committee over the past 12 months and is also an important means of communicating and highlighting the role and work of the Committee was noted and agreed by members.

14. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20 February 2024, which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr P Treanor seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 20 February 2024 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

15. To receive Management Report - February 2024

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for February 2024 which had been circulated with the agenda.

The members noted the Management Report.

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

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

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs D. Maxwell, relation to attendance at the following Conference/Training events:

- ALLG, Road Safety, 16 November, Clayton Hotel, Galway, Co. Galway.
- Celtic Conference, 01-03 December, Social Welfare in Ireland, O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

17. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed the members there were no matters for consideration under this item.

18. Matters arising out of the minutes of Council meeting held 12 February 2024

There were no matters arising out of the Council meeting held on 12 February 2024.

19. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

The following correspondence was received in relation to the N2 National Primary Road Scheme.

- Email from Mr. Brendan Smyth, T.D., regarding funding for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road scheme.

20. To receive update on North/South Interconnector project

The following correspondence was received in relation to the North south Interconnector project:

- Acknowledgement email from Mr. Brendan Smyth, T.D., regarding the North South Interconnector issue.
- Email from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Eamon Ryan TD. regarding the North South Interconnector issue.
- Email from Ms. Niamh Smyth, T.D., regarding the North South Interconnector issue.
- Acknowledgement email from Private Office Infrastructure Northern Ireland regarding the North South Interconnector issue.

Mr C Flynn, Director of Services informed members that ESB has requested a meeting with Planning Officials from Monaghan, Cavan and Meath Co Councils to discuss planning compliance in relation to the North South Interconnector. This meeting will take place on 14 March 2024. Mr Flynn assured members that what was discussed would be brought back to the full Council.

21. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update.

22. Questions

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

- 1. Has the executive completed their assessment of tenders received for the Feasibility Study and Strategic Assessment Report for a Swimming Pool/Leisure Centre for Carrickmacross? If so, is the council prepared to formulise an engagement with selected consultants in March?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council completed the formal tender assessment process on the 19th of February 2024. Having regard to compliance with relevant procurement procedures

and timelines, it is expected that the contract for engagement of professional consultants will be executed before the end of March 2024.

2. **Has the council received confirmation from the Department of Housing yet that would allow us to proceed with our 'Affordable Purchase Scheme' and can the council pursue an 'Affordable Rental' model with the Department also?**

Reply: Circular: Housing 06/2023 sets out information and documentation suggested to accompany applications for funding support from the Affordable Housing Fund for those local authorities who were not set affordable housing targets last year for the period 2022 to 2026 by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Monaghan County Council are proposing an affordable housing scheme in Latlorcan. Initial designs are completed and its expected that an application for funding will be made during 2024.

3. **In response to numerous issues with streetlights being out for significant periods of time, has the council been engaging with ESB to avoid similar issues arising in future? Is there a need for certain lines to be upgraded and, if so, what plans are in place to make those improvements?**

Reply: After storm Isha some locations were without lights for a prolonged period as priority was given to reestablish power to homes and businesses. Also, the public would need to log outages/lighting issues for us to know there is a problem.

Monaghan County Council maintains and improves the existing public lighting network on an ongoing basis. There are a group of streets out in Patrician High School, Carrickmacross due to a cable fault, Enerveo, MCCs public lighting contractor, is liaising with ESB on this.

Clr S. Conlon asked:

4. **Regarding the urgent need for Council houses and apartments across our county, with supply continuously falling behind the demand by eligible applicants, has the Department of Housing set a forecast target for social housing completions and acquisitions for 2024? What was the total number provided in 2023?**

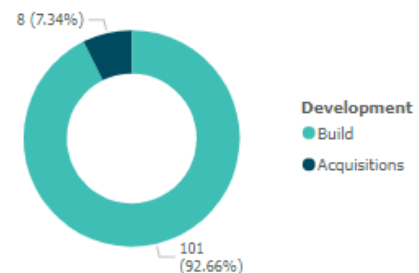
Reply: The Department has given Monaghan County Council a target of 58 properties to be delivered in 2024 under the Housing for All programme. No target has been detailed for single property acquisitions.

See table and graphic below detailing projected number of 109 Acquisitions and Build properties to be delivered in 2024 by Monaghan County council and Approved Housing Bodies.

Year	2024					Total
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Total	
Acquisitions	8				8	8
Build		32	41	28	101	101
Total	8	32	41	28	109	109

Year	2024					Total
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Total	
Completed	1				1	1
Offer accepted	2				2	2
On-site		32	41	28	101	101
Sale agreed	5				5	5
Total	8	32	41	28	109	109

Scheme Type



Housing Delivery 2023

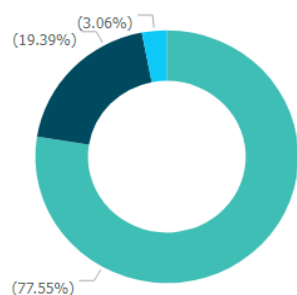
A total of 98 additional social housing units were provided in 2023. These homes were delivered through a mix of new build and acquisitions. The Department of Housing target set for Monaghan County Council for 2023 was 56 social housing units, this was exceeded by 75% in 2023.

In 2023 Monaghan County Council completed the purchase of 19 houses. These properties were purchased for Tenants in situ (13), Disability (1), Exit from homelessness / prevention of homelessness (3) and properties for people in exceptional need (2). Monaghan County Council exceeded the acquisition target by 9 properties.

Through the Mortgage to Rent scheme a further three houses are now being managed by “Home for Life”. These properties are officially recorded under the “Leasing” heading as they might eventually return to the ownership of the occupiers, however they are currently in the ownership of “Home for Life” to allow occupiers to remain in their homes in spite of mortgage issues.

See table and graphic below for 2023 figures.

Scheme Type



ProjectUnits

BY YEAR, QUARTER, DEVELOPMENT

Development	2023					Total
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Total	
Acquisitions	1	4	2	12	19	19
Build	21	35	20	76	76	76
Leasing	2	1	3	3	3	3
Total	1	25	39	33	98	98

- In line with the core objectives of implementing carbon footprint mitigation measures as outlined throughout the recently adopted Climate Action Plan, what number of the Council’s social housing stock remains to be retrofitted with energy saving measures that will result in an optimum BER rating of B2 or better, along with a reduction in fuel poverty that many Council tenants experience? Aligned to this, what is the total number of Council owned housing stock?**

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

In 2023 Monaghan County Council’s Housing Section upgraded 92 houses under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) at a cost of €2.93million (average cost €31,868 per dwelling). The Housing Section are currently developing another ambitious programme of works for 2024. The programme being developed by Monaghan County Council will continue to select properties in order of priority dictated by their Building Energy Rating with an emphasis on properties with the poorest Building Energy Ratings. 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). See graphic below detailing 199 properties (Photos of completed properties) that received deep Energy Efficiency Retrofitting works since 2021.



In 2024 Monaghan County Council plan to undertake Energy Efficiency Retrofit works to over 100 properties subject to funding.

To date 652 properties have a B2 Energy Ratings of higher, 1,136 properties remain to receive works to bring them up to B2 Building Energy Rating and the average BER for properties to receive works is D1 Building Energy Rating.

Monaghan County Council’s Social Housing stock was 1,788 properties on the 01/01/2024 based on the National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) criteria.

Also, I ask the Housing Section, what are the total number of social houses provided by our partner Associated Housing Bodies, and of that number, what is the percentage that are of a B2 or better energy rating?

As of end of Feb the number of AHB properties are:-

Total	
CALF	244
CAS	186
CLSS	76
MTR	34
	540

We do not have the BER’s for these properties as they are not in MCC ownership. However, the older AHB owned houses have BERs averaging between C and D (Ard na Lorgan Castleblayney and Convent Lands Carrickmacross etc). The more recently constructed AHB houses have A or B rated BERs (Emy, Drumbear Wood, Coill an Ri etc).

- For the purpose of this Council aligning to Environmentally Sustainable Development Goals, and objectives outlined in the recently adopted Climate Action Plan, will the Councils Rural Water Services Section engage with the Department of Local Government for the purpose of establishing a Group Sewerage Scheme funded by the Departments**

Multi-Annual Programme for the dwellings in the Milltown area of Monaghan, that will provide long overdue provision of this necessary civic infrastructure.

Reply: The relevant funding measure, Measure A8 of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme-Waste water collection and treatment needs for villages and settlements without access to public wastewater services, was announced by the Minister in early 2022. Water services looked at proposals for this measure at the time and engaged with the Department in relation to Milltown. However, the settlement did not meet the minimum criteria required for application. The projects approved by the Minister under this measure were announced in December 2022. Monaghan County Council will continue to monitor developments and will re-engage with the Department if there is any indication of a change in the eligibility criteria.

- 7. In reference to the lengthy delays in processing applications for the Taking in Charge of housing developments by this Council, I ask for an update on what progress is occurring relating to the following developments being Taken in Charge, what date the application was originally submitted, and are Uisce Eireann solely responsible for any delays?**

Name	Address
Millbrook	Milltown, Monaghan
An Crannog	Glen Rd, Monaghan
Mullach Glas	Mullaghmonaghan, Monaghan
Cois Cnoic	Pound Hill, Monaghan

Reply: The Planning Authority received a taking in charge application for Millbrook in 2017. The Planning Authority are still awaiting the agreement from Uisce Eireann to progress the taking in charge.

The Planning Authority received a taking in charge application for An Crannog in 2018. The intent to take in charge this estate has been formally advertised and it is expected that it will go to the April Council meeting.

The Planning Authority received a taking in charge application for An Crannog in 2020. Uisce Eireann will not agree to take in charge this estate until a wayleave is required to a pumping station. Water Services are engaging with a third-party landowner with regards acquiring such a wayleave.

The Planning Authority received a taking in charge application for Cois Cnoic in 2018. Due to third party land issues and following discussion with Uisce Eireann it has not been possible to progress the taking in charge of the development. Water Services are exploring and discussing possible solutions to the routing of the Cois Cnoc gravity foul line with various relevant third parties. This pipeline is being monitored for any signs of deterioration to enable early action to be taken to prevent any possible discharge to the surrounding environment.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

- 8. Given the ongoing scourge of littering across our county including along the N2.**

What success have we had over the course of last year 2023 in detecting some of these litter louts, how many fines have been issued over the course of last year 2023 for littering excluding those issued for bring banks violations?

Reply: 47 Fines issued.

- 9. How many properties across the county come under the housing assistance payment scheme (HAP). How much was paid out to landlords under the (HAP) scheme in 2023 How many inspections of private rented accommodation have been carried out in 2023, what was the outcome of these inspections?**

Reply: There are currently 506 active HAP tenancies with Monaghan County Council. € 3,367,620.46 was the cumulative 2023 figure paid to HAP landlords for Monaghan County Council.

There were 404 private rented inspections carried out in 2023.

305 were non-compliant after the 1st Inspection.

86 were compliant after the 1st Inspection.

181 became compliant in 2023.

In the first quarter of 2024 the inspection team is following up on non-compliant properties.

- 10. How many local authority housing tenants, if any, find themselves in rent arrears at present of over three months, six months, twelve months or more?**

Reply:

Timeframe	No of customers
Rents between 7 and 12 weeks old	88
Rents greater than 12 weeks old	260

Only 71 of the >12 weeks old are still active tenants. The remainder are those that have surrendered their tenancy with arrears on their accounts. These customers remain on our listings as a point of reference.

Revenue collectors are actively engaged with all customers who are in arrears and support them in setting up payment plans and arranging payments through the Household Budget.

- 11. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the taken in charge by Monaghan County council of the Sliabh Dubh estate at Corduff Carrickmacross, have the issues with Uisce Éireann being resolved given that this seems to be the problem in terms of moving the process forward?**

Reply: Sliabh Dubh is served by a standalone wastewater treatment plant which is not maintained by the original developer. Monaghan County Council has previously intervened and carried out remedial works relating to this plant when a public health matter has arisen. In the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding agreed between local authorities and Uisce Éireann, it was confirmed that Uisce Éireann would not take in charge developer provided infrastructure (DPI), such as that installed in Sliabh Dubh.

When taking in charge an estate, the Local Authority is obliged to take in charge all infrastructure and cannot decide to omit certain elements (such as standalone wastewater treatment systems). In the case of the taking in charge of Sliabh Dubh, if the Local Authority proceeds to take in charge the development, it will be liable for the future maintenance and repair of the wastewater treatment system, which is defective.

The Local Authority must consider the implications of taking in charge of DPI, particularly considering Uisce Éireann's position, and future potential liabilities to the Council. It is understood that Uisce Éireann may be reviewing its position with regards DPI.

- 12. How many tradesmen / tradeswomen, plumbers, carpenters etc, are currently employed by Monaghan County council, what plans have the council to roll out an apprenticeship scheme for the various trades in the time ahead?**

Reply:

Trade person - Craftworker	No. Employed by Monaghan County Council
Craftworker	9
Horticulturist	1
Mechanic	3
Plumbers	9
Total	22

Preparation work has commenced to recruit Apprentices for intake in September 2024 for the following Apprenticeship programmes:

1. Apprentice Mechanic
2. Apprentice Horticulturist

Correspondence from the Human Resources Section was circulated on 19th February 2024 to Career Guidance Teachers of all Secondary Schools in County Monaghan providing details to Leaving Certificate Students that a recruitment campaign for the above apprenticeships will go live mid/late June 2024. This is to align with the completion of the Leaving Certificate examinations. Recruitment adverts for the apprenticeships will be placed in the local newspaper, the Northern Standard and the Council's Social media platforms and website www.monaghan.ie. Students are also encouraged to submit an expression of interest email to recruitment@monaghancoco.ie

Nominated mentors for both apprenticeship programmes have been identified and approved and both mentors are available to visit any school in the County or Monaghan Institute to speak with students that may be interested in these programmes.

In addition to the above CMETB have invited Monaghan County Council to take a stand at a career fare scheduled to take place in Monaghan Institute May 2024. Monaghan County Council welcome this opportunity and appropriate staff will be available on the day to promote the apprenticeship programmes coming on stream for September 2024.

Cllr P. Connolly asked:

- 13. In view of the fact Louth Co Co recently purchased a JCB Pothole Pro (pothole filler) which was partially funded by the department of Environment and is halving the cost of filling potholes and improving the quality of work what plans have Monaghan Co Co to purchase a similar machine?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council have currently no plans to purchase a similar machine. The major cost incurred for repairing potholes is the traffic management and labor involved. Monaghan County Council have previously purchased a velocity patcher, which has provided significant savings, and have also an additional velocity patcher on hire to repair potholes across the County.

Cllr P. Treanor asked:

- 14. How many new homes were completed in County Monaghan in 2022 and 2023, across all sectors -Social, Affordable and Private, per M.D.?**

Reply: The most reliable statistics available for this is through CSO New Dwelling Completions

data [New Dwelling Completions - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

New Dwelling Completions	2022Q1	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	29
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q1	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney, Monaghan	Number	25
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q1	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	2
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q2	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	25
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q2	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney, Monaghan	Number	46
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q2	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	28
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q3	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	25
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q3	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney, Monaghan	Number	23
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q3	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	14
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q4	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	40
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q4	Carrickmacross-Castleblayney, Monaghan	Number	66
New Dwelling Completions	2022Q4	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	12
			Total	335
Statistic Label	Quarter	Local Electoral Area	UNIT	VALUE
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q1	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	44
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q1	Carrickmacross-Castleblayn	Number	10
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q1	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	12
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q2	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	19
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q2	Carrickmacross-Castleblayn	Number	19
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q2	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	14
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q3	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	32
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q3	Carrickmacross-Castleblayn	Number	22
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q3	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	9
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q4	Monaghan, Monaghan	Number	13
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q4	Carrickmacross-Castleblayn	Number	18
New Dwelling Completions	2023Q4	Ballybay-Clones, Monaghan	Number	24
			Total	236

138 new build social houses were completed in 2022.

76 New build social houses were completed in 2023.

15. What stage of development are the new houses on the old school site, Roslea road, Clones, at?

Reply: Ownership of this site has not been transferred to Monaghan County Council yet because the transaction is subject to Charities Regulator consent. Regular contact is being made with the Vendor's Solicitors to see if there is anything they can do to progress matters.

23. Notice of Motion

Cllr Paudge Connolly proposed, Cllr A McCooey seconded that Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Further & Higher Education to remove the barriers that prevent students who wish to enter the States Graduate Entry Medicine Programme (GEM) from accessing the SUSI grant support scheme.

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

24. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Denise Hamill, Clerical Officer, Motor Tax on the death Father Maurice Cathcart, 4 Cherryhill, Gortacharn, Lisnaskea, Fermanagh, BT92 0LE
- Pascal Rooney, Water Services Section on the death of his mother Molly Rooney, Tullyhatina, Oram, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
- The family of the late John Bruton, former Fine Gael politician and former Taoiseach

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

- Rory Beggan, Scotstown on his selection for NFL trials
- Kayleigh Trappe on her recent success in the Goss.ie Awards

25. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly seconded by Cllr D Maxwell it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following training events by the members listed below:

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	AILG Annual Training Conference 2024 <u>AILG Annual Training Conference 2024 Tickets, Wed 14 Feb 2024 at 17:00 Eventbrite</u>	Arklow Bay Hotel, Co. Wicklow.	14 th and 15 th February 2024	Cllr Brian McKenna Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr David Maxwell Cllr Noel Keelan Cllr Colm Carthy Cllr Sean Conlon Cllr Richard Truell Cllr Sean Gilliland
Celtic Conferences	“A Practical Guide to Personal Taxation in Ireland”	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.	1st - 3rd March 2024	
Roscommon Conference - Suck Valley Way	The Rise of Loneliness on The Emerald Isle	Hannon’s Hotel, Athlone Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon	13 th & 14 th March 2024	Cllr Richard Truell Cllr Paudge Connolly Cllr Sean Gilliland Cllr Seamus Treanor
AILG	How to Use Canva to Create Marketing Images – Beginner Level	Online	Friday 15th	

AILG Module 2 Southern Region	Local Election 2024 Preparation A Briefing from the Electoral Commission	Hotel Kilkenny	Thursday 21st March	Cllr Richard Truell Cllr Colm Carthy
AILG Module 2 Eastern & Midland/ Northern & Western	Local Election 2024 Preparation – A Briefing from the Electoral Commission	Athlone Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone	Saturday 23rd March	Cllr David Maxwell
AILG	AILG-CMG Security Training – Protecting yourself when canvassing for Local Elections	Online	Friday 5th April	
AILG	Defensive Social Media Training – Protecting yourself online	Online	Friday 12th April	

Urgent Business

Cllr P Treanor proposed, Cllr A Campbell seconded that Monaghan County Council writes to the President of the EU Commission, the Taoiseach and the Minister for Agriculture advising them that the Council has passed the following resolution.

Monaghan County Council supports the IFA ‘enough is enough’ campaign.

The Council recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-sector makes to the Irish and local economy.

The Council acknowledges the income challenge on Irish farmers arising from the significant increases in the cost of doing business, regulatory costs and cuts in Basic Income support for farmers.

The Council calls on the Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA). The Council calls on the European Union and the Irish Government to provide additional stand-alone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to support farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measures’.

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

On the proposal of Cllr P Connolly, seconded by Cllr R Aughey it was agreed that In view of the fact that Ash Dieback has been identified as a roadside safety issue by an IFA delegation and the fact that they sought help from Monaghan Co Council at this morning's Co Council meeting that this Council request funding from the Department of the Environment to initiate a pilot

scheme to cooperate with farmers by providing funding and logistics to help with the removal of trees affected by Ash Dieback

Cllr B McKenna and Cllr A Campbell proposed, Cllr A McCooey seconded that focused on the key principles of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, Monaghan County Council agree to proceed with the development of Lough Muckno and its environs. In so doing, Monaghan County Council agree to the engagement of consultants to progress the proposed 10-year Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs.'

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

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____