

## **Municipal District of Monaghan**

**Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Kilmore Hub, Scotstown GGA Club, Scotstown, Co Monaghan on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 12 noon.**

**Chair:** The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathy Bennett presided.

**Present:** Cllrs. Seamus Treanor, Raymond Aughey, Brian McKenna, Sean Conlon, Paudge Connolly and David Maxwell.

Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-ordinator, Michelle Curran, Administrative Officer, Ruairi O'Neill, Executive Engineer.

### **1. Confirmation of minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna, seconded by Cllr. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be confirmed.

### **2. Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

### **3. Coordinators Report**

Mr. McElwain answered the councillors' queries on the information provided in the Coordinator's Report.

- Mr. McElwain confirmed that Hollywood Park would be substantially completed by 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and Municipal District Executive will continue to work with the Community group in Hollywood regarding the facility.
- Mr. McElwain confirmed that works are ongoing for the installation of the numbers trail within Rossmore Park and will continue over the next few months.
- Members commended An Garda Siochana, Municipal District Executive, Glaslough Tidy Towns Committee and all volunteers on the success of the two Presidential visits to Monaghan last weekend.
- Mr. O'Neill confirmed the additional line markings in Mullan Village are complete. A traffic survey will be completed in 6 months and a review of the traffic calming measures will be undertaken.
- Mr. McElwain confirmed the Glen Road Culvert Works are progressing well. Schools closing for summer break should ease congestion. Executive to continue to monitor the traffic to avoid traffic delays.
- Mr. McElwain advised the C.P.O. the appeal process for the Greenway will take 8 weeks as per the MD report.
- Commendations from all members to the Justice of the Forgotten Committee and the Municipal District Executive, the Outdoor Staff and An Garda Siochana on organising the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Monaghan Bombing Memorial event. Thanks were expressed to President Michael D. Higgins for attending the event. Thanks were expressed by Mr. McElwain on behalf of the Executive to An Garda Siochana and Margaret Irwin of Justice for the Forgotten for their roles for the event.

Requests were made following the Tanaiste's announcement this morning for the release of all documentation to aid investigation and provide closure to the families of the deceased. Request was made for Minister Humphreys to maintain pressure on the Irish Government for the release of the documents as promised.

- Proposal by Cllr. Conlon for the Municipal District Executive to send a letter of thanks to President Higgins to express our appreciation for attending the two events and his overnight stay in Monaghan. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. McKenna and supported by all present.
- Letter of thanks to be sent to the Town Team following the successful Town Team Relaunch and for their input into the town. Thanks expressed to the Executive in supporting the Town Team over the last number of years.

#### 4. Questions and Motions

##### Cllr Seán Conlon asked:

1. In follow up to my recent query to Uisce Eireann, which has been directed to this Municipal District, when will the fractured storm water drainage pipe works requiring excavation on the footpath at Latlorcan alongside R937 (old N2) be scheduled for long overdue remedial works? The current unsatisfactory conditions create a slip hazard, especially in frosty weather when excessive rainwater bubbles up through the footpath and freezes over.

##### Response:

**The Municipal District jetted this storm line during the recent wet weather and found the line to heavily silted which restricted flow in the drainage network causing the issues noted above. A full camera survey will be carried of this pipe and the surrounding network to determine if any further works are required.**

2. Further to enhancement works at the football grounds in Belgium Park, can minor improvement works be undertaken at the basketball court to include lining out, levelling off of the backboard, and replacement of missing/damaged nets?

##### Response:

**The Municipal District have added these items to the schedule of works for completion.**

3. For the purpose of enhancing pedestrian safety, and specifically for children visiting the nearby playground, will Council install traffic calming measures as soon as possible along the road approaching Latlorcan Way, Latlorcan Court, Latlorcan Close and Plas Lorcaín? Also, at the main entrance to this residential area off the Dublin Road, what road junction designs are being considered to accommodate the increased volume of traffic that will occur resulting from the additional 50 houses to be built here over the next year?

**Response:**

**The Municipal District will complete an assessment of the estate road approaching Latlorcan Way, Latlorcan Court, Latlorcan Close and Plas Lorcaïn and determine the most appropriate traffic calming measures for this location. Measures identified will be completed as soon as practicable.**

**In relation to the road junction on the R937 Dublin Road into the Latlorcan Estate, a Traffic and Transport Assessment has been completed to assess the effect the development of the 50 additional houses will have on the junction. The assessment has confirmed that the increased volume of traffic associated with the 50 houses will have no negative effect on this junction and that no modifications are required.**

4. Considering the limited sight lines for traffic exiting Drumbear Wood housing estate, and regularly excessive speeding of vehicles along the Cootehill Road, will this Council undertake a road traffic survey to determine, in consultation with the Residents Association, what measures can be implemented at improving safety for road users exiting this estate? Also, with land recently cleared of trees along this stretch of road, will a footpath be installed that will provide a continuous footpath from Drumbear to The Corran residential area?

**Response:**

**The Municipal District will carry out a traffic count to determine vehicle speed on the Cootehill Road in the vicinity of Drumbear Wood and carry out an assessment in line with the Traffic Calming Policy.**

**The land cleared of trees along this road has been completed by a private landowner. The Municipal District have no current plan to install a footpath in this location.**

5. I ask for an update on my previous proposals seeking the installation of pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures on the North Road at the Peace Campus entrance, and similarly on the Dublin Road between Bogues food hall/petrol station and the extensive residential area at Latlorcan, and is there a scheduled date for installation of same at these busy locations?

**Response:**

**A Feasibility & Options Report for the North Road has been submitted to TII Road Safety Section for review. This proposal includes for two number crossings, one to the west side of the Lidl entrance and the other is to upgrade the uncontrolled crossing at Flacks Garage. Target date for implementation is Q4 2024.**

**Regarding Corlat, the Corlat to Collegiate Active Travel scheme includes for a toucan crossing between Bogues Foodhall and the Corlat Roundabout. The road between Bogues and the Latlorcan resident area will require a detailed study.**

**Cllr. Cathy Bennett asked:**

1. When will Monaghan County Council repair the bridge at Lennaght, Knockatallon.

**Response:**

**Repair works to the bridge at Lennaght, Knockatallon are on the current works programme and will be completed in the next month.**

2. Can the Monaghan Municipal District please give me an update on the funding allocation of €20k for Scotstown Village and the much needed traffic calming measures for all roads entering the village.

**Response:**

**Traffic counts have recently been completed on Knockatallon Road, Scotstown. Traffic calming proposals for the Knockatallon and Roslea Roads are currently being drafted in line with the current Traffic Calming Policy. It is expected that identified traffic calming measure will be installed Q3 2024. In addition to this, traffic counts are ongoing at on the Ballinode Road at St Dympna's Terrace. This location will also be assessed in line with the current Traffic Calming Policy.**

3. Can Monaghan County Council please give me an update on the repairs at Gort an Teannal playpark in Knockatallon and the estimated completion date.

**Response:**

**Repairs to the playpark at Gort an Teannal have been completed. This playpark has been included in a funding application for minor upgrade works that has been recently submitted to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.**

4. Can Monaghan County Council please increase the traffic calming measures at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel. This location needs additional measures as children use this road to cross to the football grounds.

**Response:**

**The Municipal District will carry out a traffic count to determine vehicle speed at this location and carry out an assessment in line with the new Traffic Calming Policy.**

5. Following a motion to Monaghan County Council in relation to speed limits on the road from Connolly's Bridge to Ballinode village. Is there any update on this progressing?

**Response:**

**This road to be reassessed and proposal prepared for approval. This work to be programmed into the current work commitments.**

**Cllr. Paudge Connolly asked:**

1. In view of the lack of signage coming from the Emyvale direction towards the Tiernaneil junction and the fact that this junction is the site of numerous accidents, what plans have Monaghan Municipal District to request the TII that they implement safety measures to improve road safety at this junction?

**Response:**

**The N2 major road realignment scheme and subsequent modifications to this junction, were significant road safety interventions. MCC are currently not aware of a continuing occurrence of accidents at this location. However, MCC will contact**

**AGS and TII to request up to date data on the numbers and details of recorded collisions. If deemed necessary, further works may be implemented at and approaching this junction, subject to availability of funding.**

2. To ask Monaghan Municipal District in relation to the commitment given by the TII in October 2023 re upgrade of N12 (Armagh Rd) and in particular the corner at Skinnagin/Tullylush to request the level of works proposed and when these works will commence?

**Response:**

**Tender Documents have now been completed for this 3.0km road rehabilitation scheme. A procurement process will now commence with works expected to take place in Q3 2024. Works will commence at Knockaconny roundabout and extend to the entrance to Monaghan Mushrooms. The bend at Skinnagin/Tullylish will receive additional attention in the form of a high friction aggregate in the surface course which will greatly improve skid resistance on and approaching the bend. In addition, the road cross sectional profile at this location will be modified to make it compliant with current design standards.**

**Motions:**

That in view of the fact that the qualifying criteria to receive grant aid to repair a septic tank that is not functioning properly is very limited and in most cases non-existent that Monaghan MD calls on the Minister for the Environment to expand the Septic Tank Grant scheme which would allow homeowners to report their own non-functioning septic tank to the County Council, thus warranting an inspection by the council (i.e. 1 of the qualifying criteria) thereby qualifying for grant aid to undertake the necessary repairs.

*Cllr. Paudge Connolly*

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and supported by all members present.

**5. Section 183 Request: Sale/Exchange of lands at Annahagh, Monaghan**

Members considered a proposal under Section 183 for the sale/exchange of lands located at Annahagh, Co Monaghan to CombiLift as presented by DOS Mr. Cathal Flynn.

The Section 183 was proposed by Cllr. Conlon, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell and agreed by all members present.

**6. Town Regeneration Team – Dereliction & Vacancy Presentation**

Presentation on Dereliction and Vacancy within Monaghan District by Mr. Kevin McNally and Mr. Brian Annon, MCC Town Regeneration Team.

Following the presentation, Mr. McNally confirmed the following information.

- Houses purchased under the Dereliction and Vacancy Fund will be sold on the open market and fund will cover for potential losses.
- The funding covers areas defined within the 2015 Towns and Villages.

- The grant under the Repair and Renew Scheme allows for the upgrade of one owner occupied property plus one additional property.
- The C.P.O. Process can take 6 months to complete with a further 6-9 months allowed for the appeals process.
- There are currently 1,500 vacant/derelict properties in Monaghan. The National average of vacant/derelict properties is 11%, Monaghan's average is 13%.

## **7. Correspondance**

None.

## **8. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathies**

It was proposed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Lorcán MacCinna, Monaghan Municipal District Housing Senior Executive Engineer, on the passing of his mother Nóra MacCinna.

## **9.A.O.B.**

Proposal from Cllr. Treanor for Municipal District executive to write to the Court Services to replace the doors at the Courthouse, Monaghan to align to the heritage of the site. Cllr. Conlon seconded the proposal and asked that the executive also write to the Irish Heritage Department for the reinstatement of doors that align to the heritage of the site. A report was requested from MCC Heritage Officer.

Following query raised by Cllr, Connolly regarding a housing tenant's rent increasing from €50 per week to €100 per week following a rent review of their income, Ms. Monahan asked him to supply her with the details of the case and undertook that she would address with the Housing Section for a response.

Cllr. Conlon sought update on Glaslough Village Street lighting and the results of a detailed assessment due to be carried out in early May. Mr. McElwain advised that he is awaiting the contractor assessment and details of the level of funding which would be required for the project.

Cllr. Conlon raised the request for a pedestrian crossing on the Dublin Road from Bogue's Garage to Latlorcan housing estate, which was initially raised 14 months ago at council meeting and still awaiting assessments.

## **Emergency Motion:**

That Monaghan Municipal District Council write to the Manager of our new Primary Health Care Unit and copy to Minister of Health requesting that they address the issue of lack of access to A) the G.P. List and B) to Dentists and Orthodontics.

*Cllr. Paudge Connolly*

This motion was seconded by Cllr Treanor and supported by all present.

**Emergency Motion:**

That this Municipal District Council writes to the Minister for Health and the H.S.E. CH01 Executive, seeking clarification in relating to G.P. services currently provided to patients of a Monaghan town based G.P. over the past 3 decades who is set to retire in the near future.

*Cllr. Sean Conlon*

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Bennett and supported by all present.

**Retirement of Cllr. Brian McKenna**

Cllr. Brian McKenna thanked all his fellow elected members and the Municipal District Executive for their hard work, co-operation and support during his time as Councillor. Cllr. McKenna thanked Donal McElwain personally for his assistance over the year, as a sensible, helpful and cooperative leadership of the administration and engineering teams with additional thanks expressed to former staff Dermot Deeney, Carmel Murphy and Marcia Boyd. Thanks for help and assistance to Michelle Curran, Michelle Allister and all of the Municipal District staff.

Thanks to Patricia Monahan Director of Service and John Murray retired Director of Service for their sensible approach to the Municipal District, always leading in the right direction. A word of welcome and thanks to Ruairi O'Neill, new addition to the staff who has been helpful in recent queries.

Cllr. McKenna expressed a final word of thanks and wished all his colleagues the best of luck in the upcoming elections.

Compliments and best wishes for health, happiness and a long retirement were expressed to Brian by all members and the executive.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator