



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

Live, Work, Visit

Monaghan



Spring/Summer
Newsletter
2024

Local Elections 2024

Your Elected Members

Local Elections took place on 7th June 2024.
The elected members for each Municipal District are listed below

Ballybay - Clones Municipal District



Seamus Coyle
FIANNA Fáil



Sinead Flynn
SINN Féin



Séan Gilliland
FINE GAEL



Pat Treanor
SINN Féin



Richard Truell
FINE GAEL

Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District



Aidan Campbell
FINE GAEL



Colm Carthy
SINN Féin



Peter Conlon
FINE GAEL



Paul Gibbons
SINN Féin



Noel Keelan
SINN Féin



P.J. O'Hanlon
FIANNA Fáil

Monaghan Municipal District



Raymond Aughey
FIANNA Fáil



Cathy Bennett
SINN Féin



Pauric Clerkin
FINE GAEL



Seán Conlon
SINN Féin



David Maxwell
FINE GAEL



Bronagh McAree
SINN Féin



Seamus Treanor
NON PARTY



Campas Síochána
Mhuineacháin

Monaghan
Peace Campus



Monaghan County Council's Peace Campus Project Team

The Capital Projects Team and Monaghan County Council are delighted to have reached the significant milestone of completing the construction of this iconic building.

A celebration event was held on Friday 10th May to mark this achievement, with over 200 people in attendance to acknowledge the significant levels of support from all those involved in the delivery of the project building. In attendance at the event was the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Councillor David Maxwell, Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD, Chief Executive of SEUPB Gina McIntyre, John Smith, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Place and Local Government Group, Department for Communities; Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council Robert Burns, Director of Capital Projects at Monaghan County Council Cathal Flynn, Ian Crozier, CEO Ulster-Scots Agency, Elected Members, other local TDs, MEP's and representatives from the Department of Rural and Community Development (Ire) and the Department for Communities (NI).





Campas Síochána
Mhuineacháin

Monaghan
Peace Campus



The project brought together council staff from all across the organisation, working closely together to deliver the new Peace Campus. The open day for all Council staff on the 23rd of May was well attended and provided an opportunity for staff to see this new Council and community building.

The Peace Campus has been designed from the very beginning to be a dedicated cross-border and cross-community space.

The architectural design has been developed to encourage social interaction and shared space to allow users to have the ability to choose to meet in privacy or in active public spaces with a layout that creates a series of shared flexible spaces accessed by open social areas that can evolve with the needs of the community.

The Council has developed strategic Partnerships with; HSE Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing (Youththrive), Foróige, Co-Operation Ireland, the Ulster-Scots Agency, the Orange Order and Project Children and will work closely with the county museum, library & youth space as well as several other community-focused projects.

Monaghan County Council will be using this state-of-the-art new building as a base with which to reach out over the border region and explore the history, heritage and rich cultural landscape of this unique region.

The cultural partnership with Project Children is unique and will provide the Peace Campus through the Museum with a diaspora of 23,000 participants who live all over Northern Ireland and will want to interact with the Peace Campus as the centre for the Project Children archive.



MPC Steering Committee



Over the coming months, a Facilities Management Company, Monaghan County Museum and multiple anchor tenants will be the first to provide a host of new cultural and community amenities. Monaghan Town Library opened its doors on Monday the 13th of May to start the next chapter in serving the town, with in excess of 5,100 visitors in its first week. The Monaghan County Museum will open in June. Hire and bookings of spaces and facilities will take place from Autumn 2024. Additional in-house services, stakeholders and partnership activities will form part of a five-year Development Strategy.

In the interim, the Council hopes everyone enjoys exploring some of the new cultural and community spaces taking shape, as Monaghan Peace Campus takes the first of many steps in participating in an inclusive and shared future. For more information visit the Monaghan Peace Campus web page at www.monaghan.ie or search "Monaghan Peace Campus"



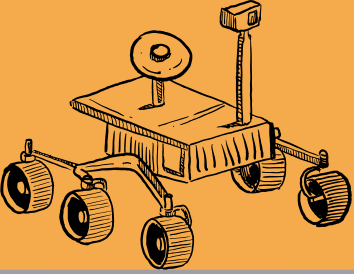
Monaghan County Council Active Travel Unit



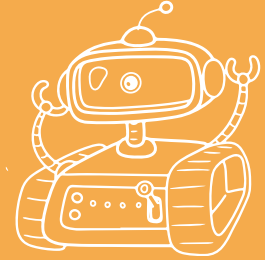
Bike Week 2024

Bike Week 2024 for Monaghan was coordinated by Active Travel Unit, Roads Department, Monaghan County Council, assisted by Monaghan Sports Partnership. We got great support from many clubs and organisations throughout the County. We are grateful to the event providers, local cycling shops and cycling facilitators for hosting and arranging the events. From family-friendly activities to heritage cycles, maintenance workshops, and learn-to-cycle events, there was something for everyone to enjoy.





VEX ROBOTICS



First ever Vex Robotics Competitions hosted by Monaghan County Council



Monaghan County Council and CMETB came together in May to launch the 1st ever Vex Robotics V5 competition to take place within the North East area, featuring teams from Louth, Cavan and Monaghan. The event -featuring students from transition year and from Cavan-Monaghan Youth Groups -was coordinated by John McArdle, Broadband Officer, Monaghan County Council and Alan Ryan, Local Creative Youth Co-Ordinator, CMETB.

Following on from this very successful event, Monaghan County Council also ran the 1st ever Vex Robotics IQ competition for primary schools within the county. More than 200 pupils came to Corcaghan Broadband Connection Point (BCP) to participate in another robotics competition which gave the children the opportunity to design, build and drive Vex IQ robots.

The Vex Robotics programme offers students of all ages a gateway into STEM learning and STEM development. The importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education for children cannot be overstated. It serves as the cornerstone for fostering critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and innovation, preparing the youth for the challenges of tomorrow's world. Among the myriad of tools available, VEX Robotics emerges as a beacon, offering a hands-on approach to developing crucial STEM skills.

VEX Robotics can also nurture essential skills beyond the realms of STEM. Collaboration, communication, and teamwork take centre stage as students collaborate on projects, exchange ideas, and troubleshoot together. These interpersonal skills are invaluable assets in our connected world, as we develop children for success in their engineering and academic endeavours.

The opportunity to participate in VEX Robotics competitions provide a platform for students to showcase their collective ingenuity and creativity. By designing, building, and coding robots to tackle various challenges, children not only grasp theoretical engineering and design concepts but also gain practical insights into how to develop solutions to resolve these problems.



PLANNING



Built Heritage Projects 2024

In 2024 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 9 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 2024. In addition, 4 new projects were allocated a combined total of €95,000 under the HSF in 2024. St Macartan's Cathedral was awarded €200,000 in 2023, which is a two-year project, the remaining €100,000 will be recouped in 2024. In addition, one of the HSF 2023 projects was deferred to 2024. There will be a total HSF allocation of €205,000 to be recouped in 2024. The Planning Section will continue to administer both built heritage funding schemes in 2024.

Shanco Church

Before Repair



After repair



Mount Demense

Before Repair



After repair

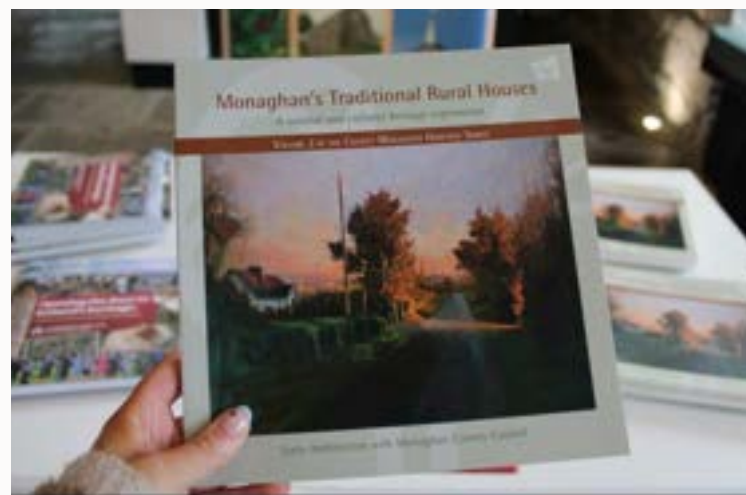


Heritage Section

Monaghan County Council Heritage Office launches book - Monaghan's Traditional Rural Houses

Monaghan County Council celebrated the launch of the book - 'Monaghan's Traditional Rural Houses' in the Market House in Monaghan on 17th April. The book was launched by Cathaoirleach - Councillor David Maxwell, with an address by Chief Executive Robert Burns and an illustrated talk by Conservation Surveyor Noel Carney. The book, presented by Heritage Officer Kara Ward is the second in the County Monaghan Heritage Series and is a celebration and a call to action.

Monaghan's Traditional Rural Houses is a beautifully illustrated book with artwork by Kate Beagan and laden with images of Monaghan's wonderful traditional buildings. It shares the inspiring stories of people who have taken on the challenge of successfully restoring some of these buildings and highlights how they can accommodate modern family life and be a comfortable, vibrant and rewarding space. It is hoped that this book will inform, inspire and ignite action. Copies will be available at local libraries. For further information contact the Heritage Office.





ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Completion of upgrade Works at Diesel wash Storage Compound at Scotch Corner.

Completed Compound at Scotch Corner..



In late February upgrade works were completed at the Scotch Corner facility on the diesel laundering waste storage compound. The works involved the provision of a covered steel-frame type structure over an existing bunded concrete hardstanding area. Prior to the works being carried out, the waste was stored out in the open, but the erection of the structure will protect the compound from the elements and will result in less contaminated liquid waste being generated on site which in turn will result in a reduction in the overall treatment costs. The works were carried out by locally based contractor Pat Denning and Company through €75,000 funding which Environmental Services secured from the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications.

Environment Fund

The environmental fund grant scheme for 2024 closed on the 1st of March. This fund aims to support local community groups to enhance and maintain public spaces. Applications to the fund will be presented for consideration by the members at the Council meeting in May. The total budget under this fund for 2024 is €70,000.



Litter Management Plan 2024 - 2026

One of the main priorities for 2024 will be the development of a Litter Management Plan 2024 - 2026. The plan will address the negative impacts of litter in the county and aim to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of its residents. The old litter Management Plan 2021 - 2023 is currently being reviewed.

Submission of the 2024 RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) Plan to EPA.

In February 2024, Environmental Services formally submitted the annual RMCEI workplan to the EPA. The RMCEI Plan is a very detailed document which outlines in significant detail our proposed enforcement and regulatory work under the national priorities in the waste, water and air, thematic areas. In addition to the 2024 plan, detailed reports and data outlining the work that we carried out in 2023 were also submitted. For 2024 the national environmental enforcement priorities were used to help inform the development of our RMCEI plan.

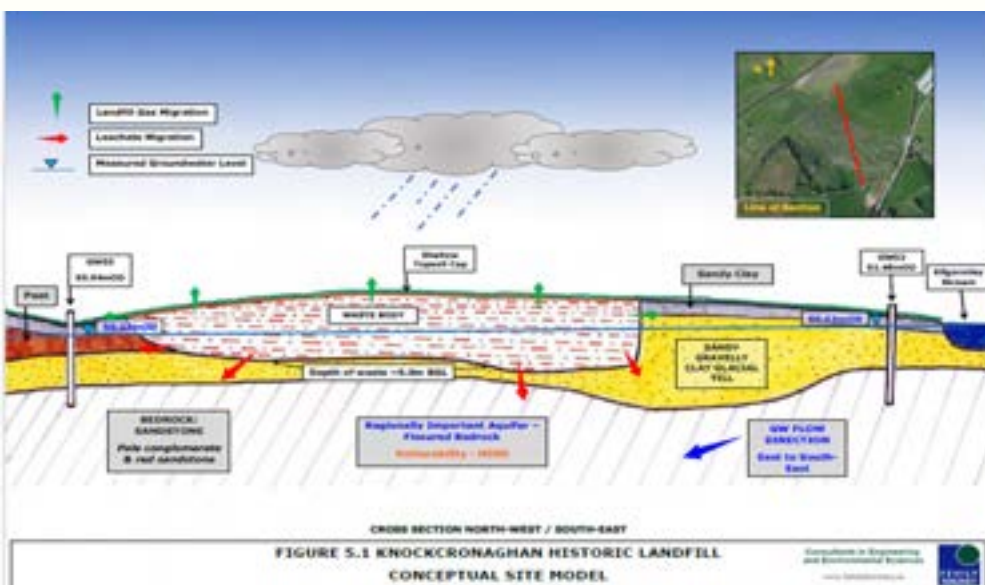
Both the RMCEI plan and RMCEI returns form the basis of the annual EPA assessment that the Agency carry out annually. The 2023 assessment published by the EPA in Q3 2023 indicated that Monaghan County Council achieved an 85% score whilst the national average was 59%.

National Environmental Priorities
Water - Improving Water Status in all waterbodies
Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards)- slurry/soiled water collection and storage
Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks
Discharge Licences / Misconnections
Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring
Air - Protecting public health and to improve and maintain air quality
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
Waste - Improving waste management and protecting our environment
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



Historical Landfill Works

Environmental Services has continued to make good progress in relation to the authorisation of the closed landfills within the county. In April, Monaghan County Council secured planning approval from An Bord Pleanála under Sec 177 of the Planning and Development Act for proposed closed landfill remediation works at the old Killycronaghan site located close to Smithboro. This is the first of the 5 historical landfills in the county to have been given planning approval for proposed remediation works. At the end of April a second application to An Bord Pleanála was lodged for the Killycard site outside Castleblayney.



Closed landfills are defined as landfill 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.

The current status of the closed landfills in the County are summarised in the table below.

Site	Current Authorisation Status
1. Killycronaghan	Environmental Risk assessment and site investigation works completed. Certificate of authorisation granted by EPA. An Bord Pleanála planning approval secured in April 2024. Next step is to seek funding to progress detailed design and preparation of tender documents in 2025.
2. Killycard	Environmental Risk assessment and site investigation works completed. Certificate of authorisation granted by EPA. An Bord Pleanála planning application lodged in April 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 Q4 2024. October 2023. Certificate of Authorisation application to be lodged with EPA in q2 2024.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project

Environmental Services are nearing completion of work on the “Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project” . This is a project that the Water Quality team has been working on since 2022 in conjunction with local environmental consultants Hydrec. This project was developed by our water team in late 2021 in response to local stakeholder concerns in relation to the “Bad” Water Framework Directive Status of Lough Muckno. The main objective of the project was to gather detailed scientific data to identify what was contributing factors of pollution in the lake, what we could do to help address it, and to determine how long it would take Muckno to recover. Part of the works involved taking sediment cores from the lake in conjunction with a team from NUI Galway. The coring allows changes in water quality in the lake to be tracked and will allow lake recovery times to be predicted based on current pollutant inputs into the Lake.

The project also included an 18-month programme of monitoring of the lake tributaries to determine the “current” pollutant inputs to the lake. The findings of this project will subsequently help inform the development of an Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Plan which is the approach proposed nationally through the River Basin Management Plan. The ICM approach will help identify the significant issues in the catchment and help focus on implementing the right remedial measure in the right place as we strive to improve water quality in Muckno.

Outcomes as a direct result of our work to date include the following:

- Lough Muckno is likely to be included as a “Project Area for Action” in the new River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 which is due to be published shortly
- Cross-border partners are interested in working with Monaghan County Council on potential funding opportunities aimed at improving water quality.
- Work to date has gained national attention and interest, with staff from Monaghan County Council presenting on same at national EPA seminars.
- Results to date have provided staff with a better understanding of the changing status and the unique characteristics of Lough Muckno which may also help improve the understanding of other similar lakes in the “Cavan/Monaghan” area
- Findings are assisting Environmental staff in identifying appropriate and targeted measures for water quality improvements which will also benefit biodiversity and climate change in the catchment area.



An Taisce- Green Schools Activity

The EAO programme of works so far in this year included:

- Meeting schools to discuss the green schools programme through presentations on various environmental topics.
- The EAO provided a local school with some native trees to plant as part of their Biodiversity flag and helped fund a water refill station in two secondary schools as part of their water flag.
- The EAO has been conducting green flag renewal visits and helping schools with their green flag applications.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Green Business Hubs Pilot

Monaghan has been selected on a pilot programme one of five locations within the country to provide intervention through the Monaghan Green Business Hub project to assist Businesses & Workforces

The rationale behind this direct intervention is to increase Recycling Rates with the underlying key message being:

- 70% of the contents of General Waste Bins / Residual Bins should be in the Recycling or Food Waste bin.

Monaghan Environment section have proposed to look internally at how we deal with our own waste and to work with local businesses, waste collectors and secondary schools and support staff within these entities in relation to the following.

- 1.To prevent and reduce waste generated, including food waste.
- 2.Increase Waste Segregation & Reduce Contamination - to segregate waste efficiently into recycling, and food waste and general waste.
- 3.Reduce littering.

Toolkit Assets

The Green Business Hubs aim is to:

- Create Green Business Networks
- Bring business together.
- Elevating sustainability
- Foster environmental & economic opportunities
- Contribute towards Irelands transition to Circular Economy
- Create Partnerships
- Engage Stakeholders
- Disseminate Good Practice
- Promotion of the MyWaste.ie Commercial Waste Toolkit – See Example below



Introduction of HVO fuel into the Councils fleet.



Monaghan County Council’s Environmental Section has recently taken delivery of a new Ford Ranger for use by the division.

This new equipment is being fuelled by HVO, which stands for Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil which is one of the cleanest burning fuels available on the market today. It’s a synthetic, advanced renewable diesel that reduces up to 90% of net CO2 and significantly reduces nitrogen oxide (NOx), particulate matter (PM) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions.

Monaghan County Council is committed to delivering works across the county in a green and sustainable manor as it strives to reduce the Local Authority carbon emissions.



CLIMATE ACTION

Launch of the Climate Action Plan (2024-2029)



The new Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan was officially launched by Cathaoirleach David Maxwell on the 26th of March. The launch event, held in the Hillgrove Hotel, was well attended by elected representatives, community and business leaders and the council wide climate action team.

The Climate Action Plan, which was adopted unanimously by councillors at the February full council meeting sets out how, for the period 2024-2029, Monaghan County Council will continue to build on and incorporate climate actions, including climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation, in day-to-day service delivery.

Monaghan County Council aims to reduce greenhouse gases within its operations by 51% by 2030. Additionally, the ambitions of the Climate Action Plan are aligned to the Government's national climate objective which seeks to achieve the transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The plan, developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders sets out key actions that will support County Monaghan in its transition to becoming a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

The actions of the plan not only look at how Monaghan County Council can transform its own operations and services, but also addresses what other organisations the Council can partner with and what supports it can give to local communities and individuals.



The Climate Action Plan sets out actions to support residents, communities, and businesses in the Monaghan Town 'Decarbonising Zone' in implementing climate actions and benefiting from climate action investment.

The potential benefits of the Climate Action Plan extend far beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The implementation of this plan will support investment in renewable energy, green infrastructure and sustainable transportation and can create new employment opportunities within the county, fostering economic growth and prosperity.

The Climate Action Plan sets a clear path for Monaghan to transition towards a low-carbon, sustainable future, while also fostering innovation, inclusivity, and prosperity for all residents. The Council encourages community members, businesses, and organisations to actively engage with the plan and contribute to its successful implementation.

To view the plan and the summary leaflet please visit the dedicated Climate Action Plan webpage by using the link <https://monaghan.ie/environment/monaghan-county-council-climate-action-plan-2024-2029/>



MONAGHAN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE



Monaghan's 1st Youth Biodiversity Conference May 2024

Friday 24th May saw Monaghan's first ever Youth Biodiversity Conference where 60 children from 8 primary and secondary schools across the county came together to 'Make Monaghan a Better Place for Biodiversity.' An extraordinary day ensued which saw the children partake in a full day of talks on biodiversity topics, hands-on interactive sessions, outdoor sessions, an art 'graffiti wall', and culminated in a live owl and raptor show to finish the day. The children's participation was exemplary and they clearly had lots to say about biodiversity in Monaghan, proposing planting more trees, creating meadows, protecting habitats, ensuring clean water, protecting species among many other suggestions. An extremely worthwhile day was had by all, and the feedback from schools and students was resoundly positive.



Certificate of Participation





MONAGHAN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE



- Workshops for schools, libraries & festivals.
- Classroom & garden resources.
- School garden design.



Ireland's leading biodiversity

www.BiodiversityinSchools.org organisation



MONAGHAN BLUE DOT



Pictured below are some images from the launch of the Scotstown "Blue Dot" River Project. Children from Urbleshanny NS and St Josephs NS, Knockatallon had great fun meeting the inhabitants of their local river!

A Blue Dot River is one that has reached the highest levels of water quality and the Scotstown River is one of only a few rivers in the country to have reached this goal ! This project is a great example of working together to protect the "Blue Dot" status of the Scotstown River





MONAGHAN BLUE DOT



May fly for fishing



CORPORATE SERVICES

Annual Co Council Awards

The 17th Monaghan County Council Annual Awards Ceremony took place on Monday, 08 April 2024 in the Hillgrove Hotel. The members of Monaghan County Council initiated this Scheme back in 2003 in order to give due recognition to those individuals/groups in County Monaghan who have excelled in the areas of Sport, Arts/Culture, Youth, Community, Environment/Heritage. The Awards Scheme permits Monaghan County Council to publicly acknowledge them for their contribution to our society and to show them that their efforts have not gone unnoticed. 15 individuals/groups were presented with awards on the night by Cathaoirleach David Maxwell. Well done to all.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Gaeltacht Scholarships Awards Night 2024

Bhronn Coiste Gaeilge an Comhairle 40 scolaireachtaí ar daltaí meanscoile chun freastal ar Colaistí i rith an Samhraidh.

Ádh mór orthu!

Coiste na Gaeilge awarded 40 part scholarships to students from throughout County Monaghan at an award ceremony in the Garage Theatre on 11 April 2024. The students will partake in both 2 week and 3 week college courses during the summer months, to improve their Irish language skills.

The Coiste wishes them well. Buíochas do Muineachán le Gaeilge agus Monaghan as a bheith comhpairtech.



Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta





Monaghan Town Library



Monaghan Branch Library opened its doors to the public once again on Monday 13th May at its new home in Monaghan Peace Campus. The library had been closed for just 7 weeks to allow for the relocation from its old home on the North Road to the state of the art facility known as the 'Peace Campus'. This included the movement of over 30,000 books as well as various pieces of technology.

Whilst it was expected that readers would flock to the new location to explore the premises and exchange their books, the number of visitors who did arrive exceeded all expectation. 5,175 people visited across the opening week. This is a significant increase on the average daily total of approx. 350 per day in the North Road premises. The number of visitors is expected to grow as opening hours extended to include late evening until 8pm on Monday & Wednesdays. Saturday opening will resume in the coming weeks.

Book Clubs, Chess Clubs, Crosswords & Croissants, Yarnery Army Knitting & Crochet club, Toddler Storytimes, Creative Café's and much more will also be up and running soon.





Library News



Monaghan Branch library is open to all members of the public. You do not need to be a library member to visit. Everyone is invited to call in, have a look around and relax in the beautiful surroundings of this modern library space. If you do decide you would like to become a member, it's completely free. All you need is ID and proof of address to sign up. You can start borrowing straight away and remember there are no longer any fines for overdue books.

Ballybay Branch Library @ Birch Court

Monaghan branch library wasn't the only library to get a new home recently. The library in Ballybay has also relocated. You'll find the new location in Birch Court on Main Street. Look out for our colourful window display if you are unsure where Birch court is located. The new premises have allowed us to expand services in the town to include access to Public PCs, Free WiFi, printing, Scanning & Photocopying facilities. This new location is a temporary home as we work towards developing our new permanent home in Ballybay Market house which will offer the people of Ballybay and it's surrounds a modern 21st century library service & community space.

The Summer Reading Challenge @ Monaghan County Libraries

The Summer is fast approaching, and we are gearing up for our annual Summer Reading Challenge. This year we are hoping to recruit 3,000 children who will challenge themselves to read up to 8 books across the months of June, July & August. The Summer reading Challenge is a wonderful way to keep literacy levels up and avoiding what's known as the 'Summer Slump' in reading levels.

The Summer Stars reading challenge will also be complimented by a programme of activities across the County. Details of our Summer events will be available In-Branch, online and on our social media pages.



Tourism

Presidential Visit



Glaslough Tidy Towns assisted by Monaghan County Council were delighted to welcome President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina to an event to celebrate Glaslough's success on winning the 2019 National SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. The village looked great, the weather stayed fine and an enjoyable day was had by all.



Tourism

Presidential Visit



Rossmore Forest Play Park extension

Minister Heather Humphreys recently turned the sod for the extension of Rossmore Forest Play Park. This project received funding of €150,000 under the Community Recognition Fund 2023 and will pave the way for even more fun and laughter for children of the area and further afield. Also in attendance at the sod turning for this exciting development was MCC Cathaoirleach, Monaghan MD Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and Elected Members. The funding will be used to extend the existing playpark to include more play equipment for children from 9-12 years old. A more age-appropriate statement piece will be added as well as balance beams which will appeal to this age group. The playpark extension will also include more accessible picnic tables and will increase the overall space available to all children, especially during busy periods

DEVELOPMENT OF MONAGHAN TOURISM STRATEGY 2023-2028

The new Tourism Strategy for County Monaghan 2023-2028 was launched in early April. The strategy comes at a time when there are significant challenges in the tourism industry and it identifies a series of actions which are designed to enhance the potential of tourism as a key driver of County Monaghan's economy. The inaugural meeting of the newly formed Tourism and Recreation Forum for Co. Monaghan was held in conjunction with the launch of the new Tourism Strategy. The integrated forum structure is anticipated to become an enabler for the coordinated delivery of tourism products, services, and experiences to realise the ambition of the strategy



COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE



Healthy Ireland

The Round 4 2022-2025 Healthy Ireland Fund is an outcomes-based programme with two priority outcomes identified in County Monaghan. Outcome one identified was; An increase in adults and children meeting the daily physical activity guidelines, and an example of the projects being facilitated under this outcome is the Planet Youth initiative which is being delivered by CMETB for teenagers in post primary school settings to increase their daily physical activity levels in a social environment.

Outcome two identified was; A decrease in the number of people showing negative mental health, and an example of one programme being facilitated under this outcome is a parent support group project being delivered by Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre. The programme provides appropriate supports for children with additional needs and their siblings to provide a holistic, family centred support network as well as providing parents/caregivers with an appropriate space to come together and share experiences and form a peer support network.



There are several programmes under both outcomes being delivered by project partners across the county, with consideration given to those who are in disadvantaged communities and in the hardest to reach target groups. The Healthy Monaghan Steering Committee will meet again at the beginning of May to review the progress of the current programme of work and identify additional projects which are aimed at those in the key target groups and demonstrate the greatest return in respect of the outcomes identified.

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

Monaghan County Council has been awarded €25,000 from Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the 2024 Comhairle na nÓg programme of work. The allocation will continue to support the development of Comhairle na nÓg for County Monaghan and will resource its annual work programme. The priority theme of the 2024 programme is a lack of infrastructure. The Comhairle na nÓg team are planning a Let's Talk event in mid-May to get the views of other relevant stakeholders on infrastructure across the county.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Department's Community Centres Investment Fund

On Friday 19th April, Minister Heather Humphreys visited Rockcorry to inform them of the outcome of their application to her Department's Community Centres Investment Fund. This fund was open only to state bodies and the minimum size of project was €1 million.

The Rockcorry community had been working towards constructing a new community centre since before the pandemic, and had managed to raise funds through a Night at the OsKars and a Lord Mayor campaign. However, with the spiralling costs of construction, it was looking like the dream would slip beyond reach.

Monaghan County Council worked with the community to put together a funding application to the Community Centres Investment Fund. The Council agreed to act as Lead Partner to the application.

The community will receive a fully finished community centre worth over €2.9 million. Facilities will include a main hall capable of seating 570, a stage and green room, a social room, and two large meeting rooms which open out to overlook the GAA pitch to the rear of the centre. Car parking is also included in the project.

As lead partner, Monaghan County Council will now progress to prepare tender documents and procurement, then will project manage the construction of the building. Project management will include managing all payments to the contractor, preparing claims to the Department for reimbursement of money spent, and carrying any costs associated with bridging finance while awaiting reimbursement. This will significantly ease the burden of delivery on the volunteers associated with the project.

It is hoped to have the project completed by end 2025.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Monaghan Alerts

Subscriptions to the Garda alert service within Monaghan Alerts now stand at over 1100. Remember, you can sign up to receive this free service either by text, by email or to an app on your smartphone.



It's easy to register: simply go to www.alerts.monaghancoco.ie and click register! If you're already a subscriber to the Monaghan Alerts service, but would like to add the new Garda Alerts service to your account, visit the same page as above, but select the 'Login' option, then change the settings on your account and tick the box to say you wish to receive the garda alerts. You will need to select an area of the county you wish to receive alerts for. And that's it – you're subscribed!

Paper-based registration forms are available at all Council public desks and library branches. Simply fill in your phone number and tick the alerts you wish to receive, sign, then send it back in to us. We will enter it on the computer for you.

Monaghan Alerts is a great way to keep informed of urgent alerts on things like road closures, boil water notices, severe weather warnings etc. as well as keeping informed of any criminal activity in your area. Help us to help you – join Monaghan Alerts today!

Pride of Place 2024

We are very excited to announce that Monaghan County Council will be hosting the gala awards ceremony for the All Ireland IPB Pride of Place Awards 2024. We are very honoured to be chosen to host the 22nd year of the awards, which is open to local authorities throughout the island of Ireland. The competition seeks to recognise excellence in community development in a wide variety of categories across the social spectrum. This year features a wide range of population categories, and other categories including Creative Communities, Inclusive Communities, Community Youth Initiative and Climate Action & Biodiversity, which also feature in the Cities competition.

Last year the competition saw 101 entries from 34 local authorities. It is expected that over 500 representatives from community groups and councils across the island will gather in Monaghan in November, when we hope to showcase all that is great about Monaghan, and why we are so proud of our place.



ipb pride of place 2024
in association with Co-operation Ireland

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Local Enhancement Programme

Minister Humphreys was back in Monaghan on Monday 22nd April to announce funding for 102 community groups under her Department's Local Enhancement Programme. This programme was managed locally on the Department's behalf by Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The Chair of the LCDC Cllr Cathy Bennett and the LCDC's Chief Officer Nicola Payne were on hand to support the Minister as she congratulated a packed Corcaghan Community Centre on the work that is being done by volunteers all around Co. Monaghan.

The programme was open to groups for projects of a capital nature, such as refurbishment works to a building, purchase of equipment and small construction projects. In total, €130,960 was given out, of which €22,480 was ringfenced to support women's groups. Sixteen women's groups were successful in receiving funding, which marked a big increase on the number of groups which came forward for funding under this measure last year. As chair of Monaghan Women's Assembly, Cllr Bennett remarked that she was very encouraged to see the increase in the number of women's groups coming forward to seek assistance.

The groups have until the end of 2024 to spend their funding and submit evidence of their expenditure to Monaghan County Council, who will be administering the programme on behalf of the Dept and LCDC.

County Outdoor Recreation Plan

The recently established County Tourism & Recreation Forum has agreed to oversee the development of the Plan. The Forum was established arising out of the consultations conducted around the production of the new County Tourism Strategy, and includes representation from activity providers and organisations involved in outdoor recreation.



Funding of €30,000 has been secured from the Department of Rural & Community Development to produce a County Outdoor Recreation Plan. This follows on from the publication of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy last year, which instructed each local authority area to set up a County Outdoor Recreation Committee and prepare a County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Eventually, resources will come from the Department to employ an Outdoor Recreation Officer. In the meantime, funding has been offered to make a start by preparing our first Plan.



MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



Monaghan Sports Partnership's community-based programmes kicked off on January 14th with a Winter Woodlands Wellness Walk in Rossmore Park. The walk was led by leader, Paddy Sherry who was accompanied by Paul Bond, with both men regaling the participants with an explanation of the meaning behind the wonderful 'Giant' sculptures dotted throughout the park as well as some fascinating stories on the history of Rossmore. The walk was attended by 21 participants.



Women in Sport Week took place 4th-11th March



Women in Sport Week is a Sport Ireland initiative to promote and encourage increased participation by females, in sport and physical activity. Monaghan Sports Partnership organised the following activities -
Tennis taster sessions at Carrickmacross Tennis Club & Coral Leisure. 28 women & teen girls took part and will continue into a 6 week programme
Get Into Golf Programme started in Rossmore Golf Club with 10 women signed up to take part in the 6-week programme
Badminton taster sessions in Carrickmacross & Drum. 15 ladies attended to try Badminton for the first time.
Kayaking sessions at Lough Muckno with Castleblayney Outdoor Adventure Centre – over 50 women took part in the self guided session (25 of whom had not used the amenity before)

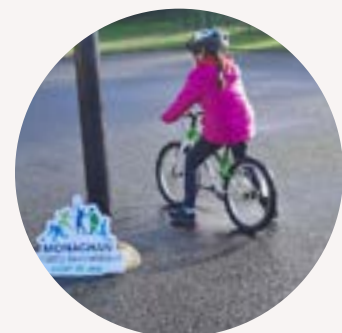
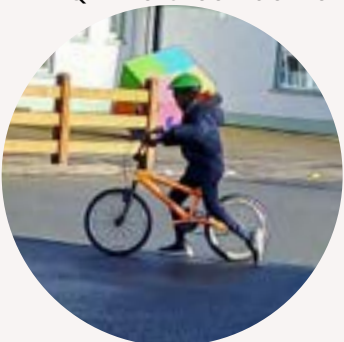
Inclusive Cycling

In Q1 Bike Green delivered cycle training over a 5 week period to children in autism supported services within the following primary schools;

- St. Tiarnach's NS, Clones,
- Threemilehouse NS,
- Corracrin NS,
- Edenmore NS,

Scoil Mhuire NS, Clontibret,
Castleblayney Convent Junior NS,
with a total of 36 children taking part.

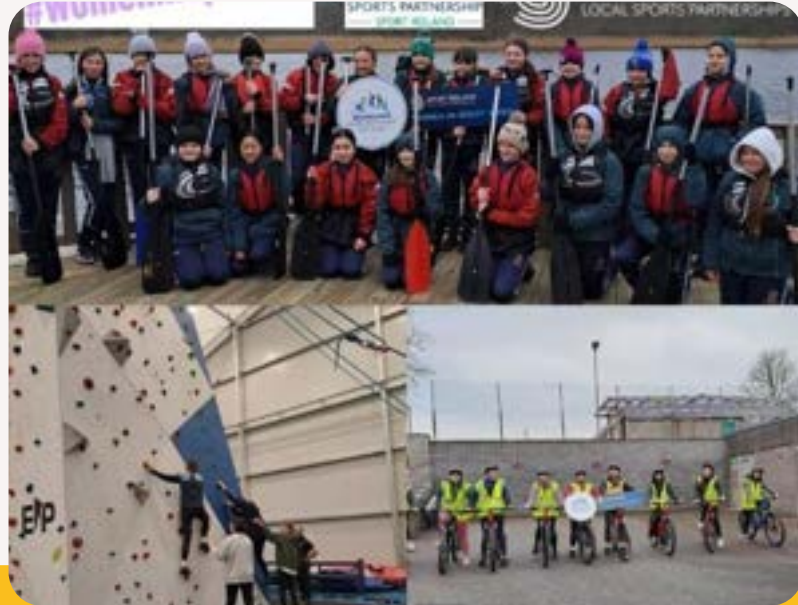
This programme is supported through HSE Section 39 funding



MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



A number of teen girls activities took place during 'Women in Sport Week, including— Mountain Biking & Rock Climbing at Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre and Kayaking at Castleblayney Outdoor Adventure Centre with 180 teens taking part School Marathon Relay - Over 300 students from St.Louis Secondary School Carrickmacross took part in the School Marathon Relay event delivered by Fitter Younger where each girls running distance was added up until they reached the distance of Marathon 26.2miles.



Inclusive Dance Class

Dance was the order of the day (for 6 weeks) with a group of very enthusiastic services users from local adult disability day services.

The energy and laughter in the room was fabulous. Participants were invited and encouraged to pick the song list each week and the tutor brought a fun and energetic dance routine to match.

Due to demand and the positivity of this class, there has been a request to continue the classes for an additional period

23 people attended from 4 local day services



Alzheimer's Support Group

Monaghan Sports Partnership is delighted to assist the Monaghan Alzheimer's Social Group with a tutor to facilitate Exercise to Music and Boccia. Up to 20 people attended the classes over a six week programme, made up of service users and a family member or carer. The staff and carers have really enjoyed the fun atmosphere at the group sessions.

One family carer said—

"I am so happy to be able to enjoy exercise and music with my Dad here, I did not think we would do anything like this together again."

Active Adult 50+ Group Activities

Monaghan Sports Partnership is supporting physical activity for adults community groups across the County. This Spring has seen a vast and varied range of activities happening with 10 groups commencing activities across the month of February. Over 200 participants engaged in activities as part of the programme. There was a wide range of activities taking part such as chair exercises, yoga, line dancing, exercise to music and Pilates.



MONAGHAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



Inclusive Gymnastics

We are delighted this year to introduce a new programme to schools with Autism supported classes. Inclusive Gymnastics has been very well received by the schools and in particular, by the children, with fantastic feedback. Two schools took part in quarter 1; St Oliver Plunketts NS Loughmourne and Scoil Mhuire Clontibret with 43 children enjoying the classes over the 4 week period.

The programme is supported through HSE Section 39 funding.

Quote from a teacher—

"It is amazing how well the children enjoyed the classes and the improvement was obvious.

The tutor was excellent and kept everyone engaged and having fun"
Football



Football For All

In Q1, Monaghan Sports Partnership continued our partnership with the FAI and the Inclusive Football For All Programme. Due to the popularity of the programme and increased demand, we added another tutor to bring sessions to more schools. The programme was delivered to children attending the Autism Supported classes in the following primary schools— St. Daigs NS, Inniskeen, Doohamlet NS, Corracrin NS, Scoil Mhuire Clontibret, Threemilehouse NS and St. Tiarnach's NS Clones with approx. 80 children taking part. This programme is supported through HSE section 39 funding.



Municipal Districts

Ballybay & Clones

Market House Ballybay, Signing of Contract for Multi-disciplinary Design Team – RRDF

Monaghan County Council has successfully acquired the Market House in Ballybay through the Rural Regeneration & Development fund Scheme 2023 and have appointed a multi-disciplinary design team.



Gaeltacht Scholarship Awards 2024

At the April Ballybay/Clones Municipal District meeting the annual Gaeltacht awards were presented to students from Largy College and Ballybay Community College which will enable these students to attend a residential Gaeltacht course during the summer of 2024. Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sean Gilliland presented these awards on behalf of the Elected Members of the Municipal District.



Presentation of scholarship awards by Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Municipal Districts

Ballybay & Clones

Public Realm Enhancement & Active Travel Projects

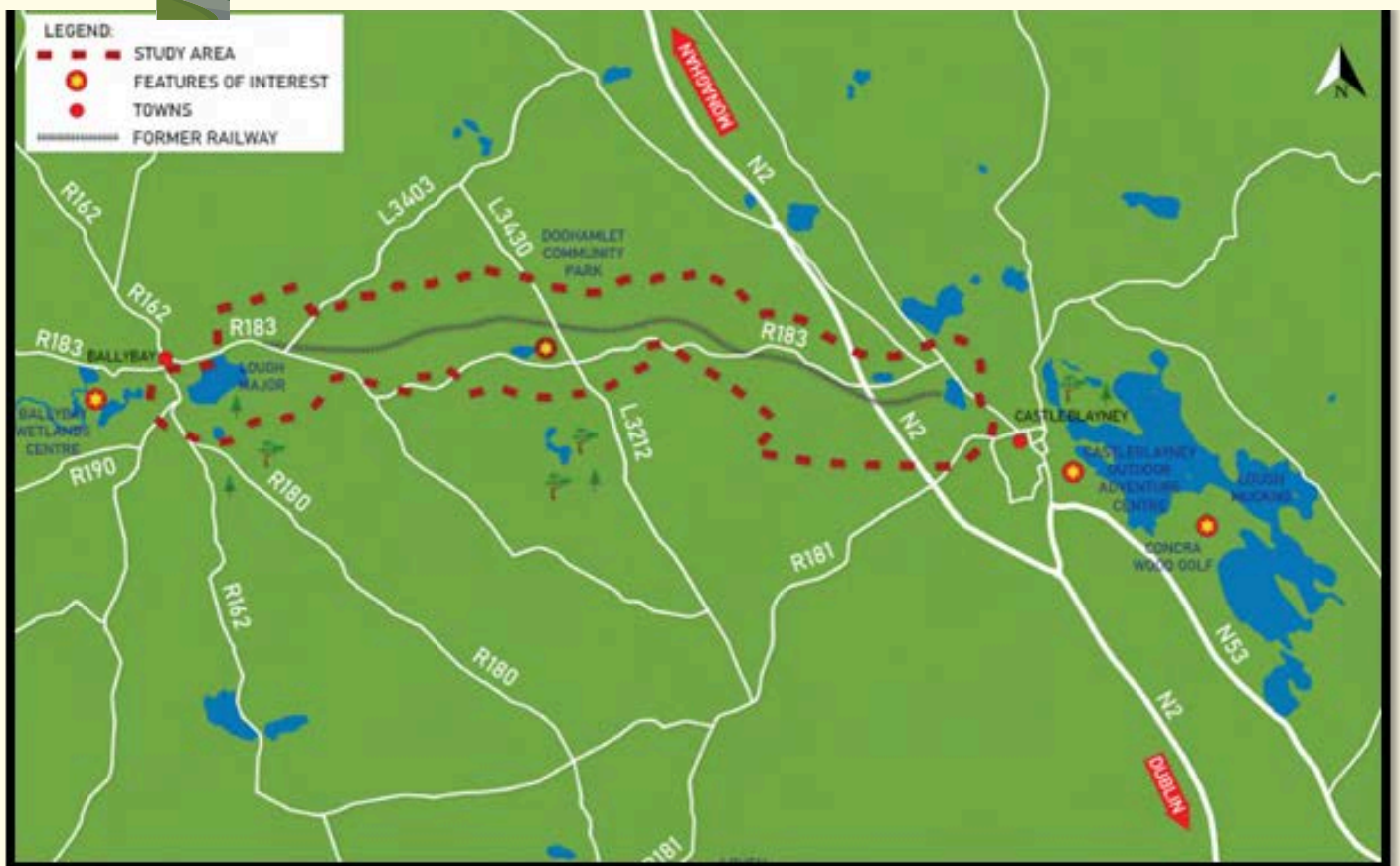
Part 8 Planning is progressing for the Town & Village Scheme 2021, Public Realm Enhancement, which will consist of infrastructural improvements to improve carparking, traffic flow and pedestrian facilities, works will focus on the Ball Alley & Diamond Area in Clones Town.



Site visits were undertaken to ongoing works in the MD Active Travel Schemes, Clones Peace Link AT Scheme, Clones – Tirnahinch Road Footpath and Clones – Cannons Lane Footpath



Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway



Ballybay to Castleblayney Greenway project development is funded through ORIS and match funded through the MD. Monaghan County Council have carried out feasibility studies and prepared an option selection report to find the most appropriate route corridor for this project, an indicative route corridor has been developed. Public consultations were undertaken in March with landowners impacted. Public consultation events have been ongoing throughout this process with the Municipal District housing Study Area Public Consultations and Route Option Selection Consultations.

Municipal Districts Ballybay & Clones

Dartrey Forest Park



Dartrey Forest Park, turn of the sod, recreational enhancement – ORIS 2021 & 2022

Dartrey Forest Park received funding totalling €400,000 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and match funding will be provided by the Municipal District of Ballybay/Clones.

This is a momentous occasion as Monaghan County Council turn the sod to embark on the exciting recreational enhancements of Dartrey Forest Park. These enhancements will provide endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, fun, relaxation and visitors experience.

Dromore Blueway Public Information Evening



Monaghan County Council (MCC) commissioned C.S. Pringle to develop infrastructural proposals for a Dromore River Blueway (Ballybay to Lisnalong).

As part of these proposals, MCC and CS Pringle provided members of the public with an opportunity to view the proposals at a public information event which took place in Scoil Éanna, Ballybay On Wednesday, 7th February 2024

Municipal Districts

Ballybay & Clones

50th Anniversary Commemoration for the life and service of the late Senator Billy Fox

The Ballybay/Clones Municipal District on behalf of Monaghan County Council together with Christ Church Aughnamullen and Latton/Bawn Community Groups hosted the 50th Anniversary Commemoration for the life and service of the late Senator Billy Fox on Sunday 28th April.

The day commenced at 1pm in Senator Billy Fox Memorial Park, with the laying of wreaths and then moved onto Christ Church, Aughnamullen, for an ecumenical service & the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. Events concluded with refreshments hosted by Latton GAA.



Municipal Districts Ballybay & Clones

50th Anniversary Commemoration for the life and service of the late Senator Billy Fox

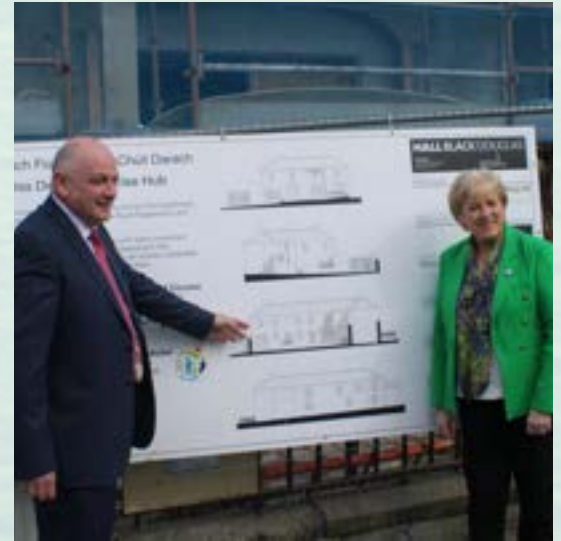
A wreath laying ceremony took place in Billy Fox Memorial Park in Derrygoony followed by a church service at Christ Church, Aughnamullen.

After the ceremonies, Latton O'Rahilly GAA Club provided great hospitality for everyone. Taoiseach Simon Harris and Minister Heather Humphreys attended this event and President Michael D Higgins was represented by his aide-de-camp, Colonel Stephen Howard



Municipal Districts Ballybay & Clones

Newbliss Enterprise and Digital Hub is currently under construction. This €2.7 million project is funded through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), with match funding being provided by Monaghan County Council.



Municipal Districts Monaghan

Hollywood Park

Hollywood park is one of Monaghan's great outdoor facilities attracting people from all over the region. It is operated by the local community.

The works were grant funded under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Funding scheme and match funded from the Municipal District of Monaghan.

Works include new picnic areas, stepped seating area, stepped access points to the lake, new easier accessible path, resurfacing of the existing paths, replacement of all the seating and picnic benches, new interpretation and orientation signage



Municipal Districts

Monaghan

50th Anniversary of Dublin & Monaghan Bombings

Friday 17th May 1974 remains a date marked deep in the minds and hearts of our nation and of our town, a day of unimaginable pain and loss.

Friday 17th May 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the terrible set of events that constitutes the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings. A wreath laying ceremony was held in Church Square in Monaghan. President Michael D Higgins and his wife, Sabina, attended the ceremony, laying a wreath at the monument for the seven people who lost their lives in the 1974 bombing in Monaghan town. Hundreds of people gathered at Church Square in the centre of town, just metres from where a no-warning car bomb exploded on the evening of 17 May 1974.

At 6.58pm, church bells rang out across the town, marking the precise time of the blast. An evening of poetry and prayer, speeches, plaintive music and song fashioned a poignant tribute to those who died, those who suffered and those still suffering trauma from the events of 17th May 1974.



Municipal Districts Monaghan

50th Anniversary of Dublin & Monaghan Bombings



Municipal Districts

Monaghan

St Patrick's Day

Monaghan MD St. Patricks Day Awards
Best Float incorporating the Theme including:
Category & Winner

- Best Band – St. Macartan's Pipe Band
- Best Commercial Float – Comblift
- Best Community Float- Monaghan Men's Shed
- Best Float incorporating the Theme
- – Slieve Beagh ASC, Monaghan Special Olympic Warriors
- Best Window incorporating the Theme – Dirty Fabulous
- Best Window incorporating Gaeilge – Missy A's



Municipal Districts

Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD

Great news for the county and in particular the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District as Monaghan County Council signs contracts for the Carrickmacross Workhouse Community, Tourism & Arts Hub, Phase 1 project and the carrying out of a Feasibility Study and Strategic Assessment for the provision of a Swimming Pool and Leisure Complex in Carrickmacross Town.

Following an announcement of an €11 million grant allocation towards the redevelopment of the historic Market House in Castleblayney, there was more cause for optimism for the wider south Monaghan area with the signing of the contracts for the Carrickmacross Workhouse Community, Tourism & Arts Hub, Phase 1 project and the Feasibility Study and Strategic Assessment for the provision of a Swimming Pool and Leisure Complex in Carrickmacross Town.

Having secured a "Category 2" (project development) grant allocation of €288,608.00, under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, Monaghan County Council was pleased to award the contract for the development of a construction-ready masterplan for the Carrickmacross Workhouse site to Cooney Architects Limited.

Monaghan County Council in partnership with Farney Community Development Group (FCDG) plan to restore in full the Carrickmacross Workhouse site and develop a new multipurpose Community Hub to cement its future as a focal point and centre for social, community and arts services in Carrickmacross town and the South Monaghan area. The original Workhouse building was leased by FCDG from private developers between 2003 to 2019. During that time, and since, FCDG has secured investment of in excess of €2.2 million to restore the front building and manage the 28 no. community and social services currently based there.

The project provides a holistic, planned approach to the economic and social development of the town and its hinterland, building on the investment and partnership between the Council and the community. The development of an overall plan to guide the complete restoration and redevelopment of the derelict buildings and 6-acre site for community use will transform the area and provide a sustainable template for development into the future.



Roads & Transport



2024 Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) Update



Annually, since 2020, Monaghan County Council have undertaken paving trials on Regional and Local Roads throughout County Monaghan using Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) materials from National Road projects. Continuous monitoring has been ongoing on these trial sites, with the materials performing well. The testing and monitoring of the roads have been documented and reported to TII and the Department of Transport. The projects have identified significant benefits economically, socially, and environmentally compared to tradition road rehabilitation methods. Monaghan County Council are the national leader spearheading the project. In the 2023 trial undertaken near Emyvale, each local authority was invited to attend a site visit showcasing the benefits of this type of road construction

TRA Conference

The Transport Research Arena (TRA) is Europe's largest Transport Research and Innovation Conference. The research from the RAP trials was summarised and presented by the Monaghan County Council-led project team at the TRA conference under the Circular Economy and Lifecycle Cost Analysis (LCA) topic. The TRA conference gathers individuals and organisations in the shared pursuit of knowledge and innovation in transportation and mobility. TRA2024 provided a shared opportunity to push the boundaries of our knowledge and chart new territories in transport research. It was a significant achievement to present the research and work completed by Monaghan County Council on the most prominent European Stage available.

DUBLIN 2024
10th CONFERENCE • 15-18 April



Traceability APP

A key learning for the previous trials was the need to be placed on stockpile management. Monaghan County Council in conjunction with a third party app developer, Hub360, have produced an app that monitors and tracks the movement of road plannings, a by-product of road improvement schemes used as an aggregate in RAP materials. This app will help the quality assurance and environmental control and fulfil EPA Article 27 obligations as part of the successful RAP trial in 2024. As we advance, this app's development focuses on tracing the material leaving the site after it is processed and recording the location where it is laid on site. The traceability provides a complete cradle-to-grave assessment of the material, calculating the total environmental impacts and CO2 emissions while fulfilling Monaghan County Council obligations regarding a circular economy.

2024 Regional Trial

Due to the success of the previous trials undertaken in County Monaghan, the RAP trial is being regionalised to share knowledge, reduce costs and increase sustainability at a national level. RAP resurfacing projects will occur in Cavan, Monaghan Louth and Cork. The procurement has been completed, and the regional project's testing phase has commenced.



The construction activities will be completed throughout the four local authorities in the summer of 2024. Under Section 86 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Monaghan County Council has been appointed as the procurement and project lead responsible for delivering the works across the four local authorities.

Roads & Transport



**ZERO
EMISSION**



Monaghan County Council recently took delivery of two new Peugeot ePartner. These new EV's have further added to the council's fully electric fleet. It is a requirement that all Local Authorities act as exemplars in their efforts to reduce Carbon Emissions. These new EV's are evidence of Monaghan County Council's commitment to reducing harmful emissions and battling the effects that carbon has on global warming. The new vans are now working in the county to service the needs of our Traffic Warden and Dog Warden.

Introduction of HVO fuel into the Councils fleet.



Monaghan County Council has recently invested in the purchase of new equipment for use in surface dressing of the county roads.

This new equipment is being fuelled by HVO, which stands for Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil which is one of the cleanest burning fuels available on the market today. It's a synthetic, advanced renewable diesel that reduces up to 90% of net CO₂ and significantly reduces nitrogen oxide (NO_x), particulate matter (PM) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions.

Roads & Transport



Introduction of HVO fuel into the Councils fleet.



Monaghan County Council is committed to delivering works across the county in a green and sustainable manor as it strives to reduce the Local Authority carbon emissions.

HVO fuel is also currently being used in the Velocity pothole patcher and the environmental teams new 4x4 pickup.

