

Municipal District of Monaghan

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Co Monaghan on Monday, 15th July 2024 at 11am

Chair: The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Conlon presided.

Present: Cllrs. Cathy Bennett, Bronagh McAree, Seamus Treanor, Raymond Aughey, Pauric Clerkin and David Maxwell.

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

1. Confirmation of minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. Bennett, seconded by Cllr. Maxwell, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 21st June 2024 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

The following updates were provided from Matters Arising:

- There is funding available for a low cost safety scheme in Scotstown and the proposal will be in line with the Traffic Calming Policy.
- The TII and Roads Section are dealing with the proposed pedestrian crossing at the Peace Campus on the North Road, it is planned to be finished in Q4 of this year.
- The TII have advised there will be no continuous white line on the N12 at the Housing Estate in Tyholland.
- Cllr. Treanor proposed and Cllr. Aughey seconded that the MD write to An Garda Síochána regarding speeding on the approach to Monaghan Town from Cootehill Road and Ballybay Road.
- Cllr. Treanor proposed that the MD write to the OPW to ask that the grass be cut at Customs building at Coolshannagh.
- The Contractor has given a commitment to have the works in front of The Courthouse finished on Wednesday 17th July.
- Mr. McElwain confirmed he had discussed with the Planning Section and The Hive of Knowledge can be relocated to another location that the Members agree on subject to sightlines and accessibility being maintained. The Executive is to bring proposals back to the members.
- For any groups interested in using the space in front of The Courthouse there is an Expression of Interest Form which must be completed and submitted to the MD office.
- Monaghan County Councils solicitor is currently working on the Casual Trading Bye laws, a draft copy will be distributed to Members when they are ready.
- Monaghan MD agreed to research suitable age friendly seating with a back for the area in front of The Courthouse.
- The Green artificial grass will not be put down again in the area in front of The Courthouse.
- Following Cllr. Bennetts emergency motion requesting the immediate suspension of a member of The Defence Forces she is delighted to see he has been expelled from The Defence Forces and congratulated the women of Ireland for standing firm.

- Members were advised that the Executive has received numerous requests for traffic speed surveys and that these surveys are being conducted on an ongoing basis subject to staff resources.
- There are no further updates on the Bog Road out of Scotstown. Signs have been erected to warn drivers of bumps on the road.

3. Coordinators Report

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

- An update on the costs of Park Street/Market Street Streetscape painting is being finalised by the architects and when ready it will be provided to the Members.
- Mr. McElwain agreed with Members that the return of The Country Music Festival is welcome. As a section of the Lower Courthouse carpark will be closed for parking due to the Amusements the MD will direct people to The Broadroad and The Peace Campus carparks, all parking spaces at The Broadroad Carpark can be used for long term parking for the duration of the Amusements. The MD arrange the road closures for the festival.
- Clarifications were provided on what was proposed for the Halloween festival.
- It was proposed by Cllr. Maxwell and seconded by Cllr. Conlon to speak in Committee regarding the Country Music Festival.
- Regarding the CCTV in town Mr. McElwain advised a maintenance contract was built into the tender.

Roads

- Mr. McElwain has been advised by the Roads Section that the current estimate is that the construction of the Glen Road Culvert will be completed by September 2024.
- In relation to a proposal to extend the new Broad Road car park into the convent grounds, Ms. Monahan advised that a Master plan and an options report on the Convent grounds is currently being prepared, which can consider this issue, and the draft reports will be brought to Members when available.
- Mr. McElwain advised the steps at The Broad Road Carpark onto The Broad Road are subject to works by the ESB. The Council put these works back to avoid traffic delays earlier in the year. The ESB were scheduling these works for August.
- It was proposed by Cllr. Conlon and seconded by Cllr. Aughey to speak in Committee regarding the Glen Road culvert.
- Mr. McElwain advised that the consultants have been appointed to take the Emyvale Road Safety project through detailed design, planning and construction stages. He has no date for the construction as the project is with the TII and the Roads Section.

Active Travel

- Mr. McElwain will request an update on the draft options report for the Monaghan Town Cootehill Road.
- Mr. McElwain stated discussions with landowners on the Clontoe Road are critical for the Ballinode to Scotstown link.
- Mr. McElwain to request an update regarding completion of the laneway from the Hillgrove hotel to the Greenway.

Monaghan Town Team

- It was proposed by Cllr. Aughey and seconded by Cllr. Bennett to speak in Committee.

4. Questions and Motions

Cllr. Cathy Bennett asked:

1. Can the Monaghan Municipal District please address the following issues in Ballinode Village. The footpaths in the Village are uneven and need resurfacing? There is algae growing on the footpaths. There is a need for the drainage system to be blown out and cleaned. Can a dog warden please visit the village on a regular basis as there is an issue with dog fouling on the footpaths? Can signs please be erected to alert Dog owners of the fines that can be incurred for Dog fouling on footpaths?

Response:

The Municipal District will assess the items raised and will add any required works to the schedule of works for completion.

The Dog Warden visits all towns and villages in the county on a regular basis and speaks to people who are out walking their dogs to advise them of their responsibilities to keep their dogs under control and to clean up if their dogs foul the footpath. He regularly hands out free poop bags to dog owners.

2. Can the Monaghan Municipal District please give me an update on traffic calming measures in Scotstown Village. What are the plans for the Village as this needs to be addressed urgently?

Response:

Traffic calming proposals for the Knockatallon and Roslea Roads Scotstown have been drafted in line with the current Traffic Calming Policy. In addition to this, traffic counts have been completed on the Ballinode Road at St Dymphna's Terrace and traffic calming proposals have been drafted for this location. It is expected these measures will be installed during Q3 2024.

3. Can the Monaghan Municipal District please provide me with information regarding any possible funding opportunities that they have applied to for the Sliabh Beagh area?

Response:

Monaghan Co Council have been involved in discussions with Peace Plus, the Shared Island Unit and Failte Ireland in relation to capital funding for tourism developments on Sliabh Beagh. We anticipate further engagement over the coming weeks.

4. Can Monaghan County Council please consider the need for ramps outside Tots to Teens childcare facility in Scotstown? Tots to Teens childcare and Urbleshanny School have in excess of 500 children using this road and footpath daily and the need for traffic calming measures on this road needs to be urgently addressed.

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. Has the Monaghan Municipal District assessed the need for more safety measures between the Sliabh Beagh hotel and the Soccer pitches. Can you please update me?

Response:

This location is on the schedule for traffic counts to be carried out. It is expected that this count will be completed in the next month.

Cllr. Seán Conlon asked:

1. Considering that 12 months have passed since the Draft Casual Trading & Farmers Market Byelaws first came to the attention of the elected members, and that this issue has been raised almost continuously since that time, when is it planned for this matter to go to public consultation, and in the interim, can the Farmers Market return to their original home in front of the Courthouse?

Response:

The Municipal District have engaged our solicitors to complete the draft Casual Trading & Farmers Market Byelaws. A number of drafts have been reviewed and considered. It is envisaged that the draft document will be ready for presentation to the members in the next few weeks. Following agreement with the members the draft byelaws will go to public consultation.

It is planned that the Farmers Market will return to Church Square this Friday 19th July with the Church Square, Destination Towns project to be substantially complete this week.

2. What progress is occurring in reference to my previous questions regarding the deficit of street lighting in Glaslough, and my proposal to install 5 streetlamps within the village environs from Barrack Hill to the Caledon Road / New Line junction that will substantially enhance road user safety?

Response:

The Municipal District have carried out an initial assessment of this road and note that a footpath would need to be considered along the road to provide a safe space for pedestrians to walk, and funding sourced to pay for installation of the footpath & street lighting. Only a small section of the road provides the connection of Lisbanagher to the village and there are public lights on the section of road. We are waiting on the public light contractor to assess these lights and provide a proposal detailing any necessary changes. Note the contract to maintenance/provide public lights is due to end this month and has been retendered. It is currently in a formal procurement process.

3. Following my previous questions relating to road safety issues in the Latlorcan residential areas, what progress is occurring in relation to my proposal for traffic calming measures?

Response:

The Municipal District have assessed this location and considered traffic calming measures within Latlorcan Estate adjacent to the playpark. It is expected that these measures will be installed in Q3 2024 subject to funding.

4. Following my previous question submitted to the March 2023 agenda aimed at enhancing road user safety at the entrance to the Latlorcan housing estates and Bogue's garage on the old N2 / Dublin Rd., what is the update on my proposal seeking the installation of a pedestrian crossing at this location?

Response:

The Municipal District have carried out an assessment and a traffic count to determine the appropriate pedestrian crossing for this location. Designs are currently on-going on a suitable pedestrian crossing arrangement taking consideration of the various constraints in this area. It is expected that a design and accompanying Road Safety Audit will be completed within the

next 2 months. Substantial funding is required to complete the project and has still to be sourced.

5. For the purpose of enhancing the historical and heritage experience for visitors to Rossmore Park, what initiatives are progressing aimed at promoting the unique architectural features throughout the park including the Rossmore Mausoleum that has been substantially refurbished through voluntary efforts and Council funding in recent years?

Response:

The Tourism Section currently have an application in under PEACE Plus for restoration of the Walled Garden.

The works on the restoration of the mausoleum, which were undertaken by the council over the last two years have been substantially completed. These works were funded from the Department under the Historic Structures Fund and match funded by Monaghan Municipal District.

The council completed consultation, designs and the installation of 3 new trails in Rossmore Forest Park in 2022, Silver Lakes Trail, The Lost Castle Trail and the Nature Trail. The Castle Trail features and promotes many of the historical features of the park.

Cllr. Bronagh McAree asked:

1. Could Monaghan County Council please consider adding Rd. L1220/2 to the roads programme. Residents have highlighted the poor condition of the road and high volume of traffic on the road due to St. Macartans?

Response:

The multi annual Road Program 2024 -2027 was agreed and adopted by the members in November 2023. The addition of a road to the Roads Programme is a reserved function of the Elected Members. This road can be assessed when the road program is been updated.

2. Could Monaghan Municipal District please consider the need for traffic calming measures at knockonan L5210? This stretch of road facilitates Knocknonan NS, Church, Cemetery, Errigal Truagh Special Needs, the site for the new Blackwater valley Rural enterprise and Digital hub as well as the housing estates of Oisimbriain and Oisinvale.

Response:

This road will be assessed, and consideration given to speed limit reduction for this stretch of road.

3. Can Monaghan Municipal District please provide me with an update on speed monitoring ongoing in Mullan village?

Response:

Following an assessment of Mullan village additional road marking works were completed in Mullan village in May 2024.

4. Can Monaghan Municipal District please consider the need for traffic calming measures on Mullan, Emyvale village L1200?

Response:

The Municipal District are considering additional signs /lines for this section of road which are planned to be completed in Q3, 2024.

5. Can Monaghan Municipal District provide an update on any developments re sewage systems at Oisimbriain and Oisinvale, Emyvale? Has an application been submitted for funding for the decommissioning of standalone Developer Provided Infrastructure?

Response:

The wastewater treatment systems at the two estates are Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI). As such, maintenance of the infrastructure rests in the first instance with the Owners Management Company (OMC), in which all homeowners are shareholders. With effect from 1 January 2024, Uisce Éireann have been assigned responsibility for the remediation of DPI infrastructure. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has indicated that given the scale and complexity involved with many of the instances of DPI across the country, it will take time to resolve all locations and that a range of resolution options are likely to be considered and used.

In the case of Oisimbriain and Oisinvale, a lack of maintenance of the infrastructure has recently given rise to conditions that raise both public health and environmental concerns. MCC's Rural Water section has initiated emergency maintenance measures, including desludging, to alleviate the immediate issues, and are undertaking further assessments to ascertain the nature and scale of the issues. Staff have also met with representatives of the OMC and outlined to them their responsibilities under their discharge licence, as well as outlining areas in which MCC will facilitate and support them in resuming essential maintenance and in liaising with Uisce Eireann to expedite the remediation process, until such time as full Taking In Charge (TIC) can be progressed. A further meeting with the group is also planned. MCC applied to the Department's DPI remediation scheme in 2019 in relation to these estates and was unsuccessful in receiving funding. MCC has undertaken to make further enquiries to see if there is scope to reapply to the scheme currently.

Motions:

That this Council write to the Connections and Developer Services at Uisce Eireann, and also to the Water Finance Section's Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Resolution Unit within the Department Of Housing and Local Government, seeking to immediately resolve the long-standing issue of rural residential area waste water treatment plants including but not exclusive to Oisinvale and Oisimbrian, Emyvale County Monaghan for the purpose of enabling the Taking-in-Charge by Monaghan County Council.

**Proposed by Cllr Bronagh McAree
Seconded by Cllr Seán Conlon**

Emergency Motion:

That this MD write again to the HSE and ask if additional dentists and orthodontists will now be employed following the lifting of the employment embargo.

**Proposed by Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Seconded by Cllr. Sean Conlon**

5. Correspondence

Letter from the HSE dated 26th June 2024, reply to MD letter May 2024/4, Request for HSE to address the lack of access to GP, dental and orthodontic services in Monaghan Town.

6. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathies

It was proposed that the sympathy of the Council be extended to Nicholas Boylan and The Boylan family on the passing of their sister Geraldine Armstrong.

It was proposed that the congratulations of the Council be extended to Cllr. Sean Conlon on becoming a grandfather and welcoming Baby Babet into the world.

It was proposed that the congratulation of the Council be extended to Monaghan Tidy Towns and the Council Staff on the recent IBAL result whereby Monaghan Town achieved the accolade of 2nd cleanest in the Country.

7. A.O.B.

Emergency Motion:

That this MD write again to the HSE and ask if additional dentists and orthodontists will now be employed following the lifting of the employment embargo.

Cllr. Cathy Bennett

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

Pedestrian Crossings

Cllr. Conlon received representations from a member of the public regarding the pedestrian crossing at St. Marys Boys school not working.

Ms. Monahan confirmed that it is working.

Cllr. Treanor advised one of the buttons on the pedestrian crossing at Old Cross Square is not working.

The MD will check out these pedestrian lights.

Outdoor Dining

Cllr. Maxwell stated that Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD had waived the charge for outdoor dining in that MD and that this had been reported in The Northern Standard. He asked if an invoice had issued to the Westenra Hotel on foot of the Monaghan MD's decision to levy a charge, and it was confirmed that the invoice had issued. Cllr. Maxwell enquired why CMX-CB MD had been able to waive charges in their MD while Monaghan was imposing a charge. Ms. Monahan said that the Monaghan MD charge was reached following a debate on the matter by the Monaghan members at the May meeting. The Executive had presented the fee information and advised the members of the provisions of the Monaghan MD Pay Parking bye-laws regarding use of car-parking spaces. If a charge for car parking spaces was imposed, the total fee would come to €10,200.00. It was noted during the meeting that the proposed charge should be reduced to reflect the national decision to waive the per table charge, which had been recently announced. The members proposed to further reduce the charge to €4,600. A vote was taken on this proposal, and it was agreed. The Executive subsequently implemented the members decision and issued an invoice for the agreed amount.

Mr. McElwain stated this matter can be brought back to the Members within the 6 months period as detailed in the Standing Orders.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this 15th day of July 2024.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator