

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan Municipal District held in Monaghan Fire Station Training Room on Monday, 16th September 2024 at 3.15pm

Chair: Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean Conlon

Present: Cllrs. Cathy Bennett, Bronagh McAree, Seamus Treanor, Raymond Aughey, and David Maxwell; Cllr Pauric Clerkin joined via MS Teams

In attendance: Patricia Monahan, Director of Services, Donal McElwain, Municipal District Co-Ordinator, Ruairi O'Neill, Executive Engineer and Liz Brannigan, Administrative Officer

The Members welcomed Liz Brannigan to the Municipal District of Monaghan, to the role of Administrative Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 15th July 2024

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Bennett, seconded by Cllr. R. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Municipal District meeting held on 15th July 2024 be confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

The Executive provided the following updates:

Re-location of the 'Hive of Knowledge': Executive to determine a suitable location

The derelict portacabin located on the grounds of the Customs Office at Coolshannagh: it was agreed that the Executive would investigate.

Casual Trading Bye-Laws: To be discussed at meeting in October.

Outdoor Dining: To be placed on Agenda for October meeting.

Low-Cost Safety Scheme: Mr. R O'Neill advised that the designs for traffic calming measures on the Knockatallon, Roslea, Smithborough and Ballinode Road in Scotstown were complete and that the designs had been reviewed by an independent Road Safety audit. Works are expected to be completed before the end of Oct.

Bus shelter at Knockconan, to go through the process with the NTA before a decision can be made.

Outdoor staff to address the issue of blocked storm drains around Monaghan town.

The need for verge cutting at Tommy Martin's Fuels was raised; Executive to inspect.

Concerns were raised regarding access for businesses on the Mall Road during current roadworks.

3. Report from Municipal District Co-Ordinator

Mr. D. McElwain took Members through the report. The members noted the September report which had been circulated with the agenda. The Coordinator and Director of Services responded to queries from the Elected Members.

The Members extended thanks to Council staff, Monaghan Harps GAA and Coral Leisure for their assistance and support in accommodating visitors to the Harvest Time Blues Festival.

In response to a query raised regarding the possibility of a campsite for motorhomes in Monaghan, Ms. P. Monahan advised 11 potential sites have been identified and will be assessed by a specialist from Graignamanagh who will provide their recommendations on what is possible.

Regarding Destination Towns – Church Square, P. Monahan advised the time for the official opening has changed from 11am to 3pm.

4. Present the Woodview Active Travel Scheme

Mr. Frankie Murphy, Active Travel, gave a presentation to the members which was circulated with the meeting agenda, advising members this Section 38 consists of, amongst other works, a new footpath, raised tables, configuration of roadway to become one way, road safety measures; widening and extending existing footpaths along Woodview, new drainage where necessary, reconfiguration of existing car parking; upgrading of steps from Glen Road to Woodview.

Ms. Bernadette McArdle, Active Travel, confirmed the Section 38 is going to public consultation and will be advertised in the Northern Standard; there will also be a leaflet drop to homes in the Killygoan area.

5. National Speed Limit Review update

Mr. Kevin West, Roads Dept, presented an amended version of the presentation circulated with the agenda, advising Members that the new speed limits will come into effect at End of November 2024 for Rural Local Roads and the first half of 2025 for National Secondary Roads and Urban Speed Limits.

New Guidelines (May) 2024 on priority actions (default speed limits) relating to:

- - 30km/h (Urban Areas)
- - 60km/h (Rural Local Roads)
- - 80km/h (National Secondary Roads)

Mr. K. West advised of next steps:

1. Currently Assessing Tender for Works
2. Tender Award September 2024
3. Awaiting Sign & Poles Delivery to Depots (DOT)
4. Signage Installation Programme November 2024
5. Rural National Secondary & Urban Areas – Q1/2-25

In order to communicate this update to all Members, Mr. West advised he will attend all Municipal District Meetings in September 2024 & the County Council Meeting in October 2024.

6. Questions and Motions

Cllr Seán Conlon will ask:

1. With the ongoing construction of 30 additional houses at Knockcarrick, Annyalla, anticipated for completion by year end, are increased supports and guidance being provided to the Annyalla Enhancement Group aimed at improving village amenities and civil infrastructure such as improved road safety measures and footpaths, community hall improvements?

Response: The Council will continue to support and assist the Annyalla Enhancement Group with their various projects.

2. Following completion of the extensive Church Square Public Realm works, are 'user friendly' seats, i.e. that people can lean back on, scheduled for installation? And has a timescale for the re-installation of the Hive of Knowledge iron sculpture been established, and at what location?

Response: The Municipal District, in conjunction with the Project Architects, are currently considering seating types and arrangements that will provide 'Age Friendly' seating in the Church Square event space. On confirmation of seating details, the Municipal District will be better placed to confirm an installation date.

The Municipal District are considering options for the relocation of the Hive of Knowledge and intend to bring proposals to the Elected Members in November.

3. Following complaints of excessive vehicle speed reported by residents along the Cootehill Road at Cornamundy and Cormeen, and users of recreation and golf amenities in the vicinity, can a traffic speed assessment monitor be installed for the purpose of identifying the need, and what speed reduction measures are necessary, to improve road user safety?

Response: The Municipal District have completed surface dressing works in this area. The Road markings including the word "SLOW" will be reinstated as part of traffic calming at this location.

4. Have Coillte given any indication of their plans to install an accessible toilet block at Rossmore Park?

Response: Coillte are progressing with plans to install accessible toilets. They are currently finalising the feasibility assessment. The Municipal District will be in discussion with Coillte over the next month to assist where possible with this project.

5. Further to my query submitted to the May MD agenda regarding traffic calming measures to benefit drivers exiting Drumbear Wood, has a speed assessment been undertaken? Also, with the aim of encouraging reduced speed on the Cootehill Road and aligning to Active Travel objectives, will this Council consider acquiring a strip of recently cleared land to create a continuum of footpath between Drumbear and The Corran?

Response: The Monaghan Municipal District have recently completed a traffic speed survey along the Cootehill Road, local to the Drumbear Woods Estate entrance. This survey data will be assessed to determine if further traffic calming measures are required.

This location is not part of the current Cootehill Road, Active Travel scheme, therefore it is not planned to acquire this strip of land at present.

Cllr Bronagh McAree will ask:

1. Could Monaghan Municipal District please consider installing a bus shelter for school children on the N2 at Knockconan.

Response: The Active Travel Section are in discussions with the NTA regarding the funding allocation received for bus shelters with County Monaghan. An update will be provided when further direction is received from the NTA.

2. Could Monaghan Municipal District please consider adding traffic control measures to the road in front of the new Meadows estate in Emyvale.

Response: This road will be subject to the National Speed Limit Review 2024/25 and consideration will be given to a speed limit reduction at this location.

3. Could Monaghan Co. council provide an update on proposed bus shelter for Emyvale village.

Response: The Active Travel Section are in discussions with the NTA regarding the funding allocation received for bus shelters with County Monaghan. An update will be provided when further direction is received from the NTA.

4. Could Monaghan Co. Council provide an update on surface works for Oriel Park, Emyvale.

Response: Repairs works to the concrete footpaths with Oriel Park have been added to the Municipal Districts schedule of works and are expected to commence September 2024.

7. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the meeting agenda:

- Response from HSE in relation to Cavan Monaghan Dental Services – dentist & orthodontist posts.
- Letter of thanks from Co. Monaghan Motor Club in relation to their annual charity fundraiser.
- Letter from the OPW regarding uncut grass at the old Customs site at Coolshannagh, Monaghan.
- Response from the office of the Minister for Justice in relation to the attack on Natasha O’Brien and the subsequent court proceedings.

8. Votes of Congratulations and Sympathies

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

- Very Rev Canon Paddy McGinn on his appointment to the Parish of Ballybay (Tullycorbett), Latton (Aughnamullen West) and Rockcorry (Ematris).
- Rev Ian Berry who was instituted as the new Rector of the Virginia Group of Parishes (Billis, Killinkere, Lurgan (Virginia).
- Fr Leo Creelman on his appointment as ADM to Monaghan & Rackwallace, Tyholland and Kilmore & Drumsnatt

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

- The wife and family of Mr. Joe Connolly, Monaghan – former Chairman of Monaghan Tidy Towns
- Mr. Darren Flanagan, Assistant Engineer, Municipal District of Monaghan on the passing of his mother, Margaret.

9. A.O.B.

There were no matters raised under AOB.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Municipal District Coordinator

Dated this _____ day of October 2024