

Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 16 September 2024 at 10.00am

Chair: Cllr C. Bennett, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, S. Conlon, Flynn, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McAree, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor and Truell

MS Teams: Cllrs Carthy, Clerkin, P. Conlon and Gibbons

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

21. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 08 July 2024

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 08 July 2024.

22. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

The following correspondence was received in relation to the N2 National Primary Road Schemes project:

- Email from Ms. Rachel Begley, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, regarding the N2 Ardee to South of Castleblayney Bypass and the N2 Clontibret to the N.I. Border Projects.

Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services gave the following update in relation to the N2 National Primary Road Schemes:

- The Ground investigation contract for the Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme has been awarded and works have commenced. The roads department have contacted the 115 landowners affected by the works which will take approximately 4 months.
- The Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme remains suspended, however, works to improve road safety are ongoing and discussions are underway with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the existing arrangements at the Tullyvar junction to see if it can be improved.

On the proposal of Cllr PJ. O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that this Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland seeking assurance that the €5m allocation is in place for the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme.

23. To receive update on North/South Interconnector project

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

- Letter from Mr. Martin Corrigan, EirGrid, regarding undergrounding the North-South Interconnector.
- Email from Mr. Brendan Smith, TD, regarding the response he received to a parliamentary question in respect of the North-South Interconnector.
- Acknowledgement email from the Department of Infrastructure, regarding the

North-South Interconnector.

- Email from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications regarding funding of the North-South Interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett it was agreed that this Council, in light of the legal opinion requested and circulated to council members some weeks ago which indicated that the North South Interconnector was granted under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, and consequently the 5 years does not apply to the NSI planning approval, and subsequently it would appear there is no limitation in respect of this approval, writes to all Oireachtas members for this constituency requesting they raise the ongoing public concerns and strong opposition to the overgrounding of the North South Interconnector in the Dail at the earliest opportunity, including the apparent no limitations on the planning approval.

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey it was agreed that this Council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure, NI Executive, Mr. John O'Dowd and Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan TD, requesting that they arrange a meeting to discuss the undergrounding of the North-South Interconnector.

24. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

25. Questions and Replies

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

1. What is the latest update in relation to the Feasibility Study and Assessment Report for the proposed Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre for Carrickmacross? And, has Swim Ireland given a definitive date for the operation of their Pop-Up Pool for the town?

Reply:

Monaghan County Council appointed S3 Solutions to prepare a Feasibility Study and Strategic Assessment for a proposed Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre in Carrickmacross. Public & Community / Voluntary / Sports Club consultation surveys were completed by the 9th of August 2024. The feedback received is currently under consideration by S3 Solutions. Monaghan County Council expect a Draft Feasibility Study and Strategic Assessment to be made available to the Municipal District Members in October 2024. The Pop-Up Pool will be operational in mid-September.

2. What is the latest update in relation to the Clos na Droimainne unfinished estate in Carrickmacross? What are the current expected completion dates?

Reply:

The developer has recommenced work on site. On last inspection works were ongoing on access to car park as well as works to the houses. Monaghan County Council continues to liaise with the developer and AHB to get project completed. Latest update from Tuath on delivery is as follows:

Phase 1- 6 units – 30th September 2024

Phase 2 – 6 units – 31st October 2024

Phase 3 – 14 Units – 31st October 2025

3. Will the Council Executive, in conjunction with our Library Services, consider introducing a Sensory Room/Space in each of our Libraries throughout the county to facilitate children with sensory issues? If space is limited or not available in all our libraries, can we look at alternative public buildings/locations?

Reply:

Monaghan County Libraries offers a range of sensory spaces, services and supports for library members. This includes sensory spaces, sensory resources and other sensory services and supports.

Sensory spaces in library branches

Castleblayney: a dedicated sensory room, which can be booked in advance.

Clones: a multi-purpose activity room, which can be configured as a sensory space, and booked in advance.

Carrickmacross: a sensory area in the Children's Zone.

Monaghan: the use of the multi-purpose activity room as a bookable sensory space is being considered. Access to the room as a sensory space would be limited because it is heavily used as an activity space.

Ballybay: the latest architectural drawings for the new library in Ballybay include a dedicated sensory room.

Sensory resources available at Monaghan County Libraries

Assistive toys

Each branch library has a collection of assistive toys that is available to all library members. These are designed to support children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities, or more significant needs. They have been developed by staff of Monaghan County Libraries in partnership with therapists and local parent groups. All items can be used in our sensory spaces in the library and a selection of items are available to borrow.

Tovertafel tables

Tovertafel tables are available in Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Monaghan town library branches. These tables encourage interactive play using a projector and sensors. They are suitable for everyone but especially those with autism and dementia.

Other sensory services and supports

Since 2021, Monaghan County Libraries has delivered a Sensory Stories Programme that is designed to make our libraries more accessible and to improve our services to those with additional needs. See: [Sensory Stories - Library \(monaghan.ie\)](https://www.monaghan.ie/library/sensory-stories)

Monaghan County Libraries works with AslAm, Ireland's National Autism Charity to make our libraries more accessible for people on the autism spectrum. Staff have received autism awareness training. We are also a JAM Card© Friendly Organisation. The JAM Card© allows people with learning difficulties, autism and communication barriers to ask for Just A Minute of patience in customer service situations.

The *museum* is looking at installing a sensory space in the one of the galleries. We will hopefully have it installed before the end of the year.

4. When is it expected work will begin on initiating a master plan for the Convent Avenue (and surrounding areas) in Carrickmacross and will the council consider introducing a greenspace/playing field for multiple sporting activities between the existing Running Track and Carrick Rovers soccer pitches?

Reply:

Monaghan County Council has appointed The Paul Hogarth Company to prepare a concept landscape masterplan for the Convent Lands / Bath Avenue area to the south of Carrickmacross Town Centre. The terms of reference of the proposed Masterplan are centred on the provision of improved foot and cycle linkages to the town centre, the accommodation of the potential expansion of the St. Louis Secondary School and the consolidation of recent investments in sports facilities.

Subsequent to meetings with key stakeholders, a number of options to improve the pedestrian/cycle linkages to the town centre have been developed for consideration. The Executive is currently engaging with key stakeholders in order to identify an optimum solution. These discussions are ongoing and it is hoped that a preferred solution may be identified by Q3 2024.

5. How many housing units are expected to be delivered for social housing before the end of 2024 and will the executive give a breakdown of size and location?

Reply:

In 2024, Monaghan County Council projections are to deliver 111 new social homes in County Monaghan as part of the Housing for All program. Please see Table below for number of units, location and delivery breakdown. The sizes of units to be completed are as follows; 1 or 2-bedrooms 42%, 3 bedrooms 33% and 4 bedrooms 25%. There are a small number of projects that face some minor delays and some of the units may be carried over into 2025 delivery.

Housing For All 2024				Delivery Date	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan (Phase 1a)	MCC	20	Delivered May 2024	10	6	4
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radhairc An Bhri. Bree, Castleblayney (Phase 2)	AHB	2	Delivered May 2024		2	
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan (Phase 1b)	MCC	10	Delivered July 2024	2	8	
Ballybay - Clones	Hall Street, Ballybay	AHB	7	Q4 2024			7
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross	MCC	13	Delivered August 2024	27	3	
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross	MCC	17	Q4 2024			
Monaghan	Kilnactoy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	AHB	16	Q4 2024	6	8	2
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Gleann Droimnin - Part Vs	MCC	4	Q4 2024		4	
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross	AHB	12	Q4 2024			12
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan (Phase 2)	MCC	10	Q4 2024	2	6	2
			PROJECTED TOTAL:	111	Projected €30 million spend		
Countywide	Acquisitions 2024	MCC	16	Q4 2024			
Countywide	Mortgage to Rent 2025	AHB	4	Q4 2024			

Please note an additional 10 properties may be provided in Monaghan Town in 2024 delivery, subject funding approval.

Cllr S Conlon asked:

6. Following the meeting held in July between the Council's Road Section and the National Transport Authority, what infrastructure improvements are being planned arising out of the €500,000 allocation provided through the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. Also, what locations are currently being considered for improvement works aimed at enhancing the public transport experience.

Reply:

Monaghan County Council held a meeting with the NTA public transport section on the meeting on 18th July it was outlined the next steps required by the LA as following:

- **Review the GIS Database and Excel Spreadsheet with a view to providing NTA with a prioritise programme of work.**
- **Consider how this programme of work could be delivered over the next number of years.**
- **Provide an estimate of the funding requirements for 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027**

MCC are progressing with the works listed above and has also submitted a business case to the NTA requesting approval to appoint dedicated staff to manage the bus stop enhancement programme on a permanent basis.

7. According to the Glen Road Culvert Works Programme published in February, excavation and road restoration works for the purpose of culvert installation across both lanes of the Glen Road were due to be completed in August, ensuring traffic disruption would be completed for the return to school.

I ask for an explanation as to:

- a) what has been the cause of delay, evident by the protracted periods of no construction activity on site?

Reply: The precast culverts proposed by the contractor could not be installed at the required design level due to a contractor error. An insitu design was then proposed by the contractor to salvage the installed piles and ground beams. This design has now been approved and works are progressing.

- b) are the original design specifications, including installation of box culverts aimed at reducing flood risk in the area, been altered, and if so, are Council Executive satisfied that maximum flood water alleviation measures will be installed,

Reply: The culvert construction technique has been altered from a precast box culvert option to insitu construction. However, this change in technique does not compromise the original design specification of the flood alleviation works.

- c) due to the extended delays, have additional costs being incurred by the Council, i.e., tax-payers money, that will result in higher project expenditure,

Reply: The delay is a contractor issue and the costs associated with this delay will be incurred by the contractor.

- d) has a revised Works Programme been established that will provide a timescale for completion?

Reply: The contractor has submitted a revised programme. This programme is currently being reviewed by Monaghan County Council. The estimated date for completion is November 2024.

8. What results have followed the water quality testing from the Bathing Waters Sampling Programme undertaken across the nine previously listed sites in the County over the summer months?

Reply:

County Monaghan does not have any designated bathing waters, but we do monitor the areas listed below on a monthly basis from June to September each year.

- Lough Muckno
- Lough Muckno Water Sports Area
- Lough Muckno Black Island Point
- Greaghlonne Lake
- Creevy Lake
- Emy Lough
- Hollywood Lake
- Halton's River (Dromore Lake System)
- Gortnawinny Lough
- Beach area at Lough Major

Samples taken are assessed against the water quality standards specified in the 2008 Bathing Water Regulations, using the two microbiological parameters, Intestinal enterococci, and Escherichia coli (E Coli). To date in 2024, out of 31 samples taken we have detected 2 exceedances of these standards. These microbiological exceedances were on samples taken at Emy Lough and Gortnawinny Lough on the 9th of July 2024.

Following the detection of the poor-quality results at Emy Lough and Gortnawinny Lough on the 9th of July 2024, advice not to swim notices were erected at both locations and circulated on Monaghan County Council's social media. Repeat samples then taken at both locations on the 17th of July 2024, the results of these repeat samples were within permissible limits.

The results of Monaghan County Council's bathing/amenity water monitoring are available to view on the Monaghan County Council website: <https://monaghan.ie/environment/bathing-waters/>

9. What progress is occurring regarding installation of pedestrian safety measures which I have previously sought at locations:

Reply:

a) Peace Campus / North Road

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 i.e. one to the west side of the Lidl entrance and the other is to upgrade the uncontrolled crossing at Flacks Garage. MCC have sent a reminder to TII for a response on this to allow us to progress implementation. We will continue to follow up with TII.

b) R 937 Dublin Road between Bogues Garage and Latlorcan

A road safety Audit Stage 1 & 2 was carried on the proposed crossing at this location. The contents of which are currently be reviewed by Monaghan MD Staff.

c) Road servicing Latlorcan Close, Latlorcan Court, Latlorcan Way

The MD are currently finalising a design for traffic calming measures at these locations. Following completion of the design, a cost to install these measures will be obtained and assessed against available budget.

Cllr S Flynn asked:

10. With regards traffic congestion on the Clones/Monaghan road, can you please confirm if there are plans in place to reduce the impact of traffic congestion at peak times or whether there are plans for the potential of a ring road?

Reply:

A Local Transport Plan (LTP) is currently being prepared for Monaghan Town, which may provide robust evidence of how the introduction of planned Active Travel facilities, public transport hubs/links would benefit from rerouting vehicular traffic (particularly HGVs) away from the urban core, and therefore strengthen the case for a bypass/ring road. Before TII would consider funding a bypass, it must be demonstrated that a high level of Active Travel infrastructure (existing or planned) along the N54 is included in our transport strategy for Monaghan Town, whereby a bypass would relieve the town centre from HGVs and create a less hostile environment for Vulnerable Road Users, not only in terms of road safety but also to reduce air pollution. The LTP is due to be completed later this year.

11. Can you please confirm how many prospective first-time buyers & other eligible buyers submitted an interest in the Affordable Housing Scheme plan? Which towns showed the greater demand? And you please provide an update in relation to the “Ready to Build Grant Scheme”.

Reply:

Monaghan County Council had a great response to the second affordable housing survey. 181 responses were received, indicating a strong interest from the public in an affordable scheme in Monaghan Town. These results will now be used to strengthen the case for an affordable housing application for Monaghan Town to the Department in Q4 2024.

In relation to “Ready to Build” Housing Section is working on a proposal to bring several sites to the market in Monaghan Town and Scotshouse.

12. The Increased Cost of Business Grant (ICOB) has been a very welcomed measure by qualifying small and medium sized businesses in the county, will a similar grant be available in 2025?

Reply:

As of yet, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment have not given any indication as to whether the Increased cost of Business grant will be available in 2025.

13. What financial or grant supports are available to those SME’s not involved in manufacturing or international trade?

Reply:

The Local Enterprise Office can provide financial supports to assist small-scale businesses not involved in manufacturing or international trade in the following areas: -

- **Energy Efficiency Grant: - This is available to any business commercially rateable. Grants of 75% eligible costs available up to a maximum spend of €10,000 are available.**

For further information visit.

[What is the Energy Efficiency Grant? - Local Enterprise Office](#)

- **Trading online Voucher: - The Trading Online Voucher Scheme is designed to assist small businesses with up to 10 employees to trade more online, boost sales and reach new markets. Financial assistance of up to €2,500 with co-funding of 50% from the business. The program also offers training and advice to help a business trade online.**

[Trading Online Voucher Scheme - Local Enterprise Office - Monaghan](#)

*** Monaghan LEO has been informed this scheme will shortly be discontinued.**

- **Microfinance Ireland (MFI) Loans: - Business loans available from €2,000 up to €25,000. Any application made through the LEO office will provide applicants with a discount on the loan interest rate to MFI 5.5% [About Micro Finance Ireland - Local Enterprise Office](#)**

Enterprise Ireland recently launched [National Enterprise Hub \(neh.gov.ie\)](#) which is a single source of information for all government supports for business. Monaghan LEO continues to provide a range of training and mentoring services to all business located in County Monaghan.

14. Please provide an update in relation to the Ulster Canal Greenway, Smithboro - Clones, Smithboro - Monaghan.

Reply:

Both these Greenway schemes are at the same stage and currently undergoing the same flood risk assessment works so the same update is applicable to both schemes.

Update below;

The Stage 3 Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for the schemes is ongoing and due to be completed in September. Information obtained from the FRA will inform the detailed design of the Greenway.

Cllr C Bennett asked:

15. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with the names of playparks under their remit within the county. Can I please have an update on all recent works at playparks as we need to create a plan to improve all playparks and make them more accessible for everyone. Can I also have updates on any new playpark plans?

Reply:

Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of 12 No. publicly accessible playparks as listed below:

	Site	Facility
1	Onomy Walk	Exercise equipment
2	Linear Park	Playpark
3	Cloughvalley	Playpark , MUGA , Skate Park
4	Bree Park	MUGA
5	Drummilard	Playpark
6	Ard Na Lurgan	Playpark
7	Oram	Playpark
8	Lough Muckno	Playpark
9	Bath Avenue, CMX	Exercise equipment
10	Clonseedy	Playpark
11	Convent Lands	Playpark, MUGA, Exercise Equipment
12	Inniskeen	Playpark

For the period January 2023 to August 2024, Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District has invested circa €100K in the maintenance and upgrade of playparks under its

remit. These works have included the repair/replacement of existing play equipment, the provision of new equipment, and the general upkeep of the grounds. There are currently no plans to create any new playparks however, this Municipal District was successful in the receipt of funding for the development of a sensory space adjacent to existing playground in Lough Muckno Park. It is envisaged that these works shall commence in mid Q3 2024.

Ballybay -Clones Municipal District

1	Barry McGuigan Park Clones	Outdoor Gym Equipment
2	Cara Street Clones	Outdoor Gym Equipment
3	Cara Street Clones	Play Area
4	Carn Heights Clones	Play Area
5	Cherry Park Clones	Play Area
6	O'Neill Park Clones	Play Area
7	Mulladuff Smithborough	Play Area
8	Scotshouse	Play Park
9	Scotshouse	Outdoor Gym Equipment
10	An Cluain Bawn	Play Area
11	Ballybay Town Park	Play Area Additional play equipment added in 2024
12	Ballybay Town Park	Outdoor Gym Equipment
13	Corrybrennan Park Ballybay	Play Area Recently upgraded in 2024
14	Cois Hill Doohamlet	Play Area
15	Cois Locha Doohamlet	Play Area
16	Doohamlet	MUGA
17	Crann Mor Rockcorry	Play Area
18	Lisdarragh Newbliss	Play Area
19	Threemilehouse	Outdoor Gym Equipment

Monaghan Municipal District

1	Beechgrove, Monaghan Town	
2	Orielway, Monaghan Town	Refurbished in the last 5 yrs
3	Killygoan, Monaghan Town	Refurbished in the last 10 yrs
4	Ard Glas, Monaghan Town	MUGA
5	Cluain Lorcan, Monaghan Town	
6	Belgium Park, Monaghan Town	Football field & MUGA
7	Drumbearwoods, Monaghan Town	New Playground
8	Ballinode, Monaghan Town	
9	Oriel Park, Emyvale	Refurbished in the last 10 yrs
10	Ardbannagher, Glaslough	Refurbished in the last 10 yrs
11	Oaklands, Glaslough	Refurbished in the last 10 yrs
12	Corlat, Knockatallon	Funding obtained 2024 to carry our minor refurbishments/repairs

16. Can Monaghan County Council please update me on the Sliabh Beagh partnership and funding opportunities. Has the Sliabh Beagh been included in the Managers report under Tourism for future updates.

Reply:

The next meeting of the Sliabh Beagh Partnership Committee is scheduled for 4 September in Clogher, Co Tyrone. The Shared Island funded feasibility study was submitted in December 2024 for consideration for capital funding and there has been on-going liaison with the Shared Island Unit and Failte Ireland in this regard in the intervening months. When there is an update on the project, this is then included in the Manager's Report.

17. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with an update on the number of people on the Housing Waiting List in County Monaghan. Can this please be broken down to show the numbers waiting to be housed, the numbers receiving the Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) and the numbers on the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

Reply:

As of 20.08.2024 there are 1,050 Approved applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List.

- **497 in HAP supported Private Rented Accommodation.**
- **66 in RAS supported Private Rented Accommodation.**

18. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with an update on the number of applicants waiting on the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and a breakdown of when these should be completed.

Reply:

There are currently 29 applicants remaining on the 2017/18 LIS. It will take approximately 5-6 years to complete these lanes based on the current funding allocation. There are 255 applications waiting to be assessed as part of the reopened LIS application process in 2024. An approximate completion date cannot be provided for these 255 applications until they are initially assessed.

19. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with a list of Festivals and Shows that received funding from Monaghan County Council in the last year and the amount that was given to each.

Reply: FESTIVALS & EVENTS FUNDING 2024

Arts (Up to August 2024 - further funding may be allocated thereafter)		
Various artists	Traditional Music Book Launch	€1,150.00
Ceol Connected	Festival Support	€1,500.00
Garage Theatre	Programming support	€19,000.00
Iontas Theatre	Programming support	€22,000.00
Blayney Drama Festival	Festival Support	€3,000.00
Feile Oriel	Festival Support	€2,500.00
Clones Film Festival	Festival Support	€11,000.00
Muckno Mania	Festival Support	€3,000.00
Music Generation	Partner Contribution	€30,000.00
		€93,150.00
Community Development Funding		
Ballinode Community Projects Ltd	Family Fun Day - On the Road to Ballinode Festival	€1,000.00

Carrickmacross Toy Library	Micro festival in Carrickmacross at Lough Fea	€1,000.00
Carrickroe Community Centre Company Limited By Guarantee	2 day event "Party in the Park" at Carrickroe Community Centre	€1,000.00
Castleblayney Agricultural Show CLG	Printing and providing our annual show schedule and show catalogue	€3,000.00
Castleblayney Annual Fair Day Committee	Contribution to cost of Annual Fair Day	€1,000.00
Countryfest.ie	Funding that would support the event	€1,000.00
Monaghan Town Music Festival CLG	Support Irish Country Music Festival	€1,500.00
Taste of Monaghan	Christmas Street Food Festival.	€1,500.00
Carrickmacross Camera Club	Run a public photography exhibition in Autumn-theme "A slice of life" in CMX	€500.00
Clones Chamber Of Commerce CLG	Annual Christmas lights switch on in Clones Town.	€350.00
Clones Famine Graveyard Committee	Event support	€500.00
Different Keys Choir	Support event at Garage Theatre.	€500.00
Doochat Accordion Band	Annual picnic event on 19th July 2024. Transport from and to our annual 12th of July parade.	€500.00
Drum Accordion Band		€500.00
Druminan Flute Band	Support Annual "picnic"	€500.00
Greenan's Cross Development Committee	Reunion of the last pupils who attended Greenan's Cross N.S.	€500.00
Inniskeen Whist Club	Major Whist Drive in Community Centre.	€500.00
Kilmore Swanns Cross Community Alert	Social dinner evening in the Hillgrove Hotel to bring elderly neighbours together.	€500.00
Monaghan County Board Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann	Funding for Monaghan Fleadh	€500.00
Monaghan County Ploughing Association	Hold a county ploughing match at the Plough Association event.	€500.00
Mullan Village Tidy Towns & Community Development	Village open day, factory tours and art events to be run as part of heritage week.	€500.00
Mulladuff Residents Association	End of summer family fun day on Mulladuff Green for the whole community.	€500.00
Mullyash Community Daycare centre	To Provide refreshments and music for the Blaeberry Sunday walk.	€500.00
O'Neill Park Residents' Association	Annual community barbecue which will be held in the communal green space.	€500.00
Real Housewives Donaghmoynne	1 night a month to run evenings on Nutrition values, mindfulness, cookery demonstrations	€500.00
Rockcorry Dartry Community Alert	Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Party	€500.00
Scotshouse Festivals Committee	Purchase of the Christmas lights for 2024 and beyond.	€500.00
Smithborough Tidy Towns	Family friendly Santa Christmas Disco party event in early December.	€500.00
Spudfest Alternative Music Festival	To assist with the cost of an alternative music festival.	€500.00
St. Dymphna's Church Hall Ballinode Co / Tydavnet Parish Church	Assist with costs of holding their annual barbeque in June 2024.	€500.00
		€21,850.00
Tourism		
MCC Festival Fund		
Dracula Festival	Festival Support	€2,000.00
Winter Feile Oriel	Festival Support	€2,000.00
Monaghan Town Country Music Festival	Festival Support	€2,000.00

Back to Castleblayney Festival	Festival Support	€1,000.00
Macra Na Feirme 80yr celebration	Festival Support	€1,000.00
Muckno Santa Experience	Festival Support	€1,000.00
Big Tom Memorial Weekend	Festival Support	€1,000.00
Failte Ireland Festival Funding		
Muckno Mania	Festival Support	€2,500.00
Harvest Time Blues	Festival Support	€2,500.00
Agri-Tourism Scheme Funding (Dept)		
Monaghan Street Food Festival		€4,000.00
Christmas Market Monaghan		€4,000.00
Mushroom Festival		€2,000.00
		€25,000.00
Ballybay Clones MD		
St Patrick's Day Parade Clones	Festival Support	€2,000.00
St Patrick's Day Parade Ballybay	Festival Support	€1,925.00
St Patrick's Day Parade Newbliss	Festival Support	€855.00
Billy Fox Memorial	Festival Support	€25,389.00
Ulster Final Festival Day	Festival Support	€12,000.00
Angling Festival Ballybay	Festival Support	€320.00
Music Festival	Festival Support	€5,000.00
Contribution to Clones Golf Classic	Festival Support	TBD
Halloween Festival Clones	Festival Support	€1,250.00
Christmas Lights Ballybay	Festival Support	€15,834.00
Christmas Lights Clones	Festival Support	€9,926.00
Christmas Lights Newbliss	Festival Support	€1,986.00
		€76,485.00
Creative Monaghan	(other events organised by Creative Monaghan directly)	
Tradoodle Festival	Programme Support	€8,000.00
Mushroom Festival	Support for Workshops etc	€6,000.00
		€14,000.00
Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD		
CMX Christmas Lighting		€10,000.00
Carrickmacross Festival	Festival Support	€16,000.00
Muckno Mania	Festival Support	€7,400.00
Castleblayney Regeneration Team	Small events funded via annual contribution to Regen Team	€10,000.00
		€43,400.00
Monaghan MD		
Monaghan Town Team Funding	Town Team contribution	€15,000.00
St Patricks's Day Parade Monaghan	Organised & funded directly by MMD	
Feile Oriel	Festival Support	€6,000.00
Summer Street Food Festival	Festival Support	€7,000.00
Harvest Times Blues	Festival Support - MCC	€40,000.00
Christmas Lights Switch-on	Festival Support – TBD for 2024	€7,500.00
Christmas Street Food	Festival Support – TBD for 2024	€2,500.00

Note: MMD also assists with Road closures and provides MMD staff for certain festivals

€78,000.00

Cllr P Gibbons asked:

20. How much did Monaghan County Council pay in compensation for public liability claims over the past 3 years. What percentage of these claims were settled?

Reply:

Public Liability claims include potholes, damage to vehicles, personal injuries including slips, trips and falls. The percentage of claims settled is not a figure that IPB report on as registered and settled claims in any given year are not comparable.

Year	Amount
2023	€612,893
2022	€405,676
2021	€416,963

21. How many applicants are approved for social housing in the Oram area and what is the breakdown as regards housing type required? Are there plans to develop additional social and/or affordable housing in Oram?

Reply:

As of 20.08.2024 there are 6 (5 x 1bed 1 x 3bed) approved social housing applicants who have Oram as one of their "Areas of Choice". Housing Section does not currently have any approved social housing projects in Oram.

22. The junction at Brennans Cross at Ardkirk on N53 is extremely busy. Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on plans for lighting at this crossroads?

Reply:

MCC have submitted an application to the TII for funding for installation of public lighting at this junction. We have followed this up with a reminder for a response. Installation of public lighting along the rural national road network is not within TII Design Standards and as such a Departure from Standards had to accompany our application. We will continue to follow up with TII.

23. Can Monaghan County Council provide an overview on activity on tackling dereliction in Castleblayney since the last Council meeting?

Reply:

Monaghan County Council is currently undertaking a survey of vacant/derelict properties within the County. This survey has identified more than 100 vacant/derelict properties in Castleblayney.

To date, the Regeneration Section has issued 24.no Section 8(2) notices which allow property owners 35 days to respond in writing with proposals to make the property non derelict. 5.no properties have been entered onto the Derelict Site Register in Castleblayney after failing to submit adequate proposals to make the property non derelict. Further properties will be entered onto the Derelict Site Register in the coming weeks.

The Regeneration Section is currently engaging with the Housing section to identify properties that are suitable for acquisition and inclusion into the Councils social housing programme.

24. I note the plans to appoint a Design Consultant to review road safety issues on the N2. Can you provide an update on the appointment of the consultant, timelines on their contract and when it is envisaged actionable outcomes will be available?

Reply:

Road Plan completed road safety inspections in 2018 and several low-cost improvement works were identified, some of which have been implemented. A review of the remaining measures and potential new schemes is to be progressed in Q4

A F&O Report for the N2 northern approach to Emyvale Village was approved by TII with provision of a roundabout and associated works the preferred option. A preliminary design has been completed to date. A letter of Intent has issued to most competitive consultant to take scheme through detailed design and construction. It is envisaged that construction will commence in Q2/Q3 2025.

Cllr N Keelan asked:

25. How many families/individuals are currently on the council housing waiting list, including those receiving a HAP payment? What is the break down per electoral area?

Reply: As of 20.08.2024 there are 1,050 Approved applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List.

Carrickmacross/Castleblaney MD	364
Monaghan MD	540
Clones/Ballybay MD	146

497 in HAP supported Private Rented Accommodation.

66 in RAS supported Private Rented Accommodation.

26. How many housing units does the council hope to provide in conjunction with approved housing bodies in the next one/two years? What is the proposed breakdown per electoral area?**Reply: Monaghan County Council proposes to deliver 451 new social homes in County Monaghan as part of the Housing for All program from 2024 to 2026. The Housing For All target is 183 homes, which equates to 246% of the target. Please see Table below for number of units, location and delivery breakdown. Please note that other potential projects will be added to this list subject to development availability and funding approval.**

Housing For All 2024 - 2026				Delivery Date
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Radhairc An Bhri, Castleblayney (Phase 2)	AHB	2	Delivered May 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan (Phase 1a)	MCC	20	Delivered May 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan (Phase 1b)	MCC	10	Delivered July 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross	MCC	13	Delivered Aug 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Coill an Ri, Carrickmacross	MCC	17	Q4 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross (At Risk)	AHB	12	Q4 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Gleann Droimnin, Carrickmacross ~ Part V	MCC	4	Q4 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Phase 2 ~ Knockcarrick, Annyalla, County Monaghan	MCC	10	Q4 2024
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Drummond Close, Magheross, Carrickmacross (At Risk)	AHB	14	Q4 2025
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Potential 50 turnkey houses in Cmx	MCC	50	2025/2026
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Old Fire Station, Castleblayney	AHB	19	2026
Ballybay - Clones	Hall Street, Ballybay	AHB	7	Q4 2024
Ballybay - Clones	Clones Renewal Project 2	MCC	10	2026
Ballybay - Clones	Ard na Gréine, Roslea Road, Clones	MCC	15	2026
Ballybay - Clones	Kilfargy site, Scotshouse	MCC	8	2026
County Wide	Acquisitions 2024	MCC	16	Q4 2024
County Wide	Mortgage to Rent 2024	AHB	4	2024
County Wide	Potential Acquisitions 2025	MCC	15	2025
County Wide	Part V ~ 2025	MCC	4	2025
County Wide	Mortgage to Rent 2025	AHB/MCC	4	2025
County Wide	Potential Acquisitions 2026	MCC	10	2026
County Wide	Part V ~ 2026	MCC	4	2026
County Wide	Mortgage to Rent 2026	AHB/MCC	4	2026
Monaghan	Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	AHB	16	Q4 2024
Monaghan	Cois Abhainn, Ballinode	MCC	22	Q4 2025
Monaghan	Potential Turnkey Monaghan Town	MCC	18	Q4 2025
Monaghan	6 Apartments Old Cross Square, Monaghan	MCC	6	2026
Monaghan	Slí NaCoille, Monaghan	MCC	21	2026
Monaghan	An Leacht, Latlorcan, Monaghan	MCC	25	2026
Monaghan	Slí Lorcáin, Latlorcan, Monaghan	MCC	51	2026
Monaghan	Macartan View, Latlorcan, Monaghan (Total 41 properties)	AHB	20	2026
PROJECTED TOTAL:			451	

27. In relation to the council policy on vacant and derelict property, will the local authority give some flexibility where a genuine verifiable effort is been made by a property owner to rent or sell the property in question before enforcement action is taken and a levy is imposed? **Reply: Prior to entering a property onto the Derelict Sites Register, the Council is obliged to engage with the owners of such properties to determine the owner's plans/proposals to address the dereliction issue and bring the property back into use.**
If the Council receives correspondence from the landowner outlining a reasonable and verifiable pathway to addressing the dereliction issue whether through renovation or sale the Council would grant short term flexibility to allow these proposals to be completed.
28. How many roadways are currently on the community involvement scheme list (CIS), what is the criteria for having a roadway included on the list? How is it determined which road is resurfaced first, is it chronological order?
Reply: Currently 18 applications for CIS funding.
In 2018, the Department introduced ring-fenced funding for Community Involvement Schemes. Applications for this programme are generally sought on a bi-annual basis. The Department must approve the CIS scheme before works can proceed. Roads are prioritised based on the PSCI Rating. A scheme can only proceed if the community are willing to contribute the necessary percentage (10% monetary only or 20% minimum when the contribution comprises works).
29. What is the current position in relation to the local lane improvement scheme (LIS) number of lanes on the old list, number of lanes on the new list, funding available etc?
Reply: There are currently 29 applicants remaining on the 2017/18 LIS. It will take approximately 5-6 years to complete these lanes based on the current funding allocation. There are 255 applications waiting to be assessed as part of the reopened LIS application process in 2024. An approximate completion date cannot be provided

for these 255 applications until they are initially assessed. In 2024 Monaghan received €546,698.33. An allocation of €391,745.67 has been allocated for 2025.

26. Notices of Motion

Cllr C. Carthy proposed, Cllr N. Keelan seconded -

1. *“That Monaghan County Council welcomes the recent vote passed by the Dail calling for a Public Inquiry into the death of Carrickmacross man, Shane O’Farrell, and we call on the Minister for Justice to immediately put in place that Inquiry.*

Monaghan County Council notes that a similar motion was passed previously and was never delivered upon; we also note, with concern, that Government have decided to refer the report of the previous scoping exercise to the Oireachtas Justice Committee, instead of immediately initiating a Public Inquiry”.

A recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs Aughey, Bennett, Carthy, S. Conlon, Flynn, Keelan, McAree, O’Hanlon, S. Treanor and P. Treanor

Total: 10

Abstentions: Cllrs Clerkin, Gilliland, Maxwell and Truell

Total: 4

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

Cllrs C. Bennett, proposed, Cllr S. Flynn seconded -

2. *“That Monaghan County Council write to the Department of Health and demand that free HRT and free mid-life health checks are made available to all women between the ages of 45 and 64. This scheme should be included in the Government Budgetary proposals for 2025”.*

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

Cllr S. Conlon proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded -

3. *“That Monaghan County Council supports the work of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and the production by that Committee in July 2024 of the report, 'Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics and calls for the full implementation of these recommendations which include:*
 - *The publication by the government of a Green Paper setting out a vision for a united Ireland*
 - *An Oireachtas Committee dedicated to the preparation for a united Ireland*
 - *The government beginning civic engagement in the form of citizens’ assemblies and or other deliberative fora*

- *Examination of the all-island economy by government departments and research on the economy of the north and border region”*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 11 for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried.

27. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- Drew Hurley, Senior Executive Planner, on the death of his mother, Eileen Hurley.
- Cllr Seán Conlon, on the death of his father-in-law, Paddy Owens.
- The family of the late Archbishop Noël Treanor, Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union.
- Deputy Caoimhghín O’Caolain, on the death of his Aunt Sally McGlynn (née O’Hanlon).
- Cllr Peter Conlon, on the death of his mother, former Councillor Mary Kerr-Conlon.
- Róisín Moore (Nic Án Iarla), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads on the death of her father John (Seán) Early.

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

- Anne-Marie McArdle on representing Monaghan so well at the Rose of Tralee Event.
- Muireann Atkinson on recently making her debut with Collingwood Australian Rules football team.
- Eve McCrystal on winning her 6th paralympic medal, winning silver in the B, 3,000m individual pursuit final in the Paralympic Games in Paris on Sunday 01 September, alongside her partner, Katie-George Dunlevy.
- Carrick Corduff U10 Boys on winning the All-Ireland Community Games final.
- Shane McLoughlin, Clones, on recently entering the Guinness Book of Records as the first amputee to pull a 20-tonne lorry.
- The 2024 Community Games National Finalists from County Monaghan on their many successes.

28. Conferences

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2024	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	Wednesday 11 th Sept and Thursday 12 th Sept	Richard Truell
AILG	September Training Module: An overview of the Planning System. Delivered by the OPR	Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore	Saturday 28 th September	David Maxwell Richard Truell Sean Gilliland

Urgent Business:

1. *Cllr C. Bennett proposed, Cllr B. McAree seconded that Monaghan County Council writes to Minister Charlie McConalogue, Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine, Minister Jack Chambers, Department of Finance, and Minister Paschal Donohoe, Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, calling for the reconvening of the National Fodder Committee and engagement with all the farming organisations and stakeholders.*

Agriculture is the primary industry in County Monaghan and due to the inclement weather and forecasts of unsettled weather for the foreseeable future many farmers are concerned and worried about their current supply of fodder and the prospects for next winter's harvest. It is prudent to prepare for a 'worst case scenario' rather than complacency which could cause further problems and panic.

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

2. *Cllr N. Keelan proposed, Cllr S. Flynn seconded that Monaghan County Council writes to Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., Minister for Education and Ms. Siobhan Griffin, Regional Manager, School Transport Scheme, requesting that immediate action be taken to resolve the ongoing problems in relation to qualifying students and other students with no transport not being able to access the school transport service.*

That Monaghan County Council writes to Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., Minister for Education and Mr. Eamon Ryan, Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport requesting that Government as a matter of policy provides a school transport scheme that will ensure that all students as far as practicable be provided with school transport and the recommendations of the review of the school transport scheme be implemented as soon as possible in terms of choice and flexibility by eliminating the requirement to attend the nearest school, reducing the distances that is required for students to qualify for school transport etc.

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

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings
Administrator

Date: _____